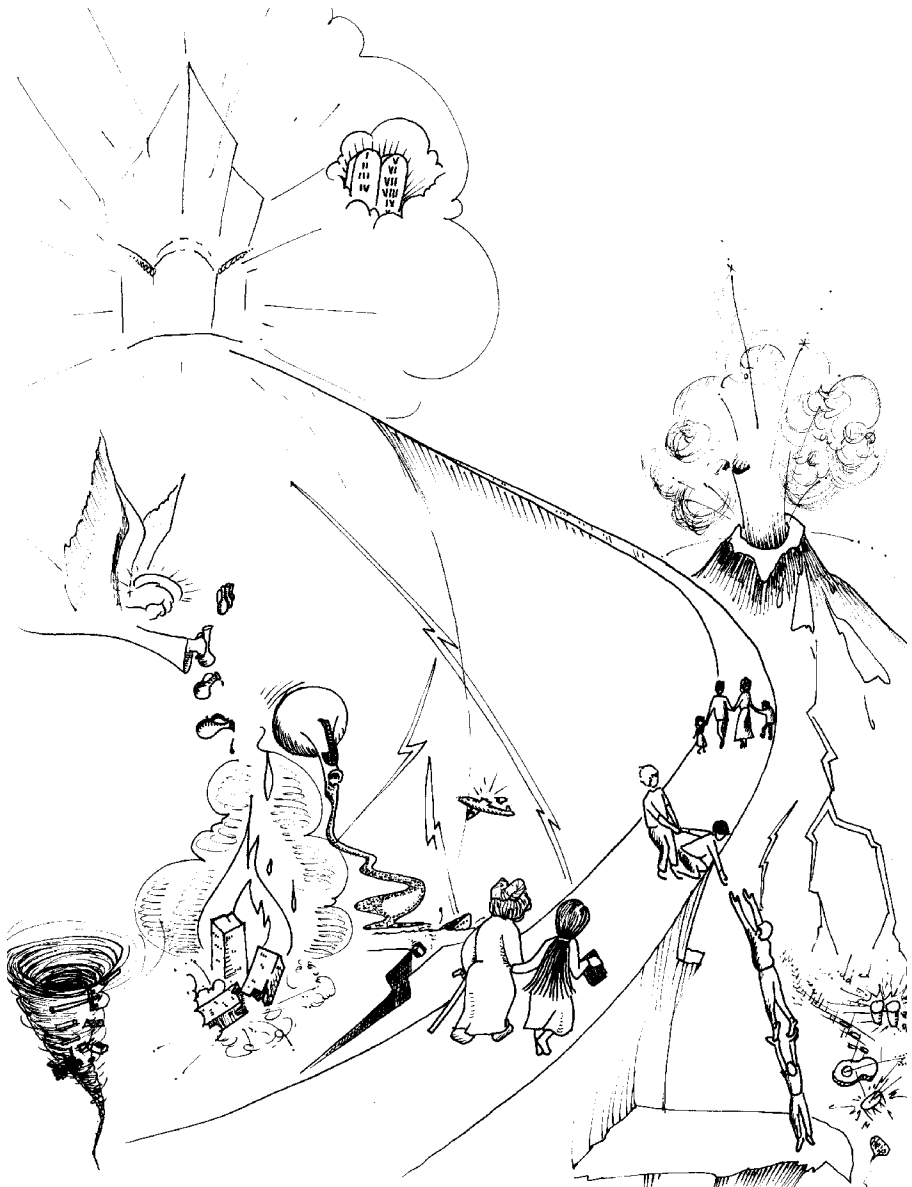
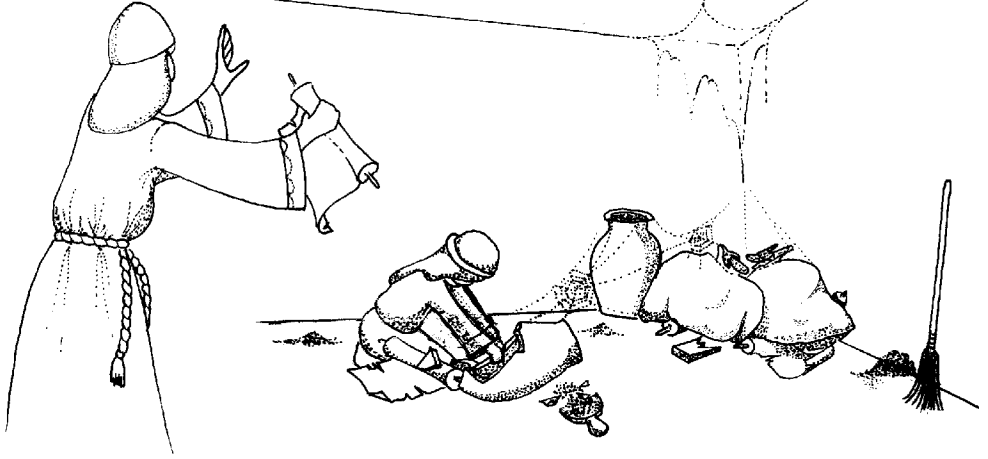


SECTION THREE: Our Destiny Calls





Treasure In the Trash: Hilkiah's Discovery

“In the reformation that followed, the king turned his attention to the destruction of every vestige of idolatry that remained” (Prophets and Kings, p. 401).

Josiah was 8 years old when he became king of Judah. Even as a very young child, he had chosen to serve God, and now that he was king he planned to carry out principles that would honor God.

When he was in his late teens or early 20s, Josiah began a program to cleanse the land of idol worship. This cleansing of the land went on until he was in his mid-20s.

A special day occurred in the providence of God when Hilkiah, the high priest of Judah, was getting money from the storehouse to pay workers who were rebuilding the temple. This rebuilding program was also part of Josiah's plan to reestablish the worship of God.

While walking through the temple, Hilkiah found a copy of the book of the Law written by Moses. He gave it to Shaphan the scribe to read. Shaphan reported to the king, not only about the progress of the work and payment to the workers, he also told Josiah that Hilkiah found a book of the Law of Moses in the debris of the temple. Josiah wanted it read to him right away, so Shaphan did as the king requested.

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“When the king heard about the blessings and curses that were written in the book and the consequences that follow disobedience, he tore his royal robe in anguish and said to Shaphan, ‘This is terrible. Go and get Hilkiah the High Priest, Achbor, the son of Micaiah, Asaiah, my personal attendant and your son Ahikam. Then go to the prophetess and find out from the Lord what all this means. The people of Judah have a right to know what is written because they haven’t heard the law read to them since the days of my great grandfather Hezekiah, and that’s been almost a hundred years ago. If I understand it right, the Lord is greatly displeased with us as a people because of what our fathers did, and they have passed their lifestyle of disobedience on to us’” (2 Kings 22: 11-13, The Clear Word).

When Josiah sent a messenger to Huldah, the Prophetess, she told Shaphan that their king was right and that God was displeased with how they were living, especially their idol worship. She gave them words from the Lord: *“Because of this, I will destroy Jerusalem and send My people into captivity. They have even offered their children to these wretched gods that have taken My place. I am hurt that they are not showing their love to Me. Something must be done to stop this, and I will see that it is done” (2 Kings 22:17, The Clear Word; emphasis supplied).*

Then God made a promise to Josiah: *“Concerning the words you read, because you took them to heart and humbled yourself and showed your grief over what would happen to Jerusalem and to the people and wept and prayed in my presence, I will not destroy Jerusalem or bring disaster upon my people during your lifetime” (2 Kings 22:18-20, The Clear Word).*

Josiah called all of the people together at the temple and read the scrolls that were found. All of the people responded to the king by making a new commitment to God. They promised to put into practice what was written in the Book.

The king continued to tear down altars to gods, such as Molech and Baalzebub, to which infants were sacrificed. He remembered the words of the Lord, through Huldah, that God would complete the revival and reformation.

“And now, while Shaphan the scribe was reading to him out of the book of the Law, the king discerned in this volume a treasure of knowledge, a powerful ally, in the work of reform he so much desired to see wrought in the land.... But was it possible to bring about the needed reform?” (Prophets and Kings, p. 398; emphasis supplied).

Yes, the Lord did accomplish the reform through Josiah and delayed the judgments.

“This reform movement, by which threatened judgments were

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averted for a season, was brought about in a wholly unexpected manner through the discovery and study of a portion of Holy Scripture that for many years had been strangely misplaced and lost” (ibid. p. 392).

“In the reformation that followed, the king turned his attention to the destruction of every vestige of idolatry that remained” (ibid. p. 401).

When he discovered the law, *“Josiah did not say, ‘I knew nothing about this book. These are ancient precepts and times have changed.’ He appointed men to investigate the matter and these men went to Huldah the prophetess ... In Josiah’s day the Word of the Lord was as binding, and should have been as strictly enforced, as at the time it was spoken. And today it is as binding as it was then” (The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Ellen G. White Comments, volume 3, page 1133; emphasis supplied).*

This reference draws an application, from the great revival and reformation in Josiah’s time, to our day. Closely examining Josiah’s call to revival we can draw some present day conclusions.

The reformation started with the Holy Spirit working on the heart of a man. *“The call of the hour is answered by the coming of the man” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 332).* Using his position of responsibility, even before the discovery of the scrolls, Josiah had already begun to do what he could to rid Israel of worldliness. He chose to work in harmony with those around him to accomplish the work that God had impressed him to do.

While he was taking out the trash of worldly habits and thinking, a providence occurred. A scroll of the laws of Moses was found. These laws, given by God, including commandments against idol worship, proclaimed the great blessing of following God’s plan as well as the curse of the programs they were following.

In our day, the discovery and revival of the testimonies will spark a revival and reformation. *“Unless there is a breaking away from the influence that Satan has prepared and a revival of the testimonies that God has given, souls will perish in their delusion” (Series B, No. 7, p. 63).* This revival will prepare God’s people for great blessing but, if rejected, judgments will fall upon His church, such as were prophesied in Ezekiel 9:4-6. God is doing this because He loves us and it hurts Him to see us damaged by the world. If we recognize that these judgments are coming it will help free us of worldly influences.

This book of the Law, discovered by Shaphan which should have been inside the ark of the covenant, was found in the debris of the unused temple. No one came to temple services—they had other things to worship. Today we need a revival and God will see that the integrity of our worship is returned.

“Truths that have been buried under a mass of rubbish are to be re-

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vived, and reset in their original setting” (Manuscript Releases, vol. 3, p. 416).

“If the warnings and reproofs given in the Word of God and in the testimonies of His Spirit are not plain enough, what words would be sufficiently plain to bring about a revival and reformation?” (The Upward Look, p. 240).

God wants a revival and reformation to take place. But will it take place? *The Great Controversy*, page 464, says it will; *“Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times”* (emphasis supplied).

This revival and reformation “will be,” and it is in our power to hasten it, as did king Josiah so long ago. There will be changes in God’s church and in His people! What side will we choose—to leave things as they are, or increase spirituality?

When Josiah discovered the errors, he went to the people. He was in a unique position for witnessing: he was their leader. There is a great blessing when leadership reads the scroll to the people. It will hasten our Lord’s return. The king of Judah never feared or retreated from his mission of removing all idols and spurious debris covering God’s plan for His people.

Molech and Ekron

During Josiah’s revival and reformation initiated by the discoveries of the testimonies, several idols were destroyed. Among these was the god of Molech. The original name was “Melek,” meaning “king,” a name ancient Israel had originally given to the true God. Later on, the Jews felt it was shameful to call God by a pagan name, so they changed the pronunciation to “Molek.” It was to this god that Israel was offering their infants as a sacrifice. The god of Ekron was also worshiped by Israel earlier as Baalzebub in the town of Ekron (2 Kings 1:2, 6). Do we worship Molech today?

The Spirit of Prophecy makes a present-day application of the worship of these idols. *“Children are not to be trained to be devotees of society. They are not to be sacrificed to Molech, but they are to become members of the Lord’s family. Parents are to be filled with the compassion of Christ, that they may work for the salvation of the souls that are placed under their influence. They are not to have their minds all engrossed in the fashions and practices of the world. They are not to educate their children to attend parties and concerts and dances, to have and attend feasts, because after this manner the Gentiles walk”* (Child Guidance, p. 181; emphasis supplied).

As parents become willing subjects of Christ children will be safe from Molech’s insatiable appetite. *“Children will be brought up in the nurture and*

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admonition of the Lord. They will be educated and trained, not to be society devotees, but members of the Lord's family. They will not be sacrificed to Moloch. Parents will become willing subjects of Christ... They will not allow themselves to be absorbed with the customs of the world" (The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 2, p. 1039; emphasis supplied).

No wonder the Lord is so urgent that we not follow the customs and practices of the world. It is idol worship! The god of Ekron, which was also worshiped by ancient Israel, represents many evils for God's people today.

"The idol of Ekron was supposed to give information, through the medium of its priests, concerning future events.... The predictions there uttered and the information given proceeded directly from the prince of darkness. ... The history of King Ahaziah's sin [seeking the god of Ekron] and punishment has a lesson of warning which none can disregard with impunity [Impunity means exemption from punishment; immunity from detrimental effects].

"Though we do not pay homage to heathen gods, yet thousands are worshipping at Satan's shrine as verily as did the king of Israel....

"I have from time to time received letters both from ministers and lay members of the church, inquiring if I think it wrong to consult spiritualist and clairvoyant physicians.... So numerous are these agents of Satan becoming, and so general is the practice of seeking counsel from them, that it seems needful to utter words of warning" (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 192, 193; emphasis supplied).

"Cursed is the path that leads to En-dor or to Ekron" (*ibid.*, p. 197).

If we, as followers of the true God, have allowed the world to come in, we must remove the idols or suffer judgments, just as did ancient Israel. Worldly influences have crept into our schools. If we have attached ourselves to the world by **even a thread**, the Lord says we are worshipping the god of Ekron.

"Our people are now being tested as to whether they will obtain their wisdom from the greatest Teacher the world ever knew, or seek to the god of Ekron. Let us determine that we will not be tied by so much as a thread to the educational policies of those who do not discern the voice of God and who will not hearken to His commandments" (Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 255; emphasis supplied). There is a need for revival and reformation and breaking down worldly altars, as in Josiah's day. May it be so, in Jesus' name. Amen.

It was during the time of Josiah's reformation movement that Elijah rebuilt the schools of the prophets that had fallen into decay. The burden of Elijah's heart was to provide an education according to God's plan.

"The heart of Elijah was cheered as he saw what was being accom-

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plished by means of these schools. The work of reformation was not complete, but he could see throughout the kingdom a verification of the word of the Lord” (Prophets and Kings, p. 225).

The work of revival and reformation directly opposes idol worship. It uses true education as the basis of true character building and lasting evangelism.

Judgments During Josiah’s Reign

There are some questions that we do not ask often enough; “Will God send judgments on us like He did on ancient Israel? Will He treat us differently than He treated Israel when their idol worship caused them so much grief, loss, and captivity? Is idol worship today tolerated by God more than He tolerated it under Josiah, Jeremiah, Elijah, and Ahaziah?

“He stays His judgments that He may plead with the impenitent. He who exercises ‘lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth’ yearns over His erring children; in every way possible He seeks to teach them the way of life everlasting (Jeremiah 9:24). He had brought the Israelites out of bondage that they may serve Him, the only true and living God. Though they had wandered long in idolatry and had slighted His warnings, yet He now declares His willingness to defer chastisement and grant yet another opportunity for repentance. He makes plain the fact that only by the most thorough heart reformation could the impending doom be averted. In vain would be the trust they might place in the temple and its services. Rites and ceremonies could not atone for sin. Notwithstanding their claim to be the chosen people of God, reformation of heart and of the life practice alone could save them from the inevitable result of continued transgression” (Prophets and Kings, pp. 413, 414; emphasis supplied).

If the revival and reformation begins among us today, we may avert the judgments that could soon to fall upon us.

“What a lesson is this to men holding positions of responsibility today in the church of God! What a solemn warning to deal faithfully with wrongs that bring dishonor to the cause of truth! Let none who claim to be the depositaries of God’s law flatter themselves that the regard they may outwardly show toward the commandments will preserve them from the exercise of divine justice. Let none refuse to be reprov’d for evil, nor charge the servants of God with being too zealous in endeavoring to cleanse the camp from evil-doing. A sin-hating God calls upon those who claim to keep His law to depart from all iniquity. A neglect to repent and to render willing obedience will bring upon men and women today as serious consequences as

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came upon ancient Israel. There is a limit beyond which the judgments of Jehovah can no longer be delayed. The desolation of Jerusalem in the days of Jeremiah is a solemn warning to modern Israel, that the counsels and admonitions given them through chosen instrumentalities cannot be disregarded with impunity” (Prophets and Kings, pp. 416, 417; emphasis supplied).

Today these messages carry some of the most solemn counsels given by God to His church. The first part says how patient, loving, and long-suffering He is. Even His judgments are conditional. He wants to teach us the way of life, but with solemnity He says, “*Only by the most thorough heart reformation could the impending doom be averted*” (Prophets and Kings, p. 414).

Our survival is assured only as we commit our whole heart to Him. Things are not always going to be as they are now. Judgments first begin at the house of God (Ezekiel 9:6). Regardless of our claim to be the remnant, the chosen people of God, He will not wait forever on lukewarm responses. What a solemn warning! God does not regard idol worship today, in whatever form, with any less hatred than He did in days of old.

“A neglect to repent and to render willing obedience will bring upon men and women today as serious consequences as came upon ancient Israel” (Prophets and Kings, p. 416).

There are many areas in which we need to come up to higher standards. Each follower of Christ will, after committing his or her heart to God, find those things in their own lives which are binding them to false gods. Before Jesus can come, we must disconnect from all the worldly threads woven into the loom of our daily lives.

Battle Creek

In the late 1800’s, God sent a judgment on the Battle Creek Review and Herald building. Before the fire, Ellen White saw an angel with a sword of fire standing over Battle Creek.

“In visions of the night I have seen an angel standing with a sword as of fire stretched over Battle Creek” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, p. 97).

What was God so displeased about back then? One issue was centralization. The second was the publishing of books on spiritualism and Romanism. The third is expressed in these words: “*So Christ sorrows and weeps over our churches, over our institutions of learning, that have failed to meet the demand of God*” (ibid. p. 67; emphasis supplied).

The fourth concern is expressed on page 68: “*It [Battle Creek] has become a place where injustice and fraud have been carried on, where malice, envy, and passion have borne sway.*”

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“By rejecting God’s warnings in this our day, men are repeating the sin of Jerusalem” (ibid. p. 68).

You may be wondering how deep God wants this heart reformation and repentance to reach. *“And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof” (Ezekiel 9:4).*

“In the time when His wrath shall go forth in judgments, these humble devoted followers of Christ will be distinguished from the rest of the world by their soul anguish, which is expressed in lamentation and weeping, reproofs and warnings. While others try to throw a cloak over the existing evil, and excuse the great wickedness everywhere prevalent, those who have a zeal for God’s honor and a love for souls will not hold their peace to obtain favor of any. Their righteous souls are vexed day by day with the unholy works and conversation of the unrighteous. They are powerless to stop the rushing torrent of iniquity, and hence they are filled with grief and alarm. They mourn before God to see religion despised in the very homes of those who have had great light. They lament and afflict their souls because pride, avarice, selfishness, and deception of almost every kind are in the church. The Spirit of God, which prompts to reproof, is trampled underfoot, while the servants of Satan triumph. God is dishonored, the truth made of none effect” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 210, 211; emphasis supplied).

Our Lord wants us to be heart to heart with Him over the sins of the world and the church. He wants us to understand why His heart is broken over these sins. *“The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God” (ibid. p. 211).* They will not be survivors.

Should we choose to continue on in mirth, the message is clear. *“Here we see that the church—the Lord’s sanctuary—was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God (Ezekiel 9:6)” (ibid. p. 211).*

I know this is solemn, but God is a God of justice as well as mercy. (See *Prophets and Kings*, p. 413).

“The leaven of godliness has not entirely lost its power. At the time when the danger and depression of the church are greatest, the little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church because its members are doing after the manner of the world.

“The earnest prayers of this faithful few will not be in vain. When the Lord comes forth as an avenger, He will also come as a protector of all those

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who have preserved the faith in its purity and kept themselves unspotted from the world. It is at this time that God has promised to avenge His own elect which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them. ...

“The abominations for which the faithful ones were sighing and crying were all that could be discerned by finite eyes, but by far the worst sins, those which provoked the jealousy of the pure and holy God, were unrevealed. The great Searcher of hearts knoweth every sin committed in secret by the workers of iniquity. These persons come to feel secure in their deceptions and, because of His long-suffering, say that the Lord seeth not, and then will act as though He had forsaken the earth. But He will detect their hypocrisy and will open before others those sins which they were so careful to hide.

“No superiority of rank, dignity, or worldly wisdom, no position in sacred office, will preserve men from sacrificing principle when left to their own deceitful hearts. Those who have been regarded as worthy and righteous prove to be ringleaders in apostasy and examples in indifference and in the abuse of God’s mercies. Their wicked course He will tolerate no longer, and in His wrath He deals with them without mercy” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 209-212; emphasis supplied).

Judgments are coming to the church unless we experience a change in our ways and learn from the word and testimony as Josiah did. The Battle Creek fire is proof that God’s judgements will not always be averted. True education plays a large part in averting these judgments and stops our worshipping at the god of Ekron. (For the whole picture of God’s impartiality with sin in Battle Creek, see the Review and Herald, December 8, 1977.)

A Call to Revival and Reformation

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs” (Christian Service, p. 41; emphasis supplied).

“The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place. When this reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer, and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife” (Testimonies for the Church, volume 8, p. 251; emphasis supplied).

“There is great necessity for a reformation among the people of God. The present state of the church leads to the inquiry: Is this a correct representation of Him who gave His life for us?” (ibid. vol. 3, p. 474; emphasis supplied).

“I was shown God’s people waiting for some change to take place—a compelling power to take hold of them. But they will be disappointed, for they are wrong. They must act; they must take hold of the work themselves

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and earnestly cry to God for a true knowledge of themselves. ... The harvest of the earth is nearly ripe” (ibid. vol. 1, p. 261; emphasis supplied).

We will either “break out” of our lethargy or “shake out” in the sifting time. His warnings, His counsel, His guidance, His plans, are pleading with us today. We have much to do, as did Josiah so long ago, to dust off the treasures within our reach. These treasures are the very tools we need for survival and revival!

“The coming of the Lord is nearer than when we first believed. What a wonderful thought it is that the great controversy is nearing its end! In the closing work we shall meet with perils that we know not how to deal with; but let us not forget that the three great powers of heaven are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring His purposes to pass” (Selected Messages, book 2, p. 391; emphasis supplied).

God’s Concern

*I’d like to paint a picture
That would stir the souls of men;
But I would need a flaming brush
And iridescent pen.*

*How can I paint that picture
Of God’s concern and care?
O’erwhelmed, I drop my brush and kneel
In penitential prayer.*

*For as I catch a glimpse of Him
And heaven, lo, I see
That God is bending o’er the walls—
His eyes on you and me.*

*Indeed “all heaven” watches us
With int’rest most intense,
To see what we are doing
In this time of dark suspense.*

*“All heaven” still is waiting
For us to spread the light;
When will we care enough to shine
And end earth’s troubled night?*

*Oh, could I paint that picture
Of Heaven’s true concern,
I’m sure our hearts would all respond
And hasten Christ’s return!*

—Adlai Albert Esteb

TREASURE IN THE TRASH
FOR FURTHER STUDY

Words of Encouragement, page 34

“In the future men in the common walks of life will be impressed by the Spirit of the Lord to leave their ordinary employment, and go forth to proclaim the last message of mercy. As rapidly as possible, they are to be prepared for labor that success may crown their efforts.”

Words of Encouragement, page 36

“I have been shown that in our educational work we are not to follow the methods that have been adopted in our older established schools. There is among us too much clinging to the old customs, and because of this we are far behind where we should be in the development of the third angel’s message.”

Words of Encouragement, page 8

“Men may say that it is a waste of valuable time and money for strong young men and young women to go out into these hills and out-of-the-way places to labor. Some may contend that we cannot afford to allow young persons of talent to engage in this line of work. ‘Cannot afford it!’ If there is but one soul to be saved, that soul is more precious than all the combined wealth of this world” (emphasis supplied).

Words of Encouragement, page 11

“Let no one stand in the way. Say not, ‘we cannot afford to work in a sparsely settled field and largely in a self-supporting way, when out in the world are great fields where we might reach multitudes.’ And let none say, ‘We cannot afford to sustain you in an effort to work in those out-of-the-way places.’ What! Cannot afford it! You cannot afford not to work in these isolated places; and if you neglect such fields, the time will come when you will wish that you had afforded it. There is a world to be saved” (emphasis supplied).

Spalding and Magan Collection, page 420

“In the work being done at the training school for home and foreign missionary teachers at Madison, Tennessee, and in the small schools established by the teachers who have gone forth from Madison, we have an illustration of a way in which the message should be carried” (emphasis supplied).

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Last Day Events, page 39

“We may have to remain here in this world because of insubordination many more years, as did the children of Israel, but for Christ’s sake His people should not add sin to sin by charging God with the consequence of their own wrong course of action” (emphasis supplied).

Sons and Daughters of God, page 352

“Let us strive to be Christians (Christlike) in every sense of the word, and let our dress, conversation, and actions preach that Christ is formed within, the hope of glory and that we are looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of Jesus.... My affections, interest, treasure, all, is in the bright world to come.”

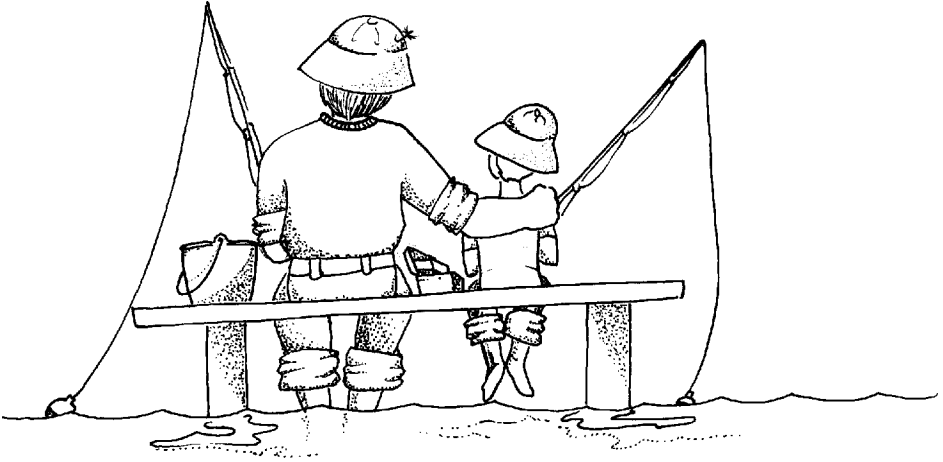
Testimonies for the Church, volume 2, page 348

“They are dying spiritually because they have so long pampered their natural appetites that their power of self-government seems gone.”

Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, page 216

“Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God—candidates for heaven” (emphasis supplied).

Chapter Seventeen



Hastening Our Lord's Return: Yes We Can!

"We are not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of the day of God"
(*The Desire of Ages*, p. 633).

When I was a boy, I had an uncle whom I loved very much. When I heard he was coming to visit, how I longed to see him! Every time he was planning to come, he would phone to let me know. He would always ask to talk to me and would inquire if I had my stuff ready. He always knew of a new place, and we just had to go there!

