

Elder Frazee in Committee with E.A. Sutherland

[The following is a transcript of the meeting of W.D. Frazee of Wildwood and E. A. Sutherland of Madison College]

[Elder Frazee] ...Our ears and our hearts are open.

[Dr. Sutherland] Well, I appreciate being here. It's been a pleasure and a treat. I marvel that you're not all going out. I know you don't get such allopathic doses very often, or you wouldn't allow anybody to come in and pour out so much and take so much of your time. But I enjoy being here and enjoy the spirit of the place, and to see what you're doing and your vision that you have, and the spirit of the work to carry out the Lord's will. It's a very refreshing sort of an experience.

It's a good deal like an oasis in a big desert. You know, after you've traveled for a while and don't see anything but sand, haven't seen anything but hot winds and the cutting sand, you can get into a place where there's some palm trees, and some dates growing, and a fountain of water coming, and the grass growing, kind of feel as though you'd like to stay there for a while, you understand. And it's so peaceful and restful. Well, that's the way I feel about this place. I'd like to stay.

[Elder Frazee] Thank the Lord, brother. Just stay with us.

[Dr. Sutherland] Now, the other day I had a call, a very urgent call, from Raymond Harold and his wife to come to their rescue. And I ran so that I would meet them in Chattanooga. I had a long talk with them, and they told me their troubles. I suppose you probably all know their troubles.

Their group is breaking up on them and things are coming to the surface that they didn't understand existed in their group, things that we have tried to tell them that were there, that were things that were not in harmony with God's plan of carrying on the work, but it didn't seem to register in their minds. And they had a program that was so different from anything that we have been carrying on in our work that it was really a shock to us.

And there wasn't very much that we could do except to follow the advice of Gamaliel, who told the Sanhedrin, that if the thing was of the Lord, they'd better keep their hands off and let it develop to see, and if it was they shouldn't fight it. If the thing was not of the Lord, it would come to naught and it wouldn't be necessary for them to do any drastic thing because the Lord would take care of the situation.

Well, you know, sometimes we get into the place where we have to take that advice. We reach the limit. We don't know what to do. And we were in that place as far as Reeves is concerned and this particular group.

Well, after talking with Raymond and his wife, Betty, I gathered from them that they were in such trouble they didn't know what to do. Raymond was afraid that the brother might beat him up. One of the brothers had gone to Michigan, left; sister had gone away from them. And the mother was making it very hard for Mrs. Peak, Betty, who had been appointed as the matron of the sanitarium. She said the mother would come in there and threaten to do most everything to her, and talked very roughly to her, and talked to the patients about her.

And, tears in her eyes, she says, "I can't take anymore. I just can't do it. I can't go up there."

And Raymond said, "I am willing to do anything that the Lord wants me to do. I've been wrong and I see it, and I'm anxious to do everything."

Well, I asked them if they were willing to sign a statement to that effect because I'd had some experiences with them, and sometimes their minds change very suddenly.

And they said, "Yes," they would.

And so we arranged a little statement in which they said that they were unable to carry on and do the work that the Lord had asked them to do, and they were being interfered with and so on. And they both signed it.

And I said, "I'll see what I can do to help you."

They begged me to do something.

So, I called up Brother Holland and asked him if he would come over to Chattanooga and meet these people and see what could be done. And he came right away. And we sat down. And it was arranged that Brother Holland would go there and be there the next morning (I suppose you know all about this), and see how things would open up, because in the morning at eight o'clock the trouble began, you understand, when Mrs. Peak would try to manage the sanitarium affairs, the mother would come in and disrupt things.

And the brother would come following the mother, and he thought that the mother wasn't getting a fair deal by them. He would get sort of rough, and then Raymond would come in to see they didn't beat up his wife.

And then he would go to Raymond and say, "Now, if you don't get out of here, I'll beat *you* up."

And that had been going on for several mornings, you understand. And so, he arranged for Brother Holland to be there the next morning. He felt that he probably could pour on some oil and help the condition. And that was agreed to.

And he went over the next morning; was there. The old lady was on hand, but Brother Holland, who knew her pretty well, took her in hand and talked with her. And she finally agreed that she would hold back any grievances that she might have

toward Raymond and his wife until the board meeting, which would be the third of May.

