

MEMORIAL TO THE OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE FROM THE BOARD OF THE COLLEGE
OF MEDICAL EVANGELISTS

Foreword: --

On the occasion of a recent visit to the Pacific Coast by Elder C. H. Watson, President of the General Conference, an interview was sought with him by Brethren A. G. Daniells, Cecil K. Meyers, Glenn Calkins and Percy Magan. It was in the mind of these men to lay before our President sundry and divers questions relating to matters of vital and major interest to the College of Medical Evangelists. Paramount among these was the relation to be sustained and the place to be filled by our Medical College and her graduates to God's Last Message of Mercy to the world. After extended and constructive conversations it was suggested by Elder Watson that the men above named draft a statement of their views for presentation to the officers of the General Conference at their forthcoming meeting in Battle Creek, Michigan.

On Thursday, September 1st an epitome of the conference with Elder Watson was related to the Trustees of the Medical College, and that body took action authorizing their Chairman, the President of the School, the Controller and Elder Meyers to prepare a memorial to the officers of the General Conference covering in a detailed and specific manner the matters which were stirring their hearts. Hence this memorial.

During the last two or three years it has fallen to a number of the leaders on the Pacific Coast to examine a great many of the manuscripts left by Sister Ellen G. White on the subject of medical ministry. The reading of these messages has made a deep impression upon the minds of these men regarding the medical and health phase of the world-wide movement set on foot by the threefold message of Revelation 14.

They have been given a larger vision of God's purpose for this medical work. They not only see that the medical missionary work is an integral part of our message and movement, but they are awakened and aroused regarding its great importance. They feel a deep conviction that this part of our message should be made more prominent and helpful in our endeavors to bless and save our fellow-men. They are impressed that this Department should be carried on with the same systematic, vigorous, never-ceasing determination which the Publishing and Educational phases of our movement receive.

The medical missionary work meets a pressing need the world over. The darker the land and the more desperate the conditions, the greater and more pressing is the need for this phase of our message and service. This being true, it seems that this good work should be greatly enlarged in all the non-Christian and uncivilized lands of the world.

Note some of the plain, impressive statements of the Spirit of prophecy:

"I wish to speak about the relation existing between the medical missionary work and the gospel ministry. . . .

"The medical missionary work has never been presented to me in any other way than as bearing the same relation to the work as a whole as the arm does to the body. The gospel ministry is an organization for the proclamation of the truth and the carrying forward of the work for sick and well. This is the body, the medical missionary work is the arm, and Christ is the head over all. Thus the matter has been presented to me." -- "Medical Ministry," p. 237.

"The right hand is used to open doors through which the body may find entrance. This is the part the medical missionary work is to act. It is to largely prepare a way for the reception of the truth for this time

"Medical missionary work brings to humanity the gospel of release from suffering. It is the pioneer work of the gospel. It is the gospel practiced, the compassion of Christ revealed. Of this work there is great need, and the world is open for it. God grant that the importance of medical missionary work shall be understood, and that new fields may be immediately entered. Then will the work of the ministry be after the Lord's order; the sick will be healed, and poor, suffering humanity will be blessed." -- Id. op. 238, 239.

"When connected with other lines of gospel effort, medical missionary work is a most effective instrument by which the ground is prepared for the sowing of the seeds of truth, and the instrument also by which the harvest is reaped. Medical missionary work is the helping hand of the gospel ministry." -- Id. p. 240.

"The medical missionary work is growing in importance, and claims the attention of the churches. It is a part of the gospel message, and must receive recognition. It is the heaven-ordained means of finding entrance to the hearts of people." -- Id., p. 241.

All these statements are especially true of the people in foreign mission lands. As yet we have done but little in these great lands with their teeming millions in desperate need of just what our medical ministry is intended and prepared to do. We are urged by the Spirit of Prophecy to greatly enlarge this part of our work. Here are a number of remarkable statements:

X "We shall see the medical missionary work broadening and deepening at every point of its progress, because of the inflowing of hundreds of thousands of streams, until the whole earth is covered as the waters cover the sea." - Id., p. 317

X "Let forces be set at work to clear new ground, to establish new centers of influence, wherever an opening can be found." - Id., p. 322

"From our sanitariums trained workers are to go forth into places where the truth has never been proclaimed, and do missionary work for the Master." - Id. p. 323

X "When those in charge of the medical missionary work realize that plants must be made in many places, God's work will be carried forward even in the hardest fields." - Id. p. 329.

