

The Call and Need for Field Training Schools

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The Call

A great mistake has been made in neglecting the work in the cities. For every year's delay there have been lost opportunities. Although a few places have been entered, many centers should be established where there would be employed hundreds of workers. In every city there should be a city mission that would be a training school for workers. Many of our brethren must stand condemned in the sight of God, because they have not done the very work that God would have them do.—Letter B 56, 1910

A well-balanced work can be carried on best when a training-school for Bible workers is in progress. While the public meetings are being held, connected with this training school or city mission should be experienced laborers of deep spiritual understanding who can give the Bible workers daily instruction and who can also unite wholeheartedly in the general public effort being put forth. And as men and women are converted to the truth, those standing at the head of the city missions should with much prayer show these new converts how to experience the power of the truth in their lives. This united effort on the part of all the worker g would be as a nail driven in a sure place.—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, 111, 112

Intemperance has filled our world, and medical missions should be established in every city, by this I do not mean that expensive institutions should be established, calling for a large outlay of means, These missions are to be conducted in such a way that they will not be a heavy drain on the cause; and their work is to prepare the way for the establishment of present truth. Medical Missionary work should have its representative in every place in connection with the establishment of our churches. The relief of bodily suffering opens the way for the healing of the sinsick soul. This is the work that will need to be

established in the southern field. Let our people awake to the importance of this work.—MS. 88, 1902

Medical missionary work must have its representatives in our cities. Centers must be made and missions established on right lines. Ministers of the gospel are to unite with the medical missionary work, which has ever been presented to me as the work which is to break down the prejudice which exists in our world against the truth.—*Medical Ministry*, 241

The faithful evangelist today will do a similar work in every city where our missionaries enter. It is a work which to some extent we have tried to do in connection with some of our sanitariums, but a much wider experience in these lines is to be gained. Can not our Conference presidents open the way for the students in our schools to engage in this line of labor? Again and again it has been presented to me that "there should be companies organized, and educated most thoroughly to work as nurses, as evangelist, as ministers, as canvassers, as gospel students, to perfect a character after the divine similitude."

There is a grand work to be done in relieving suffering humanity, and through the labors of students who are receiving an education and training to become efficient medical missionaries, the people living in many cities may become acquainted with the truths of the third angel's message. Consecrated leaders and teachers of experience should go out with these young workers, at first, giving them instruction how to labor.

—*Loma Linda Messages*, 357

An Appeal for Labor in the Cities

During the night of February 27, a representation was given me in which the unworked cities were represented before me as a living reality, and I was plainly instructed that there

should be a decided change from past methods of working. For months the situation has been impressed on my mind, and I urge that companies be organized and diligently trained to labor in our important cities. These workers should labor two and two, and from time to time all should meet together to relate their experiences, to pray, and to plan how to reach the people quickly, and thus if possible redeem the time.—*Paulson Collection, 69*

At Loma Linda many can be educated to work as missionaries in the cause of health and temperance. Teachers are to be prepared for many lines of work. Schools are to be established in places where as yet no efforts have been made. Missionaries are to go to other states where little work has been done. The work of promulgating the principles of health reform must be accomplished. God help us as a people to be wise.—*Testimonies, vol. 9 177*

The very same reasons that were given for the removal of the old Battle Creek College from Battle Creek, should now lead our brethren to decide to train in other places the youth who now expect to prepare themselves for medical missionary work. Those who expect to become medical missionary workers must be thoroughly educated in Bible lines. They should have the very best spiritual advantages, in order that they may be fitted to teach and to train others.

