



STEWARDSHIP AND CHURCH GROWTH

A WORKSHOP MANUEL

CENTRAL PAPUA CONFERENCE OF THE SEVENTH -DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

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AN INTRODUCTION

The purpose of these notes on Stewardship and Church Growth in our Ministry and Local Church leadership may be directed in understanding the length, breadth and depth of Stewardship.

Further it is purposed that through this clearer perception of the meaning and value of faithful stewardship a people will be prepared for a Revival and Reformation which is our church greatest and most urgent need. The church will also be prepared for TMI.

The sin of the Laodicean church are materialism, selfishness, covetousness and pride. These sins are preventing the character of Christ to be manifested in the membership of the Remanent church. They are greatly hindering the growth and development of the church. They are causing the former and Latter Rain to be withheld by God.

These sins must be eliminated from amongst us that the gospel may go into all the world. This will be accomplished rapidly when we respond to the call to faithful stewardship and truly reflect the character of Jesus Christ our Lord and Master.

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This Manuel has been tailored to meet the needs of the Central Papua Conference.

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STEWARDSHIP AND CHURCH GROWTH MANUEL

Definition -Stewardship is the management of that which belongs to another.

EVERY PERSON IS A STEWARD OF GOD

Every person becomes a steward of God at birth and lives on until death. He may be a good person or a bad one-He may go to church every Sabbath, or might not be a Christian –but he is still a steward, man was never given the position of owner, neither can he be. What God creates, He owns.

THE MEANING OF STEWARDSHIP

1. Psalms 24:1-12 -God owns all
2. Psalms 50:10 -The beast of the field, the cattle on a thousand hills are the Lords.
3. Haggai 2:8 -God said, Silver and Gold is mine .He owns it all
4. 1 Corinthian 6:19, 20 -We are not our own, we have be bought with a price
5. Psalms 49:16-20 -Good news for modern man

Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; for when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him. Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself.He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light. Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish. (KJV)

Note: When we were born, we owned nothing .Though we grow up and become rich .when we die, we can take nothing with us

6. When we are on this earth we are called to be stewards of what God owns.

Genesis 1:28 - And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

NOTE: The first sermon that was preached by God in creation was “Stewardship”

OF WHAT ARE WE STEWARDS?

1. TIME -Psalms 90:10
2. TALENT -Matthew 25:14-15
3. BODY -Genesis 2:7/1 Corinthian 6:19-20
4. TREASURES -Haggai 2:8 Proverbs 3:9

STEWARDS OF OUR TIME

- A. The first thing that God created on the was light
- a. Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. With light came time.

According to the order of creation, light comes first which helps us to see how God values the management of time.

Genesis 1:5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

In God's calendar, a day begins at sunset and ends at sunset. In man's calendar a day begins at 12:00 midnight and ends at midnight.

God created time and only God has the authority to set the boundaries of time.

- B. Every person has an equal allocation of time. We each have 24 hours in a day. The rich man has 24 hours; The poor man also has 24 hours. How they use the time separates them.
- C. To remind us of the importance of time and to point us to the Creator, God claims one day out of the seven days of the week. The hours of the Sabbath are holy .The hours belong to God and must not be used by humans in a way they choose, but only as God directs.

D. As faithful stewards we will jealously Guard the Edges of the Sabbath.

See Testimonies Vol. 6: P. 354 – 7

“Before the setting of the sun let the members of the family assemble to read God's word, to sing and pray” Let the children take a part, let all bring their Bibles and each read a verse or two, then let some familiar hymn be sung, followed by prayer..... In simple petition tell the Lord your needs and express gratitude for His mercies. Thus you invite Jesus as Welcome guest into your home and heart.”

HOW TO BEGIN THE SABBATH

Before the setting of the sun let the members of the family assemble to read God's word, to sing and to pray" Let the children take a part, let all bring their Bibles and each read a verse or two, then let some familiar hymn be sung, followed by prayer..... In simple petition tell the Lord your needs and express gratitude for His mercies. Thus you invite Jesus as welcome guest into your home and heart".

HOW TO CLOSE THE SABBATH

"Amos 8:5 – Good news" – "You say to yourselves, "we can hardly wait for the holy days to be over so that we can sell our corns. When will the Sabbath end, so that we can start selling again? Then we can over charge, use false measures, and temper with the scales to cheat our customers."