And then, Brother Holland promised that she would have an opportunity to go before the board and lay all of her complaints. And she finally agreed to that. And I think that he also about persuaded her to come over here and live with you people two or three weeks, so you might tame her down, you understand.

I believe that he suggested that to her. Didn't you?

[Brother Holland] Yes.

[Dr. Sutherland] And she rather took to it, didn't she?

[Brother Holland] Well, in a way.

[Dr. Sutherland] In a way, that's what I thought.

[Brother Holland] It was enough to want to stay there until the board meeting.

[Dr. Sutherland] And then, he had a talk with John, the brother, and told him what kind of people took the law in their own hands and tried to get satisfaction without doing it in the right way and ask questions. We were supposed to first get our brethren together and lay things before them and see if we couldn't settle it. But if it's just impossible, if we couldn't get on that kind of a basis, rather than to maul his brother up, he'd better take it to court. But he advised him to wait until the board meeting.

And then, he said, "You can have all opportunity, we'll see that you can come in and lay all your complaints before the board. And let's try that before you come in and beat him up on the road when you need him, because it might make you trouble. A peace officer might have to come in."

So, he persuaded him to let up.

Well now, we've had quite a long experience with this group, and they have reached the place where they are breaking up, and the words of Gamaliel are coming true. We had to go along with them and do the best we could, because if it was of the Lord, we didn't want to do anything to hinder them, and if it wasn't of the Lord, we knew that it would come to the end. And it's reached the end, very definitely.

And so, now we are praying and trying to find out just what to do with that piece of property that I know that the Devil is fully determined will never be used for the Lord. And he's had a pretty good experience in managing things so he's had his way. And he's full of courage that he can defeat the Lord in that property ever being a place where the glory of the Lord will be manifested as it should be.

And so, we're just compelled now to fall back on that promise that says that we can overcome him by the blood of the Lamb [a paraphrase of Revelation 12:11].

We can't overcome him. He's too much for us. He's bothered us time after time. We've tried to start and poured in money there, done a lot of things. But the Devil has been able to upset good men, men that we thought were stalwarts, but they would have difficulty and couldn't go ahead.

Well, the Lord taught us a great lesson one time in the case of Knox, the great Presbyterian Scotch reformer. He had been trying to carry the Gospel in Scotland and things were getting mighty hard, and he was a refugee, had to flee. And he didn't know what to do. He was just about as near discouraged as he could be and not still give up. And I know you've all heard the story how he had awakened in the morning. The sun was up, light was in the room, and he was very, very much depressed and didn't know how to proceed. And his attention was called to a spider that was trying to bring a thread from one part of the room to the other in order that he might weave his web. You've heard it, haven't you?

And the spider couldn't get across so that he could connect up and get his thread across, because he had to lay that cable before he could begin to weave his web. And he just was interested to see the spider attempt it and fail and fall down, and first thing you know the spider was back again trying to bridge that chasm that he had to. And finally, as he watched him, the spider made it and then began to weave his web across and had done what was necessary to do that.

And he watched the spider work for a long time, and he said, "God is teaching me something."

[Elder Frazee] Amen.

[Dr. Sutherland] "If God can do through a spider what seems to be impossible for a spider to do, he can do through me what is impossible."

And it started him again, and he got his courage back, saw that the Lord was in it, that the Lord was helping him, and he won out the next time.

So, you never know when you're in the Lord's work how many defeats you have to have, but if you'll stick to it, you know you'll win out in time. But sometimes it's pretty hard to hold on. But if you'll hold on, the Lord says He will give us the victory. And "this is the victory," it's our faith, you understand. So, we're not discouraged in any sense about Reeves, but we are anxious to see the spider get that thread across, you understand.

[Elder Frazee] That's right.

[Dr. Sutherland] And we've done a lot of work in trying to get that across, but it never has been put across. We thought several times it had gone across, but it isn't there yet.

Now, Reeves in many ways is a wonderful place. I suppose it has the finest farm of any of our units. It has a number of buildings. It has a sanitarium building that is taking care of over 20 patients. I don't remember how many, 23 or 4 or 5, somewhere in there. And it's a pretty-well equipped sort of a place.

