

Extension and Expansion

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Study given by W. D. Frazee—March 17,

At the Yarba Buena mission three weeks ago self-supporting mission workers in southern Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras were led together through a very interesting series of providence. Dr. and Sister Graves from Guatemala, a group of workers on their way to Honduras to open a self-supporting work, Brother and Sister Comstock, Dr. Butler and Dr. Harmer with their families, and other helpers were brought together. We had a precious season. I want to study with you tonight some things we studied there, and with it some things that have happened since that meeting.

Things are moving fast in this old world. Aren't they? Let us listen to the Word of God.

"Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited" Isaiah 54:2,3.

It is a call for extension and expansion. It is God's call to His people in these closing hours.

Only yesterday I heard one of our conference leaders who has recently returned from some of the world divisions tell of the rapid development of the work in various quarters of this old world. Things are moving fast. Some feel the membership has actually been doubled in just a few years. We are thankful for the rapid spread of the organized work, the denominational work supported by the tithe and regular mission offerings which we all as loyal Seventh-day Adventist have a part in.

We are thankful also for the extension of the self-supporting work, this axillary help that God has arranged to hold up the hands of our brethren in the conference work, and to share with them the burden of extending the work in all the world. That self-supporting workers as well as conference paid workers may go out with this message is echoed and reechoed in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

When Christ left this world He told His disciples to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. Even a casual reading of the book of Acts reveals the fact that many of those who answered that call and carried out that commission were self-supporting workers. In this great message that will finish the work, the eleventh hour call is to be answered by many workers whose only

assurance of support is, "Go into the vineyard and whatsoever is right I will give you."

Decades ago, under the guidance of the Spirit of Prophecy, the school at Madison, Tennessee was started. In a letter Sister White wrote January 6, 1908, she spoke of it as the training school for home and foreign missionary teachers:

"The class of education given at the Madison School is such as will be accounted a treasure of great value by those who take up missionary work in foreign fields. If many more in other schools were receiving similar training, we as a people would be a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. The message would be quickly carried to every country, and souls in darkness would be brought to the light" *Appeal for the Madison School*, page 2.

There follows the admonition that other schools similar to the Madison school were to be established in different parts of the Southern field. Then comes the warning that the time is soon coming when God's people will be scattered in many countries because of persecution.

"Those who have received an all-round education will have a great advantage wherever they are. The Lord reveals divine wisdom in thus leading His people to train all their faculties and capabilities for the work of disseminating truth" *Ibid*.

When the drops of rain began to fall, and when the angry lightning and the muttering thunders revealed that Noah's prophecy was about to be fulfilled, all the world thought of Noah as a wise man. Those who today will get the training and receive the preparation that inspiration has ordained for this hour will in the coming storm, the storm that even now is beginning, will once again demonstrate the wisdom of God.

Oh, how thankful that we can be little children and do what Father said. What do you say?

I want you to catch this urgent call for extending and expanding the work.

"God is calling for men who are willing to leave all to become missionaries for Him, and the call will be answered. In every age the gospel commission has compelled men and women to the ends of the earth to carry the good news of salvation to men in darkness. Stirred by the love of Christ and the needs of the lost, men have left the comforts of home and the society of friends; even that of wife and children, to go to foreign lands among idolaters and savages to proclaim the message of mercy. Many in the attempt have lost their

lives, but others have been raised up to carry on the work" *Gospel Workers*, page 464.

We are told on the next page that to show a liberal self-denying spirit to foreign missions is a sure way to advance home missionary work, for the prosperity of the home work depends largely under God upon the reflex influence of the evangelical work done in countries afar off. God wants all the phases and departments and activities of His work tied together like the different organs and systems of the body; each one helping the other; each one drawing upon the other for help. That is God's plan.

We see this in a wonderful way in our great denominational program. God intends that the same spirit of interest in the various phases and activities of the different countries of the world shall be manifested in the heart and life of every self-supporting worker. It is vital friends.

