

A. G. Daniels

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Conference Proceedings. Sixth Annual Session of the West Michigan Conference Held at Charlotte, Mich., Feb. 13-17, 1908.

FIRST MEETING.

The first meeting of the sixth annual session of the West Michigan Conference convened in the Seventh-Day Adventist church at Charlotte, Michigan, February 13, at 7:00 p. m.

President, Elder A. G. Haughey in the chair.

The opening song, "We Will Build on the Rock," was followed by Scripture reading from the 15th chapter of Revelation by Elder M. N. Campbell. Brother G. W. Amadon offered a fervent prayer, specially praying that the Holy Spirit in a rich measure rest upon the conference and bless this important meeting to the good of the Lord's work.

The President welcomed the delegates and spoke of the special favors being granted us in meeting in this another annual session of the conference. He outlined briefly the work of the conference the past year, showing how the Lord had blessed the work, and as a result four new churches were ready for admission into the conference.

The roll call showed 99 delegates present, representing 31 churches.

By vote the reading of the minutes of the last annual session were waived, as they had been approved and published in the West Michigan Herald.

The new churches, Grand Haven, Buchanan, Union City, and Albion, were admitted to the conference. Different laborers were instrument-

al in raising up these churches, and Elder Haughey was present at their organization.

By the consent of the delegates present the President appointed Elder W. C. Hebner, A. L. Bayley, and E. A. Merriam as Committee on Delegation.

The President said he thought best to speak to the whole delegation of several things that ought to be done, not waiting until the special committees were formed. We have among us several men who should receive ordination and credentials at this conference. He asked the question, Why should not Brother Amadon, who has been a laborer for fifty years, receive ordination and credentials as he could then go out among the churches and do a better and broader work than at the present time. And Brother A. Smith of Grandville, another old laborer, should receive ordination and credentials. He believed that all our young men should receive ministerial license and our lady Bible workers missionary license. It had been the policy of the administration to keep the channel open. He mentioned the fact that many of our older laborers had gone to the other fields and had given room to take other young men on our pay roll and develop them in the ministry. By continuing this policy we could be constantly sending out from our midst our best workers and have others in training to follow later.

The treasurer's report, as published in the West Michigan Herald was handed out to the delegation, with the request that they look it over carefully preparatory

to its consideration at a later meeting.

The time was then given to the departmental workers. The Educational Secretary, Clifford A. Russell, presented his report for the last year. While he could not speak of any very marked success in the work, yet there was a growing interest and our schools were doing better work. We have in operation 20 schools, with an enrollment of 478. Our school work has attracted the favorable notice of the State Superintendent of Education, and he stated he would be glad to co-operate in any way he could to advance our work.

By vote, the Executive Committee was empowered to name the session's committees, then refer back its report to the delegates for approval.

Conference adjourned to 9:00 a. m., February 14.

A. G. HAUGHEY, Pres.,
E. A. MERRIAM, Sec'y.

SECOND MEETING.

9:00 a. m., Feb. 14, 1908.

Conference opened with song. Prayer was offered by Elder W. R. Matthews.

Elder Haughey read some unpublished testimonies from the servant of the Lord with reference to our work. This brought up several questions of importance which were of great interest to the conference, and the president made clear many points not understood by the delegation.

Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

Additional delegates were seated as follows: Dr. H. G. Wiggins, Wm. Hefley and wife, and Sister

C. F. Salisbury of Battle Creek; Brethren J. Root and J. E. Palmiter of Wright; Brother Pitton, Clifford Lake; Sister Wilson of the Bauer church.

By vote of the conference Brother W. H. Edwards and Brother J. B. Blosser of the Lake Union Conference were seated with the delegates with the privilege of participating in all the deliberations. Brother Russell stated that we had with us several school teachers who were delegates and five who were not, viz, Mildred Wilson, Katherine Bell, Ethel Cooper, Grace Davis and Augusta Blosser, and requested that these be seated with the delegates. Carried.