They have a school building that could be made a very fine place for say a ten-grade school—never had in mind of carrying any more work than that. Even, it was fixed up for a dormitory and for a cafeteria. And then, they have several cottages and they have a large tract of good level land, very productive, and beautiful setting in the pines, and timber. And we feel as though that it should win out, and we believe it will.

Well, as Brother Holland and I were taking after we were through with Raymond and his wife, Brother Holland said to me, he said, “I’ve been thinking that it might be possible for Reeves to take a hold of that situation.”

Well, at first...

[Elder Frazee] You mean Wildwood?

[Dr. Sutherland] How’s that?

[Elder Frazee] You mean Wildwood?

[Dr. Sutherland] Wildwood, that’s right, take a hold of that situation. Well, it didn’t strike me very favorably, because I considered it a pretty tough sort of a situation. And I knew that Wildwood had been accustomed to handling hard things. And I was just, you might say, sympathetic enough and soft enough so that I didn’t want to wish on my good friends anything as tough as Reeves, you understand. So, I didn’t react very favorably. I didn’t say much.

But I said, “I think it’s a pretty big proposition.”

Well, the Lord made me sit in my car and keep awake for five hours. I had some bad roads. And I went home that night (and I guess I got home about midnight). But during that time, that proposition kept coming to me and coming to me, and by the time I got home, after five hours of study I was absolutely changed in my mind.

And then, I wrote a letter to Brother Holland. Mr. Chairman, if you’re willing I think that that letter would lay before you what Brother Holland and I had been thinking. He was the one that made the idea in my mind, and I had to cuddle that for five hours, you understand, and it finally blossomed out in this.

So, if you can have that letter read here. I don’t know whether it’s ever been presented to you all or not. Has it? Have you got the letter?

I’d like to have Brother Frazee read it.

[Dr. Sutherland] All right. Good.

[Elder Frazee]

“Dear Brother Holland, You will remember that as we were parting, you asked if I saw any light in the Wildwood Corporation taking over the Reeves setup. At the time, my mind was pretty well filled with the present difficulty that Mother Harold and John are making Raymond and Betty, so I did not give any particular thought to your suggestion.

But on my way home, which took about five hours, I was obliged to give much of constant thought to your suggestion, and I must confess that the more I looked at it, the more favorably I regarded the proposition. It may be the best way out of an unpleasant situation that is making the Devil and his agents very happy.

It has come into my mind that the Reeves farm is everything that Wildwood ought to have, but cannot obtain it without much expense in its present location. Although Wildwood's present location is ideal for a training ground for the people who desire to go out and establish units on a self-sacrificing and pioneer basis, you have a setup there that certainly teaches not only by precept but by example what is involved in starting a unit from scratch. This is a most important point of the training. It brings into operation elements of character that mean great courage, great faith, a vision and a willingness to make a great sacrifice, all for the sake of presenting the truth, the third angel's message, before our neighbors in a very practical manner.

It also weeds out or prevents many from joining or staying with the work who are merely after the loaves and fishes. So, I feel that you have an ideal location for the mother institution to give the right training.

However, as you grow, you will find the need of having more land in order that you may have the blessing and the facilities that the Lord has spoken about for our institutions, in the way of plenty of tillable land. The Reeves farm to my mind is a very unusual one, and I feel that Satan knows that if the right people can have an opportunity to operate and develop the place, it will speak very loudly to those who are watching its operation. It has the foundation for a school, a sanitarium and some other buildings which give a good start.

Then, too, I have been thinking since you made the suggestion that soon many of our people will have to flee from the cities, and the Reeves property if in the hands of the right kind of people can be all that the Lord said that Madison should be when our own people must flee from the city of Nashville.

Sister White said that we would need all that we had because there would be many refugees from Nashville and we could provide places for some of these to live. If this is the mind of God for Madison that has more than doubled its holdings, what a wonderful setup Reeves has for just such a time.

I believe that we are warranted in thinking ahead and getting ready to take care of people that will be obliged to leave the cities when the actual trouble that is coming starts.

There are many other things that have been coming into my mind that are making me feel as though the suggestion that you made has a divine origin. I believe that the Layman Foundation will be glad to sit down with Elder Frazee and the managers at Wildwood to discuss the situation and the best way out, since Reeves is definitely breaking up.

