

THE WEST MICHIGAN HERALD

HE THAT REAPETH GATHERETH FRUIT UNTO LIFE ETERNAL

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SERMON ON ORGANIZATION

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

Elder M. N. Campbell.

Turn back to the 15th chapter of Acts and we will study this a little further. It is evident that the Apostle James acted as chairman of this conference, for in the 13th verse it says:

"And after they had held their peace, James answered saying, Men and brethren hearken unto me."

And then he goes on to rehearse the main points of the discussion; and then in the 19th verse he uses the words, "Wherefore my sentence is." This was a remarkable expression as it indicates the large measure of authority exercised by that conference over the churches represented in it. As chairman of the meeting he rendered the decision.

"Wherefore, my sentence is, that we trouble not them which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: but that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled and from blood."

"For Moses of the old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath day."

And the following resolution was drawn up and certain men were chosen to take it to the churches to govern their future actions relative to the question raised.

"The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

"Forasmuch as we have heard

that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law; to whom we gave no such commandment:

"It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul.

"Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth."

Now to summarize the teaching of this chapter:

Difficulties arose among the churches of Asia Minor over certain false teachings. They appointed certain representative men to go up to Jerusalem to counsel together over the matter. The council or conference, gives the matter thorough consideration, renders its decision, which is written out and sent to the churches by men chosen at the conference. I want to know how this harmonizes with the idea that the churches then were independent.

I read a little pamphlet, which is being put out by this irregular element among us, saying there was just one solitary instance in the Bible, which indicated that the churches were not entirely independent, referring to Acts 15. But the fact that there is one instance, disproves their whole teaching. One is just as good as a thousand, and God caused these things to be written especially for those people upon whom the ends of the world are come. But says one, you can not show us in the Bible where

there is laid upon one individual the watch-care over the churches. I have heard people say that. But don't you be too sure about even that. Let us read 2 Cor. 11:28. In the preceding verses Paul has been referring to his experiences and his responsibilities in his work, and in the 28th verse he says,

"Besides those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, THE CARE OF ALL THE CHURCHES."

The care of all the churches! That is the way it reads. Had certain individuals of these days been living then, they would doubtless have branded Paul as a "Usurper." Let us see how far that watch-care extended, and how much authority was embraced in it over the churches and gospel laborers. We will see what the Bible says about it, and then we can tell better just what it does mean. It is evident from Scriptures which I am about to read, that Paul had authority to direct the laborers in their work and fields. Turn with me first to 2 Tim. 4:9, 11, 12. Here writing to Timothy he directs:—

"Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me."

The 11th verse:

"Only Luke is with me. TAKE MARK AND BRING HIM with thee; for he is profitable to me for the ministry."

This is not an insulated case; here is another. Efq. 6:21, 22.

"But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all these things.

"WHOM I HAVE SENT unto you for the same purpose, that ye might

know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts."

He was acting in the same capacity that our conference officials act to-day.

Rom. 16:1,2 "I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea."

By the way that word should be rendered "deaconess;" that is the correct rendering of the original.

"That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye ASSIST HER IN WHATSOEVER BUSINESS SHE HATH NEED OF YOU; for she hath been a succorer of many and of myself also."

Paul gives directions for this deaconess. He sends the church word to help her, etc. We find with reference to the laborers of the ministry, Paul directed their movements and gave them instructions as to what they were to do. He even had to take Peter in hand and give him some pretty sharp instruction. Gal. 2:11

"But when Peter was come to Antioch I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

"For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision."

There is another matter that might be considered in this connection. Says one, did this man who had the care of all the churches, and directed the movements of the laborers, also have anything to do with the finances? This is a very delicate subject now-a-days. Some people are very much afraid that officials use money unwisely, etc. But it is invariably those people who put the least money into the work, who make the greatest fuss. Some years ago, at a business meeting of one of our denominational institutions, a young man arose and made a very stirring speech admonishing the director to be very careful in administering the funds. He greatly feared that

funds were not being handled wisely, etc. He was so urgent about the matter that the president asked him how much he had invested in the work. "Two dollars" was his reply. "Now, brother," turning to another man, "how much have you invested?" "Five hundred dollars." "Well, aren't you rather afraid that these funds will not be managed properly?" "No sir, not at all." The man who had two dollars invested was greatly alarmed for fear the funds would not be wisely appropriated. And so it is,—the people who have put the least and sometimes not anything, into this message, make the greatest noise about the use of the funds. You will find this to be a fact.

(To be continued.)

The Books That Sell.

The book that sells the best is the one that tells the people something they do not know. People never buy a paper that is a few days old because they think they know what is in it; so people will not buy a book if they know, or think they know all there is in it.

Using the same rule in measuring the selling features of the religious books that are on the world's market, those containing present truth, the explanation of the prophecies and showing their fulfillment, are the best sellers, for people know but very little about these themes and yet, they want to know.