When he came, he would take me to places that boys love to go. We would hike, camp, and fish. We would talk together as friends. He did not speak to me as if I were a child. It seemed I could talk with him about anything. What grand times we had! Sometimes we would even catch fish!

As a boy, I wished there was something I could do to hurry the day when my uncle would arrive. I wanted to see him so badly. I wanted to be with him sooner rather than later! But, sadly, even with my ever-growing anticipation, there was no way he could come sooner. So, I got ready and stayed ready because I wanted to be ready when he came.

Over the years since those glorious days, I have reflected on those childhood events in my life which instilled in me such a great sense of anticipation. There is one event I am anticipating more than any other—Jesus' coming. He is coming, He has told us so. Is there anything we can do to get Him here sooner so

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that we can do things together? Through the years I have discovered that there are things we can do to hasten His return.

As a boy growing up, things were not always pleasant at home, and I am sure my uncle knew that, even though we never talked about it. We just had good times together, with no talk of bad things. As I thought about how enjoyable Uncle John's visits were to me in my childhood, a comforting thought about the great second coming of Jesus occurred to me: He is returning to earth in order to make things eternally pleasant where so much sadness and heartache now exist.

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:4). He is preparing a place especially for us (John 14:1-3) for our total happiness. He alone knows what will make us truly happy. To be able to see Him, and to talk to Him, to let the care and hurt disappear, will be a great day. He says, “I am anxious to come,” then He adds, “You can help Me come sooner if you want to.” He doesn't lie, so I have to believe what He says.

The Sooner Everyone Knows, the Better

Matthew 24:14 says, *“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”* Jesus says that if we give the good news about Him to the whole world, He will come. By getting the work done sooner, He will come sooner!

Second Peter 3:12 tells us that His people will be found *“Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God.”* Other versions use the word “hastening,” meaning to speed up the Lord's return. So, today, we can look for, expect, and hasten our Lord's return!

“By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord's return. We are not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:12). Had the church of Christ done her appointed work as the Lord ordained, the whole world would before this have been warned, and the Lord Jesus would have come to our earth in power and great glory” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 633; emphasis supplied). We could have been in heaven before this!

“It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:12). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel” (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 69).

As Christians we have worked to spread the gospel, and have experienced church growth. Together we rejoice about evangelistic successes especially in

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underprivileged countries. To accomplish what needs to be done will require a power outside of ourselves. Our methods will work, only as a part of God's plan. We need overpowering manifestations of the Holy Spirit to even break the world's birth rate barrier of 80 million per year. Then we need unheard-of, undreamed-of success to reach the world population of 6 billion! God is more eager to give us this power than we are to receive it. One of the solutions to the dilemma of reaching the world is to implement God's plan for an educational system that inspires young people to be workers in evangelism as their number one career choice, rather than entering the business-as-usual work world.

Answers to our dilemma may be buried under the worldly rubbish in our homes, schools, hospitals, and in our churches, just as it was in the temple of Josiah's day (see chapter 16). Who will uncover the answers and read them to us? Josiah was a leader of God's people. Our leaders, today, do read and write to us, requesting commitments to destroy the gods of Ekron and Molech from among us and replace them with God's plan for finishing the work. Following God's plan is the only way we are ever going to finish the work, leaving heartache and sorrow behind (Revelation 21:4).

What is His Plan?

True education is vital to the finishing of God's work in the earth and in his children. It is important to understand that true education is the development of all aspects of our life; mental, physical, and spiritual.

"Education is but a preparation of the physical, intellectual, and spiritual powers for the best performance of all the duties of life" (Messages to Young People, p. 271). *"True education is missionary training. Every son and daughter of God is called to be a missionary ...to fit us for this service should be the object of our education"* (Ministry of Healing, p. 395).

The Bible mentions, in Matthew 24: 14, that the gospel will go to all the world, but before that happens, before Jesus comes, we must develop true education. You may ask, "How important, then, is true education, for hastening the Lord's return?" It is vital! Notice this reference from the Spirit of Prophecy.

"Before we can carry the message of present truth in all its fullness to other countries, 'we must break every yoke.' We must come into the line of true education walking in the wisdom of God and not the wisdom of the world" (Series B, No. 11, p. 30; emphasis supplied).

Not only may we hasten the Lord's return by understanding God's plan for true education, but it will enable us to be a part of the kingdom of God. *"Now, as never before, we need to understand the true science of education. If we*

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fail to understand this, we shall never have a place in the kingdom of God” (Christian Educator, Aug. 1897; emphasis supplied).

What kind of schools will be developed in these last days?

“The plan of the schools we shall establish in these closing years of the work is to be of an entirely different order from those we have instituted in the past” (Series B, No. 11, p. 28).

“Special light has been given in regard to moving our publishing houses and sanitariums and schools out of the cities into places more favorable to their work, where those connected with them will not be exposed to all the temptations of city life. Especially should our schools be away from the cities” (Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 492; emphasis supplied).

“If there can be found places in retired mountain regions where it would be difficult for the evils of the cities to enter, let our people secure such places for our sanitariums and advanced schools” (Manuscript Releases, vol. 10, p. 260; emphasis supplied).

“Well Done”

Would you like to hear the words, “Well done” from the Master?

“Since the Lord is soon coming, it is time to put out our money to the exchangers, time to put every dollar we can spare into the Lord’s treasury, that institutions may be established for the education of workers, who shall be instructed as were those in the schools of the prophets. If the Lord comes and finds you doing this work, He will say: ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant; ... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord’” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 441; emphasis supplied).

Are you ready to stand in your place, on the side of revival and reformation?

“The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall” (Education, p. 57).

We may hasten our Lord’s return if we choose to do so according to His plan. It will be done, so we may as well be the ones to do it! It will be accomplished through a revival and reformation in our educational work. My good friend Warren, now resting in Jesus, wrote this song about being ready for the King’s return.

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Do You Really Want Jesus to Come?

*Is your life so full of duty
That your Lord is crowded out?
Do you neglect to study and to pray?
Or would your heart be ready
And would glory fill your soul,
If your Master would come for you today?*

*Do your lips say, "Come, Lord Jesus"
But if He would come today
His lovely face you could not bear to see?
Too many things unpardoned,
Cherished sins you held so dear?
Would you tremble to face eternity?*

*Do you really want Jesus, your Lord, to appear?
Do you long for your Savior's return?
Your lips praise His name,
Does your life show the same?
Do you really want Jesus to come?
Do you really want your Lord to come?*

—Eulene Dodson

Dan and Lisa are about to make some precious discoveries about true education as Adventist College faces its greatest challenge.

Chapter Eighteen



Education for the Future: Prisoners of Hope

“They are prisoners of hope. ... If they will listen to His voice and follow in His ways, God will correct and enlighten them”

(Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 145).

Daniel believed in Jesus and His soon coming. His parents both worked to send him to Adventist College. Now, as a freshman, he was preparing himself for an engineering career that would pay well and be interesting work.

Professor Paul, Daniel’s first-year Calculus teacher whom the students affectionately called “Prof.,” seemed to always add a spiritual concept to each lesson, even quoting from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy when questioned about a special truth.

Daniel had spent several summers helping out on his uncle’s farm. He was pleasantly surprised at how he had gained strength by bucking hay bales and helping to clear new land. He had helped his uncle build a new machine shed and had learned the basics of framing and construction carpentry.

Prof. Paul also taught first-year general math for Science-Education majors. Lisa, an Elementary Education major was in one of these classes. She, too, noticed that the professor made spiritual application to various basic math concepts. While this was an Adventist college, not all of the teachers did that. The teacher in her Life of Christ class teacher made spiritual points, but she expected that since he was a pastor.

Lisa came from a farm in Idaho and had learned to do a lot of practical

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things like cooking for a crew of men, sewing, driving a tractor, changing oil, fixing things around the house. Her younger brother had promised to fill in for her while she was at college. Her older brother, Jerry, was in his third year at Adventist College.

Daniel and Lisa had benefited in a very practical way from their work experience. Although their country background didn't seem a natural fit for a college setting, their well-balanced life was a steadying influence.

Christmas Break

About midway through first semester, just before Christmas break, national news related the occurrence of several huge storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, and great loss of life. These became a common topic of conversation among students and staff at Adventist College. The storms were becoming more severe. Strange diseases were occurring as a result of tainted food and the polluted air of the cities. In the country, drought and hail caused crop failures, and animal foods were causing unfamiliar ailments to threaten public health.

Many students felt that they should go home to help out and ease the financial drain their college expenses caused by these calamities. But Daniel and Lisa were encouraged by their parents to continue their career training so they could better prepare themselves for life. "This time of weather severity will pass just as it always has," they said.

When Daniel and Lisa returned to college after Christmas break things weren't quite the same. They were each impressed that their careers were not as important as what was happening in the world. They each desired to help others prepare for a crisis.

Prof. Paul, in all his classes, announced that he would be having studies at 5:30 every morning until the end of the semester. His facial expression signaled concern. "What will it be about, Prof.?" asked Daniel. Interestingly, Lisa asked the same question in her class. Prof. Paul explained, "In light of the calamities in the world, I thought we might discuss how to be ready and how we might help others get ready for Jesus' coming. I know all of you are preparing for careers, and that is important, but I sense something arising that may be even more important."

"What could be more important than earning a living for our families?" asked Daniel.

"Come to my class and see. Not just from curiosity, but from a need to be ready for the end of the world and the coming of Jesus," said Prof. Paul.

"I am so far behind in your class, I don't see how I can go," answered Daniel.

"Tell you what I will do," said Prof. Paul. "If the whole class comes, I will do away with the final. I will grade you on your midterm and daily work."

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The class thought that was a good deal and agreed to come.

Early Morning Meetings

The first 5:30 a. m. meeting was attended by all of his students. Prof. Paul started out by commenting on the events of the last several months and the news of the day, revealing more and more disasters. “You know,” he said, “these calamities are just a fulfillment of prophecy.”

Everyone listened closely as Prof. Paul read from The Great Controversy, pages 589, 590: “*Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. ... While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous.*”

Most in the class were Adventists. Some were more committed Christians than others, but all knew in their heart that Prof. was right.

“When these things come, we should be ready,” he said. The students took careful notes, writing out the sentences that he emphasized. “The following is a statement of what might have been done before now. *Time is too short now to accomplish that which might have been done in past generations; but we can do much, even in these last days, to correct the existing evils in the education of youth. And because time is short, we should be in earnest and work zealously to give the young that education which is consistent with our faith. We are reformers. We desire that our children should study to the best advantage. In order to do this, employment should be given them which will call the muscles into exercise. Daily, systematic labor should constitute a part of the education of the youth, even at this late period. Much now can be gained by connecting labor with schools. In following this plan, the students will realize elasticity of spirit and vigor of thought, and will be able to accomplish more mental labor in a given time than they could by study alone. And they can leave school with their constitutions unimpaired, and with strength and courage to persevere in any position in which the providence of God may place them.*” That is a quote from Counsels on Health, page 183.”

“*Then when I look upon the scenes presented before me; when I*

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consider the schools established in different places, and see them falling so far below anything like the schools of the prophets, I am distressed beyond measure. The physical exercise was marked out by the God of wisdom. Some hours each day should be devoted to useful education in lines of work that will help the students in learning the duties of practical life, which are essential for all our youth. But this has been dropped out, and amusements introduced, which simply give exercise, without being any special blessing in doing good and righteous actions, which is the education and training essential.’ This quote comes from Fundamentals of Christian Education, page 228.”

“What does ‘essential’ mean?” asked Daniel when Prof. Paul recognized his upraised hand during the pause that followed this reading.

“I am glad you asked, Daniel. We will study that very subject the next few mornings,” said Prof. Paul.

Prof. Paul’s Apology

There was a tear in his eye as Professor began speaking at the next meeting. His voice cracked as he said, “I am sorry, young people, I have failed you. I should have been teaching you to be ready long ago.” College President Cristman and Academic Dean Matthews were in the class looking somber, as though they had something to say as well. Prof. Paul asked the two administrators to come forward and share what was on their hearts.

President Cristman told of recent happenings in the religious world. “These recent tragedies are being interpreted by other denominations as God frowning on us for desecrating Sunday. They are having large revival rallies.” The dean then told of a delegation presenting a petition to Congress to pass legislation requiring people to worship on Sunday. He closed by saying, “There is a good chance it will become law. All of the churches are united on this except us. It will probably be law by the next session—a year or so from now.”

Then he read from The Great Controversy, page 590: “*The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God’s commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced: and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity.*”

Lisa could contain herself no longer. “Prof., this is the second part of the

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reference you read in the first meeting. Does that mean the Sunday law is upon us? Isn't this one of the signs of the end of the world?"

"Yes to both questions, Lisa," answered Dean Matthews. "Prof. Paul asked me if he could give this class. How glad we are we said yes. We will be attending as well. We have presented a contingency preparation plan to the college board," stated the dean. "We feel that the end is near and that there is still much work to do in order to be ready. We want only the essential education and what God wants"

New Curriculum

Dean Matthews also spoke of a new curriculum for the remainder of the year and on into the next: "The program will consist of using our Bible classes as prep classes for witnessing and time for personal spiritual preparation. Our Industrial Education Department will be offering practical classes such as construction, mechanics, and trades for all students. Hygiene and Emergency Response will be taught by our Nursing Department, with Dr. Luke leading out. We will have a Home Economics course for all girls to learn to cook a balanced diet. Some meals will be cooked for large groups using wood cook stoves. Any who have experience in these skills will be asked to help teach them, in some cases, students will be teaching professors. I have asked our retired agriculture teacher, Brother Samuel, to come and help us grow our own food. Any with farming experience will also be asked to help. Samuel took a retirement package when we sold the farm, and he has graciously consented to come back and help us. A friendly neighbor who bought the farm has allowed us to use 100 acres to grow food. It turns out that much of this land has already been subdivided."

Now the dean's voice was broken. "I am very sorry, young people. We have failed you. We needed that farm to help you witness in these last days." He emphasized the first sentence of his next quotation, "*The usefulness learned on the school farm is the very education that is most essential for those who go out as missionaries to foreign fields. If this training is given with the glory of God in view, great results will be seen. No work will be more effectual than that done by those who, having obtained an education in practical life, go forth to mission fields with the message of truth, prepared to instruct as they have been instructed. The knowledge they have obtained in the tilling of the soil and other lines of manual work, and which they can carry with them to their fields of labor, will make them a blessing even in heathen lands.*" This is quoted from Series B, No. 11, page 29. We are going to present our plans to the board, in emergency session for their counsel. We will continue with degree pro-

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grams for now, but I want you to know that we may very well shift our emphasis. I note that the same book, on page 28 says: *‘The plan of the schools we shall establish in these closing years of the work is to be of an entirely different order from those we have instituted in the past.’*”

Lisa stood to ask Dean Matthews a question, Daniel noted that she radiated a deep Christian experience. He decided to get to know her better. But for now, he had too many questions and concerns about what his teachers had told him. Prof. Paul’s reference from The Great Controversy was being fulfilled right before his eyes. He suddenly felt in great need and fearful that he and his family wouldn’t be ready for Jesus’ coming. He had to learn, first, what to do and then get home and tell his folks. He saw that the spirit of revival and reformation was rapidly spreading through the campus.

Sadly, Daniel observed that some of his friends left Adventist College to pursue careers at other universities. They felt that all of this excitement about the weather would “blow over,” and they wanted to continue training for their careers.

Several meetings later, President Cristman told the students that the college would lose its accreditation if it insisted on this contingency plan. The accreditation board pointed out that degree programs would suffer and hence could not receive recognition. “I must say, young people,” said the president, “that we are firm in our resolution to not fail you again. We thought accreditation stood in our way, but the truth is, we could have been accredited if we had chosen to follow the counsels found in the book Education. But we chose to follow certification by the world, and now we are far behind where we should be in our demonstration of true education and preparing you to give the message for this crisis.”

Accreditation—by God

Dean Matthews stood up and gave a detailed study on accreditation that he had entitled “I Believe in Accreditation.”

“This may seem like a strange subject to consider at first, but as it develops I think you will see why this is an important issue,” he said as he introduced his study.

“In the book My Life Today, page 339, we find an interesting statement: *‘Will we live the lessons given in the Word of God, Christ’s great lesson book?’*

“There are many lessons in the Bible that we might consider. One is found in the first angel’s message of Revelation 14. This message for the hour in which we live is to help people *‘fear God and give glory to Him.’*

“The grandest purpose of our whole educational system is to bring glory to God. Reading again from the same page in My Life Today, *‘Will we live the lessons given in the Word of God, Christ’s great lesson book? ... It is the only*

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book that will prepare human beings for the life that measures with the life of God. And those who make this Word their daily study are the only ones who are worthy of receiving a diploma entitling them to educate and train the children for entrance into the higher school, to be crowned as victorious overcomers. 'The study of God's Word on a daily basis is the only way a person becomes worthy of a diploma to teach young people.

"Constantly improve. Keep reaching higher and still higher. It is the ability to put to the tax the powers of mind and body, ever keeping eternal realities in view, that is of value now. Seek the Lord most earnestly, that you may become more and more refined, more spiritually cultured. ' This is a co-operative type of program, that you and God are entering into together. As we progress in our education, in union with God, we can be made better and better workers for Him. *'Then you will have the very best diploma that any one can have—the endorsement of God.* 'This quote is from Testimonies for the Church, volume 7, page 281.

"This is the diploma we need—the endorsement of God. If we must lay aside the work of obtaining an earthly diploma in order to have the endorsement of God, that's all right. Is it not of greater value to have God's endorsement of our work than to have human endorsement?

"Following His example, in our medical missionary work we shall reveal to the world that our credentials are from above. 'I'm reading from page 23 of the book Medical Ministry. Notice the use of the words 'diploma' and 'credentials.' Medical missionary effort conducted according to God's plan will reveal to the world that our credentials are from above. The disciples found it necessary to say on several occasions, *'We ought to obey God rather than men.* ' And likewise, today, we Christians need to decide whether or not our educational program is one upon which God can place His endorsement.

"Testimonies to the Church, volume 6, page 131, says: *'A knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ "whom He has sent" is the highest education, and it will cover the earth with its wonderful enlightenment as the waters cover the sea.* ' A careful study on the subject of 'higher education' will reveal that higher education is the knowledge of God and His wonderful plan of salvation. The Christian's higher education is not what the world considers it to be—the gaining of a great amount of knowledge, information, and facts for a life on this earth. The higher education that we are constantly urged to obtain is a knowledge of our Father in heaven and Jesus Christ, His Son, and this message will cover the earth.

"I would like to share some historical knowledge with you. I trust that no one will use this information in a critical way. I present this material for two rea-

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sons. I want you to understand (1) why some of our training programs do not get involved with state accreditation, and (2) that the very materials that I present to you here are being considered by leaders in our Church. These brethren are looking for answers to problems that we have in our educational programs.

“In 1923, the question of accreditation arose in our church. Elder W. E. Howell, in a 1923 World Educational Conference, said, ‘The idea has been kept before our educators of registering our colleges in a secular, standardizing association, thus tying them by much more than a thread to the educational policies of those who do not discern the voice of God and who will not hearken to His commandments.’

“Listen to this quote from *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, page 255: *‘Our people are now being tested as to whether they will obtain their wisdom from the greatest Teacher the world ever knew, or seek to the god of Ekron. Let us determine that we will not be tied by so much as a thread to the educational policies of those who do not discern the voice of God and who will not hearken to His commandments.’*

“Elder Howell here is telling the Educational Conference that some of the movements toward obtaining standardization and accreditation with worldly associations are going to tie us by more than a thread to their educational policies; and, he says, ‘only two colleges have taken such a step on the most modern scale that could be discovered. . . that of registering only junior college departments. Where this step will lead these schools and any others that may take it, only He who reads the future as well as the past can predict.’ Now notice what Elder Howell predicted: ‘It would almost seem like tying ourselves to the tail of a kite, to be carried where the holder of the string may lead, seemingly in the direction of less efficiency to serve in the cause of God.’

“Thus, the educational secretary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists appealed to our world educators, trying to help them realize the seriousness of the movements that were taking place at that very moment within the ranks of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“In 1931 the issue of accreditation became important enough that it had to be considered at the Fall Council of Seventh-day Adventists, and at that time it was voted that in a ‘careful manner’ we would go and seek accreditation. There was a safeguard established that these men felt would protect the educational program from being destroyed, which was stated as follows:

“‘We recommend, that in the selection of teachers to attend the universities only persons of outstanding Christian experience and those who have been successful in Christian work should be chosen. Persons whose faith in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy is well grounded, and who realize that in attending the

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university they are being exposed to subtle and almost unconscious influences of infidelity—and persons who believe with all their hearts in the superiority of Christian education.’

“You see,” continued the dean, “it would be necessary, in order to have our schools accredited, that our people go to the universities and institutions of the world to obtain the degrees and credentials necessary to measure up to the requirements of the standardizing associations. It was therefore decided to select those who possessed the characteristics of Daniel—men who could go into these institutions and yet remain true to the God of heaven. This sounds to me like it should have been a safe course, if ever there was one, but now I want to read the results of pursuing this course. The following is taken from what is now called The Branson Report. This report was brought to the Fall Council in 1935, just four years after the decision to go ahead with the plan to seek accreditation. The report was presented by Elder Branson, and others who were part of a special committee selected to study the subject. Elder Branson said:

“‘We believe, Brother Chairman, as a result of our study of the situation, that the safeguards that we tried to throw around the policy of accrediting four years ago when we entered upon this course have largely broken down. Therefore we entered upon a course that we did not plan on, and we know that things have gone farther than was anticipated. We were facing dangers and perils in this matter of accrediting our colleges that were little dreamed of at that time when this action was taken four years ago. . . . We have found that a large class of very young and immature people have been finding their way into the universities believing that as a highway to appointment in institutional work. . . .

“‘Our commission brought us information that from one college alone thirty had gone into the university for further training during these years. We are told that in one university there was a get-together of our Seventh-day Adventist young people for a social evening, and there were forty present at that social, and not all were reached by the invitation. . . . Boards have been pressed by the accreditation bodies to put men on their faculties who have advanced degrees. . . .

“‘We believe undue emphasis is being placed upon the idea of securing degrees from worldly institutions rather than training our youth for spiritual service in the cause of God. . . . Many of these will be lost, will lose their hold upon God, and will not fill the position of responsibility in this cause it was designed of God they should fill.’

“‘Already—after only four years—the commission realized that many who had gone out to worldly schools, studying under teachers who did not believe on Jesus as their Saviour, teachers who did not teach the things that we understand from

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God's Word, were going to be forever lost. They would never see the kingdom of God. Yet he related another problem which was perhaps even worse: 'If they should fill positions of responsibility, many of them would bring to the denominational work influences that would lead farther and farther afield from the original purpose that was in the hearts of the men who established this work.' They would begin to introduce into our schools some things that were not good for our young people to learn. A good example of this is the study of evolution and of other such concepts. What a shame that we should study these things written by men that certainly have no commendation from the God of heaven! Why are these things being studied? Because we have teachers who have been educated to think, to believe, that these things are something good and perhaps even necessary for us to study.

“Your commission believes therefore as a denomination that we are drifting and that it is entrusted to us at this Autumn Council of 1935 to endeavor to call a halt and to retrace our course and to drive down new stakes and determine by the help of God that we will rectify anything that is wrong in what we undertook to do four years ago.’ I cannot help but thank God for men who are not afraid to say they have made a mistake. Elder Branson stated that it is time to retrace our course. Then he gives a comment from an educator (not a Seventh-day Adventist, but a religious educator), by the name of Andrew D. Harmon. At that time Mr. Harmon was president of Transylvania College.

“The hitherto undisputed claim that the church college carried a more wholesome moral and spiritual atmosphere had been a compelling argument in its favor. But this claim is seriously questioned today. The requirements of standardizing agencies have compelled church colleges to shift their emphasis from morality to scholarship. . . . The passing of the church college is now taking place and most of its devotees are looking upon the transition; some are even players in the drama and do not recognize it.’ This man did not even believe the message for this hour, yet he was wise enough to recognize that shifting the emphasis from morality to scholarship was wrong.

“Elder Branson went on to say, ‘We have been in the period of transition for a period of four years. We recognize on every hand that there has been a shift of standards, a shift in the ideals, a shift in the emphasis till many of our people throughout the churches of this land are becoming alarmed. . . . Can we maintain our ideals in their purity and yet reach to the fullest extent the recognition from the world, and agree to being standardized by the world, which means that we must be under the domination of these worldly organizations?’ This was, and is, a very serious question. ‘Some of us are very much afraid of what is going on by our own inauguration four years ago that is to some degree, God only knows to what

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degree, destroying the foundations of this denomination and bringing into us and our work an element that is altogether unsafe. . . . *“Lo, the people shall dwell alone and shall not be reckoned among the nations”* (Numbers 23:9). We have been called to be a peculiar people to minister in this earth, but this earth is not our home. We must dwell alone. There is no way that we can enter into a close union with those of this earth.

“It has become a profound conviction with us that we are drifting and that we have departed far from the blueprint that God gave to this people in the matter of establishing and operating our schools. . . . We are ready to admit that in our action of four years ago we went too far. We find that we made a mistake.’

“These are some of the highlights of The Branson Report on accreditation. This is part of the discussion that took place following the presentation of the report:

“W. A. NELSON of New Jersey: ‘The Lord has counseled us not to be connected by so much as a thread and some of our schools are so bound to worldly systems that we cannot cut the rope.’

“ELDER WATSON: ‘I personally believe the vote we took at that time was in the wrong direction. I have been instructed by the Word and the writings of Sister White very definitely since then. . . . I think we entered upon a course wrong in principle in 1931. . . . I think we have been mistaken in accepting standards from the world in education and in other standards. . . . We have entered upon a course of real peril.’

“ELDER RUSKJER: ‘I believe that the entire future of the youth of this denomination is dependent upon maintaining in the institutions of education the educational policies of this denomination, and right principles, and clinging to the blueprint God has given to us.

“Not very long ago I had the privilege of visiting with the man who stands at the head of the schools of an entire denomination. During the course of our conversation he said that he was deeply concerned over the trend of his denomination, stating that they were rapidly losing their youth, and I know his statement was correct. He stated that it seemed to him the way schools at the present time, colleges, and seminaries are drifting in a worldly direction . . . if we continue to drift in this direction, ten years from now they will cease to exist. I asked him why he made such a statement. He pointed out to me that since the schools had reached out and affiliated with the universities and have employed teachers who have been trained in non-Christian universities, they have come back into the schools, he said, and have brought to the schoolroom a spirit of unbelief in the Book of all books, and we are drifting.

“As a member of this denomination I do not want to be a party in that

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direction, in any plan that will make it more difficult for our youth to hold true to the fundamentals which God has given to us. I do not think that we are throwing any halo of glory upon the two institutions that we are recommending to maintain accreditation. Decidedly I think that we should eliminate these from the accrediting class also if we can.’

“It was being recommended that two colleges should have accreditation and the rest would not.

“ELDER McELHANY: ‘I wish the day would come when we could rescue our entire educational system from the necessity of going to the world for any further instruction. . . . I hope the Lord will lead us some day to build upon the foundation of this report to give further study in rescuing our educational system from the world.’

“My friends, I would like to have this man’s wish come true.”