I have thought of a plan that will take care of the Hurlbutt farm and place the institution in the hands of the Wildwood Corporation. I have never seen any light in the operating corporation purchasing a piece of property that can be theirs in reality without doing so. Your corporation has made a reputation for itself which the Hurlbutt farm has never yet been able to do. I am writing this so that you may know that what you have suggested has taken a very tangible and definite hold of my mind. I have mentioned some of these things to Miss Fellowman and she does not seem to have any objections to it.

I am sure that the Layman Foundation will want to find the Lord's way out of the present Reeves situation, so I am writing this requesting that if you feel like reading this to Elder Frazee and any others that you can do so and let me know their reaction.

Please write me as soon as you receive this letter about what you found at Reeves this morning and how you handled the problem. Please write me at once in regard to this letter because if the suggestion that you made is from God and He is trying to show us the way out, we ought to act quickly and not have long delays because Satan takes advantage of such delays. Even the angels grow weary waiting for us to act.

I remain, sincerely,

E.A. Sutherland"

[Dr. Sutherland] Now, Brother Chairman, I can't say any more than I've said in that letter. I've taken the matter up with the Layman Foundation board, and they seem to be very anxious and willing to follow along this line, if the Lord is leading. And they feel, as I have written there, that we must do something.

And there is to be a very important meeting on the third of May of the Hurlbutt farm corporation. Elder Nash is chairman. And we feel that if we can see any light in this proposition, it would be an excellent thing to bring it there and consider it there because undoubtedly there's going to be some things done that will mean a considerable change.

So, the Layman Foundation board voted that I should come down here. Brother Holland happened to be up there. I didn't know it at the time.

But you got in there and I didn't know it till I saw Miss DeGraw. You had called her up, I believe.

And then, I got in touch with Brother Holland and so we both agreed that we would come down here together Friday, and I think you know pretty well what I've been thinking since I came here Friday. Don't need to go over that.

[Elder Frazee] Well now, Dr. Sutherland, there's many things that we feel like little children in. We appreciate the experience that the Lord has given you. I think we're just enough like children that we don't have any better sense than to move into some things that involve problems. You know, children will do that sometimes. I think that's what we did when we came to Wildwood. But we've never been sorry.

[Dr. Sutherland] On the other hand, if you study your Bible very carefully, Satan gives the idea it's unfortunate when we become anything else but little children. Isn't that right?

[Elder Frazee] That's right. We just want to be sure that as children we're having the Father's guidance. And maybe you can help us by giving us a little clearer picture of what you and the Layman Foundation have in mind that Wildwood should do, and what the relationship would be and so forth.

I'll say honestly that I'm sure that we're interested in exploring the thing. Whether it's something we ought to undertake or not, frankly at the moment I don't know. I don't know that any of our brethren here do, at the moment. But we would be glad to know, as you see it, what the arrangement ought to be. And I'll say that I think that our main problem at the moment is knowing how to spread the thin butter of personnel and leadership that we have over several pieces of bread.

You may have some advice for us in that, but if you could give us a little more detailed picture of, as you see it, what the arrangement ought to be.

[Dr. Sutherland] All right. Is your wife coming back?

[Elder Frazee] Yes.

[Dr. Sutherland] I'd like to have her here.

[Elder Frazee] All right.

[Pause in proceedings until Sister Frazee returns]

[Dr. Sutherland] Pardon me for insisting on your being here.

[Sister Frazee] I'm glad to be here. A visitor just came in.

[Dr. Sutherland] Brother Frazee has asked that I present to you something of the plans that the Layman Foundation has for Reeves.

Brother Holland, you give just a little record, will you, of what we do here so that you may get [inaudible] for the Layman Foundation.

[Brother Holland] In the first place, the Layman Foundation is not an organization that can wisely operate an institution. The setup hasn't been of that nature. It is the thought of the Layman Foundation leaders that its work was to help organizations that were already carrying on some kind of work that the Layman Foundation was interested in, and to give them sufficient help so that they might in time become self-supporting and carry out the plan that we all felt that the Lord wanted them to carry out.

Well, that meant of course that we would have to constantly work through others, and not attempt to go in and directly attempt to manage things. We've always avoided that because our setup wasn't of the nature that we could successfully do that.

