

HOW THE PAYMENTS WERE MET

Just after hearing the report of the reluctance of the San Diego church to sanction the purchase of the Loma Linda property,* there came a severe test of faith to those who had assumed the responsibility of carrying Loma Linda until it should be decided who ultimately should be responsible for it.

The Conference Committee at the first meeting, in the Los Angeles church had inferred that they would assume the obligation providing the delegates representing all the churches should authorize it. But before a final meeting of all the delegates could be called to decide the matter, another \$4,000 must be raised and paid in to the agent to complete the first payment or we should fail in carrying out our part of the contract. In that case we would lose the \$1,000 already paid in, and the property might be placed beyond the possibility of our possession.

*Note: The brethren in the vicinity of San Diego had borne heavy financial burdens in the securing and equipping of the Paradise Valley Sanitarium. This was still being maintained and developed without Conference support. The Conference had given its support and influence to the Glendale institution, and it was natural that the brethren in San Diego facing this situation should fear that if they voted for the Conference to undertake another large sanitarium enterprise, they also would be called upon to give their financial support to it. Further, it is evident that the securing of this property would make it even more difficult to secure the means they needed to develop the work at Paradise Valley. These considerations, together with the fact that they did not have presented to them all the counsels that had come regarding the securing of Loma Linda, are doubtless the main reasons why the brethren assembled in San Diego felt that they could not vote for the Conference to assume the responsibility of purchasing Loma Linda.

The uncertainty as to whether the Conference would later accept the responsibility, had weakened the confidence of some with means who would otherwise have helped. However, those who had assumed the responsibility of purchasing the property, decided to do their best to secure the necessary money to meet the payment that was due.

They first asked Sister Belle Baker, now sleeping, how she felt regarding the securing of Loma Linda.

"I do not see why any one should hesitate," she replied. "It seems plain to me that we should have it."

They then asked, "Are you willing to risk a thousand dollars in it?"

"Yes," she replied.

"You may lose it," she was reminded.

"Well," she said, "I will risk it," And she loaned a thousand dollars for the payment.

They made the same suggestion to a Brother of ample means, and he responded with \$2,000.

They then conferred with Elder R.S.Owen, who had made the suggestion as to where they might find the thousand dollars to secure the option. He was unable to make any recommendation as to who might help, but he said, "While I don't have the money, yet here is my home, you may put a mortgage on it for a thousand dollars to secure the money."

It was not necessary to put a mortgage on the property, as his word was good for the amount. And so on the very day it was due, they were enabled to meet the ^{balance of the} first payment on the property. This insured the holding of it until the delegates from the churches should decide what responsibility, if any, the Conference should assume.

Raising the Second Payment

The time was drawing near when a second \$5,000 must be paid on the purchase price of Loma Linda. Elder Burden and those associated with him in securing the property had approached every one whom they knew in Southern California who would likely to help, had ^{be} also written many letters, but had received no returns. Some of the Conference Committee were beginning to fear that the Conference credit would be jeopardized by this new undertaking, and some urged that they try to get free from the financial responsibility by losing the \$5,000 that had been paid down. In their distress, those seeking the money thought they might secure it in the Sacramento and the San Joaquin Valley churches, as money had often been raised there for the St. Helena Sanitarium. So the Committee suggested that the California Conference be asked to permit them to solicit means among the church members in that district.

In harmony with this suggestion, they visited the California Conference Committee and told them of their perplexities and their needs. They reminded those who were seeking means that the Pacific Union Conference had advised the Southern California brethren not to invest in more sanitariums, ^{and} that they had gone contrary to this counsel. Because of this, and because of their own financial needs, they objected to granting the privilege of soliciting in the territory of the California Conference. The solicitors returned home, still wondering where the needed money would come from.

As the day drew nearer, when the payment was due, and no money was in sight, deep anxiety was felt by those carrying the financial responsibility of the Conference. At last the day arrived, and the forenoon found the members of the Confer-

ence Committee in session in Los Angeles in deep perplexity. It seemed to some that we would be unable to meet the payment, and that the only way out of the difficulty, was to acknowledge our inability to the agent of the property, and if we could not secure an extension of time, we must forfeit the contract, and lose the five thousand dollars already paid in.

It was natural that some who had from the first felt that it was unwise to accept the great responsibility, should feel that these circumstances had justified their misgivings. In the face of the humiliating necessity, as it seemed, of losing the property, it was easy and natural to blame and censure those who had pressed the matter through against what appeared to be sound reason and judgment.

Nevertheless, some remembered the clear words that had come through the testimonies, and refused to concede that there should be failure. Yet we knew not how relief would come. It was suggested that the morning mail might bring relief. Soon after this, the postman was heard coming up the stairs. He opened the door and delivered the mail. Among the letters was one bearing the postmark, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The letter was opened and it was found to contain a draft for \$5,000. just the amount needed for the payment.

Elder Burden had previously received a letter from Mrs. White, dated July 10, 1905, in which she had said,

"I want you to keep me posted about the money coming in with which to make the payments on the Loma Linda property. I am writing to different ones, asking them to help us at this time, and I think that we shall obtain means to make every payment." -- B-197-1905.

Among one of those to whom Mrs. White had written, asking for money, was this sister at Atlantic City. The Lord had put it into her heart to respond, and to mail the letter just at

the time when our faith had been tested almost to the limit, that it might be revived and strengthened.

