



Witnessing to the Wealthy, Worldly, and Well Educated

David Kim - GYC 2013

Agenda

- The need
- The method
- The experience

Who are we talking about?

Wealthy

Worldly

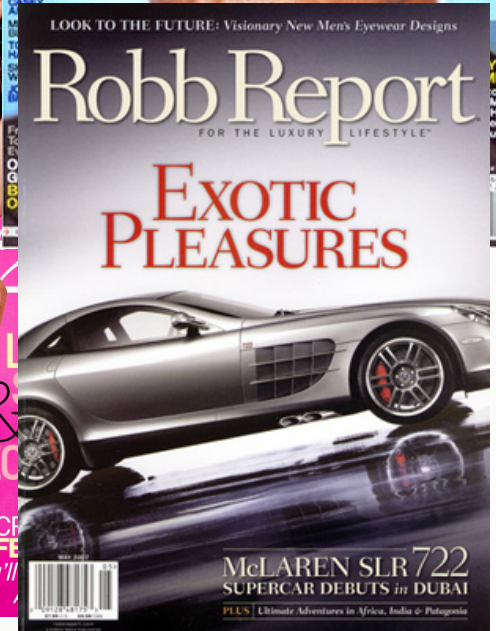
Well Educated

The Wealthy



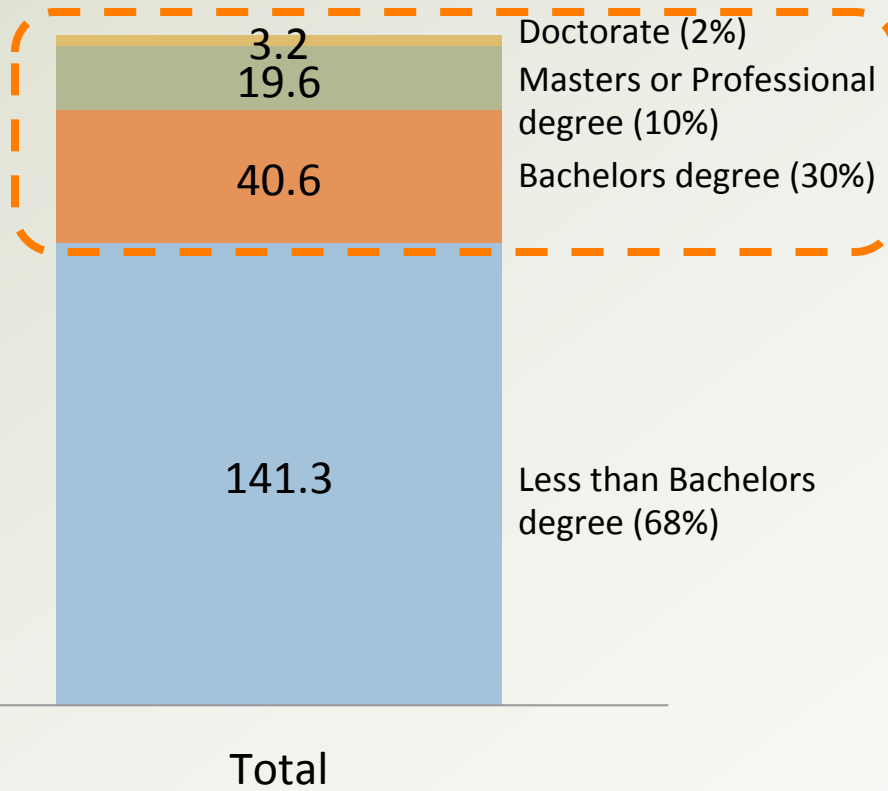
- 24M households (Top 20% ~60M people)
- Average household income > \$100K per year
- Only 7% of SDAs in this category

The Worldly



The Well Educated

Americans over age 25 by educational attainment 2012 (M)