Now, that Reeves came to us as the result of that 50-mile ride that I took with Sister White. We were alone for at least 12 or 14 hours. Well, you can all imagine what it would mean for me that had come into the place where I had in regard to Madison due to the direct direction and advice and counsel of Sister White for that length of time. You can also understand that [train going by blotted out voice] ...And she was just as pleased to give me help and advice as I was to ask her for help and advice.

We sat there together all that day talking back and forth, and it was the most wonderful experience that I'd ever had and probably ever will have in one way because I felt clearly in my own mind that the Lord had chosen Sister White to help direct His people. Not that I felt that she was infallible or anything of that kind, but I felt that her experience had given her a very rich relationship with the Lord.

And so, she was deeply interested and she took me up to this place at Lakeport on Clear Lake. A man and a woman owned about 500 acres of land at the south end of Clear Lake. Have you ever been there? And do you know that lake fades out into level country. And they owned land clear in the lake that grew nothing but tulies, I guess we'd call those bulrushes down here, wouldn't we, or something of that kind. And the tulies ground was part of the time under water, but the rest of the time it would be dry enough so that stock could go in and eat those tulies.

And this man and woman had been noted for stock raising up north of there, up in the northwest part of California. They owned a big ranch up there, and they used to make butter. They couldn't sell milk, they couldn't sell cream, but they would make butter and haul it to San Francisco by four-horse wagons, you understand, barrels and barrels of it. They'd go up there and make butter all summer. Of course, it was spelled, you know, with two "U"s as a buuter, and it was strong and all of that. But in those days it had value because it was greasy and people would use it for cooking out there in California, so there was a market.

And they couldn't sell cattle very well because they were too far away from the market, but they could sell that butter. And they made butter and this woman was the butter maker and he was the man that raised the stock, and they had become quite wealthy. And they had bought this tract of land down at Clear Lake, and they had still owned that large tract of land up in northwest California.

This woman was an Adventist; the husband was not, but he was favorable. If he was anything, he was an Adventist but he wasn't a professed Christian.

And this woman had talked with Sister White a number of times about doing something in the work, and she wanted to start an orphanage. And Sister White said that she shouldn't start an orphanage. They didn't have the qualifications to operate an orphanage. And she urged her not to do it.

But the old lady had gone ahead and spent \$10,000 up there at Clear Lake and putting up buildings and running an orphanage. And as fast as she could get the orphans into her home, they would run away because they wouldn't stand up to the program that the old people put them on, you understand.

And of course, Sister White knew all about this, and her desire was to get these people interested in the southern work and to put their money in to help us down there and not try to operate anything themselves. They were too old and were lacking the qualifications. She had a zeal, but she didn't have the right kind of knowledge to operate a home for the children.

So, when we got up there, Sister White talked with him, and he was very friendly to Sister White even though he wasn't a Seventh-day Adventist. His wife had told him enough about her and he'd read enough so that he had great respect for her. And she talked with him, and told them to sell out and turn their money over to Madison. And then go down there and stay at Madison and help in the cause in an indirect way, rather than to go down there and to establish something, because she felt they weren't qualified to operate an institution.

Well sir, they took her advice. They cleaned up everything except the farm at Clear Lake. They sold all of their property up northwest California. It's Humboldt County. You know where that is? That's right in the northwest corner of California up there in the redwoods. They sold all of their property except that down there, which was very valuable.

[Elder Frazee] What year is this, doctor?

[Dr. Sutherland] Oh, that was about nineteen hundred and, I should say, seven. And came and stayed all winter at Madison in the sanitarium, as guests of the Madison institution. The old man was quite rheumatic, he was crippled, but he was about six feet six inches tall and he looked as though he weighed a half a ton. He was a very powerful man, but he was a crippled man at this time, hard for him to walk around, suffered a good deal of pain.

And I don't think she weighed a pound over 80 pounds, you understand. Great contrast in size. But his wife, Mrs. Hurlbutt, was a very strong-minded woman and determined, and she could handle that great hulk of a man just about the same as a little wheel could a boat, you understand. It doesn't take a very big wheel to make a boat go in the direction you want it, and she was the real—what would you call it now in a boat? A rudder. She directed things and he came along. But he'd cuss and swear some, but his heart was good. He's a fine old man but rough as he could be, but kind-hearted.

