

A. G. Danforth

# THE WEST MICHIGAN HERALD



VOL. V.

OTSEGO, MICHIGAN, MARCH 13, 1907.

NO. 11

## SERMON ON ORGANIZATION

Delivered in the Battle Creek Tabernacle, Sabbath, Feb. 9, 1907, by

Elder M. N. Campbell.

But what has brought about all this outcry against order these days? We are told that organization is the papacy; that the organization among Seventh-day Adventists is the papacy in full bloom; that the organization which has enabled this denomination to double its membership every ten years, is bad. The devil surely thinks so, and he has reason for thinking so. It is bad for him sure enough. Let us look at the statistics: This denomination has doubled its membership every ten years since it was organized. No other denomination on earth can point to such a record. No wonder the devil cries out against it; it makes terrible inroads into his kingdom. The idea that organization is bad is in the first place without Scripture foundation; in the second place it is lacking in the first principles of common sense. Why, suppose that when the great rebellion broke out in the Southern States, every man had gone out independently to put it down; what would have been the result? You all know; it does not require any argument on my part. Every man would have been shot down, or put in prison if he was not shot. The idea that every church should strike out independently, has just as much sense in it as the idea of individuals carrying on a war. Satan would be delighted if he could get us to do that; if he could break up the church into its component parts; that is just

what he wants to do. It is his determined purpose to weaken the power of the church if he can do it. But he can not do it: we have the assurance from God that He will stand by His people and prevent them making any such mistake as that.

Every one knows who reads the Bible, that Israel was most thoroughly organized. Our God is a God who does not change His mind. What was good for the church in those days, is equally good for us now, and more so because of the opposition we must meet. Organization is now more necessary than ever.

We will now look at some of the examples on record in the Bible and find what is actually taught there. I will say, brethren, that if all our people had been in the habit of studying the Bible as they should have, these new-fangled ideas would not have had any effect whatever. There are only a few who have been affected by it, but THERE ARE a few. God's word is a safe-guard which will protect us from deception. Turn to the 15th chapter of Acts. The churches in Asia Minor got into trouble because certain men from Jerusalem came down and taught things that were not true. They came down and made it very plain to some of the people that they ought to do certain things and ought not to do certain other things; and some not very well grounded in the Word, were perplexed over it. These men had a burden to go all around and preach these ideas—just as some men have in these days—and they carried dissension with them. Beginning with the first verse,—“And

certain men which came down from Judea taught the brethren and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses ye can not be saved.”

When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain other of them should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.”

• You see, brethren, that when difficulties arose in the early churches instead of going at it to settle them independently as some would have us believe, they selected delegates to meet in council to deliberate upon and settle the matters. The churches recognized this mutual interdependence. They felt that the churches were but members of one great family over which the apostles presided. This is precisely the method in vogue among us now. They selected certain men to go up to Jerusalem to represent them.

“They passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.”

Well, finally they reached Jerusalem and met in counsel,—met in conference. Notice the 4th verse:

“And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.”

“But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believe saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

And the apostles and elders



came together for to consider of this matter."

The rest of the record on down to the 13th verse, gives an account of the discussion that was carried on. Peter stood up and told what he thought about it; Paul and Barnabas took part in the discussion. This is known as the first Christian council. But do you know that Paul calls it a conference? Gal. 2:1,6.

Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas and took Titus with me also."

The 6th verse reads:

"But of these who seemed to be somewhat (whatsoever they were it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person) for they who seemed to be somewhat in CONFERENCE, added nothing to me."

Paul is here referring to the time when he, with Barnabas and Titus and others were selected by the Antioch church to represent it at the Jerusalem council, and notice that he calls it a conference. These brethren in conference "added nothing" to him. And so we have scriptural authority for calling this a conference; that is Paul's own name for it.