X "God has qualified His people to enlighten the world. He has intrusted them with faculties by which they are to extend His work until it shall encircle the globe. In all parts of the earth, they are to establish sanitariums, schools, publishing houses, and kindred facilities for the accomplishment of His work." - Id., p. 330.

These and many other similar statements call to a much larger medical missionary work than we have yet attempted. The hour is now late. Is it not time to make a great advance move?

We have close to a thousand physicians, the most of whom have been graduated from our College of Medical Evangelists. We must have two thousand and more nurses graduated from our sanitariums. We have nearly one hundred dietitians, and scores of men and women who have been in our sanitariums for years and have thus gained valuable experience in medical work.

As the Spirit of prophecy declares: "God has qualified His people to enlighten the world" as to how to live.

In view of this definite, insistent call to medical ministry we feel that we should in this Memorial make special mention of the College of Medical Evangelists of this denomination. The providence of God led to the establishment of this institution. This is plainly declared by the Spirit of prophecy in messages that have come to us regarding Loma Linda where the College was established by divine providence and where it has developed by the same overruling providence of God.

The contract for the purchase of the Loma Linda property was entered into in May, 1905, and possession was secured in June the same year. The original investment in the land, buildings, and furniture was \$150,000. The cost to us was \$40,000. The purpose for which the place was purchased by us was for a sanitarium. And this investment was made almost entirely in compliance with urgent counsel from Sister White. Or to state this in another form: Loma Linda came into the possession of this denomination through the direct leading of the prophetic gift.

Through the Spirit of Prophecy, that channel of inspired counsel, we were assured that the securing of Loma Linda was a Divine Providence. Note the following statement:

X "In Loma Linda we have an advantageous center for the carrying on of various missionary enterprises. We can see that it was in the providence of God that this sanitarium was placed in the possession of our people. We shall appreciate Loma Linda as a place which the Lord foresaw we should need, and which He gave. MS.-3-1908, Reprinted in Medical Ministry, p. 56.

Although Loma Linda was obtained for sanitarium purposes only, there soon came to the denomination the following surprising message:

X "Loma Linda is to be not only a sanitarium, but an educational center. With the possession of this place comes the weighty responsibility of making the work of the institution educational in character. A school is to be established here for the training of gospel missionary evangelists. Review and Herald, June 21, 1906. Reprinted in Medical Ministry, p. 56.

We should note the date of the appearance of this statement in the Review and Herald -- June 21, 1906. This was only eleven months after we had taken possession of the place for a Sanitarium. We are not aware that any human being had the remotest

idea when purchasing Loma Linda that a school was to be established there for the "training of gospel medical missionary evangelists." This responsibility came to us by revelation through the spirit of prophecy.

The messages that were sent to us regarding Loma Linda were progressive in the outline presented. Having plainly declared that a medical school was to be established there we were advised that the school is to have

The Best Teaching Talent

X "We have a work to do in securing the best talent, and in placing these workers in positions where they can educate other workers. Then when our sanitarium^b and mission fields call for physicians, we shall have young men who, through their experience gained by practical work, have become fitted to bear responsibilities." Counsels to Teachers p. 473. Reprinted in Medical Ministry, p. 56.

Next a very clear statement is given regarding

The True Objective

X "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 at Loma Linda 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. Everywhere workers are needed to know how to combat disease and give skillful care to the sick and suffering. We should do all in our power to enable those who desire to be thus fitted for service to gain the necessary training." MS - 15-19., Medical Ministry, p. 56.