The spirit of selfishness is most interested in that which is nearest me, and to be interested not at all in that which is far away. But the spirit of heaven is to reach out to the ends of the universe to plumb the depths of the awful gulf of sin; to leave the ninety and nine in the fold and go out in the mountains and desert after the one sheep that has gone astray. That spirit in heaven will be manifested in every truly converted heart.

As long as there is one soul left in this world that has not yet heard the call of the Master and seen the love of the Master, that one remaining soul is a challenge to you and me whether he be in Georgia, Mexico, India, Africa, or wherever. I thank God for the wonderful efficiency of His divine plan of teaching us the great lesson of love. That is what this is all for.

God could have done it with angels. I am sure they would have done it far better. But thank God He let you and me have a part in it to draw us out of ourselves. And if there is anything in this world that could draw us out of ourselves, it is to come in contact with poor, sick, needy, ignorant, heart weary people; holding out their hands either symbolically or literally for the help we have in our hands to give them.

I shall never forget an experience that came to me just a little over two weeks ago. I was with Dr. Harmer where he and his family were seated around their table having their noonday meal. He and his family live in a little building which is also being used as a clinic. One room of it is the dispensary room, and the waiting room is their front porch.

At the opening there appeared an Indian who spoke a little Spanish, and he urged that someone come up to the highway and get his sister who was so sick she couldn't walk down from the highway to the clinic.

Dr. Harmer and I went up to get her. We found her there with her mother and some other relatives. They had brought her on a bus, and the poor woman certainly was in a pitiable condition.

She was taken down and the doctor examined her. It was apparent she was in a very serious stage of tuberculous. She had been coughing for a year. She had other symptoms. But those dear people had never even heard of the disease. I mean, they had never heard a name for it. They didn't know what she had. They didn't realize how serious it was except that she was getting weaker. They had heard of the clinic, and in desperation they had brought her from their village miles away.

As I heard her rapid breathing, and as the doctor examined her and told me of her condition, my heart went out to that poor woman so sick she was unable to walk. The thing that gripped my heart that Sunday afternoon was the fact that there are hundreds and thousands down there in those mountains in that same condition. And beyond those mountains there are others, and still others.

There are vast areas of this world that are teeming with people who need medical help, health education, education in sanitation. And above and beyond all that work for the body, they need to know Jesus. They need to have the peace that passes understanding. They need to know that Jesus is coming soon, and that He died on the cross to make them ready.

Dear ones, what shall we do with our blessing of health if we have it, of strength if we have it, of material comforts if we have them? What shall we do with these? Shall we see how beautifully we can dress up the little tent we have, or shall we hear the call of God to make a bigger tent to cover more people? "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes."

In one way or another this challenge will come and does come and must come to every soul.

The question is whether to take the five barley loaves and feed ourselves first while the multitude go away hungry to faint by the way, or take those five barley loaves to Jesus and ask Him to bless them, and start distributing them to the multitudes. Give ye them to eat. Deal thy bread to the hungry. Bring the poor that are cast out to thy house.

I saw it down there in that little front room parlor, which also serves as part of the clinic were Dr. Harmer and his family are. I saw laying on a pallet in a corner a little Indian girl perhaps twelve years old. She had been there several weeks while the members of the family waited on her and administered to her. I saw the father and mother of that little girl who lived in a little village two miles away.

One morning just before I left I saw them starting off, the little child so much improved in health. I saw the children of the mission walk with her up to the highway. They had learned to love her even though they couldn't talk her language and she couldn't talk theirs. Love had made a tie between them. They had learned what love meant in that home.

One morning at worship Dr. Harmer read about love in the Bible. He asked the Indian father if he knew what love was.

The father answered, "Yes, like here in this home."

Ah friends, I am glad some are learning. But what will you and I do? What will you and I do to enlarge the place of our tent and make it possible for more people to have a demonstration of God's love?

Something interesting happened just the other day. The new president announced his new plan. It has caught the attention of millions of people. It is said to be the first really new thing that has come since the president has been inaugurated. He calls it the plan for the creation of an overseas peace corp. He has asked for volunteers. Within twenty-four hours five thousand people, most of them young people, poured letters and telegrams into Washington in response.