“ELDER WILCOX: ‘Four years ago I stood very decidedly against accrediting in any form. I stand on practically the same ground today. . . . I hope in God that the time will come when we can take our students clear away from worldly things in our schools. While I favor this report, it is a compromise.’

“PRESIDENT ANDERSON (next day): ‘I feel perplexed and confused. I cannot quite harmonize the speech of yesterday by Elder Watson and the speeches today in favor of accreditation. If we do not accredit our medical schools, we fear what can happen to us, we are told today. We were told yesterday to exercise faith. I do not honestly see how I can go back and repeat your speech, Elder Watson, and when the brethren ask me, “Are you tied by a thread?” say “not a thread.” How can I harmonize that by what we are doing when we authorize accreditation of all our academies, for all of our junior colleges, and for all?’

“And now we think we have saved the cause from these wicked things by eliminating three colleges from accreditation. I am afraid we will rue this day if we go ahead with this program.

“Four years ago we did make a mistake. We made a mistake, as you say. I stand for accreditation. I don’t want you to misunderstand that—for the kind of accreditation the Testimonies speak of. We cannot blow hot and cold.’

“ELDER RICE: ‘If we should not be tied by so much as a thread, why not cut loose?’

“H. H. HAMILTON: ‘Personally, I do not believe in any accreditation at all from outside sources. If we are going out to Babylon, why not go out altogether and not have two or three schools in?’

“ELDER WATSON, president of the General Conference: ‘The medical college was at one time the chief urge for accreditation. It is a large part of the urge

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today, and if it comes to a choice between whether we shall continue the medical college or go worldly, my vote shall be that we shall not continue our medical work, and as a leader in the denomination I am calling upon you in the fear of God to take this step to keep our principles of true education from being lost to us. That is my appeal.’

“I thank God that this man’s fears were not necessary, for God would not want us to make a decision that would cause us to lose our medical work. But I cannot help but be thankful for a man who would rather have us lose that most important work from our church than have us compromise our principles.

“ELDER VOTAW: ‘If this accrediting is wrong, it is wrong altogether. . . . I cannot see it any other way, between sending boys and girls to hell from three schools or six. If it is wrong let us quit it. . . . If this comes up for a vote, I am going to say “NO” long enough for my vote to register “NO.”’

“ELDER PIPER: ‘I do not see the light in compromising with the world in any degree, and I am ready to cast my vote contrary to this recommendation, because I do not see its consistency. I do not see light in the proposition. I would like to move that it be referred back to this commission again for the purpose of being allowed to interview the commission.’

“After this, he and others privately interviewed the commission seeking to bring about a better understanding of what to do. But, unfortunately, at the conclusion of all this discussion, we find that the rush for accreditation from the world continued, unchecked. The following paragraph has been recorded by Brother Straw:

“‘In the early ’30’s the General Conference Committee appointed a special committee to give study to recommend what should be done. (This is the committee that prepared The Branson Report.) That committee visited the different colleges and studied their situations. At the end of their investigation, the committee recommended that two of our colleges seek accreditation in the associations, and that the others continue their work in training ministers, teachers, and missionaries for foreign fields. This report was submitted to the Fall Council of the General Conference where it was reconsidered. The General Conference president urged its acceptance and pleaded with the men to accept it. But, “No,” the college men said. “If some were accredited, so would they all,” and all it was. From that time on a stampede set in for accreditation and university-trained teachers. Each faculty seemed to try to outdo the other in their race for accreditation and for doctor’s degrees.’ So in the end, even the compromise was turned down. Instead of accrediting only two schools—they voted for all schools to head in the direction of accreditation.

“Personally, it is hard for me to believe how, after the discussion I read

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here, such a thing could have taken place, but it did. I believe these men loved the work, but they didn't understand well enough, evidently, all that was involved.

“Elder McElhany made a speech in 1937 in which he said: ‘I tell you solemnly that there are forces and influences at work which, if unchecked, will render us just as unprepared for the second coming of Christ as was Israel for His first coming.’ I wonder, my friends—when I read about Israel and how they rejected Jesus, their Saviour, even though they knew all the prophecies and were Bible students—are we Seventh-day Adventists removed from falling into that problem? (See the article entitled “Why the Jews Rejected Jesus,” Ministry Magazine, Dec. 1933). Could not the same thing happen to you and me today? Could we be found unprepared for the second coming of Jesus?

“Elder McElhany said in his speech: ‘Make no mistake about that. I see these influences at work. The spirit of Saduceeism is working like leaven and I want to lift my voice in earnest entreaty that you may see that the door is closed against all such intrusions. I summon you all to engage in this fight against the spirit of Saduceeism. My friends, really, I am concerned about the trends and the tendencies. I confess a great anxiety about them.’

“A Sadducee did not believe in the future life; he lived only for the present. Could the people's education have something to do with the present Laodicean condition of the church predicted by Jesus? Elder McElhany was very concerned about what he saw taking place even in 1937.

“Here is what Elder A. W. Spalding was thinking as recently as 1953 in a letter he wrote to Brother Dickson of the General Conference. He had become so burdened with the problem that he couldn't sleep at night. He would have liked to keep silent. ‘Twenty-five years ago, in 1928, we came to our educational Kadesh-barnea. The Promised Land was before us, but the majority of our spies brought back an evil report. We voted for affiliation and accreditation with all that it involved of affinity with the world's education.’ From the history of this problem, is it clear enough what the difficulty was? Can you see why in some schools we are seeking for the accreditation of heaven? We are not seeking for the accreditation of the men of this earth, and whether or not they ever think we are doing a good work of education. I do not care. I am not interested in what they think. If God approves, I'm happy.’

“The following counsel, from Ellen G. White, comes to us now in the light of history. This counsel would be difficult to fully understand without historical background. *‘But let me tell you that you must not take what the world calls the higher education and bring it into our schools and sanitariums and churches. We need to understand these things. I speak to you definitely. This*

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must not be done. ' This quote is from Fundamentals of Christian Education, page 536. Is that clear enough—in the light of history? We must not take what the world has to offer and bring it into our schools.

“*We are not to elevate our standard just a little above the world’s standard, but we are to make the distinction decidedly apparent.*’ It is not good enough to do what the world is doing. God’s plan for His people is that we do something totally different—something ten times better than what is being done. *‘The reason we have had so little influence upon unbelieving relatives and associates is that there has been so little decided difference between our practices and those of the world.’* You will find this quote in Testimonies for the Church, volume 6, pages 146 and 147.

“The same book, on page 130, further explains: *‘There is no time now to fill the mind with theories of what is popularly called “higher education.” The time devoted to that which does not tend to assimilate the soul to the likeness of Christ is so much time lost for eternity.’* What a sad thing it would be if in seeking the wisdom of the world we should lose our eternal life!

“Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, page 415: *‘Many are better prepared, have more spiritual discrimination and knowledge of God, and know more of His requirements, when they enter upon their course of study than when they are graduated.’* What a shame it would be if a student came to my school stronger spiritually than when he went away! How could I consider that I had done my work as a Christian educator?!”

Dean Matthews closed his address to the students at Adventist College by saying, “I want to remind you again, that I hope, as you consider this matter, you will take it in the spirit in which it was given. I love my church, but unless we understand this issue, all the spirit of dedication, all the spirit of wanting to do right, all the emphasis on evangelism, as good as these things may be, will not keep us from taking a wrong course. God has placed a burden upon my heart to help us understand the issues that were involved in our history so that we can begin looking again at the credentials of heaven, at the diploma that God gives to men and women who will follow His plan of true education.

“How does it help us to get ready for the crisis?” Dean Matthews asked. “It shows that revival and reformation are needed today. We will study other areas each morning. You may ask, ‘Why is it important to study these issues?’ Let me read to you a reference from Mrs. White recorded in The Christian Educator, August 1897, which we must always keep before us: *‘Now, as never before, we need to understand the true science of education. If we fail to understand this, we shall never have a place in the kingdom of God.’*”

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“We need to understand this, young people, because God wants us to separate from the world,” he said. “God wants us to have a place in His kingdom, so we must understand true education.

“I am sorry to announce that some of our professors have recently left Adventist College, calling us fanatics and alarmists. I want you young people to know that President Cristman and I and the remaining faculty are determined to grow along with you. Please stay with us young people,” he pleaded, “and together we will see this through to the kingdom.”

Location of Schools

The next morning, Dean Matthews began speaking on a topic that was even harder for him than the discussion of accreditation had been. “There has been much discussion on the Faculty Executive Committee over pages 25 and 26 of the fifth volume of the *Testimonies for the Church*: *‘Our school was established, not merely to teach the sciences, but for the purpose of giving instruction in the great principles of God’s word and in the practical duties of everyday life.... If a worldly influence is to bear sway in our school, then sell it out to worldlings and let them take the entire control; and those who have invested their means in that institution will establish another school, to be conducted, not upon the plan of popular schools, nor according to the desires of principal and teachers, but upon the plan which God has specified. In the name of my Master I entreat all who stand in responsible positions in that school to be men of God. When the Lord requires us to be distinct and peculiar, how can we crave popularity or seek to imitate the customs and practices of the world? God has declared His purpose to have one college in the land where the Bible shall have its proper place in the education of the youth. Will we do our part to carry out that purpose?’*”

Dean Matthews emphasized the last sentence and then referred to an article, “Out of the Cities,” that appeared in *The Adventist Review*, January 26, 1978, by Dr. Charles Hirsch, a former director of education for the North American Division, containing this poignant reference from *Selected Messages*, book 2, page 357, about where our schools should be located: “‘God has sent warning after warning that our schools and publishing houses and sanitariums are to be established out of the city, in places where the youth may be taught most effectively what is truth.’”

The dean further referred to Dr. Hirsch’s article noting situations where Seventh-day Adventist schools were sold and moved to country locations. “There have been several instances where the cities have grown up around and swal-

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lowed the schools. Some of the latter committed the mistake of building off-center on a corner of their property, leaving no contiguous property surrounding the campus proper to provide a natural buffer zone. And then, to compound the error, boards sold property to pay off debts or pay for new facilities.

“ ‘As a result, several of these schools have relocated and still others are giving study to the development of a new campus in a rural environment.

“ ‘Mrs. White emphasizes in Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, page 532: “*God bids us establish schools away from the cities, where, without let or hindrance, we can carry on the education of students upon plans that are in harmony with the solemn message committed to us for the world.*” If the youth of our church are to be educated along the guidelines and the counsel given to us, then it is incumbent upon us as constituents of our schools to provide right facilities in the right places with the right teachers.’”

As Dean Matthews replaced the magazine clipping into his folder, Daniel sprang to his feet. “Dean, sir, you mean we knew all of this before and we took another route?”

The dean replied, “Many leaders have written in our church magazines concerning the need for reform in our educational work. Others, from supporting ministries, have pioneered these concepts; they were not exactly preaching to the choir. We just didn’t listen, but now we work. Perhaps we had doubts that the Lord could supply all our needs if we did not conform to the world’s mold. We must forgive, be forgiven, and move forward.

Our college board is studying a proposal to sell our present campus and relocate to a country-wilderness location. This is a very difficult step for many, but it is obvious that the location of our schools is important to God. We have found a property with large natural meadows, buildings and housing for 100 staff and 1,000 students. This property was a former church camp near Serenity Lake in the foothills of the mountains. It has its own hydro plant from the stream that runs through the property. It is beautiful.

“Please pray with us that the Lord’s will be done and that the alumni will back us. They will have a real struggle to see us move. But if God wants us to—and we think He does—then we should move as soon as possible. Time is running out. We are convicted, as leaders of Adventist College, of Sister White’s counsel in Life Sketches, page 351: ‘*Never can the proper education be given to the youth in this country, or in any other country, unless they are separated a wide distance from the cities.*’

“Notice, young people, it says NEVER can the proper education be given here, or any other place, unless we are a wide distance from the cities. Never

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means it just can't be done. Location is important, as we read from Manuscript Releases, volume 10, page 260: *'If there can be found places in retired mountain regions where it would be difficult for the evils of the cities to enter, let our people secure such places for our sanitariums and advanced schools.'*

“No Buy-No Sell”

“In our next meeting, we will be studying the concept of the church under ‘no buy-no sell.’ Please read Revelation 13 by tomorrow. God bless you all!”

The next morning, Prof. Paul began his early-morning class by quoting Revelation 13:16 and 17, “*‘And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.’*”

“Did you ever wonder, young people, what it would be like to not be able to buy and sell?” The students looked at each other as Prof. Paul continued, “No electricity, no city water, no natural gas, no grocery store, no transportation. In more detail, what would it mean to have no electricity? In fact, your homework will be to take this list and add to it. Take each category and detail what it would be like not to have it. An example: no electricity—no washing machine, etc.”

“Here is my question to you and the faculty of this college.” The president and Dean Matthews were in focused attention. “What have we done to prepare our church and our young people for this Revelation 13 experience? Question two is, What do we do now? And three, What is God’s plan in order that we might follow it?”

“In dealing with question one, I think it is safe to say that the crisis is upon us and that we have not and are not prepared. Notice this statement from Patriarchs and Prophets, page 595, paragraph 1: *‘Are there not some lessons which the educators of our day might learn with profit from the ancient schools of the Hebrews? He who created man has provided for his development in body and mind and soul. Hence, real success in education depends upon the fidelity with which men carry out the Creator’s plan. The true object of education is to restore the image of God in the soul.’* Have we been true to that plan? The answer is no, we haven’t, as we have heard administrators and faculty apologizing for our neglect.”

Prof. Paul continued, “Question two has a simple answer; let’s begin to follow the plan very closely and ask God to help us. I feel like I am in school again. During the next few sessions, we will outline the plan as best we can and we will study it with you, young people. I have asked Dean Matthews if I could bring in speakers who have had some experience with ‘the plan’ to study with us. Remember, we shall not have a part in the kingdom of God unless we understand true education.”

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Questions About Courtship

That evening there was a special assembly held in the auditorium for the whole campus. The rest of the college would soon hear what had been learned in the previous early-morning meetings.

Daniel was concerned how Lisa was relating to all of these rapid changes. He decided to sit so he could talk to her. Sitting down behind her, he said, “Hi!” Lisa returned the greeting, and they recognized each other from the early-morning meetings. Daniel noticed that she dressed modestly. He couldn’t remember her wearing jeans to class as most of the other girls did. She seemed to have a special glow about her. The dresses she wore were neat, clean, and beautiful.

Daniel decided to ask her to go with him to a Saturday night program. She politely declined.

“Why?” asked Daniel, perhaps more boldly than he should.

“I don’t date,” said Lisa.

“Why?” again with too much boldness, but this time because he felt he had found someone curiously different, reserved and mysterious, not belligerent. It was as though she had some good news to share.

“I could give you a book to read,” said Lisa. “It gives my reasons from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.”

“Really? I have been an Adventist all my life and I have never heard of such a thing,” exclaimed Daniel. “I am sorry, Lisa. I didn’t mean to sound all-knowing,” replied Daniel sheepishly.

“Oh, it’s okay. It’s no surprise to me; other guys have asked me the same questions and I give them Pastor Bill’s outline which is enclosed in a new book entitled God’s Appointed. They give it back a few days later and say that it was too ‘old-fashioned’ or they didn’t read it at all. Most kids think I am kind of old fashioned. I like friends, but I don’t date. I have chosen to do what I feel God asks me to do.”

“You mean God says we shouldn’t date?” asked Daniel.

“Yes. Let me show you one reference, but it is a much deeper subject than just this one quote. Listen to this reference from Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, page 100,” said Lisa excitedly. Her unique combination of enthusiasm hedged by discretion increased her attractiveness: “*While at school, students should not allow their minds to become confused by thoughts of courtship. They are there to gain a fitness to work for God, and this thought is ever to be uppermost.*”

Daniel was dumbfounded. His head was almost reeling with so many new concepts. “Is this part of the new program for the college President Cristman and dean Matthews are proposing?” he asked Lisa. She admitted that they had interviewed her

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and that she had referred them to Pastor Bill's outline that they were now studying.

"But, Lisa, won't that take all of the fun out of being at college?"

"Look at it this way, Daniel. It sure saves a lot of heartache if things go wrong, or the relationship gets prematurely physical. God wants us to wait for that special one—God's appointed. Please read Pastor Bill's book before you form any other conclusions. Will you?" asked Lisa, almost pleadingly.

"Yes, I will," said Daniel, "but this gets a guy right where he lives!"

"I am sure it does, but how about reserving yourself for that special one God has chosen for you—God's appointed?" Lisa suggested.

"You may be right, Lisa. Can I borrow your book?" asked Daniel.

"Sure," said Lisa. "I will bring it to our next 5:30 a. m. meeting."

"No," said Daniel. "Could I get it tonight? I want to get into it right away. I have an easier class load tomorrow, so I don't have homework to do."

"Yes, you can. Come to the dorm lobby after assembly, okay?"

"Yes, ma'am," said Daniel playfully.

Lisa blushed, wondering how Pastor Bill's outline would affect him.

"By the way," asked Lisa, changing the subject, "how are you doing with all the changes in college classes and world events?"

"I can see it all so far," said Daniel. "It really seems urgent. I don't feel ready myself, but I am really praying. It is almost overwhelming—all this information! It seems like I have been asleep and am just waking up!"

"Me too," replied Lisa, just as President Cristman began speaking.

During the next hour, the whole student body heard of the plans for a new curriculum in the light of world events. At the end, some students walked out, but the vast majority did what had never happened before in an assembly. They stood and applauded, after President Cristman and Dean Matthews apologized and asked for forgiveness. They felt they had failed to adequately provide the training necessary to be ready for the events just ahead. The applause signaled the students' openness and support of the new program.

President Cristman reported that this beginning at Adventist College was spreading to other of our church colleges with an enthusiastic reception. It seemed a revival and reformation was beginning everywhere. Truly the Holy Spirit was working.

Dean Matthews warned that many trials would come. "Some of our friends, even family, may abandon us, but I challenge you to be true to our purpose. God is working as He has never worked before." Then he read this quote from *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 6, page 145: "*Though in many respects our institutions of learning have swung into worldly conformity, though step by step they have advanced toward the world, they are prisoners of hope. Fate has not so woven*

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its meshes about their workings that they need to remain helpless and in uncertainty. If they will listen to His voice and follow in His ways, God will correct and enlighten them, and bring them back to their upright position of distinction from the world.... One barrier broken down will give greater ability and courage to go forward. Press in the right direction, and make a change, solidly, intelligently. Then circumstances will be your helpers and not your hindrances. Make a beginning. The oak is in the acorn. 'You see, young people, we are prisoners. But we are prisoners of hope! Make a beginning! We need you to go with us—go with us to the kingdom. Your preparatory education is beginning now.' The dean's speech was followed by more applause.

That night, Daniel was up late reading God's Appointed. "The two young people in the book, Kevin and Rachel, are much like Lisa and me," he mused. Their courtship had taken place several years before.

One reference found in Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, page 366, really caught Daniel's attention and cut across his feelings: "*In this age of the world, as the scenes of earth's history are soon to close and we are about to enter upon the time of trouble such as never was, the fewer the marriages contracted, the better for all, both men and women.*"

He noted it didn't say no marriages, but the fewer the better. As he read on in Pastor Bill's book, he found that the true motive for marriage is to strengthen God's cause, not how a young person looks.

"So," he concluded as he thought it through, "if God has a work for me, then maybe He has someone for a 'helpmate.' On the other hand, any sacrifice Jesus asks me to make will make me happier, even if that includes not being married."

Daniel was truly inspired by the book that Lisa had given him. He felt at peace with his commitment. "True love waits and I will wait on God," said Daniel in silent prayer.

Even though he was up late that night, Daniel could not put the book down. It exposed a whole new level of trust in God for him. "It seems dating has us off course in two ways," he mused. "We shouldn't date in school because it sidetracks us from getting the most out of our education and it leads to a high divorce rate. Indeed," he said, clenching his fist, "there is a better way. I want that way." Daniel had decided the book contained truth as he flopped onto his bed at 1:30 a. m. and closed its pages. He knew it might mean personal sacrifice, but Daniel was at peace, and he drifted easily into sleep.

He awoke with a clear head and joy in his heart. When he arrived at Prof. Paul's 5:30 class, Lisa met him at the door. With anticipation in her voice she

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asked, “How did you like the book by Pastor Bill, Daniel?”

“Lisa, I couldn’t put it down,” said Daniel excitedly. “I read it through and finished at 1:30 this morning. I made a commitment to God. I said, ‘Lord, help me, but I want to wait for God’s choice for me.’ I also read about fewer marriages, and I sorta got a lump in my throat, but I said, ‘Thy will be done, Lord.’”

Daniel Meets an Athlete

“I am so happy, Daniel. I, too, have made those commitments.” Then she said, “I want you to meet someone.” She led Daniel over to a tall, muscular young man with a very reserved bearing and open face.

“Jerry is my brother, and we live on a farm in Idaho,” she explained as the boys shook hands.

“Glad to meet you, Daniel,” said Jerry as Lisa introduced them.

As they talked, Jerry said that he came to Adventist College after he had accepted an athletic scholarship to State University.

“Why did you quit?” asked Daniel.

“I had to, because God asked me to give it up,” explained Jerry.

“But we have sports here at Adventist College,” observed Daniel.

“Yes, but I think that will change soon,” said Jerry. “We don’t need sports to get us ready for the kingdom.”

Daniel’s head was spinning in confusion again. He had been interested in sports himself and had played with town kids in a summer baseball league. He was a pitcher and had helped his team make it to the finals of the state tournament.

Lisa noticed Daniel’s puzzled look and asked what was wrong. “I don’t know,” he said, “every day it seems I am faced with putting something else in my life on the altar of sacrifice. I would like to read something on sports. Do you have anything, Jerry?”

“Yes,” he said, “My dad wrote an article entitled No Sacrifice, that appeared in the Review and Herald, April 12, 1973. I have a copy in my room. I am in the corner apartment just down the hall from you. Come by when you can.”

Lisa had seated herself while Jerry and Daniel talked. Jerry confessed, “My Dad was opposed to sports. It isn’t easy to go against your dad, as I did when I accepted the athletic scholarship. But what he showed me from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy I couldn’t continue at State U. Lisa was a great help to me as well,” Jerry said. “She is so patient.”

“Quite a testimony about his sister,” thought Daniel to himself.

The meeting began with Prof. Paul offering prayer. He prayed for the meeting and world situation. He prayed for a little more time for God’s people to

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prepare. He prayed for those making decisions; to consider God's will ahead of their own ideas and opinions. He prayed that those who were suffering might be comforted and make decisions to obey God.

Daniel's mind was elsewhere this morning. He'd had to sacrifice dating, his college major, and now sports? Where was all of this leading? Maybe his friends who had left Adventist College were right about the leaders being extremists!

Prof. Paul read a reference from Fundamentals of Christian Education, page 289, that refocused Daniel's attention on the word "extremist": "*When we reach the standard that the Lord would have us reach, worldlings will regard Seventh-day Adventists as odd, singular, strait-laced extremists.*"

Then Prof. Paul balanced the challenge: "There is no benefit in being an extremist just to be different. Two things mark God's people in these last days: *'To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them'* (Isaiah 8:20) and from Revelation 12:17, *'And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.'*" He also read from Revelation 19:10: "*And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'*"

Daniel decided then and there that he would be on safe ground if it was in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. He would try not to be bothered about being called odd or extreme. "I will leave that with God," he said to himself. But he knew he was on a steep learning curve.

He wondered about the article on sports. Oh, how he loved baseball! He wept inwardly, prematurely mourning the sacrifice that would follow his reading of the article.

Prof. Paul continued by reading from Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, page 100, "It seems, young people, that God's purpose for our schools and colleges was *'to gain a fitness for the work of God and this is ever to be uppermost.'*

Daniel remembered this reference from the book Lisa had lent him on courtship. "Amazing," he thought to himself, "how everything is interrelated."

Spiritual Emphasis Is Number One

Prof. Paul continued with another reference from Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, page 14, "*The strength of our college is in keeping the religious element in ascendancy.*"

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“Young people, I have already covered a lot of ground in support of a change,” said Prof. Paul, “but note this one last reference this morning. It is found in Fundamentals of Christian Education, page 286: *‘In our institutions of learning there was to be exerted an influence that would counteract the influence of the world, and give no encouragement to indulgence in appetite, in selfish gratification of the senses, in pride, ambition, love of dress and display, love of praise and flattery, and strife for high rewards and honors as a recompense for good scholarship. All this was to be discouraged in our schools.’* Prof. Paul spoke the last few words slowly and deliberately.

“I am recommending that we cease emphasizing the use of grades and pursue mastery of important God-given subjects for this day of earth’s history. There will be no valedictorian or salutatorian. No summa or magna cum laude. We will restate our commitment to practical work as counseled by Sister White in Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, page 25, *“Our school was established, not merely to teach the sciences, but for the purpose of giving instruction in the great principles of God’s word and in the practical duties of everyday life. This is the education so much needed at the present time.”*

“Tomorrow morning we will take up the topic of diet in these last days,” was Prof. Paul’s parting remark.

Daniel left with Jerry to get the sports article. On the way, he mentioned to Jerry that he would like to get better acquainted with Lisa. “How should I do that?” he asked.

“Do you remember that book you just read by Pastor Bill?” asked Jerry. “Do you remember from the outline what to do?”

“Am I really supposed to talk to my parents?” asked Daniel.

“Yes,” replied Jerry, “They will ask my parents if she would like to have a courtship. This summer would be the soonest you could begin, and only if Lisa says okay. My folks need help on the farm, so you could work for us. Here’s dad’s phone number,” he said as he gave Daniel a slip of paper. “Remember, you are both still in school.”

Daniel took the sports article and went to his room to study and pray. The first reference that Daniel read was from Messages to Young People, page 213: *“While the youth are becoming expert in games that are of no real value to themselves or to others, Satan is playing the game of life for their souls.”* The context of the reference revealed that baseball was included with other team sports. The reference closed with this solemn thought: *“Satan is delighted when he sees human beings using their physical and mental powers in that which does not educate, which is not useful, which does not help them to be a*

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blessing to those who need their help.”

The next reference that Daniel read was from Manuscript Releases, volume 2, page 218: *“They act as if the school were a place where they were to perfect themselves in sports, as if this were an important branch of their education, and they come armed and equipped for this kind of training. This is all wrong, from beginning to end. It is not in any way appropriate for this time; it is not qualifying the youth to go forth as missionaries, to endure hardship and privation, and to use their powers for the glory of God.”*

The clincher came from Fundamentals of Christian Education, page 229, where it says Christ our example never played sports or taught His disciples to play them. *“I cannot find an instance in the life of Christ where He devoted time to play and amusement. He was the great Educator for the present and the future life. I have not been able to find one instance where He educated His disciples to engage in amusement of football or pugilistic games, to obtain physical exercise, or in theatrical performances; and yet Christ was our pattern in all things.”*

Daniel wondered about theatrics in the Drama Department for a moment, but readily dismissed it as not being a part of his own problem. It was becoming clearer why he would have to cut out sports and substitute practical work and outdoor recreation such as camping and hiking. Deep down, Daniel preferred the wilderness to the ball field anyway. He had to admit that he loved pitching because he felt like a hero, and Daniel felt he needed that sense of self-worth. Now new heroes were being “born again” every day at Adventist College and Daniel vowed to be one of them.

The Bible had an interesting slant on sports in 2 Corinthians 10:12: *“For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”* Daniel was well aware of the extensive statistics on strikeouts, earned run averages, and win/loss records kept to in order to establish who was the best pitcher. “Much like the GPA,” he mused.

