



PREPARING TO STAND

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“In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord.” SW 3-21-1905

Recently I found the following “compilation with comments” in my file. It was written to promote the Wilderness Leadership Center out of North Fork, California back in the late 1970's. Unfortunately, the “Apple Ranch,” as it was also known, only lasted a few year, and is now mostly just a distant memory.

What is interesting, is that I don't think I have looked at this compilation since then. However when I re-read it the other day, I found that several of the same ideas and conclusions which I have come to based on my “recent” studies, were presented in this article—which I *had* read long ago! It seems maybe like God has brought me full circle on some of these conclusions, and I'm really curious where all this might lead.

Although no mention is given regarding its authorship, I am fairly certain that Jack Darnall, (now deceased), was the one who compiled it. In the original document, the references to the quotations were abbreviated. Here, the full source has been written out. All underlining was supplied by the author of the compilation. ~Jim Buller

WHY WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP

1. BECAUSE WE ARE UNPREPARED FOR THE DRAMATIC CRISIS JUST AHEAD.

"We as a people have not accomplished the work which God has committed to us. We are not ready for the issue to which the enforcement of the Sunday law will bring us." (*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, page 713)

What work?

"The work of the people of God is to prepare for the events of the future, which will soon come upon them with blinding force." (*Selected Messages Book 2*, page 142) (1903)

"We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise." (*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 8*, page 28)

What issues?

"But ere long there will be such strife and confusion in the cities, that those who wish to leave them will not be able. We must be preparing for these issues." (*Selected Messages Book 2*, page 142)

How can we prepare for these issues?

"A crisis is soon to come in regard to the observance of Sunday. ... If in the providence of God we can secure places away from the cities, the Lord would have us do this. There are troublous times before us." (*Selected Messages Book 2*, page 359) (1908)

2. BECAUSE THE CHURCH WILL AGAIN FLEE INTO THE WILDERNESS.

"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast ... and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed" (Revelation 13:15)

"As the decree [is] issued ... the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places." (*The Great Controversy*, page 626)

The primitive wilderness will be the final classroom of God's earthly school to prepare His students for heaven. His people will here develop confidence in God, faith and firmness and their earthliness will be consumed that the image of Christ may be perfectly reflected. (see *The Great Controversy*, page 618, 621)

Those who have spent time beforehand to become acquainted with God's wonderful wilderness will be natural leaders then. They will know how to provide shelter, water, food and encouragement for those who follow them. Thus the present study and practice of wilderness survival skills becomes an investment in future leadership. Shelter building, edible wild plants, water purification, fire building, map and compass skills, mountaineering, medical rescue and wilderness evangelism are subjects to be mastered by wilderness leaders.

God is pleased to have us do all in our power to answer our prayers for the necessities of life. However, during the fourth plague many areas will be without water or food, but God promises to hear and provide water and food to sustain life. (see *The Great Controversy*, page 628-630)

The rewards are great. The togetherness of fellowship in suffering will be the sweetest experience available on earth. The wilderness leader with his little company will be translated from the wilderness to heaven to be special friends throughout eternity.

But there are other responsibilities between now and then for the wilderness leader. Please note that the flight into the wilderness comes after the death decree. Before this is a period of time initiated by the national Sunday law. The Sunday law is the sign to leave the work in the large cities for smaller towns and villages. (see *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, pages 464, 465) This will be the Loud Cry period, the Little Time of Trouble, the time of greatest activity for God's people as they give the last message of mercy to a fearful world. [see *Early Writings*, page 85-86] For this great campaign we must prepare leadership now. Thus "wilderness leadership" involves the whole preparatory experience between now and the final wilderness experience.