In war time the government sends out a call for volunteers for war, but this is the government calling for volunteers for a peace corp. The president thought perhaps the greatest thing that America can do to solve some problems today is to send out into foreign countries thousands of volunteers to go into the needy areas and live with the people. Teach them English. Try to raise their living standards. Teach them better agricultural methods. Teach them health and sanitation.

By living with them and teaching them in this way two things could be accomplished: To actually raise living standards and better conditions over the world. At the same time build good will for America and good will among people over the world. It is quite a daring and challenging and interesting plan. And five thousand people responded the first twenty-four hours. The letters are pouring into Washington.

One letter written to the president said, "I would like to be put on the list for your purposed youth corp. At present I am a senior at a certain university in Ohio. I have lived for some time in a foreign country, and would like to go on this peace corp."

Another letter said, "Because of my studies in Mexico and my interest in our South American neighbors, and my linguistic ability, I feel I would like to get into this."

Yet another letter said, "Is there anyway I can help make this proposal a reality? Please call upon me."

A major at the college at William and Mary said he would like to have a place in this peace corp.

What are the inducements? The president does not promise for both young and old that their lot overseas will be easy. They will get no pay whatsoever. The government is arranging transportation and some subsistence, but no pay. They will live and work with the people of the country to which they are assigned, even if it means living in a thatched hut in the middle of a tropical jungle.

The report says:

"The work of the corpsmen overseas will include teaching English to native peoples, but will also lean heavily on teaching agriculture, accounting, animal husbandry, public health, and road construction. For this the volunteers will need as much as six months of training, refresher courses in their specialties, the language of the country to which they are assigned, and physical conditioning for the rigorous life ahead."

And what is the response to it? It is just piling up. Thousands of letters are coming in. I am reminded of a little tract which was written about the time I was born:

"The school at Madison not only educates in a knowledge of the Scriptures, but it gives a practical training that fits the student to go forth as a self-supporting missionary to the field to which he is called. The students have been taught to raise their own crops, to build their own houses, and to care wisely for cattle and poultry. They have been learning to become self-supporting, and a training more important than this they could not receive. Thus they have obtained a valuable training for usefulness in missionary fields. To this is added the knowledge of how to treat the sick and care for the injured. This training for medical missionary work is one of the grandest objects for which any school can be established.

"The class of education given at the Madison school is such as will be accounted a treasure of great value by those who take up missionary work in foreign fields. If many more in other schools were receiving a similar training, we as a people would be a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. The message would be quickly carried to every country, and souls now in darkness would be brought to the light."

Let's do it. If men and women who don't know Christ is coming soon, and if young people whose only motive is to serve their country and suffering humanity and needy humanity around this world will spring into action at the call of the president, who will answer the call of Jesus to take not merely public health education, agriculture education, but along with it the Gospel of Jesus and the coming of the Lord? Thank God, someone will.

"Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes." We are not only to lengthen the cords, but every time we lengthen cords we need to strengthen stakes.

One summer at the Oklahoma camp meeting a group of ministers had been laboring for a number of days putting down the stakes with sledgehammers, and putting up the tents. We were having a meeting about the middle of the week when a storm came up. It was raining, and with it a wind. Rain and wind together are not the best thing for tents.

About the time the evening meeting closed dozens of workers were standing on one side of the tent, the side from which the wind was coming, pulling on those ropes trying to hold that tent. But the ground had become wet with the rain, and the wind became strong enough that it pulled up the stakes and carried the tent right over. The next day we had to mend it and put it up again.

There is a storm coming, and along with lengthening the cords of our tent we must strengthen the stakes. Unless we do it we are going to see our tent blown down right when we need it.

I suppose that in some youthful hearts here tonight, and in some not so youthful, what we have studied so far has stirred the heart. I trust it has. God help us, friends. Unless we are stone or ice, it is time to be stirred.

But if this causes us to be like that young man who spoke to Joab and said, "Let me run," we may only get for all our pains the answer of the king, "Turn aside and stand here."