John 5:44 explained athletics from another angle, *“How can ye believe, which receive honor one of another, and seek not the honor that cometh from God only?”*

Daniel thought about this for a moment. “It sounds as if our belief in God is affected if we, as humans, accept praise and honor from one another. Competitive sports do praise the best players.”

Daniel remembered how he felt when the coaches and players chose him

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to be on the all-state team. He did not feel humble and suppliant, but exalted. He saw that his pride had to go. Sports, drama, anything that contributed to his exalted feeling, would have to be sacrificed.

Daniel Calls His Dad

Later that morning, Daniel decided to call his parents and discuss Lisa. He knew he would have to explain “God’s Appointed” to them, but he deeply desired to do the things that would honor God and ensure happiness.

At the end of his explanation, he asked if they would call Lisa’s parents asking permission to start a courtship that would allow him to get better acquainted with her. His parents awkwardly said, “Yes.” Daniel assured them that Lisa’s parents knew God’s plan and would talk to Lisa about it.

“Will you call me back soon?” asked Daniel anxiously.

“OK,” his dad replied.

Several weeks went by and Daniel had no word from his parents regarding Lisa. In the meantime, Prof. Paul was continuing with studies in Christian education. Daniel had seen Lisa at every 5:30 a. m. meeting and they had talked. They listened intently to the speaker and his message.

One particular morning, Prof. Paul talked about essential knowledge and higher education. Daniel had the idea, as did most of the students, that essential knowledge would get a job in the work world and higher education was a graduate degree that would reinforce job security. But what Prof. read from the Spirit of Prophecy didn’t seem to agree with these ideas.

In a section entitled “Essential Knowledge” he read this quote from Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, page 11: “*Higher education is an experimental knowledge of the plan of salvation, and this knowledge is secured by earnest and diligent study of the Scriptures. Such an education will renew the mind and transform the character ... It will fortify the mind against the deceptive whisperings of the adversary. ... It will teach the learner to become a coworker with Christ, to dispel the moral darkness about him, and bring light and knowledge to men. It is the simplicity of true godliness—our passport from the preparatory school of earth to the higher school above.*”

“It’s no wonder a knowledge of true education is essential to admittance to the kingdom of God,” Daniel concluded silently.

At the next early-morning meeting, Prof. Paul discussed the negative aspects of sports. Jerry had pretty well covered all of Daniel’s questions on the subject of sports, so he stayed in his room that morning and studied God’s Appointed in more detail. He endeavored to digest every text and reference.

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Near the end of the semester and the final meetings of the 5:30 a. m. study group, Prof. Paul, Dean Matthews, and President Cristman reported the progress of board approvals and implementation. More and more young people filtered into the early-morning meetings, and applause often rang out. It did not seem to break the spiritual atmosphere. It merely affirmed the leaders' plans. The applause was often followed by eager questions and testimonies of commitments to God's way.

Degrees, Prizes, Honors

Another memorable meeting had to do with the origins of many common educational practices which further tied schools to the world; tied by conformity rather than being unique, as God would want. One of the main references that caught Daniel's attention was from E. A. Sutherland's Studies in Christian Education, page 29: "The granting of degrees, prizes, honors, etc. is borrowed from the papal system of education." Such things as processions, caps and gowns, were also of the same origin.

Daniel understood clearly how all unnecessary material had to be weeded from the curriculum by hearing a quote from Fundamentals of Christian Education, page 467: "*It is not wise to send our youth to universities where they devote their time to gaining a knowledge of Greek and Latin, while their heads and hearts are being filled with the sentiments of the infidel authors whom they study in order to master these languages. They gain a knowledge that is not at all necessary.*"

Prof. Paul mentioned another reference from Christ's Object Lessons, page 108, "*Satan works on human minds, leading them to think that there is wonderful knowledge to be gained apart from God. By deceptive reasoning he led Adam and Eve to doubt God's word, and to supply its place with a theory that led to disobedience. And his sophistry is doing today what it did in Eden. Teachers who mingle the sentiments of infidel authors with the education they are giving, plant in the minds of youth thoughts that will lead to distrust of God and transgression of His law. Little do they know what they are doing. Little do they realize what will be the result of their work.*"

Prof. Paul read a frank and lengthy reference from Testimonies for the Church, volume 6, pages 128-131: "*The third angel's message, the great testing truth for this time, is to be taught in all our institutions. God designs that through them this special warning shall be given, and bright beams of light shall shine to the world. Time is short. The perils of the last days are upon us, and we should watch and pray, and study and heed the lessons that are given us in the books of Daniel and the Revelation. ...*"

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“Let our lessons be appropriate for the day in which we live, and let our religious instruction be given in accordance with the message God sends.

“We shall have to stand before magistrates to answer for our allegiance to the law of God, to make known the reasons of our faith. And the youth should understand these things. They should know the things that will come to pass before the closing up of the world’s history. These things concern our eternal welfare, and teachers and students should give more attention to them. By pen and voice, knowledge should be imparted which will be meat in due season, not only to the young, but to those of mature years also. ...

“As long as we sail with the current of the world, we need neither canvas nor oar. It is when we turn squarely about to stem the current that our labors begin. Satan will bring in every kind of theory to pervert the truth. The work will go hard, for since the fall of Adam it has been the fashion of the world to sin. But Christ is on the field of action. The Holy Spirit is at work. Divine agencies are combining with the human in reshaping the character according to the perfect pattern, and man is to work out that which God works in. Will we as a people do this God-given work? Will we carefully heed all the light that has been given, keeping constantly before us the one object of fitting students for the kingdom of God? If by faith we advance step by step in the right way, following the Great Leader, light will shine along our pathway; and circumstances will occur to remove the difficulties. The approval of God will give hope, and ministering angels will cooperate with us, bringing light and grace, and courage and gladness.

“Then let no more time be lost in dwelling on the many things which are not essential and which have no bearing upon the present necessities of God’s people. Let no more time be lost in exalting men who know not the truth “for the time is at hand.” There is no time now to fill the mind with theories of what is popularly called “higher education.” The time devoted to that which does not tend to assimilate the soul to the likeness of Christ is so much time lost for eternity. This we cannot afford, for every moment is freighted with eternal interests. Now, when the great work of judging the living is about to begin, shall we allow unsanctified ambition to take possession of the heart and lead us to neglect the education required to meet the needs in this day of peril?

“In every case the great decision is to be made whether we shall receive the mark of the beast or his image, or the seal of the living God. And now, when we are on the borders of the eternal world, what can be of so much value to us as to be found loyal and true to the God of heaven? What is there that we should prize above His truth and His law? What education

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can be given the students in our schools that is so necessary as a knowledge of “*What saith the Scriptures?*” Prof. Paul’s voice was intense.

“*We know that there are many schools which afford opportunities for education in the sciences, but we desire something more than this. The science of true education is the truth, which is to be so deeply impressed on the soul that it cannot be obliterated by the error that everywhere abounds. The third angel’s message is truth, and light, and power, and to present it so that right impressions will be made upon hearts should be the work of our schools as well as of our churches, of the teacher as well as of the minister. Those who accept positions as educators should prize more and more the revealed will of God so plainly and strikingly presented in Daniel and Revelation*” (emphasis supplied).

Prof. Paul referred back to the study by Dean Matthews, where he quoted Elder McElhany, who sat with General Conference officials evaluating The Branson Report. “Young people, listen to the insight of this man back in 1935 who anticipated what we are trying to do here, today, at Adventist College. I quote Elder McElhany, ‘I wish the day would come when we could rescue our entire educational system from the necessity of going to the world for any further instruction. I hope the Lord will lead us some day to build upon the foundation of this report to give further study in rescuing our educational system from the world.’

“Young people, Elder McElhany would love to be here today. Our survival depends on our fidelity to this work. In Patriarchs and Prophets, page 595, we read, ‘*He who created man has provided for his development in body and mind and soul. Hence, real success in education depends upon the fidelity with which men carry out the Creator’s plan.*’

“Elder McElhany once made this observation: ‘I wonder, my friends—when I read about Israel and how they rejected Jesus, their Saviour, even though they knew all the prophecies and were Bible students—are we Seventh-day Adventists removed from falling into that problem? Could not the same thing happen to you and me today? Can we be found unprepared for the second coming of Jesus?’

“Elder F. C. Gilbert showed in an article from Ministry, December 1933, how the Jews’ rejection of Jesus was due to their educational system. Could we be as unprepared for the second coming of the Messiah as were the Jews for the First Advent? Yes, we can correct our course, even though it is late, it is not too late. We must do it or we can not have a part in the kingdom of God! God has said of us we are prisoners ... prisoners of hope. Let’s put actions toward the realization of these hopes,” pleaded Prof. Paul. The students stood as one in affirmation.

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Jerry's Testimony and Solemn News

Lisa's brother stood and read a quote from Testimonies for the Church, volume 6, page 179, "*A return to simpler methods will be appreciated by children and youth. Work in the garden and field will be an agreeable change from the wearisome routine of abstract lessons, to which their young minds should never be confined.*" I think, Prof., that it will be harder for the adults to make these changes than for us as students. Personally, sir, I am looking forward to them and I welcome them. I think I speak for every one of my classmates when I say thank you for your leadership." The students applauded Jerry's testimony.

Dean Matthews was present and came forward to give a report from the emergency board meeting. The news was met with deafening silence at first, then applause. "The college, engulfed as it is by the city, has been sold and we will soon be moving out to a new mountain sanctuary." Dean Matthews continued, "The board has also decided to take selected students as additional staff. This will be done by an official call. The pay will be board, room and \$1,000 per month stipend. Those students who have skills in farming, cooking, building trades, mechanics, and leadership will be called. The faculty at Adventist College decided to adopt the same pay schedule as the new student-staff. The monies then made available will be used in evangelistic endeavors. There is one providence that we as a College Executive Committee will need to see as we issue these calls. God will impress you concerning that providence. Please pray about this."

On another topic, Dean Matthews said, "The House of Representatives has voted a Rest Day Bill designating Sunday for family worship and recreation. The Senate will hear it next year. There is a provision that this new bill will have to be ratified by each state. Many feel that the approval of the states is merely a rubber stamp process. The popular opinion among the citizenry seems to be that God is frowning on us as a nation for desecrating Sunday. Referring back to The Great Controversy, page 590, we see this as an exact fulfillment of prophecy." Most students nodded, some voicing a solemn "Yes."

Prof. Paul then took the podium and reminded the students of their previous assignment. "Several sessions back we asked you to write a report on what it would be like to be under 'no buy-no sell.' Have you made any notes? This assignment was in conjunction with Elder N. C. Wilson's article in Ministry, December 1977, where he wrote about how he thought 'no buy-no sell' might affect the church. What do you think?"

Various students stood to name some things they thought would change: no salaries; can't buy food, or pay for utilities, pay taxes, buy travel tickets, fuel for cars, purchase insurance; no money for tithe, purchasing building material, and

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no evangelistic offerings.

“How will this affect us, and what will we do about these boycotts?” asked Prof. Paul.

One by one, possible answers were discussed. No tithe means no salaries for ministers and Bible workers. Teachers would have to be supporting themselves. This will be a hardship for some who have not accustomed themselves to practical life or learned a trade. It may test motives and calls to service. We will have to grow food, store it, and save seed for crops. We will have to build houses or cabins with no money for those who need country housing. Evangelism will no longer be dependent on money. We will have to trust in God for our needs. Suspected barriers between those who give money and those who serve will be eliminated. We will all be in the same boat, financially. Education will continue. Fundamentals of Christian Education, page 359, assures us that “*As long as time shall last, we shall have need of schools.*”

Daniel asked, “Why will we need schools in the time of ‘no buy-no sell,’ Prof. Paul? If there is no money and we offer no degrees, why would anyone want to come to our schools?”

“Good question, Daniel. Can someone comment on his question?” His question was met with silence.

“Maybe because our schools will be of an entirely different order?” Prof. Paul suggested. “Remember the reference from Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, page 532, where it says, ‘*The plan of the schools... is to be of an entirely different order from those we have instituted.*’ We will be teaching spiritual studies, practical skills, and growing food. The reference for that is found in The Ministry of Healing, page 192, ‘*If they ever become industrious and self-supporting, very many must have assistance, encouragement, and instruction. There are multitudes of poor families for whom no better missionary work could be done than to assist them in settling on the land and in learning how to make it yield them a livelihood.*’ ”

The subject of simplifying our lives, even now, by how much “stuff” we have was mentioned. Someone from the audience stood and read the answer they had discovered in their reading the night before on page 152 of the fifth volume of The Testimonies for the Church: “*We ought now to be heeding the injunction of our Saviour: “‘Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not.’ It is now that our brethren should be cutting down their possessions instead of increasing them. We are about to move to a better country, even a heavenly. Then let us not be dwellers upon the earth, but be getting things into as compact a compass as possible.”*”

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“As heaven becomes more and more real to us we will see the need of further sacrifices,” said Prof. Paul. One of the teachers came to the podium and read the “Impressive Dream” recorded by Ellen White in Testimonies for the Church, volume 2, pages 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 traveled on with bare feet.*

“*We then thought of those that 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.*

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“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

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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 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.' "

A soft "Amen" was murmured among those present and the morning session closed with prayer by Prof. Paul that all in the assembly might be ready for Jesus' coming.

A Call For Help

At the next meeting, President Cristman requested students to make appointments with him for calls as staff members. Anyone who had experience in the skills mentioned by Dean Matthews, was asked to serve.

Daniel and Lisa both signed up, unaware of each other's desire to help. For Daniel, it had been a deep four-hour struggle before he signed up. President Cristman accepted him on the spot, partially because of Daniel's farm background at his uncle's place, but mostly because Daniel was willing to lay his engineering career aside to begin working for God.

Lisa had very little struggle, but she did want to know it was God's will. When she sensed that, she signed and was immediately accepted. She, too, had expressed her desire to work for God now and put her career in elementary education on the altar. This was the providence President Cristman wanted.

Shortly after this, Daniel's parents called to say that Lisa wanted to get better acquainted and start a courtship. She had two questions which must be answered. First, they were still in school and according to Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, page 100, there should be no courtship among college students. Second, perhaps it was too late in earth's history to have plans for marriage at all.

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“Well,” Daniel answered his father, “I have an answer to the first question, or at least a partial answer. I have just been made a staff member. So I am not a student. I don’t know about Lisa, but all in all this is good news, Dad, because I am learning so much so quickly about myself. Events are coming soon upon the earth and God’s people should know to love Him and love each other.”

Daniel’s father replied, “You know, son, this ‘plan’ you told us about is a good one. It makes sense. It involves more people in your happiness. It eliminates all the fooling around as playboys and party animals and the hurts when breakups occur. But most of all, with God leading, divorce drops out of the picture. You can look back and see how God led, and it keeps the marriage bond strong.”

Daniel related some of the recent developments at the college and asked that his parents keep him, Lisa, and the college in their prayers. His father assured him of their support.

“Thanks, Dad. I will be in touch again soon,” said Daniel.

Drama

The next meeting had a speaker from a school that was not accredited. He was dressed simply in a black suit and tie, but his hands showed that years had been spent in manual labor. His name was brother Ron.

As he began to speak, he said that if anyone had any questions to feel free to raise their hand. He began with a Bible verse from Philippians 4:8: “*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*” What does ‘true’ mean?” he asked.

Someone said, “No lies, no faking.”

“What does ‘lovely’ mean?” asked brother Ron.

“Beautiful, colorful, peaceful, heaven-like,” another student said.

“All good answers,” said brother Ron. “Let me add a thought to the ones you have given. The Greek word for actor is ‘hypokrites.’ This is the root word for hypocrite, which again means actor.

Brother Ron took his suit coat off, his black suspenders contrasted against a crisp white shirt.

“Let me ask another question, ‘Is a hypocrite someone true?’”

“No,” was the loud exclamation from the students.

“Well, what about actors, are they true?” he asked.

“No,” but the response was not as strong.

“Then are movies, videos, video games, and virtual reality true?” he asked.

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“No,” but the response was from only a few.

“Let me read you something from the Spirit of Prophecy.” He held up Testimonies for the Church, volume 4, and began reading from page 578, “*Worldly or theatrical entertainments are not essential.*”

Then he held up the book Evangelism and read from page 137, “*Not one jot or tittle of anything theatrical is to be brought into our work. ... Let nothing of a theatrical nature be permitted, for this would spoil the sacredness of the work.*”

“Now a promise,” he said, “from Testimonies for the Church, volume 9, page 110: *‘As they labor with simplicity, humility, and graceful dignity, avoiding everything of a theatrical nature, their work will make a lasting impression’*” (emphasis supplied).

As brother Ron spoke, Daniel thought he noticed a dejected look on faces all over the audience. The college had a Drama Department. Movies, plays, skits, puppets, most of TV and videos—would all these have to go?

“In closing,” spoke brother Ron solemnly, “I want to reassure you that the path you have chosen for this college will not be easily followed, but God will richly bless, as the reference says, with a ‘lasting impression’ for eternity.”

Then brother Ron read from Education, page 296, “*“‘Something better’ is the watchword of education, the law of all true living. Whatever Christ asks us to renounce, He offers in its stead something better.*” Christ offers something better, young people! Trust Him to do it.”

The dean came forward at the close of brother Ron’s brief but poignant study. As he came to the podium, he said, “Young people, I believe this is another step in separating from the world. God has promised that He will give us something better. Would anyone like to testify about movies? Use the criteria brother Ron read to us from Philippians 4:8. I will be talking to the Drama Department head, but let’s consider making a pact on movies. Please pray for me as I talk to the Department chair, Dr. Jean.”

One student stood and said, “Dean Matthews, I have felt for a long time that movies, because they aren’t true, shouldn’t be part of the Christian experience. I choose to go with God on this issue.” Applause slowly gained volume as many students throughout the audience rose to their feet indicating their willingness to sacrifice pleasure for truth and secure heaven.

The dean was pleasantly surprised when he approached the Drama Department head. She, too, had been studying. “I found an interesting statement just a couple of days ago in my morning watch book,” said Dr. Jean. “It’s on page 159 of the book entitled In Heavenly Places: *‘Often the training and education*

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of a lifetime must be discarded, that one may become a learner in the school of Christ. ' I want to be ready. What can I do?' she asked.

"Work with others who are struggling with this, Jean."

"Okay," she said, "but before you go, may I ask one question?"

"Sure, Jean, go ahead."

"Why didn't someone show us this before we poured our lifeblood into it?"

"I don't know, Jean. I have asked myself the same question. But we can start now, can't we? The good news is, it's not too late. God is so merciful toward our ignorance and blindness."

As moving plans began to materialize, Daniel didn't see Lisa. It turned out that she had gone home to speak with her parents regarding a possible courtship with Daniel. Jerry had remained behind and was telling Daniel of her trip.

The Ribbon of Blue

The next morning meeting was on the principles of dress, and the person giving the lecture was an attractive elderly lady named Sister Ruth. She was from a nonaccredited school in supporting ministries. She began with a vivid illustration of our embrace experience with Christ resulting in our conversion. Infused with a love for Christ, we ask what He would have us do and how we may express our loyalty.

Sister Ruth then began to read from Deuteronomy 22:5: "*The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.*" Then she read Numbers 15:38-40: "*Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the Lord, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring: that ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.*"

She paused to explain that a man and a woman must dress so as to keep a distinction plainly seen by everyone at all times. "Does the Lord ask us to have a ribbon of blue? I wonder if that could mean something today? Let's look to the Spirit of Prophecy for an explanation. Testimonies for the Church, volume 3, page 171, states, '*The dress reform answers to us as did the ribbon of blue to ancient Israel.*'"

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Sister Ruth challenged the students, “Young people, especially you young ladies, it is important today to show this loyalty to God. Let young ladies wear something other than the pants which are so similar to what men wear. Be women distinct from men and honor God thereby. Notice this reference in Testimonies for the Church, volume 2, page 66: *‘The dress reform is a striking contrast to the fashion of the world. Those who adopt this dress should manifest good taste and order and strict cleanliness in all their attire.’*

“Another special principle that God has given us is in the matter of jewelry. The gems, gold, and silver are beautiful, but by far the greatest beauty is character. In First Peter 3:4, we read, *‘Real beauty in a woman comes from within, that enduring charm of a gentle, tender spirit which in God’s sight is priceless’*” (Clear Word).

“God wants us to demonstrate loyalty to Him by our dress and deportment. We read from My Life Today, page 123, *‘Self-denial in dress is a part of our Christian duty. To dress plainly and abstain from display of jewelry and ornaments of every kind is in keeping with our faith.’*”

“Finally, an important question is asked by God in Romans 9:20, *‘Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?’* Decorating ourselves with jewelry or makeup suggests disloyalty to God and expresses unhappiness with the way He made us.”

“May God help us to please our Lord with modest, distinctive dress that tells the world we are women, not dressed like men. We love the Lord by showing loyalty with this ‘ribbon of blue.’ One example of an abomination is a lack of distinctive dress among God’s people, according to Deuteronomy 22:5.”

Daniel had finally located Lisa in the audience. As usual, her dress and expression demonstrated the joy of commitment. It was rare to see such beauty combined with purity of character. It gave Lisa a powerful witness for good which was missing in the other girls with whom Daniel had been acquainted.

As Daniel began the long walk toward her, he outlined a few questions to ask about their courtship. “First, I need to find out if she is a student,” he thought. “If she is staff that would be some providence,” he mused quietly.

Diet for the End Times

Prof. Paul began a study on diet for the last days. It was obvious that some of the students were not vegetarians when they went home for school breaks. Some of the staff, including ministers, were not convinced that meat should be eliminated from the diet.

He began by reading from Genesis 1:29: “*‘And God said, Behold, I*

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have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.’ This was the diet in the beginning. “Let’s read Psalm 104:14: *‘He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth.’* Herbs were created for the service of man. And in heaven, what will our diet be? The Lord Himself testifies in Isaiah 65:21 that the new earth will find His children building and planting, eating from their own gardens. *‘And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.’* I wonder what diet would be the best now?” asked Prof. Why, even lions will be vegetarians in heaven! We will all stop eating each other!”

“We are advised to consider the cruelty to animals that the habit of meat eating involves, both upon the animals and those whose job it is to raise and kill them.” He turned to The Ministry of Healing, and read from pages 315-317: *‘The intelligence displayed by many dumb animals approaches so closely to human intelligence that it is a mystery. The animals see and hear and love and fear and suffer. They use their organs far more faithfully than many human beings use theirs. They manifest sympathy and tenderness toward their companions in suffering. Many animals show an affection for those who have charge of them, far superior to the affection shown by some of the human race. They form attachments for man which are not broken without great suffering to them... What man with a human heart, who has ever cared for domestic animals, could look into their eyes, so full of confidence and affection, and willingly give them over to the butcher’s knife? How could he ever devour their flesh as a sweet morsel?... Had the use of flesh been essential to health and strength, animal food would have been included in the diet appointed man in the beginning... How can they take the life of God’s creatures that they may consume the flesh as a luxury? Let them, rather, return to the wholesome and delicious food given to man in the beginning, and themselves practice, and teach their children to practice, mercy toward the dumb creatures that God has made and has placed under our dominion.’*”

“Listen to what Counsels on Diet and Foods, page 460, says about our diet in the last days: *‘Tell them that the time will soon come when there will be no safety in using eggs, milk, cream, or butter, because disease in animals is increasing in proportion to the increase of wickedness among men. The time is near when, because of the iniquity of the fallen race, the whole animal creation will groan under the diseases that curse our earth.’*”

“And on page 384: *‘The light given me is that it will not be very long*

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before we shall have to give up using any animal food. Even milk will have to be discarded. Disease is accumulating rapidly.'

“Also on page 380: *‘Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet.’*”

Then Lisa stood and quoted a reference from a previous meeting in The Ministry of Healing, page 192, that says we should educate the poor and those who don’t know how to raise and prepare their own healthy food. “We are told in Counsels on Diet and Foods, page 75, that our health message is as closely connected with the third angel’s message as is the arm to the body!

Prof. Paul continued, after echoing agreement to her comments, “If we are living in the end times, we should reconsider our position about raising and taking animals for food. Meat-eating could be just one more thread, young people, and this may be a hard string for some of you to sever. Even raising animals for food is supporting a program that is not part of God’s plan. It seems to me that it would be a little inconsistent to sell animals for meat, while being a vegetarian. To love my neighbor as myself would not include feeding them what we can’t eat.”

Lisa cited her father’s example. He had already diversified from cattle to grain and soybeans. She said it would be a financial struggle for dairy farmers, ranchers, and egg producers when animal foods would eventually be unsafe to eat. She told of her father’s discovery of the reference in Counsels on Diet and Foods, page 356, which had changed the focus of his farm some years before: “*‘Tell them that the time will soon come when there will be no safety in using eggs, milk, cream, or butter, because disease in animals is increasing in proportion to the increase of wickedness among men.’*”

“Thank you, Lisa, for that practical insight,” said Prof. Paul. “As we close this study, let’s consider some spiritual aspects of our diet. Turn in your Bible to the twenty-third chapter of Leviticus. We will read from verses 27-32: *‘Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord. And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the Lord your God. For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. Ye shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls:*

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in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.'

“Notice the expression ‘afflict your souls.’ Remember, this is referring to the old Day of Atonement, which lasted 24 hours. During this special day, people sought forgiveness, made things right, did no work, and fasted. They spent time examining their lives and determined to know God better,” explained Prof. Paul. “This comment from Patriarchs and Prophets, page 355, shows what the Israelites did on the Day of Atonement. *‘Every man was to afflict his soul while the work of atonement was going forward. All business was laid aside, and the whole congregation of Israel spent the day in solemn humiliation before God, with prayer, fasting, and deep searching of heart.’*

Since 1844 we have entered upon the antitypical Day of Atonement (you can read about that in Early Writings, page 253, and The Great Controversy, page 421). What would our fast be? To not eat for many years is not an option. However, there must be a fast for this Day of Atonement.

“Counsels on Diet and Foods, page 188, tells of the fast that we are to make during our ongoing day of atonement. *‘The true fasting which should be recommended to all, is the abstinence from every stimulating kind of food, and the proper use of wholesome, simple food, which God has provided in abundance.’* In other words, young people, our fast for this day of atonement is to follow God’s plan for our diet. Our day of atonement will soon be past, for the end of all things is upon us, and we shall soon be sitting together in heaven, feeding grass to lions!” Delighted laughter met Prof’s comment.

President Wilson’s Call Accepted

Daniel found Lisa as the other students went to breakfast. He had an important question to ask her, but before he could speak, she said excitedly, “Daniel, President Cristman has asked me to be staff during this move and change of curriculum. They need cooks and farm workers. I will be teaching classes on dress reform and courtship and helping in the kitchen.”

“Yes, they asked me too, Lisa. I will be working on the farm and teaching a courtship class for the boys. I understand, from your parents, that you consented to begin a courtship with me,” said Daniel. “Is that okay with you?”

“Yes, it is, Daniel,” replied Lisa. “I am looking forward to it.”

“One important question remains to be answered. What about marriages in these last days? Maybe we are wasting our time doing this if nothing comes from our courtship,” Daniel observed.

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“Do you want something to come of it?” asked Lisa.

“Yes, I do,” Daniel replied.

“Well, let’s take it one step at a time,” said Lisa, “and watch for God’s leading. We need to select a couple of counselors for each of us and get their advice,” she added.

At the next morning meeting, Daniel told dean Matthews that permission had been given by Lisa’s parents and his parents to begin a courtship.