The great calamities that are coming so rapidly, the intense interest in the affairs of nations, the social and political problems of the day, are keeping the minds of the reading people agitated, and when these questions are associated with the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Bible it attracts their attention, and they will buy the books that will give them an understanding in these things. This is why our agents are putting thousands of our books into the homes of the people.

I believe the people of Michigan are interested in these things and

they will buy books that will give them a better understanding of these themes. Shall not a hundred or more take hold of this work this year? The past year has been one of great calamities and these things ought to cause us to sense the importance of placing books into the homes of the people so they may learn what these things mean. Our books are the best selling religious books in the world, because they are always up to date.

J. B. BLOSSER.

The Importance of the Canvassing Work.

The Third Angel's Message is the most important matter, claiming the attention of mankind, in the whole world to-day and those who have the privilege or a part in its promulgation are entrusted with responsibility and crowned with honors above the representatives of any earthly power, as they are the special messengers of the King of Heaven, and the remuneration is beyond the power of mortal mind to estimate.

The Third Angel's Message is the last message to be given the inhabitants of this world, and the result of either receiving or rejecting it is eternal, as there will be no opportunity for a change often the decision is made. Hence its importance.

Who may have a part in giving it? "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. Ezek. 33:7. The result of failure to give the warning is found in the 6th verse, but we will not consider that in this article, but will confine it to a consideration of those "that do." It is written: "Blessed are they that do."

In Daniel 12:3 we are told that "they that be wise, (teachers' margin) shall shine as the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever." This is the work it is our privilege to be doing and the time

for us to "arise and shine" has now come.

The sale of our publications affords an opportunity for everyone who so desires to have a part in giving the warning, and also is a "means of reaching many who would not otherwise be reached with the truth." All who know and appreciate "present truth" must recognize the importance of improving every opportunity afforded to give the warning, and to give it to as many as possible.

An institute in which a study of books and methods will be given will afford an opportunity to qualify for the work, and with the help of the Lord has promised, none need fear to engage in it. "God can make humble men mighty in his service. Those who obediently respond to the call of duty, improving their abilities to the very utmost may be sure of receiving divine assistance." Angels will come as messengers of light to the help of those who will do all that they can do on their part, and then trust in God to work with their efforts."—Gospel Workers.

S. D. HARTWELL.

From the Field.

CARSON CITY.

While visiting this company in December request was made that we return a little later and hold a series of meetings about eight miles from the city. There had been no S. D. A. preaching in that neighborhood for about thirty years, our people had prayed that some one might come and present this truth, believing there would be good results. Brother and Sister Swartout secured a school-house and meetings were announced to begin Sunday evening, January 27, and the school house was filled with a class of people who were desirous of hearing Bible truths.

The next evening after we opened our meetings the minister of the U. B. church commenced a revival in their church one mile north of us. He had an attendance of about

fifteen, while the school-house was generally well filled, between thirty and forty being present and some times fifty or more. People came who had not gone to meetings in many years, and after hearing, admitted that we had the truth for the last days.

The meetings progressed nicely, and the same people coming caused us to hope for fruits from our labors.

Brother Swartout's family and Brother and Sister Bennett and son, Vern, were the only ones of our people who lived near enough to attend and they were faithful in gathering up a load of neighbors and bringing them to meeting every night. Also giving us able assistance in our song service which we had each evening before the regular service began. In the second week of our meetings, four questions came from the U. B. minister which we kept until he could be present, then they were answered. The questions related to the abolition of Gods law. We gave him the opportunity of speaking and he, in his endeavor to abolish the law, strengthened what we had said regarding the commandments. He first said it was not binding, then, claimed to be in good company because the New Testament taught nine tenths of the law, all excepting the Jewish Sabbath.

All that he said only strengthened those looking for truth for these times. Four accepted the truth and had kept one Sabbath prior to the U. B. ministers talk. Others are deeply interested.

We have secured another school-house and will hold another series of meetings, meanwhile looking after the interests of the first place.

Brethren and Sisters pray that God will give still more fruits for the eternal kingdom.

JAMES AND ELLA IRVING.

Financial.

Tithe Report for February 1907.

Agnew - - - 46 10

Allendale	-	6 70
Berrien Springs	-	157 03
Battle Creek	-	650 77
Bedford	-	5 68
Bangor	-	10 66
Benton Harbor	-	19 62
Bloomington	-	6 78
Byron Center	-	10 43
Charlotte	-	102 15
Carson City	-	14 74
Cedar Lake	-	53 15
Covert	-	5 42
Decatur	-	3 10
Denver Center	-	1 84
Dimondale	-	13 64
Douglas	-	41 25
East Mich. Conference	-	4 32
Eaton Rapids	-	4 28
Grand Rapids	-	89 42
Glenwood	-	31 95
Grandville	-	1 00
Greenville	-	242 92
Holton	-	4 90
Homer	-	23 88
Hesperia	-	37 83
Individuals	-	13 78
Iowa Conference	-	5 00
Kalamazoo	-	85 39
Monterey	-	11 00
Niles	-	68 39
Ontario Conference	-	4 00
Otsego	-	35 97
Rothburs	-	26 59
Sand Lake	-	18 77
Shelby	-	58 46
Total		1916 92

West Michigan Conference Receipts For February 1907.

