

Picking Up The Pieces

LEARN THE LESSONS; GET IT RIGHT

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If you happen to find additional information that somehow improves this presentation, please be so kind as to email a copy to me at dfiedler@AdventistCityMissions.org. You may also enjoy checking out our website at www.AdventistCityMissions.org.

My book on Adventist History, *Hindsight*, should also be available through that address if you want to plug the book for me. (\$5 +s/h; free s/h on 5 or more copies)

Questions and comments are also welcome, but please don't deprive yourself of sleep or food while waiting for a reply.

**Blessings,
Dave**

Why Is This Important?

“As religious teachers, we are under obligation to God to teach the students how to engage in medical missionary work.”

—Manuscript Releases, vol. 8, 297

Basic Points

- ◆ **God's plan for finishing up His work on earth is actually achievable.**
- ◆ **This plan requires the demonstration of God's selfless character, by His people, largely through "medical missionary work."**
- ◆ **Opportunity to accomplish this was provided in a special sense a century ago when the Lord called for a new form of medical education to prepare workers to form the nucleus of multi-faceted companies using a wide range of evangelistic skills and techniques.**

Vegetarian Restaurants

- ◆ **June 28, 1877**
- ◆ **September 21, 1900**
- ◆ **September 23, 1905**

Vegetarian Restaurants

- ◆ Had been taking young people away from more specifically evangelistic lines of work.

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“Why is there such a dearth of laborers in these important lines of work? Our young people choose to labor in some place where they can live without any particular exercise of their mind spiritually. The restaurants offer a free field for such individuals.”

—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 8, 174.

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—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, 117

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“Unless our restaurants are conducted in this way, it will be necessary to warn our people against sending their children to them as workers.... The managers of our restaurants must do more to save the young people in their employ.... Every one of them needs to be sheltered by home influences.”

—Testimonies, vol. 7, 117, 118

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“I have been making inquiry as to how many have been converted to the truth as a result of the work done by our restaurants. Can anyone inform me?...

“As God’s chosen people, our only work is to win souls and teach the gospel. But the restaurants are not doing this work. They never have done it, and they never can do it, unless the workers are thoroughly converted to God.”

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Medical Simplicity and Involvement

“As religious aggression subverts the liberties of our nation, those who would stand for freedom of conscience will be placed in unfavorable positions. For their own sake, they should, while they have opportunity, become intelligent in regard to disease, its causes, prevention, and cure. And those who do this will find a field of labor anywhere. There will be suffering ones, plenty of them, who will need help, not only among those of our own faith, but largely among those who know not the truth.”

—*Counsels on Health*, 506

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—*Evangelism*, 523

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♦ Simple treatments

“God’s remedies are the simple agencies of nature that will not tax or debilitate the system through their powerful properties. Pure air and water, cleanliness, a proper diet, purity of life, and a firm trust in God are remedies for the want of which thousands are dying; yet these remedies are going out of date because their skillful use requires work that the people do not appreciate.”

—Testimonies, vol. 5, 443

Why?

“In the last scenes of this earth’s history, war will rage. There will be pestilence, plague, and famine. The waters of the deep will overflow their boundaries. Property and life will be destroyed by fire and flood.”

—*Maranatha*, 174

Ever hear of...

- ◆ **Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)**
- ◆ **Extremely Drug-resistant Tuberculosis (XDRTB)**
- ◆ **Adenovirus Serotype 14 (Ad14)**
- ◆ **The Avian Flu (H5N1)**
- ◆ **The Swine Flu (H1N1)**

The True Science

“The study of surgery and other medical science receives much attention in the world, but the true science of medical missionary work, carried forward as Christ carried it, is new and strange to the denominational churches and to the world. But it will find its rightful place when as a people who have had great light, Seventh-day Adventists awaken to their responsibilities and improve their opportunities.”

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Company Evangelism

“During the night of February 27 [1910],... 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.”

—The Paulson Collection, 69

Gospel Medical Missionary Evangelism



John H.N. Tindall (1880–1972)

Gospel Medical Missionary Evangelism

“Loma Linda is to be not only a sanitarium, but an educational center.... for the training of gospel medical missionary evangelists.”