“Very good,” said the dean. “I think it will help the other young people to see an example of what we have been studying. And, by the way, I am aware that you are both staff members now and not students at this college. I believe the plan is to announce your courtship. I will do that this morning.”

“Dean, one more thing: would you act as a counselor to me during this time?” asked Daniel.

“Yes, I will, Daniel. I am very new at this, but I read Pastor Bill’s outline some time ago. Maybe we can learn together,” said Dean Matthews.

“Thank you, sir. May God bless you in your leadership. I believe there will be souls in the kingdom from this college because of your stand for God’s plan,” replied Daniel.

The next morning meeting was a student assembly. Dean Matthews made the announcement of Daniel and Lisa’s courtship. Applause, wolf whistles, loud laughter and yelling made Daniel and Lisa uncomfortable. Dean Matthews held up his hand for attention. “Young people, Daniel and Lisa are attempting to follow God’s plan for getting acquainted with each other. There are many safeguards built into this rather old-fashioned approach which some of you may be tempted to ridicule. Encourage them when you can.”

When they recognized the spirituality of the occasion, the noise and laughter diminished. They responded with polite applause. Dean Matthews then announced that there would be an assembly every day, starting today, for those students and staff interested in learning more about God’s methods of living healthier and happier lives and learning about spiritual survival in the end times.

Truth and Fiction

Dean Matthews spoke following prayer by Prof. Paul. “Our study this morning is on literature and fiction. Our English Department chairwoman has given me this paper as our study this morning. She received her advanced degrees in the field of Biblical literature. Dr. Helen has been an avid supporter of using Biblical literature and histories as a basis for language usage and syntax, especially as inspiration for your essays and compositions. At times, she has been criticized for

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that approach, but I am happy to announce to you today that those of us who criticized her academic approach to literature and composition were wrong. I am chief among those who felt we needed to be more academic.”

The study began with Bible verses from Psalm 119:30: *“I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me.”* First John 2:21: *“I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.”* John 8:44: *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”*

Dr. Helen wrote some effects of novel reading from Messages to Young People, page 290: *“Thousands are today in the insane asylum whose minds became unbalanced by novel reading.”* Dean Matthews recalled to the audience how he had urged the use of famous novels in literature classes. He again asked specific forgiveness from the staff and students where his directives had caused a lack of unity and worldly influence.

The next reference from Messages to Young People, page 286, called for a housecleaning at the college. *“Dear youth, cease to read the magazines containing stories. Put away every novel.... We would do well to clear our houses of all the story magazines and the publications containing ridiculous pictures—representations originated by satanic agencies. The youth cannot afford to poison their minds with such things. ‘What is the chaff to the wheat?’ Let everyone who claims to be a follower of Christ read only that which is true and of eternal value.”*

“I will be asking Dr. Helen along with our librarian to form a committee to rid our library of all the fiction and novel-type literature in this college,” explained dean Matthews. “The cure for fiction addicts is found in Testimonies for the Church, volume 4, page 581: *‘Minds that have been amused and abused by reading fiction may in nature have an open book, and read truth in the works of God around them. All may find themes for study in the simple leaf of the forest tree, the spires of grass covering the earth with their green velvet carpet, the plants and flowers, the stately trees of the forest, the lofty mountains, the granite rocks, the restless ocean, the precious gems of light studding the heavens to make the night beautiful, the exhaustless riches of the sunlight, the solemn glories of the moon, the winter’s cold, the summer’s heat, the changing, recurring seasons, in perfect order and harmony, controlled by infinite power; here are subjects which call for deep thought, for the stretch of the imagination.’”*

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The dean then read a further explanation from The Ministry of Healing, page 446: “*It is often urged that in order to win the youth from sensational or worthless literature, we should supply them with a better class of fiction. This is like trying to cure the drunkard by giving him, in place of whisky or brandy, the milder intoxicants, such as wine, beer, or cider The only safety for the inebriate, and the only safeguard for the temperate man, is total abstinence. For the lover of fiction the same rule holds true. Total abstinence is his only safety.*’

“For younger children, further counsel is also given on pages 446 and 447,” said dean Matthews. “I shudder to think how far I have strayed, personally, from God’s principle in this regard: ‘*In the education of children and youth, fairy tales, myths, and fictitious stories are now given a large place. Books of this character are used in the schools, and they are to be found in many homes. How can Christian parents permit their children to use books so filled with falsehood? When the children ask the meaning of stories so contrary to the teaching of their parents, the answer is that the stories are not true; but this does not do away with the evil results of their use. The ideas presented in these books mislead the children. They impart false views of life and beget and foster a desire for the unreal.*

“‘*The widespread use of such books at this time is one of the cunning devices of Satan. He is seeking to divert the minds of old and young from the great work of character building. He means that our children and youth shall be swept away by the soul-destroying deceptions with which he is filling the world. Therefore he seeks to divert their minds from the word of God and thus prevent them from obtaining a knowledge of those truths that would be their safeguard.*

“‘*Never should books containing a perversion of truth be placed in the hands of children or youth. Let not our children, in the very process of obtaining an education, receive ideas that will prove to be seeds of sin. If those with mature minds had nothing to do with such books, they would themselves be far safer, and their example and influence on the right side would make it far less difficult to guard the youth from temptation.*’

“Revelation 22:14 says, ‘*Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city.*’

“God mercifully leads us on toward a steady spiritual growth, preparing us for entrance into heaven, as recorded in Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, page 250: ‘*In the messages that have been sent us from time to*

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time, we have truths that will accomplish a wonderful work of reform in our characters if we give them place. They will prepare us for entrance into the city of God.

“In Testimonies for the Church, volume 3, page 171, we find that: *‘If the church would manifest a greater interest in the reforms which God Himself has brought to them to fit them for His coming, their influence would be tenfold what it now is.*’ Think of that! Tenfold greater!”

As dean Matthews prayed, he again asked for forgiveness, this time from God for his neglect of God’s plan. He prayed that each one would dedicate their lives to Christ and be willing to sacrifice whatever He might ask of them. He then paused and asked for rededications by staff and students to God’s cause of revival and reformation. Hands were raised as a sign of recommitment. He closed his prayer with a request that God would inspire loyalty and unity and to answer Christ’s prayer of John 17.

Courtship Class

Daniel and Lisa soon began their staff assignments with eager anticipation. The students requested that Daniel and Lisa present the courtship class together. They were using Pastor Bill’s outline, but they had very little experience in the practical application. Dean Matthews okayed the students’ request.

Questions from the students about involving parents in their courtship and about their personal feelings left Daniel and Lisa feeling awkward. No one openly declared their sexual history, but there was a special interest in the concept of “secondary virginity” as explained in the book entitled “God’s Appointed.”

One morning, Daniel asked Lisa about her part in the courtship class. Some students had requested special counseling sessions; boys often requested to speak with Lisa and girls asked to speak with Daniel. Lisa admitted feeling awkward in these sessions, and wished Daniel was there with her. Daniel felt the same way, and because of Pastor Bill’s outline, he knew that he had to be careful in counseling women. Dean Matthews recognized that Daniel and Lisa were struggling with awkward situations and proposed the plan of discussions in small groups. Daniel and Lisa presented the topics for general study during the first portion of the class period after which selected student leaders discussed the topics assigned in small groups.

That spring seemed more beautiful than any other spring to Daniel and Lisa. They were several months into their courtship, and they had discovered, to their happiness, almost complete compatibility on the course of their lives, their interests, and their chosen work for God. They had both laid their original careers aside so that they could take their places to help finish God’s work and be ready

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for Jesus' second coming.

The spring also brought increased occurrences of natural disasters and an increased clamor for the "rest and reverence day" for the nation. Citizens were becoming frustrated with those few Christians who wanted to maintain both the principles of the Constitution of the United States and the commandments of God. Though they themselves maintained that they kept the Ten Commandments as required in the Bible, they insisted that the few Christians who kept the seventh-day Sabbath should keep Sunday. Other countries were following the popular demand in the United States for a rest day—Sunday. Daniel and Lisa felt in their hearts that new proposed amendments to the Constitution would pass in a year or so, in spite of legal snags, dictating fewer religious freedoms and more blending of church and state.

Origin of Music—Worship

Prof. Paul was continuing his early-morning studies. Nearly every student and staff member attended. This particular morning, music was the subject. Daniel had neglected this topic and became immediately concerned that here, again, he would probably have to give something up for good. But his joy of resignation opened his heart a little wider. Each sacrifice seemed only to increase his appetite for new light. Lisa, on the other hand, seemed to have been taught many of the principles at home. Daniel decided to ask her how she seemed to be living so many concepts he was just now discovering. Lisa explained by saying that she had taken home school when very young and then had attended a small school in the mountains for two years. "They had high standards and tried to educate us on God's plan. We even had a class on what to do when we can't buy and sell. I look back and see now that what they were teaching, both spiritually and academically, helped me here at college. Although I was taught many of these principles at home, that little school was a real sanctuary to me. Maybe we can go visit it together sometime." Everyone was turning to the first text, so Daniel and Lisa refocused their attention from each other to Prof. Paul's words.

"Let's read together First John 2:15-17: *'Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.'*

"If this were the only counsel we had on music, it would be enough to give us, with the power of the Holy Spirit, clear perceptions of good music,"

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said Prof. “The Music Department has asked me to present the essence of their research on music. They felt that there were a few changes they needed to make. For the most part, they have taught good guidelines on music. If anyone has any input, they will be happy to hear from you. Improvements and reforms have taken place in the department regarding opera. Their emphasis will be, in the light of current events, to teach performance and appreciation of sacred music,” concluded Prof as he continued to read the Music Department’s prepared statement.

“What was the original purpose of music?” asked Prof. “Where did music originate?” He began to read from Selected Messages, book 3, page 334: “*Music is of heavenly origin.*’ So,” he concluded, “music began in heaven. Now, what was the purpose of music?” he asked. He read from Sons and Daughters of God, page 179: “*Music was made to serve a holy purpose, to lift the thoughts to that which is pure, noble, and elevating, and to awaken in the soul devotion and gratitude to God.*”

Again Prof. Paul concluded, “Music has a holy purpose in pointing a person to God. Any music that does not magnify Him is of no value today. Young people, you have to answer questions on music personally and honestly. There is no strict quantifiable guideline for music such as there is in diet or sports. It is of the highest importance that you answer these questions with integrity and privately. Your eternal life depends on it,” said Prof. Paul with more emphasis than Daniel remembered from previous meetings.

Prof. Paul continued by reading from Testimonies for the Church, volume 1, page 506, “*In the judgment all these words of inspiration will condemn those who have not heeded them.*’ If you read the context of this reference, you will find that it refers to music,” he declared. “Music is a call to examine our hearts and answer the question, ‘Does my choice of music point to Christ?’ We don’t have time for any other priorities than to make God and His work number one. One educator put it this way, ‘Music is best when words and sound are closest to nature.’

“A reference found in Testimonies for the Church, volume 6, page 358, seems to back up this idea: *In pleasant weather let parents walk with their children in the fields and groves. Amid the beautiful things of nature tell them the reason for the institution of the Sabbath. Describe to them God’s great work of creation. Tell them that when the earth came from His hand, it was holy and beautiful. Every flower, every shrub, every tree, answered the purpose of its Creator. Everything upon which the eye rested was lovely and filled the mind with thoughts of the love of God.*

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Every sound was music in harmony with the voice of God. Show that it was sin which marred God's perfect work; that thorns and thistles, sorrow and pain and death, are all the result of disobedience to God. Bid them see how the earth, though marred with the curse of sin, still reveals God's goodness. The green fields, the lofty trees, the glad sunshine, the clouds, the dew, the solemn stillness of the night, the glory of the starry heavens, and the moon in its beauty all bear witness of the Creator. Not a drop of rain falls, nor a ray of light is shed on our unthankful world, but it testifies to the forbearance and love of God” [emphasis supplied].

Dean Matthews came forward now and Prof. Paul motioned for him to take the pulpit. When the dean came forward during a meeting, it was general knowledge that he would give one of his “news flashes.”

“I am thankful, young people, for our choir and the witness it has been for Jesus in our community and for our college. Some of you have been asking me some questions recently about music, so I have been studying the reference found in Patriarchs and Prophets, page 594, which states, ‘*Singing, as a part of religious service, is as much an act of worship as is prayer.*’

“There has been a report among Adventists that there has been a loud, irreverent use of music in worship services. As I listened to the report, I decided to do some research on music in the end of time just before the close of probation. I found this statement that I want to share with you now. It is from Selected Messages, book 2, page 36: ‘*It is impossible to estimate too largely the work that the Lord will accomplish through His proposed vessels in carrying out His mind and purpose. The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make rational decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit.*’

“I believe, young people, that this use of music is yet another fulfillment telling us where we are in the closing events. And we do not wish to have this excitement and revelry in our worship services as a substitute for the true manifestations of the Holy Spirit,” Dean Matthews concluded. His presentation was met with reverent silence and then hearty amens.

As Prof. Paul took the podium, again, Daniel felt a renewed commitment to go all the way with God. He bowed his head along with Lisa and they silently asked for more of the Spirit to help them in their work of sharing God’s plan with others.

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“Young people,” began Prof. Paul, “I discovered a reference that may be of interest to you from the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, volume 2, page 1036: *‘Just before Elijah was taken to heaven, he visited the schools of the prophets, and instructed the students on the most important points of their education. The lessons he had given them on former visits, he now repeated, impressing upon the minds of the youth the importance of letting simplicity mark every feature of their education. Only in this way could they receive the mold of heaven, and go forth to work in the ways of the Lord. If conducted as God designs they should be, our schools in these closing days of the message will do a work similar to that done by the schools of the prophets.’*

“Another discovery I made is found in the book Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, page 168: *‘These schools, established in different localities and conducted by God-fearing men or women, as the case demands, should be built on the same principles as were the schools of the prophets.’*

“We have a school here at Adventist College. What did the students in Elijah’s day do in regard to their music education? Listen to this quote from Fundamentals of Christian Education, pages 97 and 98: *‘The art of sacred melody was diligently cultivated. No frivolous waltz was heard, nor flippant song that should extol man and divert the attention from God; but sacred, solemn psalms of praise to the Creator, exalting His name and recounting His wonderful works. This music was made to serve a holy purpose, to lift the thoughts to that which was pure and noble and elevating, and to awaken in the soul devotion and gratitude to God.’*”

When Daniel heard that, deep conviction stole over him as he returned to his room. He had excused himself, explaining to Lisa that he had something he had to do. When he arrived at his room, he began to sort his CDs and tapes. All but five he discarded and burned. Among those thrown away were some Christian rock and exciting gospel music mixed with his favorite country and rock tapes. He thought of selling them, but if he did, they would only continue to pollute others, so he took the financial loss and burned them in the school’s furnace. He bowed his head and asked God to help him overcome the effects of this music he had listened to and the movies that he had seen. He desired to be pure in heart.

The College Moves

The next morning at the 5:30 meeting, President Cristman announced that

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all students and staff should begin to pack their personal and departmental things in preparation for the move. The use of trucks from a Christian trucking company had been donated to help with the move and could be used as long as they were needed. Remodeling crews had been working on the new “Mountain Refuge” property to allow for as smooth a transition as possible. Groups of volunteers who greeted each other with “Maranatha” worked very hard and long hours. They, too, sensed the nearness of the Lord’s coming.

The next few days were a flurry of activity for Daniel and Lisa, but once their things were packed, they volunteered to help in other departments. They noticed that each department didn’t pack much, but left a lot of equipment to the new buyers who wanted it for their new convenient-to-town college. At the close of one particularly hectic day, when they had done all they could to help, they decided to drive up to Mountain Refuge to look around and have a special time of prayer and fellowship together.

“I believe, Lisa, that we could be an encouragement to each other if we were together more,” Daniel said awkwardly. “I feel the work that God has given us would be enhanced by...,” he sighed and interrupted himself. “Lisa, I have spoken with my parents and counselors, and they have given me the okay to ask you something. But I don’t want to do it until we get to Mountain Refuge.”

The new campus for Mountain Refuge Adventist Missionary College (MRAMC) was beautiful in every way; 320 acres surrounded by national forest with a crystal-clear stream flowing the full length of it. There were many buildings for classes, a large lodge, nearly 100 cabins and many tent sites. There was about 100 acres of agricultural land. The mountains formed a beautiful backdrop to the quietness. Being a former church camp, it possessed many facilities and was well separated from the town that had engulfed the former campus of Adventist College.

Daniel Proposes

Along the stream were quiet pools that reflected the beauties of the mountain valley. It was at one of these deep, quiet pools that Daniel motioned for Lisa to be seated on a rock. He thought that he had never seen such beauty so simply and purely expressed. Lisa’s countenance reflected an inner glow.

“What is it, Daniel?” she asked anxiously.

“Well, you see, I feel that ... I ... I mean, you know.” Daniel seemed helpless to put his thoughts into words. “This is such a beautiful place to ask such an important question,” he said with renewed determination. “Lisa, I believe that God’s work would be furthered if we became one in Christ. Will you marry me?”

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Daniel asked quietly. "I know our work here as staff would be strengthened if we were married."

"Daniel, I feel impressed that God had to answer our questions about marriage in the last days and He has done that for me," answered Lisa. "I would like to phone my parents and speak with them regarding your question. I can use the pay phone right over there."

When Lisa found the pay phone at the main entrance, Daniel stayed behind to give her privacy. As she was talking, he remembered the picnics and campouts the two families had had together. These pleasurable times allowed each of their parents time to get acquainted with each other and with Daniel and Lisa. Each family truly respected the choices that the young couple had made. Lisa's family really loved Daniel, and Daniel's family thought that Lisa was the most perfect match for Daniel. They loved her as their own daughter.

Lisa was smiling as she approached Daniel. She told him that her parents had given them their blessings and consent. "They spoke highly of you, Daniel."

"As for me," stated Lisa, "I have prayed much about this over the months, Daniel, and I don't need any more time. I knew quite a while ago as I watched you gain victory over every besetment that I could be your helpmate. My answer is yes, and I love you as truly as God would have me. We will continue to put God's work first in our relationship."

Daniel had never known such pure happiness as at that moment. He knew it was true joy because they had followed God's plan and providence to find "God's Appointed."

"I love you too, Lisa, very deeply," Daniel responded. "I wrote something for you." He handed Lisa a small card on which was written the words, 'Love is the depth of appreciation of communication.'

"That is beautiful, Daniel. I will treasure it always."

True Education

The next morning at the 5:30 meeting, President Cristman was the speaker. He announced, "The early-morning meetings will continue at the new campus, hopefully one week from today. And, by the way, Daniel and Lisa will be married in the Log Chapel at MRAMC." Joyful smiles spread through the audience. The absence of whistles, laughter, and applause indicated to Daniel and Lisa that their witness had encouraged the students to be more reverent about courtship. President Cristman then read for the devotional a reference from The Ministry of Healing, page 395: "*True education is missionary training. Every son and daughter of God is called to be a missionary; we are called to the service of God*

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and our fellow men; and to fit us for this service should be the object of our education. ' This is why the board voted to reincorporate "missionary" in our name, since it is now the object of our education."

He continued reading from Testimonies for the Church, volume 9, page 174: "*We hear a great deal about higher education. The highest education is to follow in the footsteps of Christ, patterning after the example He gave when He was in the world. We cannot gain an education higher than this, for this class of training will make men laborers together with God.* ' This is what we desire, and as leaders of MRAMC and, as co-learners, we pledge to you, with God's help, to assist each of you in gaining that higher education.

"In closing, some thoughts from the Flood, 5,000 years ago. I know you are all familiar with the story recorded in Genesis 6:13. God told Noah to build an ark. He gave him exact dimensions, chose the wood for construction, and gave him the floor plan. Noah followed the plan exactly while people made fun of him. Sadly, not many people believed in his project. When the rains came, many believed, but it was too late then. Violent winds and eruptions from the deep threatened to destroy the ark. Noah had followed God's plan to the letter, and still the storm threatened the ark's existence. Let me ask you this, young people—where was everything that was not built according to God's plan?"

"All gone!" exclaimed a student at the back of the auditorium.

"That is correct," said President Cristman. "So we must build according to God's plan whatever the cost in money, separations, and ridicule. Soon all will want to build an ark like ours, but it will be too late. It is almost too late for us," he said solemnly. "But," he said emphatically, "don't miss this point. Even though we build according to God's plan, if we survive at all it will be only by the blessing of God. Listen to this reference describing the ark from The Story of Redemption, page 68:

The beasts within expressed, by their various noises, the wildest terror; yet amid all the warring of the elements, the surging of the waters, and the hurling about of trees and rocks, the ark rode safely. Angels that excel in strength guided the ark and preserved it from harm. Every moment during that frightful storm of forty days and forty nights the preservation of the ark was a miracle of almighty power. '

"Young people, we, too, have an ark to build. No matter how closely we follow the blueprint, it won't be good enough to survive the coming storm. Don't ever forget that our safety is in God, and not in the ark. We must build the ark according to His plan, but we still need God's blessing and His protection in order

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for our ark to survive. Education, page 50, says: *‘With us, as with Israel of old, success in education depends on fidelity in carrying out the Creator’s plan. Adherence to the principles of God’s word will bring as great blessings to us as it would have brought to the Hebrew people.’*

“We must build, we must follow the plan. Noah’s ark would have sunk without God’s blessing of protection. So will ours. God bless you as we keep His priorities prominent. Let us follow the plan. Then we can have His protection. God bless you, young people. Let us arise and build.”

There was no applause but all were in agreement. Many of the students stood quietly in assent. Others wept and prayed. There were a few prayer bands dotting the auditorium; some students decided to go to their rooms to pray.

“Just a couple of announcements before we leave this morning,” said President Cristman. “Dean Matthews will be informing you as to specific details of the move. I will be handing out an outline of this class to each of you. It is entitled ‘Prof. Paul’s Notes’ and Sister Helen informs me that someone has written a book entitled ‘You Can Survive!’ My counsel is to get a copy as soon as it is available. On behalf of Adventist College, I would like to be the first to welcome you to Mountain Refuge Adventist Missionary College.”

PROF. PAUL’S NOTES I AM THANKFUL:

1. For schools that “even at this late hour” have a balanced and systematic daily work-study program in which all teachers and students participate:

“We desire that our children should study to the best advantage. In order to do this, employment should be given them which will call the muscles into exercise. Daily, systematic labor should constitute a part of the education of the youth, even at this late period” (Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 44; emphasis supplied).

2. For schools that do not consider athletics as a satisfactory alternative to practical training and believe in the superiority of manual labor and in the danger of spectator-type sports.

“They act as if the school were a place where they were to perfect themselves in sports, as if this were an important branch of their education, and they come armed and equipped for this kind of training. This is all wrong, from beginning to end. It is not in any way appropriate for this time; it is not qualifying the youth to go forth as missionaries, to endure hardship and pri-

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vation, and to use their powers for the glory of God” (Manuscript Releases, vol. 2, p. 218; emphasis supplied).

“The physical exercise was marked out by the God of wisdom. Some hours each day should be devoted to useful education in lines of work that will help the students in learning the duties of practical life, which are essential for all our youth. But this had been dropped out, and amusements introduced, which simply give exercise, without being any special blessing in doing good and righteous actions, which is the education and training essential” (Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 228).

“Without physical exercise, no one can have a sound constitution and vigorous health; and the discipline of well-regulated labor is no less essential to the securing of a strong and active mind and a noble character” (Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 601).

3. For schools that do not copy after the world nor allow anyone who secures a worldly education to influence their standard.

“And there are some who, having secured this worldly education, think that they can introduce it into our schools. But let me tell you that you must not take what the world calls the higher education and bring it into our schools and sanitariums and churches. We need to understand these things. I speak to you definitely. This must not be done” (Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 536; emphasis supplied).

“How few schools are to be found that are not governed by the maxims and customs of the world” (Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 594).

“There are men among us in responsible positions who hold that the opinions of a few conceited philosophers, so called, are more to be trusted than the truth of the Bible or the testimonies of the Holy Spirit. Such a faith as that of Paul, Peter, or John is considered old fashioned and insufferable at the present day. It is pronounced absurd, mystical, and unworthy of an intelligent mind. God has shown me that these men are Hazael's to prove a scourge to our people. They are wise above what is written” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 79; emphasis supplied).

4. For schools that have little to say of degrees.

“In view of all this, our schools should have little to say now of ‘degrees,’ and of long courses of study. The work of preparation for the service of God is to be done speedily. Let the work be carried forward in strictly Bible lines. Let every soul remember that the judgments of God are in the land. Let ‘degrees’ be little spoken of” (Manuscript Releases, vol. 11, p. 165;

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emphasis supplied).

5. For schools that help students gain a preparation for service rather than becoming confused by courtships in school.

“While at school, students should not allow their minds to become confused by thoughts of courtship. They are there to gain a fitness to work for God, and this thought is ever to be uppermost” (Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 100).

6. For schools that maintain that even now agriculture should be the A, B, and C of the education given.

“Some do not appreciate the value of agricultural work. These should not plan for our schools, for they will hold everything from advancing in right lines. In the past their influence has been a hindrance. Study in agricultural lines should be the A, B, and C of the education given in our schools. This is the very first work that should be entered upon” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, pp. 178, 179; emphasis supplied).

7. For schools that make God’s work their chief study and keep the religious element in the ascendancy.

“The strength of our college is in keeping the religious element in the ascendancy.” (Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, page 14).

“God has declared His purpose to have one college in the land where the Bible shall have its proper place in the education of the youth.... The words of God to men, which should receive our first attention, are neglected for the utterances of human wisdom... Never from cowardice or worldly policy let the word of God be placed in the background. Students will be profited intellectually, as well as morally and spiritually, by its study” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 26, 27; emphasis supplied).

8. For schools that will remain small in size and are located away from the cities.

“Land should be secured at a distance from the cities, where schools can be built up in which the youth can be given an education in agricultural and mechanical lines” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, p. 215).

“The school should not be in or near a city.... All schools should be located, as far as possible, where the eye will rest upon the things of nature instead of clusters of houses” (Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 322).

“It is possible to have too many educational facilities centered in one place. Smaller schools, conducted after the plan of the schools of the proph-

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ets, would be a far greater blessing” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 137; emphasis supplied).

“Send children to schools located in the city, where every phase of temptation is waiting to attract and demoralize them, and the work of character building is tenfold harder for both parents and children (Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 326; emphasis supplied).

9. For schools where the highest education is taught and not merely the sciences.

“A knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ ‘whom He has sent’ is the highest education and it will cover the earth with its wonderful enlightenment as the waters cover the sea” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 131).

“Our school was established, not merely to teach the sciences, but for the purpose of giving instruction in the great principles of God’s word and in the practical duties of everyday life” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 25).

10. For schools that understand the true science of education.

“Now, as never before, we need to understand the true science of education. If we fail to understand this, we shall never have a place in the kingdom of God” (The Christian Educator, vol. 1, No. 2, August 1897; emphasis supplied).

11. For schools that prepare students to be self-supporting missionaries.

“Students have been learning to become self-supporting, and a training more important than this they could not receive” (Series B, No. 11, p. 1).

“The lesson of self-help learned by the student would go far toward preserving institutions of learning from the burden of debt” (Education, p. 221).