My brother, I am surprised that you are found asleep on this point. I declare unto you, in the name of the Lord, that the arrangements being made for the training of medical missionaries in Battle Creek are not right. A great work is to be done in a short time, and God forbids that we should encourage so many of our youth to bind themselves up for three, or four, or six years of training, before engaging in active work. Men and women should gain an education by working along practical lines in different places, in accordance with the light that God has given, and under the instruction of experienced leaders.—*Loma Linda Messages, 62*

The students at Loma Linda are seeking for an education that is after the Lord's order, an education that will help them to develop into successful teachers and laborers for others. When their education there is completed, they should be able to go forth and join the intelligent workers in the world's great harvest fields who are carrying forward the work of reform that is to prepare a people to stand in the day of Christ's coming.—*Loma Linda Messages, 581*

[This instruction was given to Loma Linda as a place to fit up the workers who in turn would "teach and train others." In other words Loma Linda was to furnish teachers for other schools. No doubt many of these teachers were to teach in our sanitarium schools, but field work is called for also where companies were to be "organized," "educated," and "trained," and it is a different kind of training than could be obtained in our other schools, for it is a field training.]

Workers—gospel medical missionaries—are needed now. You cannot afford to spend years in preparation. Soon doors now open to the truth will be forever closed. Carry the message now. Do not wait, allowing the enemy to take possession of the fields now open before you.—*Testimonies, vol. 9, 172*

So great are the world's needs, that not all who are called to be medical missionary evangelists can afford to spend years in preparation before beginning to do actual field work.—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 469*

In all fields, nigh and afar off, men will be called from the plow and from the more common commercial business vocations that largely occupy the mind, and will be educated in connection with men of experience. As they learn to labor effectively they will proclaim the truth with power.—*Testimonies, vol. 9, 96*

In every large city there should be corps of organized, well-disciplined workers; not merely one or two, but scores should be set to work. But

the perplexing question is yet unsolved, how they will be sustained.

I have been shown that in our labor for the enlightenment of the people in the large cities the work has not been as well organized or the methods of labor as efficient as in other churches that have not the great light we regard as so essential. Why is this? Because so many of our laborers have been those who love to preach (and many who were not thoroughly qualified to preach were set at work), and a large share of the labor has been put forth in preaching.

More attention should be given to training and educating missionaries with a special reference to work in the cities. Each company of workers should be under the direction of a competent leader, and it should ever be kept before them that they are to be missionaries in the highest sense of the term. Such systematic labor, wisely conducted, would produce blessed results.

Something has been done in this line, but too frequently the work has dwindled down, and nothing permanent has been accomplished. There is need now of earnest labor. The young men who go forth in the employ of the General Conference are to understand that they are not merely to preach, but to minister, to act like men who are weighted with solemn responsibility to seek and to save that which is lost.

It should not be the object of the laborer to present a large list of sermons he has preached, but what has he done in the work of saving souls, of training workers? This requires earnest labor in personal effort. It requires that the workers shall be often with God in earnest prayer, and that they seek wisdom through diligent searching of the Scriptures.—*Medical Ministry*, 300, 301

There is work to be done in California, a work that has been strangely neglected. Let this work be delayed no longer. As doors open for the presentation of truth, let us be ready to enter. Some work has been done in the large city of San Francisco, but as we study the field we see plainly

that only a beginning has been made. As soon as possible, well-organized efforts should be put forth in different sections of this city and also in Oakland. The wickedness of San Francisco is not realized. Our work in this city must broaden and deepen. God sees in it many souls to be saved.

In San Francisco a hygienic restaurant has been opened, also a food store and treatment rooms. These are doing a good work, but their influence should be greatly extended. Other restaurants similar to the one on Market Street should be opened in San Francisco and in Oakland. Concerning the effort that is now being made in these lines we can say: Amen and amen. And soon other lines of work that will be a blessing to the people will be established. Medical missionary evangelistic work should be carried forward in a most prudent and thorough manner. The solemn, sacred work of saving souls is to advance in a way that is modest and yet ever elevated.—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, 110

During the past few years, the "beehive" in San Francisco has been indeed a busy one. Many lines of Christian effort have been carried forward by our brethren and sisters there. These included visiting the sick and destitute, finding homes for orphans, and work for the unemployed; nursing the sick, and teaching the truth from house to house; the distribution of literature, and the conducting of classes on healthful living and the care of the sick. A school for the children has been conducted in the basement of the Laguna Street meeting-house. For a time a working men's home and medical mission was maintained. On Market Street, near the city hall, there were treatment rooms, operated as a branch of the St. Helena Sanitarium. In the same locality was a health food store. Nearer the center of the city, not far from the Call building, was conducted a vegetarian cafe, which was open six days in the week, and entirely closed on the Sabbath. Along the water front, ship mission work was carried on. At various times our ministers conducted meetings in large halls in the city.