No matter how sick a patient is, it is important to get something in the glass before you run with the glass to the patient's room. No matter how needy and suffering millions are, it is important to wait to get something in our hands before we run to where they are.

Those disciples brought their barley loaves to Jesus. As He broke the bread He put it in their hands, and they went over the grassy field distributing it to those five thousand men. I pray we will have sense enough to get something before we run to the needy multitudes.

Changing the figure, I pray He will help us to get a solid experience in driving down the stakes that will hold us firm as we lengthen the cords of our tents. I want to give you very briefly a picture of three of those stakes. I present them to you as three questions.

Stake number one: Do you know God? I do not mean do you know there is a God? I do not mean do you know about God? I do not mean can you give a Bible study about Him? I mean do you know God so that if you are all alone in a jungle or a desert you can look up to God and say, "Dear Lord. You put me here. What is it You want me to do and how are You going to care for me? What is it I am to do next?"

"Everyone needs to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God" *The Desire of Ages*, page 363.

The place to get that experience is probably not in the desert or in the jungle. It is right here. If you have run with the footmen and they have wearied you, what will you have to do when you have to contend with the horses. If you cannot meet problems and struggles and temptations, if you cannot learn to meet the decisions of daily life, how will you meet the added problems and responsibilities of greater needs in fields afar?

No trip ever made a missionary. It is in the home field, the home church that men and women and youth learn to know God for themselves. Oh what a wonderful thing it is to be anchored in Christ.

I think of Jesus in that boat as the storm was roaring over Galilee, awakened by the discouraged, disappointed and disheartened disciples. In their anguish and their fear they cried to Him. He arose and rebuked the winds and waves. Then He turned to them and said, Why are you so fearful? Where is your faith? He wanted them to have faith. He wants you and me to have faith. And we are learning those lessons, if we are learning them at all, in our daily experiences.

If you have any thought to lengthening the cords of your tent, you had better strengthen those stakes, my brother. You had better know what it means to be anchored in God so that no matter what anyone does around you, and no matter what problem comes up, it doesn't make you say, Well I wonder where I am? Where did I lose God? Is God here to help me? We must know Him in the problems of daily life. We must know what it means to go to our knees in prayer and get the answer to the daily problems.

Stake number two: Can you work with others? Do you understand teamwork, group work? Or is there in your mind some hazy, nebulous idea that if you could get far enough away in a foreign field you wouldn't have the problem of group work or teamwork? Well, I hope you never get that far. If you do, I rather think it will be a post-graduate course God gives you after you learn to work with others.

I am so happy to tell you that down there in the mission I saw a most beautiful demonstration of a group of families,—doctors, nurses, teachers, and helpers—working together in sweet unity and harmony. Some of them told me that where they learned to do that was right here in this little training program at Wildwood.

Brothers and sisters, if this is where they learned teamwork, group work, relationships, and how to work together, I am so glad there are some folks here in this oven getting done. I pray God will help us appreciate how important it is to get done, for I know none of you want any half-baked bread to eat or for anyone else to eat.

I ask then, can you work with others? Can you work with the church? Do you know what your relationships are to your brethren? Can you work with those closest to you? In the home? In the local church? In the institution? Can you do that? Have you learned that? It is a science.

"The spasmodic fitful movements of some who claim to be Christians are well represented by the work of strong

but untrained horses. When one pulls forward another pulls back. At the voice of their master one plunges ahead, and the other stands immovable. If men will not move in concert in the great and grand work for this time, there will be confusion. It is not a good sign when men refuse to unite with their brethren and prefer to act alone" *Gospel Workers*, page 487.

I know there are problems in that. More problems in every one of these statements than any of us here realize. But the problems only increase the importance of the thing we are talking about. They only emphasize the great value of mastering these lessons. Can you work with others? If you can, thank the Lord. If you have learned to do it with people who love you and appreciate you, God may give you a little post-graduate work in learning to work with those who are not quite so considerate. Ask God to arrange your scholarship in this school of experience.