They stayed with us all winter long and watched the work that we were doing, and remembered what Sister White had said, that they should turn their money over to us. And she mentioned my name several times to them and put it in a letter to them, they should come and connect with me and turn their money over to me and let me help direct them in handling their affairs.

Well now, when they stayed there all winter, they became so in love with Madison and its plans that they thought that they could do a little better than Sister White had advised, that they could go and start another Madison. They were just all infatuated with the whole idea, not that they were going to do anything wrong.

[Elder Frazee] They have a lot of cousins and uncles and brothers and sisters.

[Dr. Sutherland] But soon he got better, his arthritis improved, and she became more sure that they could start a Madison. They gave up the idea of an orphanage, but they were going to start a Madison.

Well, Madison had about 400 acres of land and they wanted to do a little better so they came down, looked around and they finally got Elder M.C. Wilson's brother, who was a very fine man, the Wilsons and the Hurlbutts had grown up together. In fact, the Wilson family had lived on this farm (Mayport, you understand), and there was a close tie between them.

And old Sister Hurlbutt felt, "If I could only get John Wilson to come down here and take over the responsibility of managing, we can put up a Madison and we may be able to do just a little better than Madison has been able to do because we've got a lot of money."

Now, Madison wasn't famous for money. There was everything else but money there.

But anyway, she had very large visions. And Wilson came down, and then they bought this farm at Reeves, and they paid a big price in those days, \$25,000 for that place. Well, land was very cheap at that time.

[Elder Frazee] How many acres?

[Dr. Sutherland] Around 500 acres. Well then, they started in. Of course, we couldn't say anything. I couldn't say anything. And Sister White couldn't say anything. But she felt as though that they were taking a big chance, you understand. But Sister White wasn't a person that would tell you, you *had* to do a certain thing. But she had told them what the Lord had told her to do.

Well, the old lady wasn't the only person that sometimes staggered over the testimonies because Magan and I had had our experience, as I told you yesterday, and we had to be charitable because the Lord helped us out, and we knew that if the old lady was honest she'd see.

Now then, they bought this place and they started to build a sanitarium. They put up \$100,000 and got Dr. Hayward to come in there and build a sanitarium. Then, they got Professor Boynton, I don't know whether you ever heard of him or not...

[Sister Frazee] Is that the sanitarium that had the French doors on it?

[Dr. Sutherland] Everything that you could imagine that was beautiful.

And then, they got Boynton down to run the school. And Wilson was running the farm. They had a great setup. And I don't know how many thousands of dollars they had nested away, but \$100,000 went into the sanitarium alone.

And Dr. Hayward was an A-number-one doctor and a good surgeon, good general practitioner, and they had a wonderful setup medically.

And then, Boynton brought over pretty near all of the faculty and a good many of the students at San Fernando, you understand. He was principal of that school at that time. And so, Sister Hurlbutt went over there and sold the idea to him to come over and run the school.

So, she had Wilson that she'd brought from California, and he was a splendid man. And she had Dr. Hayward, who had been trying to start something up here on Sand Mountain up there where Petersons are, you understand. And this was just like, well just like velvet to him to have somebody come along and give him all that money to spend after he'd struggled up there on the mountain.

And then, those three men, they just took a hold of things. And of course, as far as I was concerned, they all felt as though that the Lord had been kind to them to direct them to counsel with me. But after they had counseled with me long enough so that they thought that they knew how to do a job a little better than I, they never called on me anymore, you understand. They went ahead. I couldn't get near them. They just knew what they were going to do and so on.

Well, there wasn't a thing to do but just to do what Gamaliel said, just take his advice.

First thing that happened after they hadn't really got well started, the sanitarium burned down. And then, they had trouble with Wilson. He had tuberculosis of the throat, and he died. And that left them in bad shape because he was a good business manager.

And then, something happened to Boynton and he left, and went over and started that school over at Atlanta. You know where he is? Flat Rock. He took quite a number of people away from Reeves and went over to Flat Rock and started over there.

Dr. Hayward was down and out, and he had not only spent that money but he had involved the Hurlbutt farm corporation in a number of thousand dollars' worth of debts, so that when the fire came and he couldn't get his income anymore, those debts all came to the surface, you understand.