12. For schools that discard novels and fiction and give a few well-chosen studies.

“In the education of children and youth, fairy tales, myths, and fictitious stories are now given a large place. Books of this character are used in the schools, and they are to be found in many homes. How can Christian parents permit their children to use books so filled with falsehood? When the children ask the meaning of stories so contrary to the teaching of their parents, the answer is that the stories are not true; but this does not do away with the evil results of their use. The ideas presented in these books mislead the children. They impart false views of life and beget and foster a desire for the unreal. The widespread use of such books at this time is one of the

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cunning devices of Satan. He is seeking to divert the minds of old and young from the great work of character building. He means that our children and youth shall be swept away by the soul-destroying deceptions with which he is filling the world. Therefore he seeks to divert their minds from the word of God and thus prevent them from obtaining a knowledge of those truths that would be their safeguard. Never should books containing a perversion of truth be placed in the hands of children or youth. Let not our children, in the very process of obtaining an education, receive ideas that will prove to be seeds of sin. If those with mature minds had nothing to do with such books, they would themselves be far safer, and their example and influence on the right side would make it far less difficult to guard the youth from temptation" (The Ministry of Healing, pp. 446, 447; emphasis supplied).

"Novel and storybook reading are the greatest evils in which youth can indulge" (Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 37; emphasis supplied).

"Thousands are today in the insane asylum whose minds became unbalanced by novel reading, which results in air-castle building and love-sick sentimentalism" (Messages to Young People, p. 290).

13. For schools that teach agriculture and are not dependant on imported produce.

"Our schools should not depend upon imported produce, for grain and vegetables, and the fruits so essential to health" (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 179; emphasis supplied).

"Small fruits should be planted, and vegetables and flowers cultivated" (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 176).

"The youth who shall attend our schools... are to plant ornamental and fruit trees, and to cultivate garden produce" (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 181; emphasis supplied).

"Had the money which our larger schools have used in expensive buildings been invested in procuring land where students could receive a proper education, so large a number of students would not now be struggling under the weight of increasing debt, and the work of these institutions would be in a more prosperous condition. Had this course been followed, there would have been some grumbling from students, and many objections would have been raised by parents; but the students would have secured an all-around education, which would have prepared them, not only for practical work in various trades, but for a place on the Lord's farm in the earth made new" (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 177; emphasis supplied).

14. For schools that are prisoners of hope, willing to pay the cost of reform.

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“Though in many respects our institutions of learning have swung into worldly conformity, though step by step they have advanced toward the world, they are prisoners of hope. Fate has not so woven its meshes about their workings that they need to remain helpless and in uncertainty. If they will listen to His voice and follow in His ways, God will correct and enlighten them, and bring them back to their upright position of distinction from the world” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 145).

“We need now to begin over again. Reforms must be entered into with heart and soul and will. Errors may be hoary with age; but age does not make error truth, nor truth error. Altogether too long have the old customs and habits been followed. The Lord would now have every idea that is false put away from teachers and students. We are not at liberty to teach that which shall meet the world’s standard or the standard of the church, simply because it is the custom to do so. The lessons which Christ taught are to be the standard. That which the Lord has spoken concerning the instruction to be given in our schools is to be strictly regarded” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 142; emphasis supplied).

15. For schools that do not include drama in their studies.

“Not one jot or tittle of anything theatrical is to be brought into our work. ... Let nothing of a theatrical nature be permitted, for this would spoil the sacredness of the work” (Evangelism, p. 137; emphasis supplied).

16. For schools that uphold the sacredness of music.

“The art of sacred melody was diligently cultivated. No frivolous waltz was heard, nor flippant song that should extol man and divert the attention from God; but sacred, solemn psalms of praise to the Creator, exalting His name and recounting His wonderful works. This music was made to serve a holy purpose, to lift the thoughts to that which was pure and noble and elevating, and to awaken in the soul devotion and gratitude to God” (Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 97; emphasis supplied).

“It is impossible to estimate too largely the work that the Lord will accomplish through His proposed vessels in carrying out His mind and purpose. The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make rational decisions. And this is called the moving

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of the Holy Spirit” (Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 36; emphasis supplied).

17. For schools that understand the importance of diet in the last days.

“Grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables constitute the diet chosen for us by our Creator” (Ministry of Healing, p. 296).

“The light given me is that it will not be very long before we shall have to give up using any animal food. Even milk will have to be discarded. Disease is accumulating rapidly” (Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 384).

“The true fasting which should be recommended to all, is abstinence from every stimulating kind of food, and the proper use of wholesome, simple food, which God has provided in abundance” (Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 188).

18. For schools that uphold the principles of dress as a sign of loyalty to God.

“The dress reform answers to us as did the ribbon of blue to ancient Israel” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 171; emphasis supplied). (See also Numbers 15:38-40 and Deuteronomy 22:5.)

“The dress reform is a striking contrast to the fashion of the world. Those who adopt this dress should manifest good taste and order and strict cleanliness in all their attire” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, p. 66).

19. For schools that have school homes.

“Teachers who are placed in charge of these homes bear grave responsibilities; for they are to act as fathers and mothers, showing an interest in the students, one and all, such as parents show in their children” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 168, continue reading to p. 175).

20. For family schools.

“They should be family schools, where every student will receive special help from his teachers as the members of the family should receive help in the home” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 152).

21. I am especially thankful to know that God will demonstrate His ways before He comes.

“Unless there is a breaking away from the influence that Satan has prepared, and a reviving of the testimonies that God has given, souls will perish in their delusion.... All this higher education that is being planned will be extinguished; for it is spurious. The more simple the education of our workers, the less connection they will have with the men whom God is

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not leading, the more will be accomplished. Work will be done in the simplicity of true godliness, and the old, old times will be back when, under the Holy Spirit's guidance, thousands were converted in a day. When the truth in its simplicity is lived in every place, then God will work through His angels as He worked on the day of Pentecost, and hearts will be changed so decidedly that there will be a manifestation of the influence of genuine truth, as is represented in the descent of the Holy Spirit" (Series B, No. 7, pp. 63, 64; emphasis supplied).

"Before we can carry the message of present truth in all its fullness to other countries, we must first break every yoke. We must come into the line of true education, walking in the wisdom of God, and not in the wisdom of the world. God calls for messengers who will be true reformers. We must educate, educate, to prepare a people who will understand the message, and then give the message to the world" (Series B, No. 11, p. 30; emphasis supplied).

"The Lord would have the people warned; for a great work will be done in a short time.... Among those who were engaged in the work were young men taken from the plow and from the fields, and sent forth to preach the truth as it is in Jesus.... 'All this,' said my instructor, 'is a parable of what should be, and what will be'" (Medical Ministry, p. 305; emphasis supplied).

"Since the Lord is soon coming, it is time to put out our money to the exchangers, time to put every dollar we can spare into the Lord's treasury, that institutions may be established for the education of the workers, who shall be instructed as were those in the schools of the prophets. If the Lord comes and finds you doing this work, He will say: 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant: ... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 441; emphasis supplied).

"I will raise up agents who will carry out my will to prepare a people to stand before Me in the time of the end. In many places that before this ought to have been provided with sanitariums and schools, I will establish my institutions, and these institutions will become educational centers for the training of workers. The Lord will work upon human minds in unexpected quarters" (Counsels on Health, p. 227; emphasis supplied).

"If there can be found places in retired mountain regions where it would be difficult for the evils of the city to enter, let our people secure such places for our sanitariums and advanced schools" (Manuscript Releases, vol. 10, p. 260).

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Lord, Send a Revival

*The Saviour is longing His spirit to show,
As mighty in pow'r as in days long ago,
But hearts must be open and emptied of sin,
Revival is needed within.*

*Lord, send a revival, and let it begin with me,
Fill me, I pray—take all self away
That others Thy beauty may see.
Cleanse me now, blessed Saviour
Oh Lord, hear my heartfelt plea,
Send a revival from heaven,
And let it begin with me!*

*The Saviour will take away hardness of heart,
Fulfill every need, boundless strength He'll impart,
And make up our lack with His merit divine,
I'm thankful this promise is mine.*

*Remove ev'ry barrier that hinders today,
Oh cleanse me from sin, make me pure, Lord, I pray,
Come forth in thy beauty, and help me to be
A power filled witness for Thee.*

—Eulene Dodson

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Another Ark To Build, W. D. Frazee, Pioneers Memorial, Wildwood, GA 30757

God's Appointed, Jere Franklin, Box 840, Chetwynd, BC, Canada V0C 1J0

The Branson Report, Autumn Council, General Conference of SDAs, 1935.

I Believe in Accreditation, Wilbur Atwood, Wildwood Inst., Wildwood, GA 30757.

The Canadian Union Messenger, "I Am Thankful for Schools That . . .," Wadie Farag, Jan. 1, 1974.

Articles on Education and Location of Schools:

Kenneth Wood, Review and Herald, February 21, 1980.

Robert Pierson, Ministry, September 1977.

T. S. Geraty, Review and Herald, June 29, 1978.

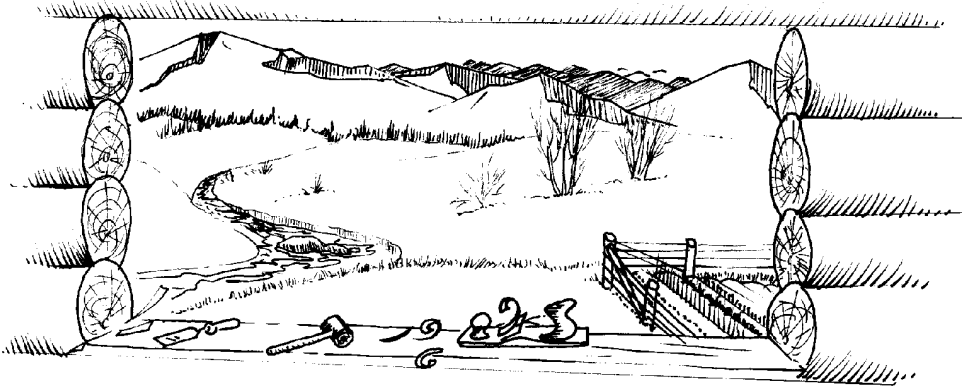
Richard Osborn, Review and Herald, January 12, 1978.

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Hirsch, Charles, Review and Herald, January 26, 1978.

Neal C. Wilson, Ministry, December 1977.

Chapter Nineteen



Evangelism In the End Time: Missionary Training

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant ...” (Matt. 25:21).

Pastor Matt and his wife, Jeannie, were very successful evangelists. For several years, they had held large evangelistic campaigns resulting in thousands of baptisms. They had worked together in doing satellite evangelism to many churches in countries all over the world. This was quite a contrast to the setting in which they had received their training in the small Country School from Pastor Bill, who, in his early days, had been an evangelist and medical missionary worker. Matt and Jeannie had gained a wonderful, practical experience from him.

Recent newscasts told of terrible disasters all over the world; floods, cyclones, tidal waves, earthquakes, and unquenchable fires which were increasing in frequency and intensity. Many in North America were beginning to feel that the wrath of God was being dealt out and that their lives were threatened. These omens troubled Pastor Matt, for he knew these to be precursors to the establishment of required worship. In his evangelistic crusades, people sensed a renewed vigor in his presentations and messages, an urgency that he had never experienced. But something was still missing. This conviction troubled him and he determined to discover the source of his discomfort. He was having great success, so what could possibly be missing?

He had recently compared the number of baptisms with the birth rate and discovered that conversions were less than one percent of the birth rate. However, he also discovered that the ratio of Seventh-day Adventists to the world

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population in 1863 was one Seventh-day Adventist to every 367,000 non-Adventists, while today the ratio is one Seventh-day Adventist to every 512 non-Adventists. He was encouraged and impressed that when the church received increased portions of the Holy Spirit, the work would be finished. There was reason for courage because of the reduced ratio of world population to Seventh-day Adventists, but Matt could see that the church was falling further behind and that there was a definite need for greater intervention by God into the evangelistic work so that birth rate barriers could be overcome. Matt concluded that the Holy Spirit integrated into God's plan must hold the secret to greater success. Matt knew that the work would be finished in spite of any obstacles, but he urgently sought God's blessing. What was God's plan and how would it be accomplished?

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14).

The Search Begins

Pastor Matt and Jeannie began their search during their family worship time in the evening, by reviewing notes from Pastor Bill's evangelism class at Country School. They had completed reviewing several pages of notes but could not yet understand what was missing from their evangelistic crusades, if anything.

One evening as Sabbath began, Pastor Matt and Jeannie knelt to pray. They prayed that the Holy Spirit would enlighten their minds on the subject that had deeply concerned them these weeks and months. They prayed that God would hold the winds of strife a little while longer, until more souls could be gathered in under the umbrella of truth. They asked God for a greater measure of His Spirit, that their perplexity might be removed. They thanked God for the results they'd had, but pleaded, “Lord, give us more.”

Each time they arose from prayer, a stronger sense of anticipation enveloped them—an awareness of truth covered them as a robe of light. They were strongly impressed that, whatever the wonderful revelations, it would require a complete commitment.

One evening as they opened Pastor Bill's notes, they began to read references from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy about the relationship between evangelism, missionary work, and God's plan for educating workers. One reference they read shocked them in its simplicity, and they sensed that it might be related to Matt's perplexity: “How can we win more souls?”

His measure of success had never been numbers of baptisms, such as were gathered by “salvation scorekeepers.” He and God had long ago settled the numbers and awards question by remembering that Jesus would have come to this earth to save just one: “The *Saviour would have passed through the agony of Calvary*

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that one might be saved in His kingdom” (The Desire of Ages, p. 483).

Pastor Matt demonstrated his belief in the union of evangelistic and medical work by having physicians give health lectures during his crusades. This unified presentation laid a firmer foundation on which to begin building truth.

“Unity existing among the followers of Christ is an evidence that the Father has sent His Son to save sinners. It is a witness to His power; for nothing short of the miraculous power of God can bring human beings with their different temperaments together in harmonious action, their one aim being to speak the truth in love” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p. 194).

But the text he read tonight was one that he had not yet incorporated into his crusade plans. “Look at this, Jean,” he said excitedly. “Isaiah 61:4: *‘And they shall build the old waste places, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.’* Do you remember how Pastor Bill used that text and what the Spirit of Prophecy said about this verse?” Matt asked.

“Didn’t it say something about getting back to God’s plan in education?” she replied.

“You are right, my dear! And look at this reference from the General Conference Bulletin, March 6, 1899. I can just hear Pastor Bill reading it to us right now” (Isaiah 61:4 quoted).

“These words of inspiration present before those who claim to believe present truth, the work that should now be done in educational lines.”

“But Matt,” questioned Jeannie, “how does this affect our evangelism?”

“You know, Jeannie, that has been hazy to me for a long time. But I remember how Pastor Bill often quoted that reference from The Christian Educator, August 1897: *‘Now as never before, we need to understand the true science of education. If we fail to understand this, we shall never have a place in the kingdom of God.’*

“Remember, too, Jeannie, that Pastor Bill was a powerful evangelist, and yet, he was the president of a school. Maybe he understood something that we need today. I wish he were here so that I could ask him some of these questions,” said Matt.

As they read together the next reference they began to see the connection with evangelism, the finishing of the work, and true education.

“Before we can carry the message of present truth in all its fullness to other countries, we must break every yoke. We must come into the line of true education, walking in the wisdom of God, and not in the wisdom of the world. God calls for messengers who will be true reformers. We must edu-

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cate, educate, to prepare a people who will understand the message and then give the message to the world” (Series B, No. 11, p. 30; emphasis supplied).

“Jeannie,” said Matt softly, but with strong conviction, “We need to demonstrate God’s plan of true education before God will bless our evangelism in a finished work!”

“How will that ever happen?” asked Jeannie.

“I wonder,” Matt mused, “Before we can have effective evangelism, according to the last reference, we must break every yoke. What yokes? We are told that we must come into line of true education, and walk in the wisdom of God, and not in the wisdom of the world. Perhaps the yokes are those of worldly favor and recognition.”

Matt and Jeannie sat quietly studying their notes and then looking at each other until Matt interrupted their reverie, “How? When? Where? We need hundreds of God-educated workers; people who know the full message and have been trained in it. That takes time. Let’s read on to see if there are any promises of success and triumph to answer the elusive question: Will it happen?” said Jeannie, quickly adding, “This is really powerful. Let’s keep reading. Here is a reference that speaks of several things that will be.

“The next reference is Series B, No. 7, pages 63 and 64: *‘I write this because any moment my life may be ended. Unless there is a breaking away from the influence that Satan has prepared and a revival of the testimonies that God has given, souls will perish in their delusion. They will accept fallacy after fallacy, and will thus keep up a disunion that will always exist until those who have been deceived take their stand on the right platform. All this higher education that is being planned will be extinguished; for it is spurious. The more simple the education of our workers, the less connection they have with the men whom God is not leading, the more will be accomplished. Work will be done in the simplicity of true godliness, and the old, old times will be back when, under the Holy Spirit’s guidance, thousands were converted in a day. When the truth in its simplicity is lived in every place, then God will work through His angels as He worked on the day of Pentecost, and hearts will be changed so decidedly that there will be a manifestation of the influence of genuine truth, as it is represented in the descent of the Holy Spirit’* [emphasis supplied].

“Matt, look how many times the word ‘will’ is used,” observed Jeannie. “Higher education **will** be extinguished and old, old times **will** be back. God **will** work through angels and hearts **will** be changed. Each one is conditional on God’s people taking a stand for the truth and making true education a first priority for evangelism.”

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“This promise assures us it will happen and that God will be with us when we do. Pastor Bill knew this years ago,” Matt said, looking a long way off, as though he were deep in thought.

“How did we miss it?” wondered Jeannie. “There are more references in this outline. Let’s go on, Matt. Is your perplexity dissolving a little?”

“Yes dear, but ... Well, let’s read on. The next reference comes from Medical Ministry, page 305: *‘I heard the message proclaimed in power by men who had not been educated in Battle Creek. Among those who were engaged in the work were young men taken from the plow and from the fields, and sent forth to preach the truth as it is in Jesus. Unquestioning faith in the Lord God of heaven was imparted to those who were called and chosen. “All this,” said my Instructor, “Is a parable of what should be and what will be”* [emphasis supplied].

“There it is, again, Jeannie!” exclaimed Matt. “It says ‘what should be and what **will** be!’ Pastor Bill always said that God wanted us to have a work/study program in our schools, didn’t he? Remember the reference from Fundamentals of Christian Education, page 44; “*We desire that our children should study to the best advantage. In order to do this, employment should be given them which will call the muscles into exercise. Daily, systematic labor should constitute a part of the education of the youth, even at this late period.”*

“Jeannie, I can only conclude that we need outpost schools to train workers to give the message rather than training young people for business as usual. *‘They are there to gain a fitness to work for God, and this thought is ever to be uppermost’* Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, page 100.”

Then, with these workers, trained God’s way, in true education, a message is given that gains the blessing of God. We then make a tremendous impact evangelistically, much greater than we do today,” concluded Matt. “I can see how effective that could be but how will it ever happen?” he questioned as he began to read the next reference from Counsels on Health, page 227; [emphasis supplied].

“I will raise up agents who will carry out My will to prepare a people to stand before Me in the time of the end. In many places that before this ought to have been provided with sanitariums and schools, I will establish My institutions, and these institutions will become educational centers for the training of workers’

“It sure sounds as if God is going to raise up workers to do this,” Jeannie stated emphatically.

“And He is going to help them accomplish their work,” added Matt.

“Listen to this from Testimonies for the Church, volume 6, page 145: *‘Though*

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in many respects our institutions of learning have swung into worldly conformity, though step by step they have advanced toward the world, they are prisoners of hope. Fate has not so woven its meshes about their workings that they need to remain helpless and in uncertainty. If they will listen to His voice and follow in His ways, God will correct and enlighten them, and bring them back to their upright position of distinction from the world. When the advantage of working upon Christian principles is discerned, when self is hid in Christ, much greater progress will be made; for each worker will feel his own human weakness; he will supplicate for the wisdom and grace of God, and will receive the divine help that is pledged for every emergency' [emphasis supplied].

“There,” said Jeannie, “It says that God will enlighten and correct us, and that we will make much greater progress! If we will accept His plans, and seek His wisdom, He will help us turn existing institutions around as well as build new ones. I think it is obvious that a spiritual revival must work together with reformation. That will enable us to make much greater progress in evangelism”

Pastor Bill’s notes also referred to Enoch’s outpost as a pattern for evangelism. Review and Herald, July 5, 1906: “*The cities must be worked. The millions living in these congested centers are to hear the third angel’s message. This work should have been developed rapidly during the past few years. A beginning has been made, for which we praise God. Outpost centers are being established, from whence, like Enoch of old, our workers can visit the cities and do faithful service*” [emphasis supplied].

“I’m getting the impression,” said Matt, “that our evangelism should be a part of our educational system rather than separate; sort of like outpost schools teaching and doing evangelism in the cities. I have noticed these past few years that we are not producing workers who will unite with the ministers to do evangelism. Most of our graduates have other priorities; while they may be good ones, they are not specifically designed to put God’s work first.

“Look at this, Jeannie! Pastor Bill is introducing another concept, which indicates that we have to make an ark as God said to make it, as Noah did, in order to have His blessing and protection. These next two references emphasize the point of God’s protection resulting from following His plan:

“*But as in the days of the great deluge Noah was preserved in the ark that God had prepared for him, so in these days of destruction and calamity, God will be the refuge of His believing ones’* (Maranatha, page 283). [emphasis supplied.]

“*They will endeavor to destroy God’s people; but as Noah was shut into the ark, so the righteous will be shielded by divine power’* (Patriarchs and Prophets, page 98).

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“Are we building the ark as God said to build it?” asked Matt.

“It doesn’t appear so,” said Jeannie, “But we are close. Fidelity to God’s plan is the formula for success. Listen to this reference in Patriarchs and Prophets, page 595: *‘Real success in education depends upon the fidelity with which men carry out the Creator’s plan.’* If it was important for Noah to build the ark according to God’s plan, then it would be equally important for us to build the educational-evangelistic ark according to God’s plan. According to The Desire of Ages, page 634, *‘Had the church of Christ done her appointed work as the Lord ordained, the whole world would before this have been warned, and the Lord Jesus would have come to our earth in power and great glory.’*

“If we had done our work as the Lord ordained we would have seen Jesus come before now. Since we are still here, evidently we have not done the work as God would have us do it.”

Matt said, “Here’s another thought that would increase our evangelistic efforts from Testimonies for the Church, volume 9, page 189: *‘If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one. But, though professing to be converted, we carry around with us a bundle of self that we regard as altogether too precious to be given up. It is our privilege to lay this burden at the feet of Christ and in its place take the character and similitude of Christ. The Saviour is waiting for us to do this’* [emphasis supplied].”

“There is a hundred to one conversion rate right there!” Matt exclaimed. “You know, I have begun evangelistic series knowing that the majority, if not all, of the people sitting in the audience are brokenhearted, guilt-ridden, hopeless, and in need of something better yet I open the series with a rather deep study of Daniel 2! What if I meet them closer to their level of need? I have often thought I should make some appeals to the heart and extend hope and encouragement before I get to the doctrines. I know the doctrines are important, but I want Daniel 2 to fall upon hope-filled hearts. By giving encouragement from the Bible, people will feel more of a need to be ready, wanting to know more truth. Someone once said that the work of the gospel is like a rope. You can draw others to Christ, but as soon as you try to push, you lose your power.” (See The Ministry of Reconciliation, James Rafferty, p. 42).

“That’s true,” agreed Jeannie. “Not long ago I read in The Ministry of Healing, page 141, that *‘teaching and healing are never to be separated.’*”

“Jeannie, here’s is a hard question for you. If all of our time is taken up with evangelism, when do we get our outpost center ready?” asked Matt.

“Maybe we can study that next?” Jeannie questioned, “How did Enoch

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actually accomplish his work?”

“I know Enoch visited the cities and then returned to his outpost. Pastor Bill’s references seem to indicate that we should follow Enoch’s pattern,” said Matt, reaching for another book, “I think I can show you here in *Evangelism*, Jeannie. Yes, here it is on pages 77 and 78: *‘As did Enoch, we must work in the cities but not dwell in them.’* And back on page 76, we read, *‘It is God’s design that our people should locate outside the cities, and from these outposts, warn the cities, and raise in them memorials for God.’*”

“In *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 1, page 1087, we find that, *‘He [Enoch] did not make his abode with the wicked. He did not locate in Sodom, thinking to save Sodom. He placed himself and his family where the atmosphere would be as pure as possible. Then at times he went forth to the inhabitants of the world with his God-given message. Every visit he made to the world was painful to him. He saw and understood something of the leprosy of sin. After proclaiming his message, he always took back with him to his place of retirement some who had received the warning’* [emphasis supplied]. By giving attention to this phase of our ministry we may help strengthen the outreach of our evangelistic team.”

“We need the balance. And as an added benefit, if we follow God’s plan, He will bless our efforts with the plan of multiplication,” said Jeannie. “Our time is so occupied with evangelism, that we don’t have time to build the ark. Could our work keep us from following God’s plan and being ready for Christ’s coming?”

“That is a tough question, Jeannie. I don’t know. But I do know that there are other areas in evangelism that we need to bring into line,” said Matt.

“In *Evangelism*, page 137, we find this instruction, *‘Not one jot or tittle of anything theatrical is to be brought into our work.... Let nothing of a theatrical nature be permitted, for this would spoil the sacredness of the work’* [emphasis supplied].

“I hope God will help us to move forward in unity on these subjects. Unity is also a great evangelistic tool. I love this quote from *My Life Today*, page 252: *‘He prays that His disciples may be one, even as He and the Father are one; and this unity of believers is to be as testimony to the world that He has sent us, and that we bear evidence of His grace.’*” [emphasis supplied].

Matt Presents His Study To the Team

Several weeks passed. Pastor Matt and Jeannie finished another evangelistic series. They discovered answers to the questions that their earlier studies had raised. They were, again, anxious over new questions and prayed earnestly for answers.

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“What do we do now?” questioned Matt thoughtfully. “We have all this information that we feel would be a blessing, and yet we don’t want to hurt anyone or criticize the past. *‘These facilities [scientific institutions] are not to be despised or condemned, they are ordained of God, but they can furnish only exterior qualifications’*” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 82).

“*‘When this reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife’*” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, p. 251). I just want to move forward. I believe the Lord wants me to present these ideas and suggestions for change to the General Conference Committee on Evangelism next month. If you agree, let’s pray that God will bless these humble efforts,” said Matt.

“I agree, Matt,” said Jeannie solemnly. “Let’s pray together right now.”

They joined hands as they knelt and prayed that the Holy Spirit would bless them in their presentation; that it would be made in a noncritical, nonjudgmental way to the committee leaders in God’s church. Matt was concerned about how the brethren would receive his study. He was encouraged by the promise in Matthew 28:20: “*And, lo, I am with you alway even unto the end of the world.*”

Matt presented his findings in the form of early-morning studies to his evangelism team. These studies came directly from the notes Matt had taken in Pastor Bill’s evangelism class many years earlier at Country School. When he asked the team what they thought of this approach to evangelism, they heartily accepted the principles Matt outlined and expressed their own convictions about making these changes as soon as possible. Pastor Matt asked them to pray for him as he presented these plans to the Evangelism Committee.

“Nothing should be done, unless approved by these brethren,” Matt cautioned his team. “We will go forward in unity or not at all.” The entire team volunteered to fast and pray for Matt before he presented the study to the Evangelism committee.