Stake number three: Have you learned to be self-supporting? The president's peace corp says no wages, and thousands are answering the call. But the government will pay for the training, the transportation, and will see that those who go overseas don't starve to death. That's not exactly what you and I mean by self-supporting work, is it? Here is an experience that God is calling self-supporting workers to in which we can venture out, if necessary, without any support from any human agency. There are only two classes of people who will do it. The first are fools. The second are men of faith.

If you are foolish enough, you will do it. If you have faith enough you will do it. Just because someone runs, it doesn't prove which one of those classes he is in.

If we have faith and hear and answer the call of God, we will be ready to go wherever God calls whether it is next door or the ends of the earth. I repeat, we will go whether there is any promise of support or not.

You say you believe that would be presumption and not faith. Well, if it is presumption for you my brother, don't do it, because there are a good many places to get into trouble that you will never get out of. Faith knows the call of God and faith answers the call of God.

Dr. Southerland used to tell about the early leaders at Oberland college over a hundred years ago. They trained their students to be self-supporting missionaries. Those were the early days of our country. The Rocky mountains were, of course, a long way from Ohio. There weren't any airplanes or automobiles, and no roads if there had been.

One of the sayings of those early leaders was that a student who had been rightly trained and caught the vision at Oberland would be ready and willing at any time at the call of God to start for the Rocky mountains with nothing but an ear of corn in his pocket.

Taking a trip will never teach a person that. Taking a trip doesn't make a missionary. It reveals a missionary.

I read in this little tract, *An Appeal to the Madison School*:

"They have been learning to become self-supporting. And a training more important than this they could not receive." *An Appeal to the Madison School, page 1.*

Do you know what it is to be self-supporting? That's what God wants you to know. I pray everyone of you will learn it.

Let me testify as to what I saw down there in Mexico. I saw men and women who, thank God, are keeping out of debt personally and as an institution. I saw men and women who are not rolling up great financial problems for someone else to solve. It is true some of them are living in houses that have earth floors. It is true they don't have all the conveniences and luxuries and the niceties of diet that many in North America consider routine. But friends, God is blessing them in health and strength. They are keeping out of debt.

Some of them told me they learned it at Wildwood. Some of them learned some things about home budgets here, and living within the income. I am so thankful for some simple plans to help us learn the things we will need to know as we venture out in lengthening the cords and strengthening the stakes.

There is much more to these three stakes than I will have time to cover tonight. I haven't driven them down all around, but I have showed you what they are and where they belong. Remember that it takes at least three ropes, each anchored to a mighty stake, to hold a center pole of a big tent. These three stakes I have given you tonight, properly driven down in the experience of your soul, will hold up as big a tent as God ever gives you to stretch.

Do you know God? Can you work with others? Have you learned to be self-supporting? I am so glad God is in the business of training His recruits for His great peace corp in this last hour of human opportunity.

I want to read in closing a call from *Patriarchs and Prophets*. It is in the setting of God's call to Abraham. You remember he was down there in Ur of the Chaldees, and God said, I want you to leave all this. I want you to leave this big city with all its conveniences.

Those who have done the work of archeology over there tell us that Ur would compare well with our modern civilization. But God asked Abraham to leave all that and go live in tents in Canaan; to live the pilgrim life. And he did it.

"Many are still tested as was Abraham. They do not hear the voice of God speaking directly from the heavens, but He calls them by the teaching of His word and the events of His providence. They may be required to abandon a career that promises wealth and honor, to leave congenial and profitable associations, and separate from kindred, to enter upon what appears to be only a path of

self-denial, hardship, and sacrifice. God has a work for them to do. . . . Who is ready at the call of Providence to renounce cherished plans and familiar associations? Who will accept new duties and enter untried fields, doing God's work with firm and willing heart, for Christ's sake counting his losses gain? He who will do this has the faith of Abraham, and will share with him that 'far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory' with which 'the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared'" *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 127.

My dear friends, I have great faith in the personal leadership and guidance of God in each individual life. I believe with all my soul that decisions are being made, and will be made, that will affect the life's destiny and the life's mission of more than one.

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