Needless to say, the feelings of those who had been critical were quickly changed. Eyes filled with tears, and the one who had been the most critical was the first to break the silence. With trembling voice, he said, "It seems that the Lord is in this matter." "Surely he is," was the reply, "and He will carry it through to victory." The influence that filled the room that day hushed the spirit of criticism. It was as solemn as the Judgment day.

Soon Elder Burden was at the bank window, and had paid in the \$5,000. As the receipt was taken from the counter, a voice seemed to say to him, "See how nearly you missed that payment. How are you going to meet the next one, within a month?" In heart he answered, "It will surely come, even though we do not now know the source," and the faith of those who were leading in the purchase of this property did not waver when the difficulties increased, as they moved forward. They thanked God, and took new courage in believing that the Lord was going before them.

Making the Third Payment

Once more we tried our best to secure money in Southern California to meet the next payment of \$5,000 due a month later, but without ^{immediate} success. A few days, before the amount was due, we received a letter from a Brother Atkins, near Eugene, Oregon, in which he said that he had just learned that we had purchased another sanitarium in Southern California, and asked if we needed money. He said that he had just sold his property, and was thinking of coming south. We immediately wrote him, sending

descriptions of the new sanitarium, and telling him of our need. In a few days a reply came from him, with a check for \$4,500.

We had \$400 of the money still in hand that was loaned to us when we made the first \$1,000 payment, having used the other \$1,000 in meeting the \$4,000 balance of the first \$5,000 payment; but even with this we were still \$100 short of what we needed. We visited an elderly Sister Learned, who had some money, but hitherto had declined to put it into Loma Linda. When we visited her once more, and told her how we had met the first and second payments, and needed just \$100 to enable us to pay the third, she smiled and handed us the needed amount.

We made the third payment a short time before it was due. Then the people of whom we had purchased offered us a discount of \$100 if we could secure the next \$5000 payment at once, although it was not due for three months. They were anxious to make a distribution among the stockholders, some of whom were feeling dissatisfied with the conditions of the sale, and were making it unpleasant for the officers.

Camp-meeting Gifts

In August, the Southern California camp-meeting was held at Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, and Mrs. White was in attendance. On the 17th, a special meeting was called to consider the sanitarium work in Southern California. A full account of the light given concerning the securing of sanitarium properties was presented to the entire conference. The two sanitariums at Paradise Valley and at Glendale were described together with the providences that had led to securing them. The Loma Linda history was recounted, and the people were given an opportunity to express their relation to these enterprises.

One after another, people arose to express their approval of what had been done and their readiness to assist. An opportunity was given first for donations and pledges; second, for loans to meet payments that would be due; and third, for those who had property that they would put on the market for sale, and consecrate the proceeds to the work. Within an hour, cash and pledges had been given amounting to more than \$2,000; cash loans ^{were} promised amounting to about \$18,000, and nearly \$20,000 worth of property was consecrated for sale, most of which it was expected could be sold before the end of the year.

The next day, the book "Ministry of Healing," was presented to the people, and over three hundred copies were taken, to be paid for soon.

The people rejoiced as on a day long ago, when it is said that they "offered willingly."

The amount for the fourth payment was thus provided far before the time it was due. This completed half of the total payment. The remaining \$20,000 was not due for three years. And now, the owners discovered that they could not distribute their funds until they had wound up their corporation, which could not be done till the mortgage of the remaining \$20,000 was disposed of. Therefore, they were led to offer a further discount of \$1,000 if the mortgage would be paid off at once. At the time this offer was made, we were hunting for money to get the new sanitarium ready to receive patients. It seemed to us the Lord was meeting our needs in providing unexpected ways, and our faith led us to a venture promise that we would get an offer of \$20,000 at a certain time, notwithstanding the struggle we had in getting the first \$20,000.

While we were studying how it would be possible to secure another \$20,000, a lady came to the Sanitarium before we were ready to receive patients. This was inconvenient, but we tried to make her comfortable. As she was out on the grounds the next day, we noticed that she seemed to look lonesome, so thought to cheer her up. As we remarked about the beauties of the place, she said, "I was just thinking how happy I would be to live in a place like this. I am all alone. My husband is dead. It seems, I am so lonesome I almost wish I were dead."

So we suggested that she might make her home there. She asked how much it would cost. On stating the amount, she said, "Why, I have that much in cash." We went to the office and wrote out a life annuity. Though the amount was only a portion of the \$20,000, it came so unexpectedly that it gave us courage to believe that the balance would come in due time.

A few days later, while in Los Angeles, we were talking with a former lady patient who had spent the winter at the Glendale Sanitarium, but who was staying in Los Angeles and taking treatments at the treatment rooms in that city. When we mentioned to her the offer of a discount of \$1,000 if we could pay the balance immediately, she said, "I have \$15,000 I could loan you for two or three years, if you need it."

Thus within less than six months, the entire \$40,000 had been provided for by friends of the enterprise.

One of the strongest arguments of those who had at first opposed the purchase of Loma Linda was the utter impossibility of raising \$40,000 to meet the payments. Yet this was effected, in a small conference of only fourteen hundred believers, with two other sanitariums to provide for financially, and to man

with suitable help, in which there was an academy, a vegetarian cafeteria, and treatment rooms, all of which were carrying more or less indebtedness.

The counsel of the Spirit of prophecy had been confirmed. As we moved forward in faith, the Lord opened the way before us, and the money came from unexpected sources. Nearly all were at last convinced that truly God was carrying forward the enterprise.