The President in behalf of the Executive Committee reported the session's committees named as follows:

Committee on plans: E. F. Collier, E. L. Richmond, Dr. L. S. Morey, J. F. Gravelle, C. A. Russell, Dr. L. J. Otis, John E. Hanson, M. C. Whitmarsh, A. L. Bayley, A. C. Haughey, Margaret Hilliard, Minnie Harnden, Dr. H. G. Wiggins, H. Nicola, M. S. Burnham, Wm. Reefman, J. B. Sperry.

Committee on Licenses and Credentials: S. D. Hartwell, W. W. Shepard, G. H. Crandall, W. R. Matthews, Harvey Sterling, A. C. Bourdeau, W. C. Hebner, Martin DeVries.

Nominating Committee: M. N. Campbell, J. B. Blosser, Orin Evans, James Root, W. W. Robinson, G. W. Amadon, N. H. Pool, G. E. Davis.

Auditing Committee: Conference Committee, G. H. Randall, E. L. Richmond, J. E. Root, W. W. Shepard, G. E. Davis, Martin DeVries, W. H. Edwards.

The name of Martin DeVries was added to the Committee on Licenses and Credentials, and the reports of the Executive Committee were adopted.

Conference adjourned to 2:30 p. m.

A. G. HAUGHEY, Pres.,
E. A. MERRIAM, Sec'y.

Financial Report.

January Receipts.

Tithe	\$3,139.69
Annual Offerings	711.80
Weekly Offerings	47.93
General Fund	13.32
Bills Payable	250.00
Colored Work	4.74
Orphans and Aged Fund	
[money returned]	200.00
African Native Workers Fd.	1.90
Religious Liberty Offerings	67.10
Jamaica Conference	5.00
Sabbath School Offerings	324.82
Mission Board Offerings	33.14
Freewill offerings	.15
Nashville School	25.00
Self-denial Fund	.30
Jewish Work	10.50
Southern Field	5.98
Birthday Offerings	4.43
India Mission	.16
Missionary Volunteers' Educational Fund	23.10
Chinese Fund	30.15
O. H. F. T. D. Fund	343.21
	5,242.42

January Receipts of West Michigan Tract Society.

West Mich. Herald	7.85
Merchandise	47.38
On account	300.25
	355.48
Grand Total	5,597.90

January Tithe Receipts.

Agnew	8.59
Allendale	50.24
Bangor	22.66
Battle Creek	747.63
Bauer	25.00
Bedford	73.87
Belding	17.50
Benton Harbor	14.88
Berrien Springs	182.87
Brookfield	20.10
Burlington	3.00
Bushnell	31.08
Byron Center	10.22
Carlton Center	64.59
Cedar Lake	82.50
Charlotte	94.96
Clifford Lake	35.76

Decatur	34.97
Denver	7.14
Dimondale	61.19
Douglas	5.00
Eaton Rapids	23.30
Edmore	178.12
Frost	1.50
Glenwood	9.34
Grand Haven	13.24
Grand Ledge	46.55
Grand Rapids	116.33
Grandville	2.82
Hastings	5.90
Holton	66.25
Homer	34.43
Kalamazoo	39.74
Kinderhook	53.27
Lakeview	83.85
Lowell	18.50
Lyons	15.72
Maple Grove	34.23
Mecosta	10.82
Mendon	100.35
Monterey	74.80
Mt. Pleasant	26.39
Muskegon	14.59
Otsego	30.35
Palo	14.25
Portland	56.34
Potterville	9.55
Quincy	134.49
Rothbury	14.00
Sand Lake	36.89
Shelby	51.16
Trufant	86.24
Union City	22.09
West Leroy	23.48
Wright	3.17
Iowa Conference	14.71
Individuals	27.00
Ontario	14.00
Money Order Returned	38.18
	3,139.69

Remember.

God has commanded His people to keep the Sabbath day, but knowing that many of them through the six preceding days of labor, would forget the Sabbath, He commanded to remember the Sabbath day that they might not become so entangled with business affairs, or weary from mental or physical labor, as to be unable to observe the commandment. We

all believe this to be an important command. No one will dispute the fact that it is only those who remember the Sabbath through the week that can keep it holy.