"As the sun goes down, let the voice..... of praise mark the close of the sacred hours and invite God's presence through the cares of the week of labour." Thus the parents can make the Sabbath as it should be, the most joyful day of the week. They can lead their children to regard it as a delightful, the days of days, holy of the Lord honourable. Testimonies Vol. 6 p. 359.

NOTE: We should jealously guard the edges of the Sabbath School. Remember that every moment is consecrated holy time.

We should set a right example in Sabbath Observance

The importance of right example – T. Vol. 6 p. 352, 353.

"The true Sabbath is to be exalted to its rightful position as God's rest day. In the fifty eight chapter of Isaiah is outlined the work which God's people are to do."

"God has called us to uplift the standard of His down trodden Sabbath. How important that our example in Sabbath keeping should be right.

In establishing new churches, ministers should give careful instruction as to the proper observance of the Sabbath.

"MINISTERS OF GODS PEOPLE"

"The example of ministers especially should be careful in the keeping of the Sabbath.

Ministers of Jesus should stand as reprovers to those who fail to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. They should kindly and earnestly reprove those who busy in worldly talking on the Sabbath and the same time claim to keep the Sabbath. The Ministers should encourage devotion to God on His Holy day. T. Vol.2 p. 703, 704.

PHYSICIAN: (Doctors or Nurses) right example of Sabbath keeping

"Often physicians and nurses are called upon during the Sabbath to minister to the sick, and sometimes it is hard for them to take time for rest and for attending Church services. The needs of caring for the suffering humanity are never to be neglected. Jesus by His example, has shown us that it is right to relieve suffering on the Sabbath. But necessary work, such as ordinary treatments

and operations that can be post-poned, should be put off. Let the patient understand that doctors and nurses should have one day of rest.

The educators and those gain Medical Training in our medical schools should remember that to keep the Sabbath aright means such to them and to the patron. In keeping the Sabbath, which God declares shall be kept holy; they give the signs of their order, showing plainly that they are on the Lords side.

All our medical schools are established as Seventh-day Adventist Schools to represent the different parts of the gospel medical missionary work and thus to prepared the way for the coming of the Lord. We are to show that we are seeking to work in harmony with heaven. T. Vol. 7 p. 106.

LEADERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

-right example of Sabbath Keeping.

“It is our work to lead the people to understand this..... God has called us to uplift the standard of His down trodden Sabbath. How important, then, that our example in Sabbath Keeping should be right. T. Vol. 6 p. 352 – 353.

Those who are not fully converted to the truth often let their minds run freely upon worldly business, and although they may rest from their work on the Sabbath, their tongues speaks out what is in their minds;..... these words concerning cattle, crops, losses and gains. All this is Sabbath breaking. If the mind is running upon worldly matters, the tongue will reveal it; for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. T. Vol. 2 page 703.

“No one should feel he’s free to spend the Holy Time in an unprofitable manner. God is not pleased about, Sabbath keep to sleep during much of the Sabbath. They dishonour their Creator in doing so and by their example say that the six days are too precious for them to spend in resting. They must make money, although it be by robbing themselves of needed sleep, which they make up by sleeping away holy time. They then excuse themselves by saying: “The Sabbath was given for a day of rest. I will not deprive myself of rest to attend meetings, for I need rest. Such make a wrong use of the holy Sabbath day..... All heaven was represented to me as beholding and watching upon the Sabbath those who acknowledge the claims of the fourth Commandment and are observing the Sabbath.

Angels were marking their interest in and high regard for, this divine institution. Those who sanctified the Lord God in their hearts by a strictly devotional frame of mind, and who sought to improve the sacred hours in keeping the Sabbath to the best of their ability, and to honour God by calling the Sabbath. A delight – these the angels were specially blessing with light and health, and special strength was given them. But on the other hand, the angels were turning from those who failed to appreciate the sacredness of God’s Holy day, and were removing from them their light and their strength. I saw them over shadowed with a cloud, desponding, and frequently sad. They felt a lack of the spirit of God. T. Vol. 2 p. 703 -704.

THE PREPARATION DAY

(Friday) a special time to get ready for Sabbath.