Trip to Silver Spring

Having been accepted on the busy agenda of the General Conference Committee, Matt arrived in Silver Spring a day early. Although he knew his material, he was concerned that his presentation properly reflect the importance he knew it deserved. As Matt walked along the sidewalk toward the committee conference room his thoughts turned to what he’d heard on the news just the night before and it had increased his intensity of conviction. There had been reports from all around the world about volcanoes, typhoons, hurricanes, great conflagrations, and severe earthquakes, all of which paralleled the events de-

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scribed in The Great Controversy, pages 589 and 590. A reference had come to mind when he heard about the disasters.

“Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard.... While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous” (emphasis supplied).

The commentator had interviewed people from many denominations who were clamoring and marching in front of the Capitol buildings demanding that more respect be given to Sunday as a worship/recreation day. There were interviews with some who feared that if their demands were not met that calamities would continue to increase until Sunday was honored by legislation. Then legislators made public comments to the news media to lend support to the popular demand. Pastor Matt had said to himself as he knelt in prayer beside his hotel bed, *“Lord, it is time for Thee to work: for they have made void Thy law”* (Psalm 119:126).

Matt began to worry about what the next few minutes would bring, but found comfort in the fact that he knew his team was praying for this morning’s presentation. This was an important meeting. Just as he approached the committee room two Bible texts came to his mind. He first thought of Samuel who said, *“Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth”* (1 Samuel 3: 9), then Isaiah, who said, *“Here am I; send me”* (Isaiah 6:8).

Pastor Matt was placed first on the committee agenda, partly because it was so unusual for an evangelist as successful as Matt to take time, on his own, to visit with the committee. Matt discerned that the committee members were receptive as he began his presentation by claiming the promise in Matthew 24:35 *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away.”*

Matt took about an hour to present a condensed version of what he and Jeannie had studied. He added Elder William’s experience about church funding in the last great depression from The Review and Herald, September 13, 1979 (see p. 143). As a parallel thought, Matt felt that God wanted this committee to begin to revive and reform evangelism. He said to the committee, *“Perhaps God has a plan now for what’s ahead of our church, as he did for Elder Williams back in the Depression.”*

At the end of his presentation, Matt emphasized that he did not want to

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dwell in the past, or accuse and criticize previous leaders or their plans. He only wanted to move forward with God's plan for finishing the work. "My request, Brethren, is to ask for your support to incorporate these principles into my evangelism efforts and trust God for the results. Thank you for your time," Matt concluded, as he gathered up his notes and charts.

He sensed a variety of reactions from the members of the committee; several appeared to be in shock, some surprised, others weeping. Elder Robert, the chairman, spoke in a broken voice, "Matt, many of us have studied these things and wondered how they fit together or how we would ever put them into practice. It is not something on which you can write a directive to the field. My brother, not only do you have our permission, you have our support. We can bring in our other evangelists for a few days of orientation to study the principles that you have presented. We will ask them if they would like to try them in the field. No one will be asked to do it against their will. Please send us notes and references which will allow us to further amend our policy book regarding evangelism. Thank you so much, my brother."

Some of the committee members had been evangelists themselves, others were lifetime pastors and administrators. Two members were laymen. Brother Ted, an attorney, mentioned the urgency of getting things in place in light of current events and signs of the end times.

Brother Thomas, a businessman, spoke of financial support for an outpost evangelistic school with work/study programs. "I pledge one million dollars toward your project, Pastor Matt. May God continue to bless you. And, lest you might think that those of us with money hold some sort of elevated position, I know of a reference in *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 1, pages 535, 536, which indicates that those who serve give 10 times more than those who give large sums of money. *'These persons [those who serve] are of solid worth. Their judgment is good, their spirit precious in the sight of God; and the amount of good which they accomplish in their unpretending way is tenfold greater than that accomplished by the wealthy, although the latter may give large sums on certain occasions.'* So please, Pastor Matt, consider my gift as a small thing, compared to the work you are doing."

Pastor Matt was overwhelmed with thankfulness. He reminded the committee that he was only building on groundwork that had been laid by Professor Paul's work in education and Dr. Luke's preparations in the field of medicine that had recently taken place at Mountain Refuge Adventist Missionary College. "We are hand in hand on our way home, brethren. God bless you for your support all these years. I love you all. My heart is overflowing with joy," Matt said humbly as

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he left the conference room.

Pastor Matt closed the door, knowing his church would never be the same, now that the medical, educational, and evangelistic work were uniting.

Home Again

When Jeannie picked up Matt at the airport, she could hardly wait to hear about his report from Silver Spring. She was excited that the presentation had met with such a warm response from leadership. They made plans to meet with their team and extend a call to a full time physician—a partner in evangelism who would be willing to leave his practice in these last days. Matt had explained to the committee before his meeting at Silver Spring that this physician would be ordained as a minister and would share in the ministry, from the pulpit, during the large crusades. He would explain to the people how God would be honored by good health practices. Everyone was anxious to know how the Lord would fill this new position on the evangelistic team.

Although his team was excited about the acceptance of Matt's presentation at Silver Spring, they manifested a quiet confidence, which helped reassure Matt that God was in control. In the course of the meeting, Matt discovered that, while he was in Silver Spring, his team members had packed their things and given notice to their apartment house landlords. Two of the members who owned homes had listed them for sale with real estate agents. One team member explained it this way: "In light of the news events and legislative movements, we knew it was time for God to work." Acting in faith, from strong conviction, they had taken this step of commitment. Matt and Jeannie sensed God's providence in all these developments. Matt asked the team if they would travel with him and Jeannie to Mountain Refuge Adventist Missionary College (MRAMC) to visit President Cristman and the staff; especially Prof. Paul, Dean Matthews, and Dr. Luke. Matt's ministerial team all expressed an interest in coming with him.

Matt read to his team about the importance of combining the medical work, evangelism, and education from *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 9, pages 169 and 170; "*If ever the Lord has spoken by me, He speaks when I say that the workers engaged in educational lines, in ministerial lines, and in medical missionary lines must stand as a unit, all laboring under the supervision of God, one helping the other, each blessing each.*"

"We want to offer our services in evangelistic training and then propose to unite our work in an outreach plan that would include the school and Dr. Luke's sanitarium as an outpost center," said Matt at the conclusion of his team debrief-

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ing. They had a season of thanksgiving and prayed that human nature would not interfere with progress. “If the Lord said it, that is what we will do.” “Not as I will, but as Thou wilt” was their prayer.

They went home to pack in order to be ready to meet the bus for the trip to MRAMC. While the team assembled the next morning the two families who owned homes reported that they had cash offers on their properties. The buyers were waiting for their answer. Each family, without knowledge of what the other was doing, had phoned the real estate agents accepting the offers and saying they would close when they returned from this trip.

Pastor Matt had arranged to meet with President Cristman at MRAMC to discuss the possibility of his evangelistic team being a part of their training program. He briefly told President Cristman, over the phone, of the providences leading up to this visit. President Cristman commented on how recent newscasts had prompted God’s people to make huge commitments of funds and services. He related to Matt how just recently many baptisms were occurring in response to the deep study of inspired instruction, and hundreds within reach of the school’s influence were more earnestly seeking God’s guidance. Matt and President Cristman both sensed the spirit of oneness regarding the goals of evangelism and education. “*True education is missionary training,*” from *The Ministry of Healing*, page 395, was the theme of their enthusiastic conversation.

Trip to Mountain Refuge

During the trip to MRAMC, the team expressed their inner feelings about this move and how these principles must make the Lord and all of heaven very happy. Every team member had experienced the peace of knowing the path of God as well as the sadness of opposition and separation. Not every church member had responded as favorably as had the evangelistic team and the staff at MRAMC to the changes proposed in evangelism. The team did not feel inferior, threatened, or in any way superior to their brethren. Those who accepted and promoted the joining of forces were eager to press on. They were convicted that Jesus was coming soon. A great sense of loss was mingled with their eagerness as some of their former associates who were not convicted on these principles separated from them. Each of them recognized that in the war of truth and error, that one puts his life on the line in total commitment to God’s plan.

Pastor Matt remembered, many years back, when he had heard message after message of revival and reform. Granted, some of the messengers were openly condemning and accusatory, but some positive messages came in a more private way to church leaders, pastors, teachers, wealthy business people. There had, at

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times, been a temporary reviving of truth, but none of lasting impact like this present revival for the church at large.

Matt recalled a quote from Manuscript Releases, volume 13, on page 193: *“But when we see that message after message given by God has been received and accepted, yet no change has been made, we know that new power must be brought into the regular lines. The management of the regular lines must be entirely changed, newly organized. There must be a committee, not composed of half a dozen men, but of representatives from all lines of our work, from our publishing houses, from our educational institutions, and from our sanitariums, which have life in them, which are constantly working, constantly broadening”* (emphasis supplied).

Matt had wondered about the clause, *“which have life in them.”* Now it was clear. Let people be on this management committee from institutions who were following a *“thus saith the Lord”*—people with a plan from God. He was grateful for the large volume of work in revival and reformation that had been done years ago. He felt as if he were standing upon the shoulders of mighty men of God who had recognized the need and recorded their concerns.

As the team traveled to MRAMC, they spoke in subdued tones about world events. Everywhere tragic storms were increasing in fury; fires that could not be quenched, huge earthquakes that had killed thousands, and record flooding in many places that had left scores of homeless wandering through a land they no longer recognized. Each new report of disaster inflamed those who were initiating Sunday legislation to increase their efforts in order that God’s wrath might be stayed.

As the evangelistic team arrived, President Cristman greeted them in the foyer of the newly painted administration building. “I am so happy to see you, Pastor Matt,” he said, clasping Matt’s hand warmly in both of his. “We believe that your team brings another piece to our educational program that will help demonstrate a completeness to God’s plan.”

“We are convinced that we need to work from outposts,” said Matt, “and we are praying that Mountain Refuge will fill our needs, too. We are also glad that we can be of assistance to MRAMC. A demonstration must be made before the work can be finished.”

“Our staff would be most interested to hear the presentation you gave to the brethren at Silver Spring, Matt. We are anxious to discuss the details of how best to integrate education and evangelism on this campus. Our meeting is scheduled in Conference Room One at 9 a. m. tomorrow, up there and to the right,” said the president indicating a room at the top of the stairs.

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Matt's Presentation

The next morning, the staff at MRAMC listened intently to Matt's proposal of starting a department of pastoral ministry and evangelism for the students. The course offerings would include Bible and Spirit of Prophecy Studies, Practical Work, Medical Missionary Training, Sermon Preparation and Delivery. The students would apprentice with Pastor Matt in large city evangelism as well as in radio and television communication skills. Principles and practices of revival and reformation would be implemented throughout the course, including a unique training in preparation for "no buy-no sell."

The committee unanimously accepted Pastor Matt's proposal and began to discuss housing arrangements. Money could be used from donated evangelistic funds to build homes for the evangelistic team members should MRAMC be short of housing.

The committee was particularly interested in Pastor Matt's references stating that revival and reformation must take place and will take place before the work of God could be finished and Jesus come. Matt read the references from Medical Ministry, page 305, Series B, No. 11, pages 29 and 30, and Series B, No. 7, pages 63 and 64, as he had at the General Conference meeting a few days earlier. Matt added a few more references that he had discovered at the conclusion of his research.

"The next references explain further the relationship of higher education which is not on the altar, and being ready for Jesus' return. The first is in Evangelism, page 613: *'The day of God is coming with stealthy tread, but the supposed wise and great men are prating about "higher education." They know not the signs of Christ's coming, or of the end of the world.'*

"The second reference is found in Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, page 80: *'God has never made the flock wholly dependent upon human instrumentalities. But the days of purification of the church are hastening on apace. God will have a people pure and true.... Those who have rendered supreme homage to "science falsely so-called" will not be the leaders then. Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file'* [emphasis supplied].

"I love this next reference not only because it does not condemn what has been done," said Matt, "But because it proposes that we move forward as a result of our spiritual growth. Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, page 82: *'God will work a work in our day that but few anticipate. He will raise up and exalt among us those who are taught rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the outward training of scientific institutions. These facilities are not to be despised or condemned, they are ordained of God, but*

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they can furnish only exterior qualifications. God will manifest that He is not dependent on learned, self-important mortals' [emphasis supplied].

“In spite of our past, our education, our proud hearts, our worldly wisdom, and our old practices, God will take charge if we allow Him and we will be successful in the completion of the work that God has given us. We must determine to humble our hearts, place our lives on the altar, and practice God’s plan. God has His leaders already in training. They know His plan, and they want to honor Him by putting that plan into practice at the cost of ridicule, accusations, and derision,” explained Pastor Matt.

“We read in Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, pages 511, 512, *‘In the common walks of life there is many a toiler patiently treading the round of his daily tasks, unconscious of latent powers that, roused to action, would place him among the world’s great leaders. The touch of a skillful hand is needed to arouse and develop those dormant faculties.... There were many learned and honorable men who believed the teaching of Christ. Had these fearlessly obeyed the convictions of their consciences, they would have followed Him. Their abilities would have been accepted and employed in the service of Christ, had they offered them. But they had not moral power in the face of the frowning priests and jealous rulers, to confess Christ and venture their reputation ...’ [emphasis supplied].*

“You see,” explained Pastor Matt, “we just need to bow to superior wisdom and plans. These plans are plainly stated in His Word and in His testimony. Let us all, regardless of our background or training, humble our hearts knowing that God has His workers ready to fulfill His plans and that we might be of use to Him in accomplishing His goals.

“I am sure most of you are familiar with this next reference in The Great Controversy, page 464: *‘Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth, there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times’ [emphasis supplied].*

“Think of it, brothers and sisters!” said Matt excitedly. “God has promised to bring about a revival and reformation. He is just waiting for our willingness to have it! Notice how God pleads with us to become active for Him. The prophet uses the words ‘will be,’ indicating that it is going to happen. The ‘when’ is up to us, as we read in Counsels on Stewardship, page 52: *‘When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God’ [emphasis supplied].*

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“God will recognize our commitment and give us His Spirit without measure. This puts the responsibility upon us as a people to hasten the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the latter rain,” explained Matt. “This quote from Education, page 263 explains how our deviations from His plan bring Him grief: *‘Every departure from right, every deed of cruelty, every failure of humanity to reach His ideal, brings grief to Him’* [emphasis supplied].

“The Lord is grieved that we don’t come up to His ideal. Remember the reference in Patriarchs and Prophets, page 595, that says *‘real success in education depends upon the fidelity with which men carry out the Creator’s plan’*? It is important to God that we respect His blueprint for finishing His work.

“In Isaiah 63:9 we can see how diligently God works to redeem us when we deviate from His plan: *‘In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them.’*

“When we hurt from the results of our ways, He hurts. With such great love He is our example of intercession. When we are unsuccessful, He feels our disappointment as though it were happening to Him. Judges 10:16: *‘And his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.’* When we are in prison, He feels our imprisonment. Never forget, the words of inspiration in Testimonies for the Church, volume 6, page 145, that we are **prisoners of hope!**

“Praise the Lord!” Matt exclaimed, lifting both arms in a victory signal. He paused, his face aglow in the anticipation of his next thought. Matt loved the church so much, he was jealous that it have the best things said about it, and have the greatest influence possible. A smile began to break, slowly at first, finally spreading over his face like a sunrise as he began to read.

“*‘If the church would manifest a greater interest in the reforms which God Himself has brought to them to fit them for His coming, their influence would be tenfold what it now is’* [emphasis supplied]. This reference from Testimonies for the Church, volume 3, page 171, shows how to increase the church’s influence tenfold! Ten times more power for soul winning, if we adopt the reforms that God Himself has given us, is a tremendous increase! Combine this with the counsel from Testimonies for the Church, volume 9, page 189 where we read that we would experience a hundredfold increase in conversions if we were *‘kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful....’*

“Do the math! Just by practicing kindness and reforms, we can increase our evangelistic impact a thousandfold! Remember, though, unless these reforms fall on a converted heart, broken into selflessness, no lasting success will be realized. We read the truth of this in Selected Messages, book 1, page 128: *‘Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.’*

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Revival is based on repentance and evidence of a broken heart; selfishness is gone. Reform means a change in the life because of a change in motives.

“We cannot have revival without reformation or reformation without revival. When this work is being accomplished, the providences and truths of God will be clearly discerned, easily distinguished from the spurious. This blending will bear fruit of a wonderful peace, joy, and love. You remember that the Pharisees in Christ’s time had reformed and looked to be good men, but were called ‘whited sepulchres’ by Jesus.”

“You may ask the question,” said Pastor Matt with a thoughtful expression, “‘Are revival and reformation necessary?’ Let’s look at Testimonies for the Church, volume 7, page 285, which answered this question for me, *‘God’s people will not endure the test unless there is a revival and reformation.’*”

“We have to endure the test, we must survive, and God says that revival and reformation are the preparation for passing the final test. Listen to this statement from Manuscript Releases, volume 20, page 43: *‘When will men cease to depend upon the same routine which has left so much work undone, so many fields unworked? Is not the present presentation enough to make men see that a revival is necessary and a reformation essential?’* [emphasis supplied].

“There is no doubt in my mind that revival and reformation are essential to our survival. Here is a blessed promise of completed work,” continued Pastor Matt, “We find it in Manuscript Releases, volume 17, page 18: *“I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see”* (Revelation 3:18). *But that message will do its work, and a people will be prepared to stand without fault before God*’ [emphasis supplied].

“I believe it because God said it,” said Pastor Matt. “We know that this work of obtaining the eyesalve is connected with a demonstration of true education. Part of the work of this eyesalve is to help us establish schools and sanitariums. *‘I will instruct the ignorant and anoint with heavenly eyesalve the eyes of many who are now in spiritual darkness. I will raise up agents who will carry out My will to prepare a people to stand before Me in the time of the end. In many places that before this ought to have been provided with sanitariums and schools, I will establish My institutions, and these institutions will become educational centers for the training of workers’* (Counsels on Health, page 227). [Emphasis supplied.]

“In closing, brothers and sisters, I submit the goal to be reached; the affirmation that means more to me than any other reward, and it is offered by

EVANGELISM IN THE END TIME

Jesus. *‘Since the Lord is soon to come, it is time to put every dollar we can spare into the Lord’s treasury, that institutions may be established for the education of workers, who shall be instructed as were those in the schools of the prophets. If the Lord comes and finds you doing this work, He will say: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: ...enter thou into the joy of thy Lord”’* (Testimonies for the Church, volume 6, page 441). [Emphasis supplied.] I want to hear that ‘well done,’ don’t you?”

“Matthew 28:20 gives us clear instruction that what we have learned from God we are to teach to others, *‘Teach them everything I’ve taught you. I’ll always be with you, even unto the end of the world’* [Clear Word]. All of this revival and reformation that we have learned from the law and the testimony we need to share with others.”

As Matt closed the meeting with prayer, there was a reverent hush throughout the room. Hearts burned with an urgency to begin that for which Jesus was waiting: a true revival and reformation. Confessions and pleas for forgiveness began with members of the committee and soon spread over the campus. The spirit of faultfinding, jealousy, criticism, and condemnation were laid aside. Forgiveness was urgently sought and given. There was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit at MRAMC.

Many wept in contrition and with heartfelt thanks and expressed their total commitment to new directions and goals. Instead of their own agenda, they became more concerned about each other. Those who humbled themselves sensed a great peace within their heart.

“And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death” (Revelation 12:11).

Chapter Twenty



Heaven: The Ultimate Survival

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Rev. 21:4).

There is a majestic mountain valley not far from our home in northern British Columbia where we once stepped back a hundred years in time. In this remote valley there was a grand herd of pack horses who knew only friendly hands. Water was drawn by a rope and bucket from the clear river, and a fresh pot of water simmered at the back of an old wood cook stove in a quaint log cabin. It was a place where the Canadian geese announced the seasons and a forest of stately spruce trees embraced a picturesque natural meadow. Through this pristine beauty the sands of time slowed their rapid flight to the quiet flow of the Wolverine River. This was the home of trapper John Terry, whose friends nicknamed him “Johnny Sundown” after he tacked the ten commandments on his cabin door. But I should go back to the beginning of the story.

We first visited the J Bar W back in the summer of 1975. John was bringing in his hay with a big team of black Percherons, Dan and Pride, who were hitched to his hay wagon. My wife and I, and the friends we’d brought with us, ate

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our picnic lunch beneath the tall spruce trees on the bank of the Wolverine River and then helped John bring in his hay. A few days after our visit to the Wolverine, John made an uncustomary visit outside his valley, and knocked at the door of our cabin at Sanctuary Ranch. After a cup of wild mint tea, John began unfolding a story that had started nearly twenty years before. We sat, spellbound, as he told us of his dream.

“I recognized you right away as my ‘Happy People,’” he said, shyly caressing his ancient brown cowboy hat. “I saw you in a dream many years ago, and I saw heaven, too.”

Here, in his own words, is John’s vision of heaven which came to him one night in the late 1950s. “My guide said, ‘I have come to take you on a trip.’ But he told me I should stop smoking so that I could travel with him. He took my arms and seemed to pump all the tobacco out of my system and for the next two days I had no desire to smoke! Then he took my hand and we floated away. He took me close to the moon and said, ‘Man will soon be on the moon, and you will know what it looks like.’ The surface of the moon looked kind of like a pancake ready to be turned.

“We traveled past the moon, through the stars and arrived at a Light; a light so beautiful it is beyond explanation. I saw heaven. I felt like a little bee coming down through the huge trees. I saw a beautiful city full of happy people, waving to each other and singing as they floated around. Ever after this I called them my ‘Happy People.’

“Before my dream ended, I asked my guide if I could tell anyone. ‘You can if you wish,’ he said, ‘But they won’t believe you. You will know the time.’”

As John finished relating his dream to us, he looked at Linda and I and said, “So now you know what I mean when I say, ‘You are my Happy People.’” I’ve seen you before.

“My guide told me during my dream, ‘You will know the truth when you find the church that believes that each day stands for a year.’ Jere, over the last 17 years, I have inquired of many churches about this, and the people either laugh at me, accuse me of drinkin’ too much, or else they just look blank. I think you can tell me what it means, can’t you?” asked Trapper John

“Yes, Sir!” I replied. We showed him Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6 where we are told that in Biblical prophecy each day stands for a year. He was noticeably relieved as I promised to give him Bible studies over the next few months during which time he decided to lay his cigarettes aside (he had smoked for over 50 years) and asked to be baptized.

When John finished his story, I was reminded of Ellen White’s vision, so I reached for a little red book on the shelf behind me and read to him:

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“I saw another field full of all kinds of flowers, and as I plucked them, I cried out, ‘They will never fade.’ Next I saw a field of tall grass, most glorious to behold; it was living green and had a reflection of silver and gold, as it waved proudly to the glory of King Jesus. Then we entered a field full of all kinds of beasts—the lion, the lamb, the leopard, and the wolf, all together in perfect union. We passed through the midst of them, and they followed on peaceably after. Then we entered a wood, not like the dark woods we have here; no, no; but light, and all over glorious; the branches of the trees moved to and fro and we all cried out, ‘We will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods’” (Early Writings, p. 18).

When I finished reading, John looked at me and with tears in his eyes and said, “That’s what I saw! I’ve been there, Jere. That’s where I want to be.” I knew this tough mountain man who sat before me had never seen the book from which I read. Neither had I ever been part of someone’s dream! It was a foretaste of heaven to those of us gathered in our cabin.

Trapper John now rests in peace, beside his beloved Wolverine River, awaiting his guide to meet him and give him a tour through heaven.

Another John Saw Heaven

Jesus called John “the beloved” disciple. He and John must have shared some enlightening and heartwarming times together. John learned to love Jesus so much that even when he was banished to the Isle of Patmos, after Jesus’ crucifixion, he was blessed with a vivid vision of heaven.

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new” (Rev. 21:1-5; emphasis supplied).

If heaven were a desert, and there were no more tears, sorrow, pain, nor death, I would still want to be there, wouldn’t you? But along with all those beautiful promises of peace, it is such a spectacular place of beauty that it is far beyond our human ability to imagine.

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“And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. ... And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones.... And the twelve gates were twelve pearls.... The street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. ... For there shall be no night there. ... ” (Rev. 21:10-25).

Can you see the city in your mind’s eye? Or is it just too bright to bring into focus? Then let’s turn to the landscape.

“And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.... And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city” (Rev. 22:1, 2, 6, 14).

Isaiah’s vision of heaven reveals an agrarian society; a place of beauty filled with busy, happy people who grow their own food and build their own homes.

“For behold I create new heavens and a new earth.... And they shall build houses and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat; for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands” (Isaiah 65:17-22).

What we have learned to love here in our country homes we will continue to enjoy in heaven. The faithful will see Eden restored!

“Let them remember that the home on earth is to be a symbol of and a preparation for the home in heaven.” (Ministry of Healing, p. 363).

Jesus Assured Us of Heaven

Many times Jesus assured His followers of something better in the hereaf-

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ter. Just hours before His crucifixion, He reiterated the promise of His return to earth and that heaven awaited those who remained faithful. He said that He would have told us if there was anything better. He gave explicit directions on how to get there and told us that we would be with Him forever.

“Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know” (John 14:1-4).

We need not fear to make heaven every bit as real as it is.

“A fear of making the future inheritance seem too material has led many to spiritualize away the very truths which lead us to look upon it as our home. Christ assured His disciples that He went to prepare mansions for them in the Father’s house. Those who accept the teachings of God’s word will not be wholly ignorant concerning the heavenly abode. And yet... human language is inadequate to describe the reward of the righteous. It will be known only to those who behold it. No finite mind can comprehend the glory of the Paradise of God. In the Bible the inheritance of the saved is called a country. There the heavenly Shepherd leads His flock to the fountains of living waters. The tree of life yields its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the service of the nations. There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God’s people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home....

“None will need or desire repose. ... We shall ever feel the freshness of morning, and shall ever be far from its close. ... The light of the sun will be superseded by a radiance which is not painfully dazzling, yet which immeasurably passes the brightness of our noontide. The glory of God and the Lamb floods the Holy City with unfading light, The redeemed walk in the sunless glory of perpetual day. ...

“The loves and sympathies which God Himself has planted in the soul, shall there find truest and sweetest exercise. The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages, who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb, the sacred ties that bind together ‘the whole family

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of heaven and earth’—these help constitute the happiness of the redeemed.

“There, immortal minds will contemplate with never-failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. ... There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body. All the powers of the universe will be open to the study of God’s redeemed. ... From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love” (The Great Controversy, pp. 674-678; emphasis supplied).

Ralph Waldo Emerson discovered, “As a man begins to live more seriously within, he begins to live more simply without.” God’s call to His remnant, the end time Christians, is to simplify. Is there something here on earth for which we are willing to sacrifice eternal happiness? The forested wilderness is beautiful, the best we have on this earth, but neither our love for it, nor our desire to preserve it, should have a higher priority than attaining our heavenly home.

Nothing is so easy, nor so difficult, as trusting ourselves to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. By submission, this great gift of heaven is ours.

We have seen in previous chapters that God’s call to a simple lifestyle rings true down through the ages from man’s first home, through to modern Israel. Laodicea still resists committing totally to God who can supply for her that which she cannot supply for herself. Our survival is not in our own hands, although there are decisions we can make to help answer the call of the hour. No matter how well we physically prepare for the end times, our human survival is with God. He tenderly holds in His powerful hands, our hopes, our plans, our loves, and our lives.

What Can We Do?

Jack Benny, a comedian who was known for his penny-pinching attitude, tells about the time he was held at gun point by a man who demanded all his money. Jack did not respond, so the man yelled, “I said, your money or your life!”