And then, Sister Hurlbutt called me down and said, "Now, don't you remember that Sister White told us that" (the husband had died, Mr. Hurlbutt had died), "told us that we should counsel with you," and so on and so on. "And don't you remember all that?"

"That's right."

Yes, I remembered it.

"Well," she said, "we've been sort of wayward, but we're back again now. I want you to counsel with me."

Well, it wasn't anything to do but to do it, because Hayward was not a safe financial man. And I had to tell her that, and I had to tell Dr. Hayward the same. And she didn't want to put any more money in his hands, and he owed thousands of dollars. And it must have been \$25,000. And on this sanitarium, they only had \$20,000 insurance. And the people began to write in for their money.

What is this great soap man up at Cincinnati that makes the Ivory Soap? What's that farm? Proctor and Gamble. They sent down a stunning letter, you know, it was a tremendous one.

They said, "Now, we've carried you all of these years, and now we've got to have our money"

And I don't how many people were sending in for their money. And the old lady was pretty near beside herself. And Hayward never did take things very seriously in his financial affairs. It didn't bother him much because he was always involved in debt, you understand, so he was in his natural condition when these things came out.

And if he had been allowed to have gone on with the sanitarium, he would have ridden along, you understand. He would have paid the most pressing bills and probably gotten by without any serious trouble. But now, they were threatening suit. And the old lady was terribly disturbed about it.

And so, she asked me if I'd help her out. So, I took the job of paying these debts. And I wrote a letter to every creditor, and I explained to them what had happened.

And I said, "We have insurance, and I can give you 75 percent of your claim in cash. If you don't want to do that, I will see that you are paid in full but you'll have to give me one year of time. During that year, I will see that you going to your pay. You let me know which way you want to have your claim handled."

I had an attorney. What's his name over here at Calhoun, Parsons or something? Anyway, he was the attorney, and he turned in to help me. And all except one man wrote back that "We would take the cash, 75 percent."

One man said that they owe, I think he said that they had a claim of \$15 and he wanted it all. He wouldn't take it. Well, we were able to handle him and then we claimed the insurance, and I paid all of that indebtedness off.

But Sister Hurlbutt wouldn't give doctor any more money to rebuild a sanitarium. She'd learned that lesson. And she had the school building, but she didn't have Boynton.

Then, things rocked along, and then she put the place in—what's that farmer's name that lives right there between Calhoun and the school? Had that big house on top of the hill? Loren. She turned it over to him. But Loren didn't know how to run a unit. All he knew was how to raise corn and raise some stock, and that didn't go.

Then, she thought that probably she was in the wrong place, and she was sort of discouraged, and she thought if she could go over to Dahlongega. Somebody over there had tempted her to buy a tract of land with a spring on and a little creek that had a little mill, gristmill, with stone burrs and it was run by water power. And she got it in her head if she could only grind the wheat with those two stones, that it would save burning out so much of the protein, you know, from the steel rollers that that was her work.

And so, she bought \$12,000 worth of land up there, which was practically worthless from the standpoint of farming. And I can't think of the man's name, but he had been working on the farm here under Wilson, and he persuaded her to go up there and buy that place and spend about \$10,000 in one way or another.

[Elder Frazee] Where?

[Dr. Sutherland] Up at Dahlongega, and that all blew up in her face. And yet the place here at Reeves still stayed, but they weren't getting anywhere. And she tried one thing after another. She was the whole thing, but she finally linked up with Jim Pearson, the colored man down at Birmingham. You know him, don't you? You

know Julia? That's Bright's wife, you understand. She periodically comes up here and visits these self-supporting institutions.

Well, Jim was a good nurse and he ran a treatment room in Birmingham and was a very successful man with wealthy people, gave them wonderful treatments, and they all loved him very much. And Jim had considerable success in rescuing juvenile cases. In other words, the city of Birmingham put him on the court, the juvenile court. So, that all colored boys and girls that got into trouble were practically sent by the city of Birmingham to Jim Pearson, the colored man that ran that treatment room, to determine what the punishment should be and how to handle them.

And he was a wise man, and a godly man, and he had considerable success. But he felt that he was greatly handicapped because he didn't have any place to take them. He just had to farm them out when they got into trouble. He'd put this boy someplace, and another boy some other place and it would worry you to keep up with them.