Tithe	-	1916 92
Weekly Offerings	-	19 75
S. S. Offerings	-	44 65
Expense	-	30
O. H. F. T. D. Fund	-	146 69
Conference Imp. Fund	-	50 00
General Fund	-	15 15
Annual Offerings	-	30 25
Mission Board Offerings	-	9 55
Pacific Press Pub. Co. Offer'g	-	50
Self Denial Fund	-	66
African Native Workers F'd	-	4 00
Mid Summer Offerings	-	2 00
Nashville Church	-	16 69
Southern Field	-	1 85
Colored Work	-	2 00
Religious Liberty Fund	-	115 78
West Mich. Sanitarium	-	1 50

Jamaca Conference	10 00
Levant Mission Field	20 08
Work in London	20 00
Total	2429 22

West Michigan Tract Society.

On account	191 80
Merchandise	57 08
West Mich. Herald	3 25
Total	252 13

Our Young People and the Finnish Mission Campaign.

Life is a series of problems which open before us in the experiences through which we pass. If we grapple with the circumstances surrounding us and make them stepping-stones to the true ideal, God-likeness, life is a success; if not, it is a failure.

Similar conditions have existed in every reform that has been set in operation. The great reformation known as Seventh Day Adventism, is no exception. It has had its problems to solve: for instance, the true method of supporting the gospel ministry, church organization, etc. These have required much study and prayer; but the Lord led those who were directly concerned in the development of these truths, to the solution of the problems which added much to the strength of the reformation.

To the writer, it seems that one, at least, of the greatest problems which has ever confronted this denomination is, how shall we save our young people to the cause of God? A large number who have grown up in this message, strong and intelligent, are giving their intellect and strength to the world. There is a large amount of latent talent wrapped up in the youth of this denomination, which under favorable circumstances will spring into life. There is in the Lake Union Conference more than three thousand youth, many of whom has ability to work for the Master, and some of these are only waiting for an opening. Think of the results arising from the well directed

efforts of such an army; but, for want of employment, or rather, counsel as to how to work, they are drifting into the ways of the world and fast losing their love for the truth. Are we as conference workers, parents, and teachers doing all in our power to save our youth to the cause of God? There are some who still have a "real love for Jesus," and God is calling upon such to organize. Some are ready to respond; but they are to be organized for service.

Those who are connected with this branch of the work in the Lake Union Conference are organizing their forces for a general campaign in the interest of a Finnish Mission to be established in the North Peninsula of Michigan, where there are more than 40,000 people of that nationality. But little has been done for them, though they are an intelligent, interesting class. Is not the light of this precious message to go to them? Will we be clear in the judgment if we do nothing more for the Finnish people than we have done? We hope all will feel an interest, and take part, in this Young People's Campaign.

The colony referred to, is located in the "Copper Country" of North Michigan; we are, therefore, asking our young people to raise ONE MILE AND ONE FOURTH TO START THIS MISSION. It requires 16 pennies to make a foot, 48 to make a yard and 264 to make a rod. Some one may ask where the line is to be drawn between the young people and the old? One of the superintendents of the Lake Union has aptly said, "One does not cease to be young people until he is ninety-nine years of age."

In this campaign, we are not asking those connected with it for a donation, but we are recommending that this money be raised by the sale of our denominational periodicals and books, giving all the net profits of the sale to the campaign.

Who will assist in this good

The West Michigan Herald.

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Margaret Haughey, Editor.

work? It is necessary to know in advance how many feet, yards, or rods you will take. Kindly write to the secretary of the young people's work in your conference, Miss Margaret Haughey, Otsego, telling her what you will do. All must act promptly in this work. Quite a number of rods have already been taken in one of the conferences.

Attractive cards, appropriately worded, will be furnished the children in our primary schools, which they can use in soliciting. Let us remember the Finns, and "throw out the life line" of truth to them at once.

Dep't. of Education, Lake Union Conference.

Cedar Lake Academy Notes.

School work is still the chief business at the Academy. Every one is as busy as usual.

Miss Frances Case visited the church school on Wednesday of last week. She spoke to the Academy students at chapel Thursday morning.

The botany class have just begun the study of buds. The algebra class are in fractional equations. The rhetoric class are busy at composition work. The agricultural class have just begun the study of parasites and the commercial arithmetic class have just finished bank discount.

The students prayer meeting was conducted by the Young Mens and Ladies Improvement Society Friday evening. The meeting was in charge of Miss Belle Olmstead. After the secretaries read their report of their previous meetings Miss Olive Crum took up the study of the 2300 days and talked about the events of the seventy weeks. This was followed by Miss Isabelle Lafferty giving the events of the remaining 1810 years. Oliver Den slow then gave a talk on the sealing work. It seems good to see the students interested in the message and studying it to give to others.