—*Review and Herald*, June 21, 1906

Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism

- ◆ **Elder Tindall**
- ◆ **One medical “helper”**
- ◆ **One Bible worker**
- ◆ **One businessman**
- ◆ **One singer**
- ◆ **Six nurses**
- ◆ **Ten unspecified volunteers**

Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism

“While at Loma Linda taking my training in dietetics I had a very prominent man of our denomination say to me, ‘John, what are you doing here? What do you expect to do studying dietetics? Do you think it right to leave your great work as an evangelist, and come here and spend all this time studying dietetics?’

“In reply to my good friend I said, ‘Time will show the wisdom of my plan, brother. Did you ever read in [*Testimonies*] volume 9, page 112—

Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism

“There are some who think that the question of diet is not of sufficient importance to be included in their evangelistic work, but such make a great mistake.”

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Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism

“The Lord desires that the cities shall be worked by the united efforts of laborers of different capabilities. All are to look to Jesus for direction, not depending on man for wisdom, lest they be led astray.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, 109

“There should be companies organized, and educated most thoroughly to work as nurses, as evangelists, as ministers, as canvassers, as gospel students, to perfect a character after the divine similitude.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, 171, 172

Where Will It All End?

“God has given us a commission which angels might envy. The church has been charged to convey to the world, without delay, God’s saving mercy. This is the trust that He has given us, and it is to be faithfully executed. Medical missionary work is to be done. Thousands upon thousands of human beings are perishing in sin. The compassion of God is moved.

Where Will It All End?

“All heaven is looking on with intense interest to see what character medical missionary work will assume under supervision of human beings. Will men make merchandise of God’s ordained plan for reaching the dark parts of the earth with a manifestation of His benevolence? Will they cover mercy with selfishness, and then call it medical missionary work?”

—*Special Testimonies*, Series B, No. 1, 19

Where Will It All End?

“Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.”

—Christ's Object Lessons, 69

“The completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within.”

—Acts of the Apostles, 551

Where Will It All End?

“There is no change in the messages that God has sent in the past. The work in the cities is the essential work for this time. When the cities are worked as God would have them, the result will be the setting in operation of a mighty movement such as we have not yet witnessed.”

—*Medical Ministry*, 304

Where Will It All End?

“There is to be a working of our cities as they never have been worked. That which should have been done [a hundred and] twenty, yes, more than [a hundred and] twenty years ago, is now to be done speedily. The work will be more difficult to do now than it would have been years ago; but **it will be done.**”

—*Loma Linda Messages*, 143

Where Will It All End?

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

—Medical Ministry, 317

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**Are you willing to be one
of those streams?**



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Basic Points

- ♦ **God's plan for finishing up His work on earth is actually achievable.**
- ♦ **This plan requires the demonstration of God's selfless character, by His people, largely through "medical missionary work."**
- ♦ **Opportunity to accomplish this was provided in a special sense a century ago when the Lord called for a new form of medical education to prepare workers to form the nucleus of multi-faceted companies using a wide range of evangelistic skills and techniques.**

CLICK for points two and three

All this is great, but it's ancient history, as they say.

The problem, as I see it, is that we didn't follow God's plan in some of the details, and that got us off track in several important ways.

So let's take a quick look at some of these areas and what we can do about them now. We'll start of with...



Vegetarian Restaurants

- ◆ **June 28, 1877**
- ◆ **September 21, 1900**
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5

Barnum brought the circus. Battle Creek ladies set up a 50-foot table and sold “hygienic” food. Good impressions made on thousands of people.

Just think what a restaurant could do. But...

CLICK for second date

Soon after returning to America—CLICK—she began to voice concern about the restaurant work.

This culminated in quite a speech on the 23rd of September, 1905. In it, she spoke of a number of problem areas plaguing the restaurant work.

CLICK

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“Why is there such a dearth of laborers in these important lines of work? Our young people choose to labor in some place where they can live without any particular exercise of their mind spiritually. The restaurants offer a free field for such individuals.”

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6

Same challenges today—Maga book programs, even mission trips.