“On Friday let the preparation for the Sabbath be completed. See that all the clothing is readiness, and that all the cooking is done. Let boots (Shoes) be polished, and the baths be taken. It is possible to do this if you make it a rule, you can do it. The Sabbath is not to be given to the repairing of garments, to the cooking of food, to pleasure seeking or to any other worldly employments. “Child Guidance p. 528.

“Before the setting of the sun, let all secular work be laid aside, and all secular papers be put out of sight. Parents explain your work and its purpose to your children, and let them share in your preparation to keep the Sabbath according to the commandment. There is another work that should receive attention on the preparation day, on this day all difference between brethren, whether in the family or in the church should be put away.” “Child Guidance p. 528.”

“Every week during their long journey in the wilderness of the children of Israel witnessed a threefold miracle, designed to impress their minds with the sacredness of the Sabbath, a double quantity of manna fell on the sixth day, none on the Sabbath, and the part needed for the Sabbath was preserved sweet and purer when if any were kept over at any other time it became unfit for use. (Our food be made ready for the Sabbath)” “Patriarchs and Prophets,” P. 296.

“When the day’s work on Friday should be planned in reference to the Sabbath of the Lord, there is Satan working with those children of disobedience to prolong the services into the holy hours and give their orders that those under their direction shall do work on the Sabbath and make Satan rejoice and wins.

MAKE PROPER USE OF OUR TIME

“The average man works eight hours a day, sleeps about eight hours, and has about eight extra hours in which he can find time to do many things that could help forward the cause of Christ. It is as much a sin to waste time as it is to waste money.

Time is something every man has. It is part of his intangible wealth. He must be a faithful steward of time if he wants to please God?

Use your time well while in this world.

“Our time belongs to God, every moment is His, and we are under the most serious obligations to improve it to His glory. Of no talents He has given will He require a more strict account than our time.”

“Life is too short to be trifle away. We have but a few days of probation in which to prepare for eternity. We have no time to waste, no time to devote to selfish pleasure, no time for the indulgence of sin. It is now that we form characters for the future immortal life. It is now that we are to prepare for the searching judgement. We are admonished to redeem the time. But time spend foolishly and waste, can never be recovered. We cannot call back even one moment. The only way in which we can redeem our time is by making the most of that which remains, by being Co-workers with God in His great plan of redemption”. “Christ Object Lesson.” Page 342.

LEARN TO ECONOMIZE TIME IN WORK

NOTE:

The believer can't get away with wasting his time either. God doesn't prosper the Christians who will pray diligently for prosperity and then sit in their chairs or house waiting for God to deliver it.

Time is our most wasted treasure. If only Christian could see its precious nature.

It is our chief resource.

"A firm purpose, industries that last long, and careful economy of time, will enable men to get knowledge and mental training will qualify them for almost any position of influence and usefulness." C.O.L. p. 344.

"Whatever the line of work in which we engage, the word of God teaches us to be

"Work hard and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with the heart full of devotion."

Work hard at whatever you do, because there will be no action, no thought, no knowledge, no wisdom in the world of the dead – and that is where you are going."

Remember that the Lord will give you as a reward what he has kept for His people.

For Christ is the real master you serve." Romans 12: 11, Ecc 9:10, Col. 3:24.

"Men are wanted..... Men will be just, faithful and exact, careful and delight in their work, in the absence of their masters as in his presence, proving by their faithfulness that they are not merely men – Pleasures, eye servant, but are careful to do what one knows is right, faithful true workmen, not to get praise from men, but because they love and choose the right from a high sense of their obligation to God." C.G. p. 153.

USE YOUR TIME WISELY: - To improve your abilities.

"Upon the right improvement of our time depends our success in getting knowledge and mental culture..... Only let the moment be treasured. A few moment here and few there, that might wasted away in aimless talk, the morning hours so often wasted in bed; The time spent in travelling on trains, buses, ships or aeroplane, or waiting for those who are behind in time in keeping appointment or the moment waiting for meals. If a book were kept at hand, and these fragments of time were improve in study reading, or careful thought what might not be accomplished." C.O.L. P.343 – 344

OFFER GOD SOME OF YOUR TIME: - for direct relationship with men.

"Men should remember that God made a controls time. He placed humanity under a two-fold test:-

First – Mankind must spent part of the six days working for God in exercising dominion.