God has also commanded His people to educate their children. No true Seventh Day Adventist will deny that. In order to assist parents in this work, the Lord has established schools in many places which are classified as follows: Home schools, church schools, intermediate schools, academies, and colleges. Let us briefly consider the purpose of each.

The child's education, of course begins in the home school, the parents or mother especially being the teacher. This school is absolutely necessary, for how much progress would a child three or four years of age make in a church school? Evidently, a family school is the only one adapted to the educational needs of very young children. But, when they have reached the age of eight or nine years, their education can be carried on more successfully in a church school. Parents should then take pleasure in sending their children to such a school, even at a sacrifice.

Upon entering the church school these children will be able to resume their work without much difficulty, if they have received a proper training in the home school; but at the age of 14 to 16 this school may be fully as inadequate to their needs as was the church school a few years previous. If possible, their parents should now send them to an intermediate school or academy. They may not be able to do this without sacrificing many conveniences, luxuries, etc.; but will the Lord be pleased with such a sacrifice? The Psalmist will tell you. Ps. 50:3-5.

In a few years these students have completed the intermediate or academic course. Should their education now stop?—Yes if they are now capable of doing the work that God has called them to do. In the majority of cases, however,

their education is too limited to enable them to do efficient work. A course in one of our colleges is now needed, which requires more money, labor, etc., on the part of parents, and much more hard study on the part of the students. Another financial problem may have to be solved, requiring wisdom which God has promised to give.

This matter of educating our young people, is no simple problem, no light duty by any means to the poor of our people. It is in some cases a tremendous burden. Are there any who are becoming weary? Read Gal. 6:9. The majority of parents have not had the necessary training, nor have they now the opportunity of fitting themselves for any line of missionary work; but many have the opportunity of educating their children for the work. They can manage to send them to school.

Parents, are you dissatisfied with this life, with its sins, crimes, sufferings, disappointments, discords, etc.? If you do your duty to your children, I believe that the time will soon come when the "former things" will have passed away. 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." Matt. 24:14. Your children are needed to proclaim the Gospel. They can not do this without an education which can not be secured without means. Has not God entrusted you with means that you could use for this purpose? Do you feel that you ought to send your son or daughter to some school next year? Then why not plan for it now? It is not too early. Just as you remember through the week to keep the Sabbath, remember through the present school year to send your children to school next year. In doing this you are hastening the coming of the Lord.

W. C. MATHEWSON.

From the Field.

Buchanan.

Because of the peculiar circumstances that existed at Buchanan, it was thought best to hold a series of meetings. Brother E. F. Collier from Kalamazoo, was sent to conduct them beginning January 26 and continuing until Feb. 6.

Although the weather was exceedingly stormy, our attendance was very good. Several nights, at least four ministers from other churches were present. One Thursday evening the ministers dismissed their weekly prayer-meeting to attend our meeting; as a result, we had a full house. Several union meetings were held in the city against us while Brother Collier was giving the course of lectures. It seemed to work out for our good, as it created more of an interest in our meetings.

I feel confident as the result of these meetings, some will accept the truth, as they seem to be really interested. It is our prayer that God will trouble them until they decide to keep His commandments.

M. B. BUTTERFIELD.

Missionary Volunteer Day.

Do you know the story of the rise and progress of the Young People's work among us?

Do you understand the plan of organization?

Do you know what the Missionary Volunteer work stands for?

These questions and others will be discussed on Sabbath, March 7, which has been appointed by the General Conference Department as Missionary Volunteer Day. Let all our churches make the most of this opportunity for a thorough consideration of this important branch of the Lord's work.

It would be well for the church elder, Sabbath-school superintendent, and leader of the Missionary Volunteer Society (or some other young person where there is no Society) to act as a committee in plan-

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Margaret Hilliard, Editor.

ning for the program. The readings suggested for the forenoon session which will appear in the Instructor, should be assigned to those who can read well, and have a deep interest in the work.

The following topics are suggested for the afternoon:—

Reading of Letter from Missionary Volunteer Secretary.

Bible and Testimony Study on Good Reading.

The Value of Good Books, and a Crusade Against Harmful Literature; Discussion.