(To be continued)

### **An Unrecognized Opportunity.**

Opportunities wisely used make life a success. We long to be useful and have a part in helping to accomplish some great work, or we desire wealth and power; but in so doing many times we overlook opportunities and privileges, which if properly used, would put us on the road to success, give us that which we seek, wealth or power, or make us useful in accomplishing some great work for mankind.

The true Christian is always looking for an opportunity to spread the "truth" and save souls. There are many both old and young in the churches of the West Michigan Conference who would like to do something for the cause of God, but they do not see an opportunity. Why think only of the ministry

when in the canvassing work you can accomplish far more in a short time than the minister can possibly do? Besides being able to accomplish much good, it fits one for greater usefulness in the cause of God. By canvassing and visiting the people in their homes one learns how to present the truth to all classes of people of different minds. He gains an experience without which the minister is practically useless.

The work begun by the canvasser is a far reaching one. A minister cannot be present everywhere and after his departure from a place the interest of the people in the truth is sure to lag. The printed page can be scattered everywhere and while the living preacher is absent the books and tracts left by the canvasser are preaching the "truth." Although people may not seem to be interested in the books at the present time, yet who knows but what some day they may be read and studied as for dear life.

When one person has become interested in the truth it is his anxious desire to tell it to someone else, and who knows but there may be a hundred precious souls in the kingdom of God as the result of a single book left by a humble canvasser. Many times people become interested by reading the books and the door is opened for a minister to reach the hearts of many who otherwise could never have been reached. Furthermore a minister should not consider that he has completed his work until he has placed books containing the fundamental principles of our faith in the hands of his converts. Otherwise he cannot expect lasting results. Thus we see that the work of placing our books and literature in the hands of the people is one of the most important departments of God's great work.

Brethren and sisters of the West Michigan Conference let us arouse and become real in earnest and for the sake of the dear Saviour and for the sake of the truth and for the

sake of dear souls, let us make use of this opportunity—see to it that at least one from every church attends the Canvassers' Institute at Kalamazoo, March 21 to April 2, to prepare themselves for usefulness in this important branch of the Lord's work.

H. C. PITTON.

### **Get Ready.**

The great need of the hour is for workers who are ready; men and women who know their business and are attending to it, who are not above doing the little things that are sometimes called unimportant. I watched a glass blower at his work, and in his experienced hands the task seemed very simple, but when one day I tried to blow some glass, I found I had a difficult proposition; I did not know how; I was not ready. Japan administered a crushing defeat to her foe because she was ready, and I am convinced that one great secret of success in the canvassing work lies in getting ready.

We are informed that "if there is one work more important than another it is that of getting our publications before the public." I will therefore call attention to some of the essentials of preparation for this line of service.

First, consecration. I place this first because all else will avail nothing unless our hearts are in our work, and we are striving to sell books to win souls.

Second, knowledge of our book. The worker who tries to handle a book or subject with which he is not acquainted, may sometimes see results, but he is usually doomed to failure. "Very much more efficient work can be done in the canvassing field than has yet been done. The canvasser should not rest satisfied unless he is constantly improving. He should make thorough preparation." One cannot do justice to himself or to his work if he fails to be well acquainted with his book and the subject on which it treats. The



teacher has her lesson at her tongue's end, the lawyer is ready with law and arguments to prove his case, and I believe that many failures in the canvassing work occur because the worker did not get ready.

Third, knowledge of our work. One of the principal advantages of attending an institute such as is planned, is that by associating with workers of experience the canvasser may gain knowledge of plans and methods that have proven successful, and by practical test learn to adapt them to his own individuality.

Last, but not least; is the grace of endurance, commonly called "stick-to-it-iveness," which brings victory out of apparent defeat. This may be cultivated by overcoming the obstacles which seem to prevent us from attending the institute and entering the work.

Let all who plan to attend send their names to me immediately at 1228 Portage St., Kalamazoo, Mich. This is very important.

B. F. KNEELAND.

#### **Institute for Canvassers.**

Special arrangements are being made for the entertainment of all who will attend the Institute which is to be held in Kalamazoo, March 21 to April 2.