3. BECAUSE THERE IS A FINAL MESSAGE TO BE GIVEN WITHOUT MONEY, BEFORE THE FLIGHT TO THE WILDERNESS.

"And that no man might buy nor sell, save he that had the mark ..." (Revelation 13:17)

"The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth." (*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 9*, page 97) This is the Little Time of Trouble after the national Sunday law. (see *Early Writings*, pages 33 and 85) This is the time of the final warning message, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, Come out of her My people, that ye partake not of her sins and receive not of her plagues." (Revelation 18:2, 4) This is clearly a call out of the cities, which will soon be destroyed, a call out of the false religion to righteousness in Christ, just before the plagues fall.

a. How will this message be taken to the cities and to the world without money?

God's answer is in the statement above. "If in the providence of God we can secure places away from the cities, the Lord would have us do this. There are troublous times before us." (*Selected Messages Book 2*, page 359)

We must develop a life style that is not dependant upon money or public utilities. The country home for the city mission workers should be located among the hills, where there is pure water and land for raising fruits and vegetables. (Letter 168, 1909 [see also *Medical Ministry*, page 308])

b. If we all move out of the cities how will they be evangelized?

"Said the messenger of God, 'Shall not the cities be warned? Yes, not by God's people living in them, but by their visiting them, to warn them of what is coming upon the earth.'" (*Evangelism* page 77) (1902) "Secure country properties at a low figure, and from these outpost centers we are to work the cities." (*Evangelism* page 77)

The purpose in moving out of the cities is to be able to warn them and bring the people out to a solid life—even without money. Do you see why God says we are not ready for the issues involved in the national Sunday law? We are not experiencing a lifestyle that will survive the boycott.

If the national Sunday law were enacted now, what would happen to the work of the church? Are you prepared to give the Loud Cry without money? What is the meaning of the following statement?

"The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out ..." (*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, page 911)

The church will survive. "The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances." (*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, pages 463) The work God has outlined will be done, even under great difficulties. We could just as well do it now. Why don't we do it? Do we know what to do?

4. BECAUSE CRISIS LEADERS MUST STUDY TO KNOW WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING NOW.

"Now, as never before, we need to understand the true science of education. If we fail to understand this, we shall never have a place in the kingdom of God." [*Christian Educator*, August 1, 1897]

"The plan of the schools we shall establish in these closing days of the work is to be of an entirely different order from those we have instituted in the past. For this reason, God bids us establish schools away from the cities." [*Review and Herald*, February 6, 1908]

"The work of the people of God is to prepare for the events of the future, which will soon come upon them with blinding force." (*Selected Messages Book 2*, page 142)

5. BECAUSE THE WILDERNESS IS WHERE THE ACTION IS NOW.

"God will make the wilderness a sacred place, as his people, filled with the missionary spirit, go forth to make centers for his work, to establish sanitariums, where the sick and afflicted can be cared for, and schools, where the youth can be educated in right lines." "Plants are to be made in many places. Schools and sanitariums ... for the purpose of spreading the truth." (*Review and Herald* July 28, 1903)

6. BECAUSE OUTPOST LEADERS MUST ORGANIZE EVANGELISTIC COMPANIES TO WORK THE CITIES NOW.

"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.' There is a grand work to be done in relieving suffering humanity, and through the labors of students who are receiving an education and training to become efficient medical missionaries the people living in many cities may become acquainted with the truths of the third angel's message." (*Counsels on Health*, pages 541-542)

"... Secure a place as a home for our mission workers outside of the city. It is of great importance that they have the advantages of pure water, free from all contamination. For this reason, it is often well to consider the advantages of locations among the hills. And there should be some land, where fruit and vegetables might be raised for the benefit of the workers ... in as healthful a place as possible, and let there be connected with it a small sanitarium. A place in the city should also be secured where simple treatments might be administered. ... Let such homes be secured in the neighborhood of several cities, and earnest, determined efforts be put forth by capable men to give in these cities the warning message that is to go to all the world." (Letter 168, 1909. *Medical Ministry*, page 308)

This outpost-to-city health evangelism program is Christ's ordained method for "finishing the work." This is God's special school "to perfect a character after the divine." This will prepare His people "for the events of the future which will soon come upon them with blinding force."