"Plans for Our Library" (may be the report of a committee on this work.)

Question Box, conducted by the Leader, with opportunity for discussion. (Questions should be handed in not later than the close of the forenoon session.)

The reading of the letter, and other topics, should be assigned to young people as far as possible, and every effort put forth to make the afternoon generally interesting.

Let the assignments be made at once, and let as many as consistent have a place on the program. Let the music be definitely planned for.

An offering is to be made—one-third for the establishment of a Young People's Library in the local church, and two-thirds for the better equipment of our Missionary Volunteer Departments in local, union and general conferences. Two-thirds of the offering should be sent to your Conference Treasurer.

This Missionary Volunteer Day is a great opportunity to give a new impetus to our Young People's work all over the field.

M. E. KERN,
Ch'm. Gen. Conf. Mis. Vol. Dept.

Report of Conference Committee.

The newly elected executive committee of the West Michigan Conference met at the home of Elder Hartwell at Charlotte, 2:50 p. m., February 17, and organized with A. G. Haughey as chairman and S. D. Hartwell as secretary. It was unanimously voted that the present departmental secretaries should continue their office work until such time as the newly elected members could enter upon their respective duties; that all money orders, drafts, etc., sent to the conference should be made payable and sent direct to the West Michigan Conference and not to the treasurer personally; that Brethren Whitmarsh and Butterfield conduct a series of meetings at Bangor; that Doctor Otis and Brother Pitton labor for a time at Mt. Pleasant; that Elder Hofstra labor at Fremont; that S. D. Hartwell and John E. Hanson labor at Wayland; that no other changes be made in the distribution of laborers for the present; that the following named persons act as delegates to the fourth biennial session of the Lake Union Conference to be held in Chicago, March 17-29, 1908, namely:

A. G. Haughey, M. N. Campbell, S. D. Hartwell, J. W. Hofstra, W. R. Matthews, G. H. Crandall, E. L. Richmond, C. A. Russell, A. C. Haughey, L. J. Otis, J. E. Hanson, M. C. Whitmarsh, E. F. Collier and J. M. Wilbur; that W. H. Edwards be appointed auditor of the West Michigan Conference.

Elder Horton made request that he be permitted to retire from the work of the ministry for a time which request was granted.

A. G. HAUGHEY, Chr'm.
S. D. HARTWELL, Sec'y.

Notice to Canvassers.

There will be an institute for canvassers at Emmanuel Missionary College March 1-10. All who go from there directly into the field and do faithful work will have their car fare paid from home to school then to the field of labor.

Each one should bring a copy of the book for which he intends to canvass. Brother Blosser expects to be in attendance throughout the entire time. We also expect some efficient help from the College Faculty. We hope to see all our old agents and a goodly number of new ones there.

A. C. HAUGHEY,
Field Secretary.

News and Notes.

There were two hundred and five persons present at the Conference Sabbath-school February 15. The church was so full it was impossible to form classes. W. H. Edwards conducted the general review and Elder W. E. Videto taught the lesson for the day. Donations \$25.13.

Sabbath, March 7, is Missionary Volunteer Day. A suggestive program appears in the Youth's Instructor bearing date of February 25. The readings will appear in the Instructor. We hope all of our churches will plan to carry out this program whether they have a Missionary Volunteer Society or not. By so doing it will put them in touch with this important work.

Elder J. W. Hofstra spoke to the conference delegates Friday evening, February 14, on Religious Liberty. Elder Allen Moon occupied the pulpit Sabbath forenoon. The afternoon was devoted to answering questions on different departments of the work and the explanation of different texts of Scripture. Elder J. C. Lamson spoke Sunday evening, Feb. 16 and Elder E. F. Collier Monday evening, Feb. 17.

G. W. Amadon, A. Smith, E. F. Collier, and J. M. Wilbur were ordained to the gospel ministry. The service took place Monday forenoon, February 17. The prayer was offered by Elder A. G. Haughey. The charge was given to Elder J. G. Lamson. Elder M. N. Campbell extended them a welcome to the West Michigan Conference.