So, he made up his mind if he owned that farm that he could build a school on that farm. And if he could only have a sanitarium so that he could take in wealthy colored people in that sanitarium, he could make the thing go as a self-supporting institution like Madison.

Well, Sister Hurlbutt had tried Reeves and couldn't make it go, and then Dahlonga. Now, she was ready for another experiment, and so she got in with Jim and spent thousands of dollars in it. And she not only got into him but she sucked Mother D in that, you understand, and Mother D landed \$15,000 in Jim Pearson's hands.

Then, they not only got that going, but they got a hold of Sister Scott, and you know, for a while I thought they were going to capture the whole self-supporting work. And they poured in thousands and thousands of dollars into Jim Pearson's work.

And pretty soon, they built a sanitarium for him, a fine sanitarium, a fine school building, and built cottages for him. But they began to break down on him, and roofs would give way, and the foundation would give way. And he was too careless in regard to his buildings.

[Unidentified man] Where was that built, doctor?

[Dr. Sutherland] At a place called...

[Elder Frazee] Sterrett, south of Birmingham in Alabama.

[Dr. Sutherland] And they got a large tract of land and of course Mother D could make me go down there and Mrs. Scott, to try to help him out, and I did. Sister Hurlbutt lived there and she had a half a dozen cats. And they gave her a cottage, a one-room cottage, and she had everything that she had, piled into that one room,

and the cats running over it to keep the mice and the rats away, but the cats were so filthy that she didn't want to be around them and she lived there.

And finally, Mother D got so she wouldn't put any more money in, and Mrs. Scott wouldn't. And she still stayed there, and finally, one day I got a letter from her asking me to come down to see her. She said that I mustn't refuse her. She called my attention to all the things that Sister White had said about what she should do in looking to me for advice and counsel.

Well, Mother D didn't want to be told, but I said, "Now, the Lord's been so good to me, I've got to be good to other people, and I can't turn her down."

So finally, I got Mother D to go with me and see what in the world was wrong. And we got down there and we found that the old lady was in a dying condition, and there wasn't anything to do but to relieve her.

And she said, "I want to go to Madison."

She had put all of that property out of her own hands and willed it to the general conference, all of her property at Reeves and Dahlonga—everything that she owned, she'd made a will and turned it all over to the general conference in the case of her death. I didn't know anything about it. But she didn't leave a thing for Madison, not a blessed thing.

And we brought her up to the sanitarium, put her in the room, put a nurse on with her. She was there for a few days and began to pick up a little. And then, she called me in and told me what she had done. She'd been ugly and she'd been rebellious and that she had hated the very sight of me because the Lord had told her what to do and she hadn't done it. She'd got to hating me. She didn't want a thing to do with Madison or with me.

And she said that now she'd come up there and she'd confessed these things and she'd repented. And she wanted me to go down to Florence, Alabama, to a bank and get that will and bring it up to her, and she wanted to turn it all over to me.

I said, "No. I don't want to take the general conference money. That would be terrible for me if it ever got out that I took their property. Can't afford to jeopardize my reputation with the general conference, which isn't any too good, for what you've got."

"Well," she said, "I'm going to do something."

"Well," I said, "I'll be glad to help you."

"Well," she says, "I'm not going to live but a little while. I know I'm going to die."

She says, "The Lord has made that very clear to me, and that I've got to clean up and straighten up things. I've got to do it or I'll never get to Heaven."

And she said, "Now, I want you to help me now to get everything out of the way so that I'll not be afraid to die. I've been afraid to die. I've had a mean spirit in me. I'd do anything except to do what Sister White told me to do."

Well, she insisted that everything should be turned over to me.

I said, "No. I'll tell you what I *would* advise you to do. If you want this property now to be used as Sister White told you to use it in the beginning, the nearest I can come to it would be to turn it over to the Layman Foundation. And don't give it to me personally but turn it over to them."

"Why," she says, "I'll do whatever you tell me to do."

So, I got Sister Scott in there and Mrs. Druillard, and we talked it over. It was finally decided to do that. And then, we got Mrs. Simms out and didn't make any will. We just made a transfer, you understand, just for a dollar, I think. She sold everything to the Layman Foundation. Did it in a legal way and transferred all of her property.

Well, of course, then there wasn't anything left for the general conference...

[Audio ended in progress.]

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