This is a line of work in which all classes can engage. Even very little children, many times, do well in this line of the work. Reports show that the aged are well received and meet with success.

We ought to have one hundred men, women and children in attendance at this Institute. We can find good openings for all who will attend. It is from the canvassers that we select our ministers, Bible workers, teachers, and in fact laborers for all departments of the work.

The canvassing school,—practical field experience,—is where one gains a knowledge of human nature, how to meet the people, and how to present the truth. There is

not a department of our work in which more practical good comes to the individual than through this department.

The most successful ministers we have today are those who continue their practical work as canvassers. Our most successful teachers are those who have had a canvassing experience. And none succeed as Bible workers who do not handle our publications.

All contemplating attending should correspond with Elder B. F. Kneeland, 1228 Portage St., Kalamazoo, Mich.

A. G. HAUGHEY.

#### **Mission Notes.**

From South America word comes that a company of nine Sabbath-keepers are reported as ready for baptism in the province of Buenos Ayres, some of whom came from Europe.

An artist was once asked to paint a backslidden church. He put on to the canvass a beautiful church edifice, with a cobweb over the hole in the box at the entrance marked "Contributions to Missions."

Writing from Karmatar, India, a few weeks ago, Brother W. W. Miller says:—"I baptized four Santals this week. The place of baptism was beautiful. The green rice fields were in front of us, and a huge rock formed the background. About one hundred natives were present. They kept the best of order."

A pilgrim in China who was toiling up a mountain in search of peace was asked what he was looking for, and his answer was full of pathos: "I am looking for heaven and I feel and feel, but I can not find the door." How true and sad a picture of a groping world vainly seeking after God and trying to find the door while we keep it locked and hold the key.

#### **From the Field.**

DECATUR, GLENWOOD, MENDON,  
NILES, BUCHANAN.

I am pleased to report a prosperous and healthy spiritual condition of the churches in which it has been my privilege to labor the past few months. The number able to attend at Decatur is small, but they are of good courage, and glad to serve the Master.

The church at Glenwood is feeling the glow of Christian life, and the hardness of service is remunerated by its blessings. We have recently closed a two week's course of meetings in the interests of this church, and all felt amply repaid for the effort.

The Mendon organization is in excellent condition at present, and some very good meetings are being held and enjoyed. I was happy to meet with the brethren and sisters of Mendon, Sabbath, February 23, and view the subject, "The Sacredness of God's Sanctuary." Elder Nicola was present with us at the time, and on Sunday morning addressed a gathering of our people. In the evening the writer spoke again to a good sized congregation on the subject, "The Human Side of Christ."

At Niles the work and outlook is good and encouraging as it has been. Each of the new believers remain loyal and are strong in the faith so dear to this people. The Sabbath-school is in a thrifty condition.

One day of last week was spent at Buchanan. This is a new field now becoming interesting as a result of the effort made at Niles last summer and autumn. One brother, who found his salvation at the tent, owning and conducting business enterprise in Buchanan, has been gathering in Adventist help from various parts of the country. They comprise a commendable company of earnest Christians. A Sabbath school of fourteen members has been organized, and others now locating will



## The West Michigan Herald.

Issued every Wednesday by the West Michigan S. D. A. Conference, Otsego, Michigan.

Rate: 25 Cts. per year (50 numbers) in advance.

Entered Sept. 23, 1903, at Otsego, Mich., as second class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1878.

**Margaret Haughey, - Editor.**

### OFFICERS.

President, - A. G. Haughey  
Otsego.  
Vice President, - S. M. Butler  
Cedar Lake  
Secretary and Treasurer, E. A. Merriam  
Otsego  
Asst. Sec'y. and Treas. - Fred Green  
Otsego  
Educational Secretary, Clifford Russell  
Otsego.  
Medical Secretary - L. J. Otis, M. D.  
202 S. Fuller St., Grand Rapids  
Religious Liberty Sec'y, S. D. Hartwell,  
335 John St., Charlotte.  
Sabbath-school Sec'y, - Margaret Haughey,  
Otsego.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A. G. Haughey, S. M. Butler, M. N. Campbell, W. H. Heckman, B. F. Kneeland.

soon increase the membership. This is a promising field, and we are glad to know that these new arrivals of our faith feel that they have a work to do.