WWWs are very difficult to reach

Psalm 19:7-10



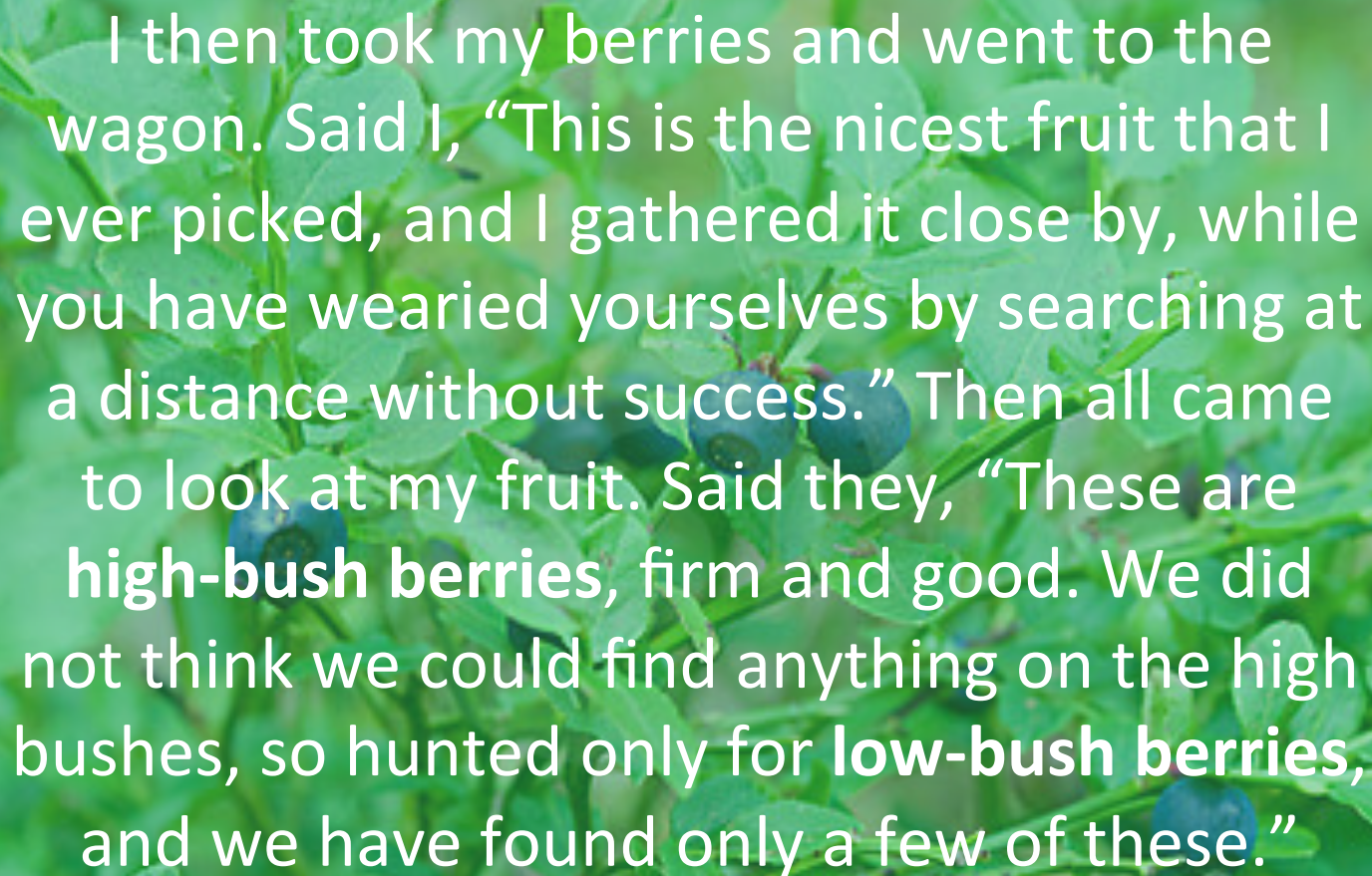
Proverbs 27:7



This difficulty is reflected in the Bible

- The Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:17-27)
- King Herod (Mark 6:14-29)
- King Agrippa (Acts 26:24-32)

Whortleberry vision – 9/29/1886



I then took my berries and went to the wagon. Said I, “This is the nicest fruit that I ever picked, and I gathered it close by, while you have wearied yourselves by searching at a distance without success.” Then all came to look at my fruit. Said they, “These are **high-bush berries**, firm and good. We did not think we could find anything on the high bushes, so hunted only for **low-bush berries**, and we have found only a few of these.”