May we suggest that this land-based group of teachers and students working the cities is the school of the future?

7. BECAUSE OUTPOST - TO - CITY HEALTH EVANGELISM IS THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH

"We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work." (*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 7*, page 62)

"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*, page 317)

"The exhibition of the love of God as seen in unselfish ministry to others will be the means of leading many souls to believe the word of God just as it reads. ... In the future the earth is to be lightened with the glory of God. A holy influence is to go forth to the world from those who are sanctified through the truth." (*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 9*, page 40)

"They glorified God, because they had the oil of grace in their hearts, and did the very work that their Master did before them —went forth to seek and to save those who were lost." (*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 5*, page 1099 [*Signs of the Times*, June 28, 1910])

"... the earth is to be 'lightened with his glory.' ... men, women, and children will open their lips in praise and thanksgiving, filling the earth with the knowledge of God, and with His unsurpassed glory, as the waters cover the sea." (*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, page 984)

Obviously, the above statements describe the Loud Cry of Revelation 18:4, the final message experience that lightens the earth with the glory of God.

"Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers." (*The Great Controversy*, page 612)

What a day to experience!

To proclaim that glorious message, we must take the following steps now:

- a. Establish a wilderness (country) base where we build our homes, grow our food, cut our fuel, drink pure water (gravity fed) and do health education work.
- b. Become financially self-sufficient so that we can carry on the program without cash or any public utilities or services when necessary.
- c. Establish a city center for better living services where interested persons are met, taught, and brought out to the live-in programs at the wilderness center.
- d. Make all of this a school for vocational evangelists by involving students in all these activities.

8. TO ESTABLISH MANY SMALL WILDERNESS CENTERS THAT WILL PREPARE CRISIS LEADERSHIP TODAY.

The Wilderness Leadership Center [no longer in existence] offers pioneering opportunities to future leaders. To build a log home, develop a gravity water system, cut fuel from the forest, grow all necessary fruits, vegetables and grains and learn to lead others into healthful living and faith in Christ's righteousness —these are the privileges of dedicated staff and students.

Building the conditioning home for health guests [was] to be the first major project. Helping develop the city mission complex of vegetarian restaurant and food store, health museum, clinic and treatment rooms, book and equipment outlet and lecture programs will be educational experiences of the first order. Seminars [were to] be offered at the Center in the skills and concepts necessary to this work. Dedicated staff members and students [were] needed ... to help make [the] center all that God has said it should be. His presence "will make the wilderness a sacred place" as we seek Him with all our hearts and follow His blueprint just as Noah did. This ark must be built today to reveal His loving mercy to the world.

The International Wilderness Club [present status undetermined] offers membership to those who wish to study these concepts and/or to support this program. It [was] the correspondence school and supportive constituency of the Center. The quarterly journal COME OUT ... to the Beautiful Life offer[ed] articles on rural and wilderness living skills and survival. The WILDERNESS VOICE newsletter [was to keep] members posted on the activities at the Center and progress elsewhere, and explains philosophies and objectives. Audio visuals [were available to] be borrowed or purchased from the Center. Members of the IWC [were] welcome at the Center at all times, to use the library, to take seminars, or just to spend a few days helping with the work and hiking the beautiful hills. If you are interested, join the club.

IN CONCLUSION

It is time to take a closer look at Jesus, dear friends, receive His unselfish Spirit into our souls and work as He worked. When we reveal Christ to the world in our total life style, the work will be quickly finished.

"The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ. ... Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'" (*Ministry of Healing*, page 143)

"When He sent forth the seventy He commanded them to heal the sick, and next to preach that the kingdom of God had come nigh unto them. Their physical health was to be first cared for, in order that the way might be prepared for their minds to be reached by those truths which the apostles were to preach." (*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 4*, page 225)

Christ's method was very simple. He walked to where the people were, met their needs, and bade them follow Him. We will soon have the privilege of doing the very same thing.