Something to remember—there is no work which will make you or anyone else “spiritual.” It is up to the worker to make the work spiritual. Unless you are already “spiritually minded,” the best you can hope for is that you will have a leader or a co-worker who will set the right tone and encourage you to make the choice for yourself. Without that, you’ve got little of value—just like they did a hundred years ago.

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Another point of concern for summer colporteur programs. A program leader carries a huge responsibility...

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Young people looking for “freedom” and “independence” should not be encouraged to find them in church programs. Get those issues settled first, please, then come and be useful.

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“I have been making inquiry as to how many have been converted to the truth as a result of the work done by our restaurants. Can anyone inform me?...

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Do you see what a little carelessness can do?

Well, let's move on. Let's look at the issue of...

CLICK

Medical Simplicity and Involvement

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—Counsels on Health, 506

11

In our last session we looked at the need to keep our medical missionary work “simple.” That was largely in the context of financing God’s work, but God seldom does *anything* for only one reason.

So here’s another one.

CLICK

Want less persecution? Win some friends first.

Medical Ministry

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This is technically what is known as a “word to the wise.” Given the option, I suggest “wise” over “stupid.”

Medical Ministry

“I wish to tell you that soon there will be no work done in ministerial lines but medical missionary work.”

—Evangelism, 523

Really? None?

You might think that means everyone but doctors and nurses will be out of the ministry business. But you'd be wrong.

So let's look at the “Who?” of this whole picture.

Medical Who?

“Let our ministers, who have gained an experience in preaching the word, learn how to give simple treatments and then labor intelligently as medical missionary evangelists.”

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—*Welfare Ministry*, 127

So... there you have it.

Medical missionary work *isn't* for everyone—unless they happen to be a health care professional, minister, gospel worker, canvasser, student, or church member.

Medical What?

- ◆ **Simple treatments**

“God’s remedies are the simple agencies of nature that will not tax or debilitate the system through their powerful properties. Pure air and water, cleanliness, a proper diet, purity of life, and a firm trust in God are remedies for the want of which thousands are dying; yet these remedies are going out of date because their skillful use requires work that the people do not appreciate.”

—Testimonies, vol. 5, 443

Focusing on “Who”—how about the “What”? Did you catch what all those statements were talking about?

CLICK FOR FIRST ENTRY

General disclaimer—Acute care good, lifestyle and chronic conditions... uh, less good.

CLICK FOR SECOND ENTRY

“Simple treatments” 41 times

“Simple remedies” 78 times

Perspective here—

“Jesus” 37,308 times

“God” 133,323 times

“Requires work”

Why?

“In the last scenes of this earth’s history, war will rage. There will be pestilence, plague, and famine. The waters of the deep will overflow their boundaries. Property and life will be destroyed by fire and flood.”

—*Maranatha*, 174

Why this emphasis on “simple treatments”?

CLICK

My guess—existing medical services will be overwhelmed, and all we will have at our disposal will be the simple treatments... and prayer.

Could that really happen?

Ever hear of...

- ♦ **Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)**
- ♦ **Extremely Drug-resistant Tuberculosis (XDRTB)**
- ♦ **Adenovirus Serotype 14 (Ad14)**
- ♦ **The Avian Flu (H5N1)**
- ♦ **The Swine Flu (H1N1)**

28

In a worst case scenario, each of these has the potential to completely swamp every hospital in the country. Even without the government's help.

So here's what I think is going on—take it or leave it.

God wants us to be ready for a massive medical crisis that will quickly overwhelm the existing health care systems. This is bad, but also good, because it gives His people an unprecedented opportunity to use Christ's own style of ministry to win souls. But only if they know how to give "simple treatments."

And a few other things... so let's look at them next.

CLICK

The True Science

“The study of surgery and other medical science receives much attention in the world, but the true science of medical missionary work, carried forward as Christ carried it, is new and strange to the denominational churches and to the world. But it will find its rightful place when as a people who have had great light, Seventh-day Adventists awaken to their responsibilities and improve their opportunities.”

—Evangelism, 518

The problem with this situation is that it seems to me that it's still new and strange... a hundred years later. Do you see something wrong here?

