

# Elder Tindall's Letter to Elder W.C. White

## Introducing the Call and Need for Field Training Schools

May 25, 1931  
Elder W. C. White  
St. Helena, California

Dear Elder White:

As a preface to the material herewith attached, concerning the Call and Need for Field training schools in gospel medical evangelism, I want to submit some thoughts on the establishment of Loma Linda and its purpose, which have a bearing on our school and its work. Loma Linda was to prepare teachers for "many lines of work." Some of these lines of work would be as follows:

1. "Medical Evangelists," "thousands" who were to receive a shorter medical training than the physician who entered the practice of medicine. These "thousands" were to join the ministerial laborers in the field.
2. "Physicians," a "limited number" who would take the state board examinations, head our institutions, and supervise the medical work in the field.
3. "Nurses."
4. "Missionary Nurses."
5. "Bible workers."
6. "Ministerial laborers."
7. "Teachers for 'other schools.'"

Now it seems to me that there was a definite call to Loma Linda to train these various workers. All the way through the messages pertaining to Loma Linda, and also in the correspondence from the men in charge there, the sentiments that prevailed were that this institution was to be an educational center, not only to train doctors and nurses, but large numbers of medical evangelists in addition to these, Bible workers and ministerial laborers.

See page 28 of the abridged edition of *Loma Linda Messages*, paragraph 3: "There has been given me an outline of the work that must be done at Loma Linda, and I know that we must give to that place our best labors. The Lord wants the wisest talent there, for by means of our very best educational talent we are to train our ministerial laborers. The work is to be carried after the Lord's order, and not according to the suppositions of men."

Now according to this statement does not this indicate one of two things, either that ministers were to go to Loma Linda and receive a training or the workers from Loma Linda should train the ministers in medical evangelism in the field; or possibly these "ministerial laborers" were to be these "medical evangelists" as they were to go out in the soul winning work?

Page 63 abridged edition, "Evangelistic work must receive first attention and it is to be intelligently carried forward in all lines of work."

In looking over the large edition of LLM [*Loma Linda Messages*], I notice on pages 906-907 that this very question that I raise here was raised by a committee consisting of Elders I.H. Evans, E.E. Andross, and H.W. Cottrell. These men asked the question as to who and what were to be taught at Loma Linda. Whether it was to be a school for the training of our regular workers, ministers, missionary nurses, medical evangelists, etc., or whether it was to be a medical college that would train in addition to those

just mentioned, physicians who could take the state board examinations.

Now it seems to me, Elder White, that from that time forth the brethren seemed to grasp the idea of a medical college, with the thought in mind of training physicians who could take state board examinations and the matter of medical evangelism was gradually and systematically overlooked and lost sight of in the endeavor to take the great burden of promoting a medical college which would be able to qualify the graduates to meet state board examination. Even though the school was to be made especially strong in regard to "physicians and nurses," that statement must be considered in the light of all that was said concerning medical evangelism, because we were told specifically that "many" even "thousands" should be trained as medical evangelists and "some" or as Elder Burden puts it "a few" "a limited number" would be fully qualified physicians.

These "thousands" would not have to take all the subjects that the physicians were to take who expected to practice medicine. Nevertheless they were to be considered by the Lord as "having all the ability of physicians" but "to labor not as physicians."

Now therefore it seems to me that Loma Linda is not fully meeting the purpose God had in mind. The call for a "few," a limited number of physicians, has been made the big thing, the whole thing, and today there are no "medical evangelists' being trained there, no "Bible workers" no "ministerial laborers" are being trained there nor by their graduates in the field, save perhaps a few places in the mission field and in the Field Training School of San Francisco.

On another page after quoting the statement that teachers should go from Loma Linda to teach in "other schools" and should be "mission-

aries to other states, " I am also giving you a quotation to show that there should be in our large cities, city "missions" which were to be not only the ordinary type of missions, but "medical missions" as well. That "companies" should be organized and trained most thoroughly in gospel medical evangelism with special reference to the large cities.

Now when we quote the statements to be found on another page, about these "teachers" and these "other schools, " are we not correct in quoting them as applying not only to our sanitariums but field training schools because the call was for the training of city workers in the city fields.

Another point which seems to me to be of great importance and that is the graduates of Loma Linda were to be loyal to health reform. This was stressed in the following plain language [in *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 177], "That which is of the most importance is that the students be taught how to represent aright the principles of health reform. Teach them to pursue this line of study faithfully, combined with other essential lines of education." Then these graduates, physicians, and others were to go everywhere by the "thousands" and head our institutions, teach in our schools, and join the ministerial forces in the field.

Thus God had a wonderful plan to bring the reformation of health reform, not only to our own people, but to the world through a plan of education. This plan has largely been defeated because of the reasons above set forth. This to me is one of the primary objects for the establishment of the College of Medical Evangelists.

I trust that the following information will be of some service to you in answer to the communication of Elder Watson.

Very sincerely,  
(Signed) J.H.N. Tindall