Second – Man was not to work at all on God's day, His sacred time. Man's acceptance and yielding himself with the plans showed that he knows God as time only source and owner.

"God claim the time, the Sabbath as belongs to him, which is why He has restricted the ways we may use it. All activities done on the Sabbath should be those that will meet His approval. When you have kept the Sabbath, you have not given God only time. Sabbath time is yours in the first place. It is God's holy day. To offer God a gift of time you must take it from the other six days."

PERSONAL DEVOTION

Suggest one hour each day. "It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great Sacrifice, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit." D.A. p. 83

FAMILY WORSHIP

Morning and Evening.

"The father is the Priest of the house hold, laying upon the alter the morning and evening sacrifice. But the wife and children should unite in prayer, and join in songs of praise. In the morning before he leaves home for his daily labour, let the father gather his children about him and bowing before God, commit them to the care of the father in heaven. When the cares of the days are past, let the family unite in offering grateful prayer and raising song of praise, in acknowledge of divine care during the day.

Fathers and mothers, however pressing your business, do not fail to gather your family around Gods alter. Ask for guardianship of Holy angels in your home. M.H. page 391 – 392.

"If any person in the world needs the strength and the encouragement that religion gives, it is those who are responsible for the education and training of children.

Father and mothers, you need to seek God, morning and evening at the family alter.

That you may learn how to teach your children wisely, tenderly lovingly.

If there was a time when every home should be a house of prayer, it is now and yet in this time of fearful peril, some who profess to be Christian have no family worship.

They do not honour God in their home. They do not teach their children to love and fear Him" C.G. p. 517.

MID WEEK PRAYER MEETING

"There is a great need for diligence in prayer. Let nothing stop you, Make every effort to keep open the communion between Jesus and your own soul. Seek every opportunity to o where prayer is want to be made. Those who are really seeking communion with God will be seen in prayer meetings, faithful to do their duty and earnest and anxious to reap all the benefits they can gain. They will improve every opportunity of placing themselves where they can receive the rays of light from heaven. S.C. p. 98. 4T 461. 2T 577 – 9. 6T 175.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES - Departmental Leadership in the Church.

If you are appointed Sabbath School or Lay Activity, or Youth Leader or any other leadership in the Church, you should give time during the week to thoroughly prepare your programme, before is carry out in the Church.

CHURCH WORKING BEE-

Is also is also part of the Church activities in your Church.

WITNESSING FOR CHRIST (Way of life)

The gospel of Jesus Christ must be preached to everyone, every person that has been born into Christ has been born into Christ has been born to be a Missionary to be a Witness of the power, the

love, the faith of Jesus that he /she has in his or her own life. It must be a part of his life. There are many things we can do to witness for Jesus.

VISITATION

Mark 6: 34 And Jesus when He came out, saw much people and was moved with compassion toward them because they were as sheep not having a shepherd, and He began to teach them any things.

As followers of Jesus, we ought to come out from our villages, our homes, our business, our school, our offices and find people to lead the to know Jesus better.

GIVING OUT PAPERS

Signs of the times magazines
English and Pidgin Tracts
Bible Lessons
Bible Says Lessons
Bible I Tok Lessons
V.O.P. Cards

BIBLE STUDIES – Cottage meeting

“The work is to commence quietly without noise or trumpeting. It is commence by giving Bible Reading and thus teaching the people. The plan will far more efficient then with sermons.” EV. P. 445

“The plan of holding Bible reading was a heaven born idea. There are many both men and women who can engage in this branch of Missionary work.” G.W. p. 192.

ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICE – Welfare work or Dorcas Societies

“In Joppa there was a Dorcas, whose skilful fingers were more active then her tongue. She knew who needed comfortable clothing and who needed sympathy, and she freely ministered to the wants of both classes. And when Dorcas died, the Church in Joppa realized their loss. It is no wonder that they mourned and cry, nor did that warm tear drops fall upon the inanimate clay. She was of so great value that by the power of God she was brought back to life, that her skill and energy might still be a blessing to others. Such patient, prayerful, and preserving fidelity as was possessed by these saints of God is few, yet the Church cannot prosper without it. It is needed in the Church, in the Sabbath School, and in Society.”

How true it is, that there should be a large number of women engage in the work of suffering humanity, uplifting, teaching them how to simply believe in Jesus Christ our Saviour. T. 5 Page 304.