“I’m thinking! I’m thinking!” Jack replied.

This illustration so aptly portrays how humanity too often weighs the incomparable riches of the unseen world against the things we have learned to value here. How we spend our time, either in pursuit of the things of time or of eternity, will determine our destiny. Is it too easy, or is it too difficult? The answer is yes. We are so often caught up in the things of time that we cannot even lift our eyes to

YOU CAN SURVIVE!

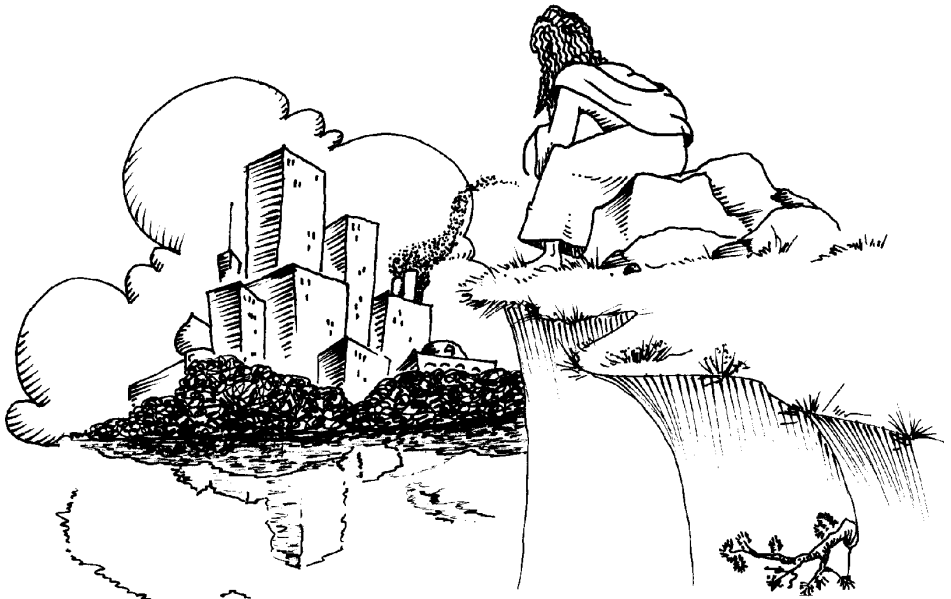
things eternal. We often tend to feel that life is out of control; that there is no purpose, no design to the haphazard occurrences in our lives. But nothing could be further from the truth.

“Above the distractions of the earth He sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best” (Ministry of Healing, p. 417).

Mysterious Farewell

At sunset, on a hill overlooking the gleaming domes of Jerusalem, Jesus wept. These were not tears of joy, nor of appreciation of her outstanding beauties. He was looking at the city with deep longing for the people who lived there. Many of them were unwilling to see the kingdom of heaven. Many would listen. A few would believe, but most who did believe on Him were intent only on making Jesus an earthly king. Yet He lived among them, willing to die, that they might know heaven. Inspiration calls this mysterious farewell to Jerusalem Jesus' separation struggle.

“He [Jesus] exclaimed, ‘O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!’ This is the separation struggle. In the lamentation of Christ the very heart of God is pouring itself forth. It is the mysterious farewell of the long-suffering love of Deity” (The Desire of Ages, p. 620; emphasis supplied). (See Matthew 23:37.)



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When Jesus wept, He had spiritual insight into the destruction soon to come upon Jerusalem and He felt the deepening sorrow. We, too, are to weep, just as Jesus did for those who have not yet been gathered. But, we are not called upon to say farewell to anyone, as long as time lasts. The time had come for Jesus to say good-bye to many in Jerusalem when they would hear no more appeals, not because they **could** not, but because they **would** not listen.

“When we see one err from the truth, then we may weep over him as Christ wept over Jerusalem” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 345).

We do not have that insight and cannot judge whether the message we give will be received or rejected; but the day is coming when no more appeals will be given for time will run out. Our concern, as part of the remnant, is to be ready for the angel who will set the mark on the foreheads of the true believers.

“Set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof” (Ezekiel 9:4). *“The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God”* (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 211).

To those who weep, as did Jesus over Jerusalem, the seal of God will be given. We don't want to miss this seal.

The Work Will be Finished

Though it may sometimes seem as if all things are continuing as they always have, great changes are being orchestrated for the world, and for men. All heaven is waiting and watching; the wheels are in motion, time is running out. The arena of politics, the occurrence of natural disasters, and the persecutions of the beast will soon intermingle to form a world in which survival will be a concern to those who are loyal to Bible truth. Only members of the remnant, aware of eternal consequences, will choose spiritual survival over the apparent sacrifice of their daily bread. Only those who recognize the gift of time and begin applying their heart unto wisdom will be prepared. Revival and reformation must begin among us.

“This church will never prosper until the members commence the work of reform in their own hearts. ... There is no halting place for us this side of heaven” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 308).

Thank God we are not left to think about failure through lack of reform. We have promises that tell of large changes in our church. Consider this one, *“There seemed to be a great movement—a work of revival—going forward in many places. Our people were moving into line, responding to God's call”* (Last Day Events, p. 58).

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“She [the church] will appear in her God-given simplicity and purity, separate from worldly entanglements, showing that the truth has made her free indeed. Then her members will indeed be the chosen of God, His representatives” (Last Day Events, p. 60; emphasis supplied).

The Lord has told us that only one thing must occur before He returns in glory; the truth must go into all the world. We have learned that it is within our power to hasten his coming (see chapter 17). Nothing can bar the way of those who have seen a vision of the heavenly land and who have so learned to love it that they are willing to make any sacrifice ensuring that they, their families, and others might experience heaven. To refuse the next step in our commitment to character development or spiritual growth is to commit spiritual suicide. If only we could see, with the eye of faith, the great cloud of witnesses hoping, praying, longing for our eternal survival, we would be strengthened to come into line.

“Before we can carry the message of present truth in all its fullness to other countries, we must break every yoke. We must come into line of true education, walking in the wisdom of God, and not in the wisdom of the world. God calls for messengers who will be true reformers. We must educate, educate, to prepare a people who will understand the message, and then give the message to the world” (Series B, No. 11, p. 30; emphasis supplied).

I want to break every yoke that binds me to the world. I want to come into line of true education. I want to meet Trapper John Terry under the Tree of Life. He'll grasp my hand in his, and say, “This is what I saw! Come let me show you my new cabin!” And I will know that whatever I had to pay for heaven, it was cheap enough!

And all the survivors will agree.

THE END

Appendix



Leave
the
cities

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CL 24 -30

Country
Living

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MM 310

NSL

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LDE 133

NBNS

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CL 9, 10

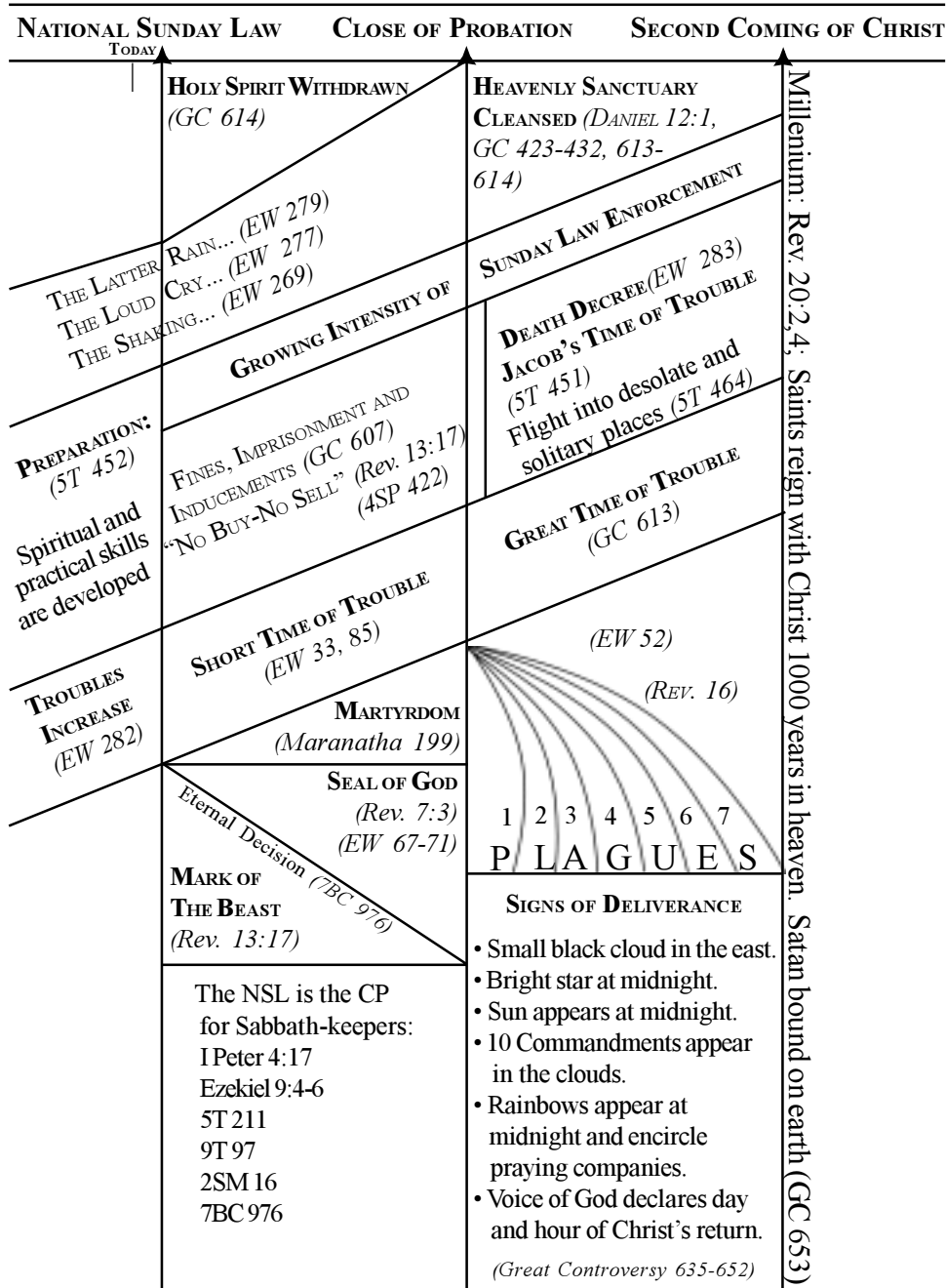
CP

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GW 288

Second
Coming

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COL 420

CLOSING EVENTS CHART *



* This chart does not include all events prophesied.
Please contact the author for a more complete teaching chart.

The “Ready or Not” List

Here is a list of events and experiences that **will occur** among God’s people before Christ returns. They **will happen** whether we are ready or not!

Sunday Law Development

Natural disasters will become more and more frequent

“These visitations [catastrophes] are to become more and more frequent and disastrous” (The Great Controversy, p. 590; emphasis supplied).

God’s people will be blamed for these disasters

“It will be declared that men are offending God by violation of the Sunday-sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity” (The Great Controversy, p. 590; emphasis supplied).

There will be fines, imprisonment, inducements in Sunday Law enforcement

“As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment-keepers. They will be threatened with fines and imprisonment, and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith” (The Great Controversy, p. 607; emphasis supplied).

Final stages of enforcement of the National Sunday Law

“Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that no man may buy or sell, save he that has the mark of the beast, and, finally, that whoever refuses to receive the mark shall be put to death” (Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 4, p. 423; emphasis supplied).

No buy no sell

“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” (Revelation 13:16-17, NKJV; emphasis supplied).

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Death decree

“And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause that as many as would not worship the image to the beast should be killed” (Revelation 13:15, KJV; emphasis supplied).

Revival and Reformation

Key to endurance

“God’s people will not endure the test unless there is a revival and a reformation” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, p. 285; emphasis supplied).

Revival of primitive godliness

“Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth, there will be, among the people of the Lord, such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time, to prepare a people for the Lord’s second coming” (The Great Controversy, p. 464; emphasis supplied).

Increase of the church’s influence

“If the church would manifest a greater interest in the reforms which God Himself has brought to them to fit them for His coming, their influence would be tenfold what it now is” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 171; emphasis supplied).

Greater progress will be made

“When the advantage of working upon Christian principles is discerned, when self is hid in Christ, much greater progress will be made; for each worker will feel his own human weakness; he will supplicate for the wisdom and grace of God, and will receive divine help that is pledged for every emergency. Opposing circumstances should create a firm determination to overcome them. One barrier broken down will give greater ability and courage to go forward. Press in the right direction, and make a change, solidly and intelligently. Then circumstances will be your helpers and not your hindrances. Make a beginning. The oak is in the acorn” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 145; emphasis supplied).

THE “READY OR NOT” LIST

Truth Will Triumph

Can’t overestimate the work God will do

“It is impossible to estimate too largely the work that the Lord will accomplish through His proposed vessels in carrying out His plan and purpose” (Selected Messages, book 2, p. 36; emphasis supplied).

The message will do its work

“From those who have rejected truth, the light of God had departed. They did not heed the message of the True Witness, ‘I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve that thou mayest see’” [Revelation 3:18]. But that message will do its work, and a people will be prepared to stand without fault before God” (Manuscript Releases, vol. 17, p. 18; emphasis supplied).

“While they are consecrating themselves to God, a convincing power will attend their efforts to present the truth to others, and its light will find access to many hearts” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 454).

Preachers will be called from the plow

“Among those who were engaged in the work were young men taken from the plow and from the fields, and sent to preach the truth as it is in Jesus. Unquestioning faith in the Lord God of heaven was imparted to those who were called and chosen. ‘All this,’ said my instructor, ‘Is a parable of what should be, and what will be’” (Medical Ministry, p. 305; emphasis supplied).

Truths buried will be revived

“Truths that have been buried under a mass of rubbish are to be revived, and reset in their original setting” (Manuscript Releases, vol. 3, p. 416; emphasis supplied).

He will bring His purposes to pass

“The coming of the Lord is nearer than when we first believed. What a wonderful thought it is that the great controversy is coming to its end! In the closing work we shall meet with perils that we know not how to deal with; but let us not forget that the three great powers of heaven are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring His purposes to pass. He will gather from the world a people who will serve Him

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in righteousness” (Selected Messages, book 2, p. 391; emphasis supplied).

Schools

Schools of the Prophets will be revived

“If conducted as God designs they should be, our schools in these closing days of the message will do a work similar to that done by the schools of the prophets” (Bible Commentary, vol. 2, p. 1036; emphasis supplied).

Prisoners of hope

“Though in many respects our institutions have swung into worldly conformity, though step by step they have advanced toward the world, they are prisoners of hope. Fate has not so woven its meshes about their workings that they need to remain helpless and in uncertainty. If they will listen to His voice and follow in His ways, God will correct and enlighten them, and bring them back to their upright position of distinction from the world” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 145; emphasis supplied).

Educational centers in the end times

“Thus saith the Lord... . I will instruct the ignorant and anoint with heavenly eyesalve the eyes of many who are now in spiritual darkness. I will raise up agents who will carry out My will to prepare a people to stand before Me in the time of the end. In many places that before this ought to have been provided with sanitariums and school, I will establish my institutions, and these institutions will become educational centers for the training of workers” (Counsels on Health, p. 227; emphasis supplied).

Education most essential

“The usefulness learned on the school farm is the very education that is most essential for those who go out as missionaries to many foreign fields. If this training is given with the glory of God in view, great results will be seen. No work will be more effectual than that done by those who having obtained an education in practical life, go forth to mission fields with the message of truth, prepared to instruct as they have been instructed. The knowledge they have obtained in the tilling of the soil and other lines of manual work, which they carry with them to their fields of labor, will make them a blessing even in heathen lands. Before we can carry the message of present truth in all its fulness to other countries, we must first

THE “READY OR NOT” LIST

break every yoke. We must come into the line of true education, walking in the wisdom of God and not in the wisdom of the world. God calls for messengers who will be true reformers. We must educate, educate, to prepare a people who will understand the message and then give the message to the world” (Series B, No. 11, p. 29; emphasis supplied).

Schools should be out of cities

“Never can the proper education be given to the youth in this country, or in any other country, unless they [schools] are separated a wide distance from the cities” (Life Sketches, p. 351; emphasis supplied).

God will bless those schools

“The plan of the schools we shall establish in these closing years of the message is to be of an entirely different order from those we have instituted. For this reason, God bids us establish schools away from the cities, where without let or hindrance, we can carry on the education of students upon plans that are in harmony with the solemn message committed to us for the world. Such an education as this can best be worked out where there is land to cultivate and where the physical exercise taken by the students can be of such a nature as to act a valuable part in their character building and fit them for usefulness in the fields to which they shall go. God will bless those schools that are conducted according to His design” (Counsels to Teachers, p. 532-533; emphasis supplied).

Higher education will be extinguished

“Unless there is a breaking away from the influence that Satan has prepared, and a reviving of the testimonies that God has given, souls will perish in their delusion. They will accept fallacy after fallacy, and will thus keep up a disunion that will always exist until those who have been deceived take their stand on the right platform. All this higher education that is being planned will be extinguished; for it is spurious. The more simple the education of our workers, the less connection they have with the men whom God is not leading, the more will be accomplished. Work will be done in the simplicity of true godliness, and the old, old times will be back when, under the Holy Spirit’s guidance, thousands were converted in a day. When the truth in its simplicity is lived in every place, then God will work through His angels as he worked on the day of Pentecost, and hearts will be changed so decidedly that there will be a manifestation of the influence of genuine truth, as is represented in the

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descent of the Holy Spirit” (Series B, No. 7, pp. 63-64; emphasis supplied).

“As we draw near to the close of time the cities will become more and more corrupt, and more and more objectionable as places for establishing centers for our work. The dangers of travel will increase, confusion and drunkenness will abound. If there can be found places in retired mountain regions where it would be difficult for the evils of the cities to enter, let our people secure such places for our sanitariums and advanced schools” (Manuscript Releases, vol. 10, p. 260; emphasis supplied). This counsel will help us today.

Success depends on fidelity

“Real success in education depends upon the fidelity with which men carry out the Creator’s plan. The true object of education is to restore the image of God in man” (Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 595; emphasis supplied).

God’s Judgments Today

Our claims will not defer judgments

“Notwithstanding their claim to be the chosen people of God, reformation of heart and of the life practice alone could save them from the inevitable result of continued transgression” (Prophets and Kings, p. 414).

“Let none refuse to be reprov’d for evil, nor charge the servants of God with being too zealous in endeavoring to cleanse the camp from evil-doing. A sin-hating God calls upon those who claim to keep His law, to depart from all iniquity. A neglect to repent and render willing obedience will bring upon men and women today as serious consequences as came upon ancient Israel. There is a limit which the judgments of Jehovah can no longer be delayed. The desolation of Jerusalem in the days of Jeremiah is a solemn warning to modern Israel, that the counsels and admonitions given through chosen instrumentalities cannot be disregarded with impunity” (Prophets and Kings, p. 416; emphasis supplied).

Past Judgments of God

“But I was not surprised by the sad news, for in visions of the night I have seen an angel standing with a sword as of fire stretched over Battle Creek” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, p. 97; emphasis supplied).

Family Safety Net

“It is time for our people to take their families from the cities into more retired localities, else many of the youth, and many also of those

older in years, will be ensnared and taken by the enemy” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, p. 101; emphasis supplied).

“Only Safety” List

“The only safety for us is in trusting implicitly and following faithfully the instruction of the word of God. The Bible is the only chart that marks out the narrow path which shuns the pitfalls of destruction...” (This Day With God, p. 247; emphasis supplied).

“The instruction that was given in the early days of the message is to be held as safe instruction to follow in these its closing days. Those who are indifferent to this light and instruction must not expect to escape the snares which we have been plainly told will cause the rejecters of light to stumble, and fall, and be snared, and be taken” (Selected Messages, book 1, p. 41, emphasis supplied).

Our Children’s Safety and Our Own

“The only sure safety for our children against every vicious practice, is to seek to be admitted into the fold of Christ, and to be taken under the watch care of the faithful and true Shepherd, He will save them from every evil, shield them from all dangers, if they will heed His voice” (Child Guidance, p. 467; emphasis supplied).

“Instead of the crowded city, seek some retired situation where your children will be, so far as possible, shielded from temptation, and there train and educate them for usefulness” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 232; emphasis supplied).

“It is time for our people to take their families from the cities into more retired localities, else many of the youth, and many also of those older in years, will be ensnared and taken by the enemy” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, p. 101; emphasis supplied).

Living Like a Watchman

“Prayer and watching thereunto are necessary for advancement in divine life. ... Your only safety is to live like a watchman. Watch and pray always. Oh, what a wonderful preventive against yielding to temptation and falling into the snares of the world” (The Faith I Live By, p. 224; emphasis supplied).

Ancient Landmarks

“The passing of time in 1844 was a period of great events, opening

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to our astonished eyes the cleansing of the sanctuary transpiring in heaven, and having decided relation to God's people upon the earth, the first and second angels messages and the third, unfurling the banner on which was inscribed, 'The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.'

One of the landmarks under this message was the temple of God, seen by his truth-loving people in heaven, and the ark containing the law of God. The light of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment flashed its strong rays in the pathway of the transgressors of God's law. The non immortality of the wicked is an old landmark. I can call to mind nothing more that can come under the head of the old landmarks. All this cry about changing the old landmarks is all imaginary" (Counsels to Writers and Editors, p. 30; emphasis supplied).

"Our only safety is in preserving the ancient landmarks. 'To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them'" Counsels on Health, p. 459; emphasis supplied).

Thus saith the Lord

"Thus he [Adam] gained an experimental knowledge of disobedience to God's commandments. Thus he knew good and evil; thus he lost his fidelity and loyalty to God and opened the floodgates of evil and suffering to the whole human family. How many today are making the same experiment! When will man learn that the only means for his safety is through a full confidence in a 'thus saith the Lord'?" (Manuscript Releases, vol. 18, p. 34; emphasis supplied).

Seed of Vital Truth

"No one should be indifferent on this subject, saying, if we are honest, it is no matter what we believe. You cannot with safety surrender any seed of vital truth in order to please yourself or anyone else" (Selected Messages, book one, p. 299; emphasis supplied).

God's Peculiar People

"Our only safety is to stand as God's peculiar people. We must not yield one inch to the customs and fashions of this degenerate age, but stand in moral independence, making no compromise with its corrupt and idolatrous practices" (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 78; emphasis supplied).

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (II Corinthians 6:17,18).

THE “ONLY SAFETY” LIST

“Our only safety is in separation from those who live in its darkness. The Lord has enjoined upon us to come out from among them and be separate, and to touch not the unclean thing, and He will receive us and will be a Father unto us, and we shall be His sons and daughters. If we wish to be adopted into the family of God, to become children of the heavenly King, we must comply with His conditions; we must come out from the world and stand as a peculiar people before the Lord, obeying His precepts and serving Him” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 109-10; emphasis supplied).

Secret Prayer

“There is need that much time be spent in secret prayer, in close communion with God. Thus only can victories be won. Eternal vigilance is the price of safety” (Counsels to Teachers, p. 258).

Walk in Christ’s Footsteps

“Now is our time of peril. Our only safety is in walking in the footsteps of Christ, and in wearing His yoke. Troublous times are before us. In many instances, friends will become alienated. Without cause, men will become our enemies. The motives of the people of God will be misinterpreted, not only by the world, but by their brethren. The Lord’s servants will be put in hard places. A mountain will be made out of a molehill to justify men in pursuing a selfish, unrighteous course. The work that men have done faithfully will be disparaged and underrated, because apparent prosperity does not attend their efforts. By misrepresentation, these men will be clothed in dark vestments of dishonesty because circumstances beyond their control made their work perplexing. They will be pointed to as men that cannot be trusted. And this will be done by members of the church” (Spalding Magan Collection, p. 370; emphasis supplied).

No Place for the Devil

“Our only safety is in giving no place to the devil; for his suggestions and purposes are ever to injure us, and hinder us from relying upon God” (Our High Calling, p. 95; emphasis supplied).

In Saving Others We May Save Ourselves

“I read of a man who journeying on a winter’s day through the deep, drifted snow, he became benumbed by the cold which was almost impercep-

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tibly stealing away his vital powers. As he was nearly chilled to death by the embrace of the frost king, and about to give up the struggle for life, he heard the moans of a brother traveler, who was perishing with cold as he was about to perish. His humanity was aroused to rescue him. He chafed the ice-clad limbs of the unfortunate man, and after considerable effort, raised him to his feet; and as he could not stand, he bore him in sympathizing arms through the very drifts he had thought he would never succeed in getting through alone. When he had borne his fellow traveler to a place of safety, the truth flashed home to him that in saving his neighbor he had saved himself also. His earnest efforts to save another quickened the blood which was freezing in his own veins and created a healthful warmth in the extremities of the body. These lessons must be forced upon young believers continually, not only by precept, but by example, that in their Christian experience they may realize similar results” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, pp. 319-320; emphasis supplied).

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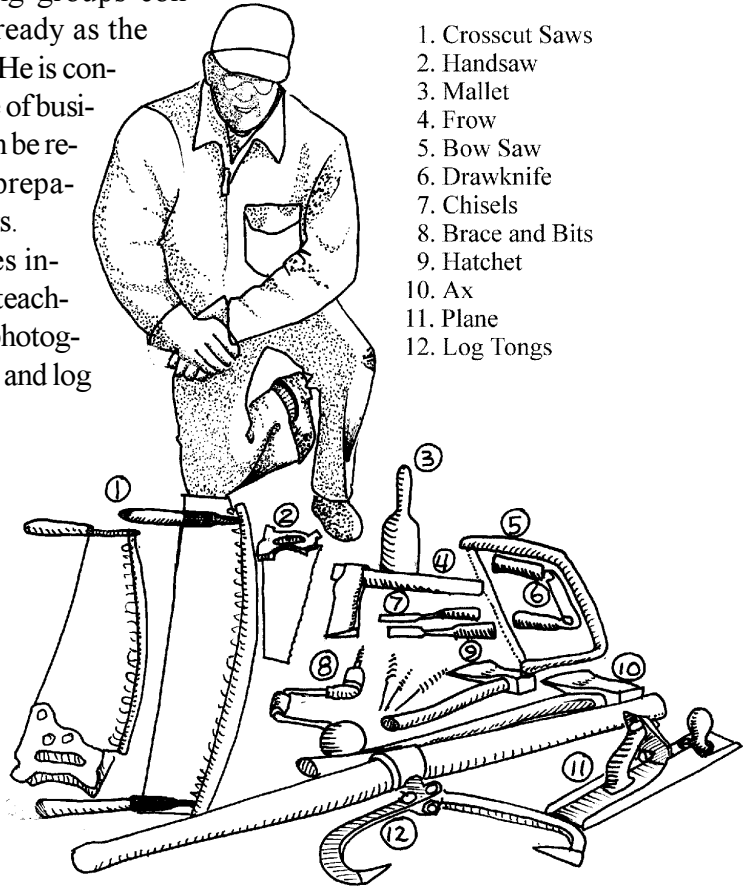
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Jere Franklin has enjoyed teaching science and math to high school and college students. He was president of a youth ranch for several years, is a member of ASI, and active in the supporting ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He enjoys addressing groups concerned about being ready as the end time approaches. He is convinced that an attitude of business-as-usual will soon be replaced by a spirit of preparation among believers.

Jere's hobbies include prayer, family, teaching, camping, hiking, photography, natural history, and log cabin building.



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