WWWs should not be overlooked

I am sure that the dreams that I have had of late teach me lessons that **there is a neglect to get the better classes to become interested.** While the poor classes are not to be neglected, **neither should the higher and more intelligent classes be overlooked.** I have been, in dreams, instructed that we overlook the fields close by us to labor in far away fields, and we pick very inferior berries when there are larger and a better quality of berries all ready to be gathered. And **we are making a mistake in this kind of labor.** {21MR 317.1}

There has not been the effort made that there should have been made to reach the higher classes. While we are to preach the gospel to the poor, **we are also to present it in its most attractive light to those who have ability and talent,** and make far more wise, determined, God-fearing efforts than have hitherto been made, to win them to the truth. {2SAT 41.2}

We are neglecting WWS out of fear and lack of faith

There are intelligent men and women **whom we are afraid to work for, fearing repulse**; but earnest efforts should be made for the higher classes, coming close to their hearts, visiting them and **using special wisdom to win them to the truth**. There should be no pushing, no sharp contention, but leading their minds out to investigate. {21MR 317.2}

One reason why efforts have not heretofore been made for the higher classes as I have presented before you, **is a lack of faith and real courage in God**. {2SAT 42.1}

WWWs need to be shown the reality of God

There is a work to be done for the wealthy. They need to be awakened to their responsibility as those entrusted with the gifts of heaven. **They need to be reminded** that they must give an account to Him who shall judge the living and the dead. The wealthy man **needs your labor** in the love and fear of God. Too often **he trusts in his riches, and feels not his danger.** The eyes of his mind need to be attracted to things of enduring value.--*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 230

Worldliness is a great barrier...

So today God is seeking for souls among the high as well as the low. There are many like Cornelius, men whom He desires to connect with His church. Their sympathies are with the Lord's people. **But the ties that bind them to the world hold them firmly. It requires moral courage for these men to take their position with the lowly ones. Special effort should be made for these souls, who are in so great danger because of their responsibilities and associations.**

{MH 209.3}

...which has resulted in neglect

We talk and write much of the neglected poor; **should not some attention be given also to the neglected rich?** Many look upon this class as **hopeless**...Thousands of wealthy men have gone to their graves unwarned because **they have been judged by appearance and passed by as hopeless subjects**. But, indifferent as they may appear, **I have been shown that most of this class are soul-burdened**. There are thousands of rich men who are **starving for spiritual food**. Many in official life feel their need of something which they have not. Few among them go to church, **for they feel that they receive no benefit**. The teaching they hear does not touch the soul. **Shall we make no personal effort in their behalf?** {6T 78.3}

Apparent worldliness should not deter our efforts

Those who stand high in the world for their education, wealth, or calling, **are seldom addressed personally** in regard to the interests of the soul. **Many Christian workers hesitate** to approach these classes. **But this should not be.** If a man were drowning, we would not stand by and see him perish because he was a lawyer, a merchant, or a judge. If we saw persons rushing over a precipice, we would not hesitate to urge them back, whatever might be their position or calling. Neither should we hesitate to warn men of the peril of the soul. **None should be neglected because of their apparent devotion to worldly things.**--*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 230, 231

God has always reached out to these people (examples)

- Abraham
- Joseph
- Moses
- Deborah
- Samuel
- David
- Abigail
- Solomon
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Mordecai
- Esther
- Daniel
- Shadrach
- Meshach
- Abed-Nego
- Nebuchadnezzar
- Elizabeth
- Nicodemus
- Roman Centurion
- Joanna
- Joseph of Arimathea
- Paul
- Luke
- Ethiopian Eunuch
- Cornelius
- Sergius Paulus
- Lydia
- Crispus

WWW evangelism should be prioritized...