“The Lord has a work for women as well as for men..... They can do in families a work that men cannot do, a work that reaches the inner life. They can come close to the hearts of those whom men cannot reach. Their labour is needed.”

We greatly need consecrated women who as messengers of mercy, will visit the mothers and the children in their homes and help them in their everyday house hold duties, if need be, before beginning to talk to them regarding the truth for this time. You will find that by this method you will have souls as a result of your ministry." "Welfare Ministry. P. 145 – 146."

"First meet the temporal necessities of the needy and relieve their physical wants and sufferings, and you will find an open avenue to the heart, where you may plant the good seeds of virtue and religion." W.M. p. 87.

BRANCH SABBATH SCHOOL EVANGELISM:

"The Lord desires that those who are engage in the Sabbath School work should be Missionaries, able to go for the to the towns, and villages, that surround the Church." C.S.S.W. p. 74.

LAYMEN'S PUBLIC EVANGELISM:

Note: Without evangelism in the pulpit, there will be little evangelism in the pew. When the Church sees and feels the soul winning mind and spirit of their Pastor, it will move. The Pastor's burning love for souls will set fire in the hearts of His members."

"To save souls be the life work of everyone who professes Christ. We are debtors to the world for the grace given us of God, for the light which has shown upon us, and for the discovered beauty and power of the truth." T.4 page 53.

Note: "Our Laymen must get up and preach the message of the soon coming King. God is calling our Laymen to be preachers."

"God will move upon men in humble positions to declare the message of present truth. Many such will be seen hastening here and there constrained by the spirit of God to give the light to those in darkness. The truth is as a fire in their bones, filling them with a burning desire to enlighten those who are still in darkness." 7T. 26, 27.

"In obedience to the great commission, many will go forth to work for the master. Under the ministrations of angels, common men will be moved by the spirit of God to warn people in the high ways and by ways. They are to be strengthened and encourage, and as fast as possible prepared for labour that success may crown their efforts." Sowing Beside All Waters p. 72.

VOICE OF YOUTH

"The Messenger of the Lord says – "The Church is languishing (growing weak) for the help of young men who will bear a courageous testimony – (Talk strong about our Lord), who with their ardent Zeal (godly strength), stir up the sluggish (tire) energies of God's people and so increase the power of the Church in the world." M.Y.P. p. 25.

FRIENDSHIP TEAMS:

Youth share their faith going two by two showing kindness and Christian love and inviting their friends to attend evangelistic meetings – Youth club, Pathfinder Clubs – Church Socials and the like. This is one of the simplest methods and yet world figures show that it is the most effective in soul winning.

YOUTH BIBLE SCHOOL EVANGELISM

In this plan a youth is encourage to form a group in a village where he can guide the young through a sires of Bible studies. He could encourage His interest to do the Bible correspondence Course assisting in filling out the questions.

YOUTH RALLIES:

Gather the youth of your district to a week-end rally sometimes. Talk about it and make plans, and arouse the youth to join in a soul-winning programme. Experience has proved that such a meeting is vital. A full day dedicated to evangelism by youth will be well received and will greatly increase your district baptisms.

“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen and soon coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world.” M. Y. P 196.

INGATHERING – Appeal for Missions-

“Give your time to this challenging programme, is not to ask only for money but to look for souls who are longing for light and life. When we ask people for donation we are helping them to become like God in the Spirit of love and giving.

We are teaching them to become rich in the blessings of God.

LETTER WRITING BAND

“Is a very effective method in reaching a person who has been weak spiritually, or backslidden from the Church? Letter writing band, has helped a lot of people to come to know Christ, better. Many people have taken their stand for Jesus and His truth.

FIVE DAYS PLAN TO STOP SMOKING

Further information on this another effective programme can be obtain from the Health and Temperance Department, but we must give our times to it, in implementing it to each individual persons to help them overcome the evil habits of smoking.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TALENTS – ABILITIES

Note: An ability is a special skill of the mind or body. We sometimes call this skill talents. We all have the talent, or ability to talk, to love, and to worship God.

“God has given men talent – an interest to originate, a heart to be placed of His throne, affection to flow out in blessing to others, a conscience to convicts of sin. Each one has received something from the master, and each one is to do his part in supplying the needs of God’s work”.