Blessed will be the day when each individual heart of God's children will sense that on it waits a portion of the great and glorious work committed to this people. Faster must the message spread, deeper must its work be, and louder the cry, until the night deepens when no man can work.

E. F. COLLIER.

## News and Notes.

The March issue of "Life and Health" is out and contains many interesting and valuable things.

A Sabbath-school of ten members has been organized at Dowagiac and one of fourteen members at Buchanan.

A Young People's Society has been organized recently at each of the following places: Bangor, Coleman, Portland and South Monterey.

We have a supply of Sabbath-school Lesson Quarterlies for the second quarter of 1907. This series of lessons are studies on "Bible Election."

Mrs. Cleora Green, who is doing

## Outline Lessons in Government.

The aim of civil government is to secure justice between man and man. It is the ministration of affairs according to laws and usages. Constitutional law is the highest human law. All other laws must be conformable to that. God's law is infinitely higher than the highest human law. If a human enactment is found to be opposed to God's law, the conscientious Christian will obey God even if in so doing he is obliged to disobey the law of the land. "We ought to obey God rather than man." This can never lead to anarchy, as some suppose, for the individual will freely suffer the penalty attached to broken human law, while remaining true to the principles of the universe.

Illustrations of this principle are found in the experience of the three worthies who were cast into the fire furnace for disobeying the command of the king, the obeying of which would have meant dis-

loyalty to God. Also in the experience of Daniel who, because he continued to make supplications to the God of heaven after having been forbidden to do so by the government of Persia, was cast into a den of lions. In both these instances God signally vindicated the loyalty of his servants.

There are many facts and principles of government which our young people, especially, should understand. The time is coming when we shall be brought face to face with some of these questions. According to our present course of study the science of government is not introduced until the ninth grade is reached.

It is with the hope that some of the most important facts in both federal and state government may be easily and quickly presented to the older pupils in our church schools that these outlines will be given in this, and subsequent issues of the "Herald." File the papers for use in your school room.

KINDS OF GOVERNMENT:	}	Family	{	Abraham.	}			
Patriarchial .....		or		Isaac.				
		Jacob						
		Tribul—Indians.						
Theocratic.....	}	Government of God	}	Israel				
		directed through prophets						
Monarchial .....	{	government by one person.	{	Limited	{	Power of Monarch	{	England.
				or		limited by Constitution and laws		
				Unlimited (absolute)		Power of Monarch		Turkey.
				unlimited				
Republican .....	{	government by representatives chosen by the people	{	Hereditary	{	Eldest child	{	England.
				or Elective		becomes ruler		
				Ruler chosen		Rome at one time		
				by vote				
Aristocratic.....	{	government by the Nobles	{	United States.	{	Rome at one time.	{	House of Lords in England.
Democratic .....	{	government where all the people meet to make the laws.	{	Plymouth Colony.				

CLIFFORD RUSSELL.

Bible work in Union City, writes that she has all she can do. The labors of Elder A. C. Bourdeau are appreciated very much. The Lord is blessing the work in that place.

Muskegon sends us \$14.30 on \$150,000 fund collected from outside parties by use of the coin-holders. They are very enthusiastic over the matter, and promise to continue to solicit funds. Miss Ethel

Boyd collected \$3 in about four or five hours work. Many of the people have become deeply interested when the object for which the funds are collected is laid before them. We publish below the names of the collectors that it may encourage others to use this plan:

Ethel Boyd, Mrs. R. M. Ross, Evert Warmbrand, Mrs. Nellie Whitmarsh, Mrs. Boyd, Christopher McBea, Mrs. Lent, Mrs. Curtis, Miss Zona Carr, Miss Nona Carr.