Thus the warning message was given by many.
—*Review and Herald*, July 5, 1906

At that time, I dreamed that I saw two beehives, one in San Francisco and one in Oakland. In the hive in Oakland, the bees were diligently at work. Then I looked at the hive in San Francisco, and saw very little being done. The hive in Oakland seemed to be far the more promising. After a time my attention was again called to the hive in San Francisco, and I saw that an entire change had taken place. Great activity was seen among the bees. They were earnestly at work.

The Need for Field Training Schools and the Relationship to Other Schools

It is recognized that God has specifically pointed out our regular schools and given them their work. He has also pointed out very definitely the work of the College of Medical Evangelists. Gospel Medical missionary evangelists were to make tours out from Loma Linda into the surrounding towns. He has furthermore spoken of our sanitariums as training schools. The nurses were to be fitted up to go out as medical missionary evangelists. The schools and sanitariums were to be located near each other whenever possible in order that they may obtain a combined training in gospel-medical evangelism.

But we believe the instruction of the Lord calls also for Field Training Schools—where Bible classes would be held giving daily instruction, where medical missions were to be conducted, treatments were to be taught and given, cooking classes were to be conducted—a combined training of how to present the health phase of our message before public audiences by not only physicians but ministers of the gospel.

Many student workers and laymen were to be given a short, intensive training in the various lines of gospel-medical city work. In view of all this, in view of the needs of our ministers receiving a sufficient training to enable them to go out as gospel-medical missionary evangelists, and in view of the fact that no course is given to meet

When I related this dream, it was interpreted to mean that in San Francisco there was a great work to be done....

And the Lord revealed to us that although at first the work in San Francisco would move slowly, yet it would make steady advancement, and San Francisco would become a great center. The Lord would inspire men by his Holy Spirit to carry forward the work with faith and courage and perseverance.—*Review and Herald*, July 5, 1906

this need in any of our regular schools, sanitariums, or the College of Medical Evangelists, and in view of the fact that if they did they could not train them for city work without a city training and a combined training, it seems to us that there is a place for Field Training Schools.

It has been the experience of those longest in this work to note that our nurses who come to the city are not trained in the psychology of soul winning, but few are able to give efficient Bible studies.

Our physicians are not public lecturers; their training is along technical lines, they need a training in public lecture work as well as in soul winning. The minister already in the field cannot be expected to take the regular three-year nurses course or the six-years physicians course, yet he is instructed to obtain a short intensive training and be prepared to do gospel-medical missionary work. Where in the present plan is he to obtain that instruction and training?

Nor is this all. The students from our regular schools are to come from the colleges and enter a city company, and there be trained and educated. The canvassers are also to receive a training in gospel-medical missionary work. Laymen, mature young men and women, are to receive a short intensive training in medical missionary work.

The students in our regular college course not only do not receive complete field training in large city evangelism but their course does not provide, generally speaking, for gospel-medical evangelism.

They need further work along medical and health lines, supplementing their former education before they are able to do the work called for in gospel medical evangelism. Where is such a course being provided today? Loma Linda does not have such a course, they tried the one-year and the two-year courses in gospel medical evangelism, but their curriculum does not provide for that now. Those who have taken this course those and who have had years of experi-

ence in large city work realize that physicians at the college, with no training in large city gospel medical evangelism, are incapable of giving them the course they need. Even the strictly scientific work taught by them is sometimes so technical that the average layman or minister with no preparation cannot grasp and organize the material in a practical way adapted to the needs of the public.

Under these circumstances, and in view of the many messages of the servant of the Lord calling for this gospel medical evangelism, is there not a place in our system for such schools as the Field Training School of San Francisco?