But—believe it or not—despite being ignored and neglected, this whole idea refuses to die. And you've got to hear the story!

Company Evangelism

“During the night of February 27 [1910],... 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.”

—*The Paulson Collection*, 69

30

This is the vision that started the slowest change in Adventist History. OK, so that was a little cynical, but here's the story.

After this vision, Ellen White put the responsibility for this “decided change” on the shoulders of the most trustworthy man she knew—John Burden—and the other leaders of the College of Medical Evangelists, R.S. Owen, G.B. Starr, and maybe another one or two.

They did what committees always do: they delegated.

The man they picked was a former newspaper man, law student, and gold prospector who had been converted in 1907 by reading *Desire of Ages*. You've probably never heard of him... [CLICK](#)

Gospel Medical Missionary Evangelism



John H.N. Tindall (1880–1972)

As you can see, his name was John H.N. Tindall. He pioneered “Gospel Medical Missionary Evangelism” in California, Indiana, Virginia, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Elder Tindall combined medical education with his gospel presentations, even though he wasn’t a doctor. That’s what he’d been trained to do. “Where did he learn to do that?” you ask. At a little school in southern California that—when he enrolled in 1908—was following *this* counsel

CLICK

Gospel Medical Missionary Evangelism

“Loma Linda is to be not only a sanitarium, but an educational center... for the training of gospel medical missionary evangelists.”

—*Review and Herald*, June 21, 1906

32

But something was still missing. Sister White’s vision of February 27, 1910, had called for the formation of “companies” of workers. It took a couple of years for Elder Tindall to figure out how to make that happen.

But when he did, it showed, big time! For the five campaigns before he incorporated *Company Evangelism*, Elder Tindall’s work had been successful. He was averaging 36 baptisms per campaign. That’s not too shabby.

But when the *company* aspect came online, that number jumped to 121 baptisms per campaign.

Somebody was doing something right!

(data from Calvin Thrash’s paper, 7–10)

Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism

- ◆ **Elder Tindall**
- ◆ **One medical “helper”**
- ◆ **One Bible worker**
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- ◆ **One singer**
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- ◆ **Ten unspecified volunteers**

33

So how did Tindall get such good results? What sort of a “company” did he have?

CLICK

These are his three paid employees, and

CLICK

these are the unpaid volunteers

In 1923 Elder Tindall returned to the College of Medical Evangelists to study dietetics. Not everyone saw value in this.

Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism

“While at Loma Linda taking my training in dietetics I had a very prominent man of our denomination say to me, ‘John, what are you doing here? What do you expect to do studying dietetics? Do you think it right to leave your great work as an evangelist, and come here and spend all this time studying dietetics?’

“In reply to my good friend I said, ‘Time will show the wisdom of my plan, brother. Did you ever read in [*Testimonies*] volume 9, page 112—

Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism

“There are some who think that the question of diet is not of sufficient importance to be included in their evangelistic work, but such make a great mistake.”

—Testimonies, vol 9, 112

READ, then

Well, Elder Tindall stuck with it, and in 1925 he graduated from the dietetics course, along with these other nice folks

·
CLICK for picture

Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism



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More important to our story at the moment, though, is the fact that he returned to CME in 1923—which just happened to be the last year that the “Medical Missionary” course was offered. A 17-year-old student—who was technically too young to be enrolled in the college—ended up as Tindall’s Chemistry Lab partner, and made a favorable impression on Tindall.

CLICK to continue, picture does not change

Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism



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In 1927, Tindall was called to the California Conference (only one conference back then) and told he could select any conference worker there to be his assistant in establishing a school to teach Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism.

He asked for his chem lab partner—now only 21 years old. The conference president turned down, twice. But Tindall finally convinced the Conference leadership that he *really* wanted this young man. He said it would be easier to take someone who didn't already think he knew everything.

You may have heard of the young man.

CLICK

Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism



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This is a picture from later in his life, obviously, but—in case you don't recognize him—this is W.D. Frazee.