“The delicate touch of the physician’s hand. His power over nerve and muscle, his knowledge of the delicate organism of the body, are the wisdom of the divine power to be used in behalf of suffering humanity. The skill with which the carpenter uses the harmer, the strength with which the blacksmith makes the anvil ring, comes from God. He has entrusted men with talents, and He desires them to lock to Him for Council. Thus they may use His gift with unerring aptitude testifying that they are worker together with God.” C. Service p. 114.

“God give special skills or abilities to men so that he could be a steward over all that God had given him. The first duty we owe to God and to our fellow men is to fully use the abilities and skills that God has given to us. We are not following God’s plan for our lives unless we use these abilities. As Christian we want to be workers for God and we should do our best to use our talents and skills in the best possible way so that we can do the greatest amount of good possible.” C.O.L. p.339

SPEECH IS A TALENT

“The very highest work in which we can used the talent of speech, it was given to us that we might present Christ as the sin pardoning Saviour.” C.O.L. p. 339.

“The gift of speech is to be used to declare God’s wisdom and wondrous love.” S.C. p. 115

TALENT OF SPEECH – Can be used by some of the following ways:-

Taking part in Church services, preaching plan.

Bible studies, and Bible readings

Lay Preaching in Village Evangelism programme.

Branch Sabbath Schools.

Door to door visitation.

Hospital visitation.

Prison visitation.

Visitation to Spiritually weak members.

Visitation to backsliders.

Conducting morning and evening worship in the Church or in family worship in the home.

INFLUENCE IS A TALENT

“Our influence is a talent, in 2 Corinthian 3:2, 3. Good News Bible:-

Says – “You yourselves are the letter we have, written on our hearts for everyone to know and read. It is clear that Christ Himself wrote this letter and sent it by us. It is written, not with ink but with the spirit of the living God, and not on stone tables but on human hearts.”

“Influence is a power for good when the sacred fire of Gods kindling is brought into our service, the influence of a holy life is felt at home and abroad.”

“The practical benevolence, the self-denial and self-sacrifice, which marks the life of a man, have an influence for good upon those with whom he associates.” C. Stewardship p. 115.

“Our words, our acts, our dress and our deportment, even the expression of the countenance has an influence.” C.O.L. p. 339

The world will be convinced, not by what the pulpit teaches, but by what the Church leaves.” 7. T. 16.

STRENGTH IS A TALENT

“Each one of us can thank God in every moment for the physical strength we have from Him. The strength which enable us to walk, run, play, to work our garden, houses, business, etc. etc.”

“Strength is a talent and is to be used to glorify God. Our Bodies belongs to Him. He has paid the price of redemption for the body as well as for the soul. We can serve God better in the vigour of health than in the palsy of disease; therefore we should co-operate with God in the care of our bodies.

Love for God is essential for life and health.

Faith in God is essential for health.

In order to have perfect health, our hearts must be filled with love and Hope and Joy in the Lord....

“The miss-use of our physical powers shortens the periods of time in which our lives can be used for the glory of God, and it unfits us to accomplish the work God has given us to do. C.O.L p. 346.

PROPERTY IS A TALENT

Note: Our children, houses, gardens, lands, trade stores, or businesses, cars and trucks, plantations, canoes, out board motor. Etc. etc. are our properties given to us by our heavenly father to enjoy and prosper. To His people the Lord sends the message, “Sell that ye have, and give alms.” All that we have is the Lords without any questions. He calls upon us to awake, to bear a share of the burdens of His cause, that prosperity may attend His work. Every Christian is to act his part as a faithful steward. The methods of God are sensible and right, and we are to trade on our pence and

pounds, (toea and kina) returning our free will offerings to Him to sustain His work, to bring souls to Christ. Large and small sums should flow into the Lords treasury.” C. Stewardship. P. 114.

“The people of God should realize the fact God has not given them talents (Properties) for the purpose fo enriching themselves with earthly goods, but in order that they may lay up in store a good foundation against the time to come even eternal life.” C.S. p.117.

EDUCATION IS A TALENT

“The Aim of true education is the restoration of the image of God in man. God needs the training of the mind.” C.O.L. p.22.

“We are rapidly nearing the final crisis in this world’s history, and it is important that we understand that their educational advantages offered by our schools of the world.”