In order to give the students the thorough preparation outlined above it is pointed out that the educational institution at Loma Linda must be

A School of the Highest Order

X "The light given me is, We must provide that which is essential to qualify our youth who desire to be physicians, so that they may intelligently fit themselves to be able to stand the examinations required to prove their efficiency as physicians. They should be taught to treat understandingly the cases of those who are diseased, so that the door will be closed for any sensible physician to imagine that we are not giving in our school the instruction necessary for properly qualifying young men and young women to do the work of a physician.

X "The medical school at Loma Linda is to be of the highest order, because those who are in that school have the privilege of maintaining a living connection with the wisest of all physicians, from whom there is communicated knowledge of a superior order. And for the special preparation of those of our youth who have clear convictions of their duty to obtain a medical education that will enable them to pass the examinations required by law of all who practice as regularly qualified physicians, we are to supply whatever may be required, so that these youth need not be compelled to go to medical schools conducted by men not of our faith. Thus we shall close a door that the enemy would be pleased to have left open; and our young men and women whose spiritual interests the Lord desires us to safeguard, will not feel compelled to connect with unbelievers in order to obtain a thorough training along medical lines." Pacific Union Recorder, Feb. 3, 1910. Reprinted in Medical Ministry, pp. 57, 58.

This is a work of high character and tremendous scope. It surely marks Loma Linda as

A Place and Work of Great Importance

"Loma Linda has been specified to me as a very important place, and one which demands the best Bible teacher we can supply. There are promising youth here who are to be qualified to fill important positions in the work.. They should have the best class of instructors and capable Bible teachers who understand the truth of the word. The truth and righteousness revealed in the word of God is to be the stronghold of our workers. D-196-1908, Medical Ministry, p. 58.

A Great Advance

The establishment of the College of Medical Evangelists registers a great forward movement as indicated by the following statement:

✕ "To-day we are combining the work of ministry and of healing as we have never done before. We are working to educate our people how to treat the body in sickness, how to regain health, and how to keep well when health is restored." MS. -95-1908, Medical Ministry, p. 63.

It is such statements as these that have pointed the way and constantly urged us onward in the development of the institution which we have at the present time.

Not one in the pioneer days of the Medical College foresaw what it would come to be. We entered upon the undertaking by faith; surely not by sight. We had little to start with beyond the Divine instruction to go forward. Men and organizations of the world warned us not to waste our time and money in what would surely prove to be failure- a monument of folly.

Among these are bankers, Sunday School teachers, superintendents of public schools, officers of churches, and university graduates. Through these efforts during the last year twenty-five have accepted the truths taught. The Field Director, Elder Lindsay Semmens, has accepted an invitation to act as temporary pastor of a union church not of our faith that was without a minister. From seventy to eighty attend his services.

Work of this kind, though on a smaller scale, is being done at the Los Angeles division. An extended series of meetings has been conducted by some of the students during the past year. As a result so far twenty-five new converts have been baptized. Plans are being made to do far more in this line than we have been doing in the past.

We are now working to a very interesting program in connection with Elder Harold Richards tabernacle meetings in Los Angeles. This program calls for lectures on health and temperance, cooking school work, and practical instruction in hydrotherapy -- the application of rational treatment of simple ailments. The college furnishes the doctors, dietitians, and nurses required. These lines are all carried on in the large tent. A live interest is felt by many people in this practical and helpful part of the tent effort.

A Great Loss

X But notwithstanding all that has been accomplished, the College of Medical Evangelists, or perhaps more properly our denomination, is sustaining a very serious loss. We are not making the use we should of the fine product being sent forth from the school. A large number of young men and women enter the medical college with a great desire to devote their lives to medical missionary work. That desire

burns in their hearts through the course and after they are graduated. But only a few find it possible to get into the organized medical work of the denomination. There are few openings. Our sanitariums are supplied. The way into the mission fields is not open to many. The most of our graduates are without means. To start private practice means years of struggle, but the majority of those who undertake it succeed. Some settle where we have churches, join them, are chosen as officers, pay tithe and make good offerings. This is good, but it falls far short of what we feel would be done. This does not meet the great purpose of the College as set forth in the instruction given us by the Spirit of prophecy. It is not at all satisfactory to have only about fifty of our medical graduates out of six hundred and sixty-three located in missionary fields.