Frazee worked with Tindall, directly and indirectly, for about a decade. When he was called to Utah to form his own company of workers, the depression forced him to rely even more heavily on volunteers than Tindall. When both the “Field School of Medical Evangelism” and formal Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism both died out—partially due to finances—in the late 1930s, Frazee came to the conclusion that that line of work would never prosper unless there was at least one school promoting it. So in 1942 he started a little operation down in Wildwood, Georgia.

Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism



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It took a long time, but the first person that I know of coming out of Wildwood that pursued Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism wasn't until the late 1960s.

In the Southern New England Conference, during the 60s and 70s, Finley (and his wife, Ernestine) formed three evangelistic teams of 17 to 19 workers—all on three and a half salaries.

One of those workers was this gentleman...

CLICK

Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism



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You may not recognize him. His name's Brad Thorpe, and he's now the co-director of the Hope Channel, the church's satellite network.

But back in those days he was a young man from British Columbia—that's in Canada. After working with Pastor Finley, Brad went to the Vancouver area and with a couple other pastors (and their salaries) started a GMMCE team of about 10 to 12 volunteers. This was known as Radiant Living Seminars, and it lasted from 1978 to 1983.

In 1982, by the way, he signed a document that made me legally married to my wife.

Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism



And then, twenty-odd years later, three guys landed in the Vancouver area. Fresh out of Mission College, they wanted to do evangelism. Someone, somewhere, remembered the old Radiant Living, so these three brothers

CLICK

started up a new Radiant Living. (Yamil, Jeffrey, Jay Rosario)

But still there was something missing

Gospel Medical Missionary Company Evangelism

“The Lord desires that the cities shall be worked by the united efforts of laborers of different capabilities. All are to look to Jesus for direction, not depending on man for wisdom, lest they be led astray.”

— *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 109

“There should be companies organized, and educated most thoroughly to work as nurses, as evangelists, as ministers, as canvassers, as gospel students, to perfect a character after the divine similitude.”

— *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 171, 172

This full-scope aspect has seldom been tried. Tindall, Frazee, Finley, Thorpe, and the Rosarios have never—to the best of my knowledge—had the advantages of the “center of influence” that Ellen White called for. That would limit their ability to contact a wide range of people in a neutral setting.

Canvassers can hand out coupons to the store and restaurant. Bible workers can work as waiters and waitresses in the restaurant. The restaurant can serve as a feeder for the wellness center.

The whole is more than the sum of the parts.

Where Will It All End?

“God has given us a commission which angels might envy. The church has been charged to convey to the world, without delay, God’s saving mercy. This is the trust that He has given us, and it is to be faithfully executed. Medical missionary work is to be done. Thousands upon thousands of human beings are perishing in sin. The compassion of God is moved.

Time to finish up now. But we have one last very important thing to look at: the future of Gospel Medical Missionary Evangelism.

CLICK for text

Where Will It All End?

“All heaven is looking on with intense interest to see what character medical missionary work will assume under supervision of human beings. Will men make merchandise of God's ordained plan for reaching the dark parts of the earth with a manifestation of His benevolence? Will they cover mercy with selfishness, and then call it medical missionary work?”

—Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 1, 19

Where Will It All End?

“Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.”

—Christ's Object Lessons, 69

“The completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within.”

—Acts of the Apostles, 551

Here are two familiar quotations that—surprisingly—are seldom considered in connection to each other.

Where Will It All End?

“There is no change in the messages that God has sent in the past. The work in the cities is the essential work for this time. When the cities are worked as God would have them, the result will be the setting in operation of a mighty movement such as we have not yet witnessed.”

—Medical Ministry, 304

Where Will It All End?

“There is to be a working of our cities as they never have been worked. That which should have been done [a hundred and] twenty, yes, more than [a hundred and] twenty years ago, is now to be done speedily. The work will be more difficult to do now than it would have been years ago; but ***it will be done.***”

—*Loma Linda Messages*, 143

READ text

And finally, my personal favorite...

CLICK

Where Will It All End?

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

—Medical Ministry, 317

Which leaves only one simple question...

CLICK

Where Will It All End?

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

—*Medical Ministry*, 317

**Are you willing to be one
of those streams?**