“Our ideas of education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader scope, a higher sim. True education means more than the perusal of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to men. It is the harmonious development of the physical, mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world, and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.”

“In the highest sense, the work of education and the work of redemption are one; for in education, as in redemption, other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Ed. P. 30.

“To bring man back into harmony with God, so to elevate and enable his moral native that he may again reflect the image of the Creator, is the great purpose of all the education and discipline of life. So important was this work that they saviour left the courts of heaven, and came in person to this earth, that He might teach men, how to obtain a fitness for the higher life.” C.T. p. 49.

“It is so easy to drift into worldly plans, methods and customs and have no more thoughts of the times in which we live, or of the great work to be accomplished, than had the people in Noah’s day. There is constant danger that our educators will travel over the same ground as did the Jews, conforming to customs, practices, and traditions which God has not given. With tenacity and firmness some cling to hold habits and a love of various studies which are not essential, as if their salvation depended upon these things. In doing this they turn away from the special work of God and give to the students a deficient, a wrong education.” 6 T 150 – 152.

“There should be men and women who are qualified to work in the Churches and to train our young people for special lines of work that souls may be brought to see Jesus. The schools established by us should have in view this object, and not be after the order of the denominational schools established by other churches, or after the order of worldly seminaries and colleges. They are to be altogether higher order, where no phase of infidelity shall be originated, or countenanced. The Bible must be regarded as the highest, the most important text Book.” F.E. p.231.

The church has a special work to do in educating and training its children that they may not, in attending schools or in any other association, be influenced by those of corrupt habits. The world is full of iniquity and disregard of the requirements of God. The cities have become as Sodom, and our children are daily exposed to many evils. Those who attend public schools often associate with others more neglected than they, those who aside from the time spent in the school room, are left to obtain a street education.

The heart of the young are easily impressed; and unless their surroundings are of the right character, Satan will use these neglected Children to influence those who are more carefully trained.” C.T. P. 231.

To supply the needs of labourers, (workers) God desires that educational centres be established in different countries where students of promise may be educated in the practical branches of knowledge and in Bible truth. As these persons engage in labour, they will give character to the work of present truth in the new fields. C.T. p. 137.

As a Church, as individuals, if we would stand clear in the judgement, we must make more liberal efforts for the training of our young people, that they may be better fitted for the various branches of the great work committed to our hands. C.T. p. 43.

Fathers and mothers should co-operate with the teachers, labouring earnestly for the conversion of their children. 6. T. p. 199.

Some of the students return home with murmuring and complaints, and parents and members of the Church give an attentive ear to their exaggerated, one sided statement. They would do well to consider that there are two sides to the story; but instead, they allow these garbled reports to build a barrier between them and the collage. If parent would place themselves in the position of the teachers and see how difficult it must necessarily be to manage and discipline a school of hundreds of students of every grade and class of minds, they might upon reflection see things differently. They should consider that some children have never been disciplined at home. 4 T. p. 438, 439.

“Our Churches schools are ordained by God to prepare the children for this great work. They are to enlist in the army of workers to help sick and suffering”.

Then let the Church carry a burden for the lambs of the flock. Let the children be educated and trained to do service for God, for they are the Lord’s heritage.

When properly conducted, Church schools will be the means of lifting the standard of truth in the places where they are established, for children who are receiving a Christian education will be witnesses for Christ. 6. T. p. 202, 203.

I was shown that our College was designed by God to accomplish the great work of saving souls. It is only when brought under full control of the spirit of God that the talents of an individual are

rendered useful to the fullest extent. The precepts and principles of religion are the first steps in the acquisition of knowledge, and lie at the very foundation of true education. 4. T. p. 427.

EDUCATE THE CHURCH

“It is training, education, that is needed. Those who labour in visiting the Churches should give the brethren and sisters instruction in practical methods of doing Missionary work. An Education should be given that would result in furnishing hundreds who would put out to the exchangers valuable talents.”

“There should be no delay in this well planned effort to educate the Church members.... The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God, and to depend on Him not the ministers.” C.O.L. p.22

The Church Members must be taught and involves themselves in:-

Lay Preaching,

Home Bible Studies

Assist in training in baptismal classes

Youth leadership counselling.

MUSIC IS A TALENT

It is the language of heaven.