Those who belong to **the higher ranks of society are to be sought out** with tender affection and brotherly regard. Men in business life, in high positions of trust, men with large inventive faculties and scientific insight, men of genius, teachers of the gospel whose minds have not been called to the special truths for this time,--**these should be the first to hear the call. To them the invitation must be given.**--*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 230

...so that they can help spread the Gospel through means...(1 of 2)

The Lord desires that moneyed men shall be converted, and act as His helping hand in reaching others. He desires that those who can help in the work of reform and restoration shall see the precious light of truth and be transformed in character, and **led to use their entrusted capital in His service.** He would have them invest the means He has lent them, in doing good, in **opening the way for the gospel to be preached to all classes** nigh and afar off.--*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 114

...so that they can help spread the Gospel through means...(2 of 2)

Altogether too little effort has been put forth for men in responsible places in the world. Many of them **possess superior qualifications**; they have **means and influence**. These are precious gifts, **entrusted to them by the Lord to be increased and used for the good of others**.

Seek to save men of wealth. Entreat them to **return to the Lord the treasures He has lent them in trust**, that in New York and other great cities there may be established centers of influence from which Bible truth in its simplicity shall go forth to the people. Persuade men to **lay up their treasures beside the throne of God** by returning to the Lord their substance, **enabling His workers to do good and to advance His glory**.

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 9. (p. 115)

...and personal effort

The greatest men of this earth **are not beyond the power of a wonder-working God**...God will convert men who occupy responsible positions, men of intellect and influence. Through the power of the Holy Spirit many will accept the divine principles. Converted to the truth, **they will become agencies in the hand of God to communicate the light. They will have a special burden for other souls of this neglected class. Time and money will be consecrated to the work of the Lord, and new efficiency and power will be added to the church.**--*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 140

Converted WWWWs would work powerfully for God

Mistakes have been made in not seeking to reach ministers and the higher classes with the truth...A fund should be raised to educate men and women to labor for these higher classes...God wants men of talent and good minds, who can weigh arguments, men who will dig for the truth as for hid treasures. **These men will be able to reach, not only the common, but the better classes. Such men will ever be students of the Bible, fully alive to the sacredness of the responsibilities resting upon them. They will give full proof of their ministry. --*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5.* (pp. 580–581)**

WWWs require a different approach

Ms 66, 1894 The intelligent, the refined, are altogether too much passed by. **The hook is not baited to catch this class, and ways and methods are not prayerfully devised to reach them with truth that is able to make them wise unto salvation.** Most generally the fashionable, the wealthy, the proud, understand by experience that happiness is not to be secured by the amount of money that they possess, or by costly edifices, and ornamental furniture and pictures. They want something they have not. **But this class are attracted toward each other, and it is hard to find access to them...**The rich left alone without any effort to save them **become shut up more and more to their own ideas.** Their own train of thoughts and associations lose eternity out of their reckoning. They **grow more proud and selfish, hard-hearted and unimpressible,** suspicious that every one wants to get money.

WWWs are best reached by personal effort, determination, and faith

Some will ask: Can we not reach them with publications? **There are many who cannot be reached in this way. It is personal effort that they need.**

It is by **no casual, accidental touch** that wealthy, world-loving, world-worshiping souls can be drawn to Christ. These persons are **often the most difficult of access. Personal effort must be put forth** for them by men and women imbued with the missionary spirit, **those who will not fail or be discouraged.**

In every effort to reach the higher classes, the worker for God **needs strong faith.** Appearances may seem forbidding; but in the darkest hour there is light above.-- *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 242

Reaching WWWs requires our best efforts

But in order to do this **all the workers will have to keep themselves up to a high level of intelligence.** They cannot do this work and sink down to a low, common level, feeling that it does not much matter how they labor or what they say, since they are working for the poor and ignorant classes. They will have to **sharpen up, and be armed and equipped in order to present the truth intelligently and to reach the higher classes. Their minds must rise higher, and show greater strength and clearness.** {2SAT 41.3}

Some are uniquely qualified to evangelize to WWWs

Some are **especially fitted to work for the higher classes**. These should seek wisdom from God to know how to reach these persons, to have **not merely a casual acquaintance** with them, but **by personal effort and living faith** to awaken them to the needs of the soul, to lead them to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus.--*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 213

In order to reach these classes, **believers themselves must be living epistles**, "known and read of all men." 2 Corinthians 3:2.

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6. 1855 (78–80)

Summary

- ❑ **Huge and difficult mission field**
- ❑ **Needs focused effort for their own salvation and to spread the Gospel**
- ❑ **Requires deep personal efforts and our best thinking**



Will you take up the challenge?