“Song is a weapon that we can always use against discouragements.” M.H. p. 254.

In 2 Chronicles 20:1-22, recorded an experience happened to the children of Israel under the leadership of Jehoshaphat, their enemies have come to attacked them, in the living Bible, in verse 21-22. The story goes on “after consultation with the leaders of the people, he determined that there should be a choir leading the march, clothed in sanctified garments and singing the song “His loving Kindness is Forever” as they walked along praising and thanking the Lord! And at the moment they began to sing and to praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir to begin fighting among themselves, and they destroyed each other.”

Let’s get up and sing the message of the good new to the people that they can come to know Christ, in our choirs or singing group “Sing it Out”.

It is important that time must be given to thoroughly prepared the items before it is presented in the congregation during services, or in the public or on your street evangelism programme.

And anyone who can sing must be willing to take part in this most effective means of getting the message of Christ love, across to the people.

“The Creator watches over the human machinery, keeping it in motion were not for constant care, the pulse would not beat, the action of the heart would cease, and the brain would no longer acts its part.... God is the great care taker of our bodies we must co-operate with Him. Love for God is essential for life and health.

In order to have perfect health our hearts must be filled with LOVE, HOPE and JOY.”

Medical Ministry p. 291.

CLEANLINESS is next to GODLINESS.

Cleanliness of our bodies -

“Bathing frees the skin from accumulating impurities which are constantly collecting and keeping the skin moist and supple, thereby increasing and equalizing the circulation.” T V1 3. p. 70

“The skin need to be carefully and thoroughly cleaned that the pores may do their work in freeing the body from impurities therefore feeble persons are distressed surely need the advantage and blessings of bathing twice a day and frequently even more than that is positively necessary. Whether a person is sick or well, respiration is more free and easy if bathing is practiced.

Cleanliness of our Dress –

Untidy dress brings reproach.

Filthy clothing causes diseases.

Untidy dress is disgusting to unbelievers

Must be representative of Christ. 1 Peter 3: 3-5

“The followers of Christ are represented by Him as the salt of the earth, and the light of the world. Without the saving influence of Christians, the world perish in its own corruption.

Look upon the class of professed Christian described, who are careless in their dress, and person lose in their business Transaction as their dress represent.

OUR FOOD – Clean or Unclean

Eat for strength and not for drunkenness.

“Our bodies are built up from the food we eat. Those food should be chosen the best supplies of element needed for the building up the body.” M. H. p. 295.

“The diseases and sufferings that everywhere prevails are largely due to popular errors in regards to diet. In order to know what the best food are, we must study God’s original plan for man’s diet.

“Gen 2: 9.”

M.H. p.295

FOOD MUST BE WELL PREPARED – Poor cooking causes disease.

“Poor cooking produces diseases and bad tampers; the system become deranged, and heavenly things cannot be discerned.

The Victims of poor cookery are numbered by thousands and ten thousands, over many graves might be written. Died because of poor cooking. Died because of an abused stomach, many souls lost because of poor cook.”

We can have a variety of good, whole some food, cooked in a healthful manner, so that it will be palatable to all. It is of vital importance to know how to cook.

BEWARE OF OVER EATING –

“Over eating benumbs the brain”. C.D.F. p. 47

Over taxing the stomach is a common sin and when too much food is used, the entire system is burdened.” C.D.F. p. 131

“Over eating, no matter what the quality of the food, clogs the living machine, and thus hinders it in its work. Many of our ministers are digging their graves with their teeth. C.D.F. p. 142

SELECT THE RIGHT TIME TO EAT

“Regularity in eating should be carefully observed. Irregularities in eating destroys the healthful tone of the digestive organs to detriments of health and cheerfulness. The stomach must have careful attention. It must not be kept in continual operation. Give the misused and much abused organ some peace and quiet and rest. After the regular meals is eaten the stomach should be allowed to rest for 5 hours.

OUR MIND - “God seek to control the body through the mind
Satan seeks to control the mind through the body.”

“Finally brethren whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good reports, if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on those things.” Phil 4:8

WHAT DO WE READ – Beware of bad literature.

Time has reported that every year 500,000,000 comic books are printed. The child read 10 to a dozen copies a month. If there is only one scene of violence, a page that gives him a diet of 300 scenes of beating, shooting, strangling, torture and blood per month.