



# 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

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## PREPARATION OF HEART

by Ellen White

(from *Testimonies for the Church Volume Six* pages 41–44)

At these gatherings [campmeetings] we must ever remember that two forces are at work. A battle unseen by human eyes is being waged. The army of the Lord is on the ground, seeking to save souls. Satan and his host are also at work, trying in every possible way to deceive and destroy. The Lord bids us: "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:11, 12. Day by day the battle goes on. If our eyes could be opened to see the good and evil agencies at work, there would be no trifling, no vanity, no jesting or joking. If all would put on the whole armor of God and fight manfully the battles of the Lord, victories would be gained that would cause the kingdom of darkness to tremble.

None of us should go to the camp meeting depending on the ministers or the Bible workers to make the meeting a blessing to us. God does not want His people to hang their weight on the minister. He does not want them to be weakened by depending on human beings for help. They are not to lean, like helpless children, upon someone else as a prop. As a steward of the grace of God, every church member should feel personal responsibility to have life and root in himself. Each one should feel that in a measure the success of the meeting depends upon him. Do not say: "I am not responsible. I shall have nothing to do in this meeting." If you feel thus, you are giving Satan opportunity to work through you. He will crowd your mind with his thoughts, giving you something to do in his lines. Instead of gathering with Christ, you will scatter abroad.

The success of the meeting depends on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. For the outpouring of the Spirit every lover of the cause of truth should pray. And as far as lies in our power, we are to remove every hindrance to His working. The Spirit can never be poured out while variance and bitterness toward one another are cherished by the members of the church. Envy, jealousy, evil surmising, and evilspeaking are of Satan, and they effectually bar the way against the Holy Spirit's working. Nothing else in this world is so dear to God as His church. Nothing is guarded

by Him with such jealous care. Nothing so offends God as an act that injures the influence of those who are doing His service. He will call to account all who aid Satan in his work of criticizing and discouraging.

Those who are destitute of sympathy, tenderness, and love cannot do Christ's work. Before the prophecy can be fulfilled, The weak shall be "as David," and the house of David "as the angel of the Lord," (Zechariah 12:8), the children of God must put away every thought of suspicion in regard to their brethren. Heart must beat in unison with heart. Christian benevolence and brotherly love must be far more abundantly shown. The words are ringing in my ears: "Draw together, draw together." The solemn, sacred truth for this time is to unify the people of God. The desire for pre-eminence must die. One subject of emulation must swallow up all others--who will most nearly resemble Christ in character? who will most entirely hide self in Jesus?

"Herein is My Father glorified," Christ says, "that ye bear much fruit." John 15:8. If there was ever a place where the believers should bear much fruit, it is at our camp meetings. At these meetings our acts, our words, our spirit, are marked, and our influence is as far-reaching as eternity.

Transformation of character is to be the testimony to the world of the indwelling love of Christ. The Lord expects His people to show that the redeeming power of grace can work upon the faulty character and cause it to develop in symmetry and abundant fruitfulness.

But in order for us to fulfill God's purpose, there is a preparatory work to be done. The Lord bids us empty our hearts of the selfishness which is the root of alienation. He longs to pour upon us His Holy Spirit in rich measure, and He bids us clear the way by self-renunciation. When self is surrendered to God, our eyes will be opened to see the stumbling stones which our un-Christlikeness has placed in the way of others. All these God bids us remove. He says: "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." James 5:16. Then we may have the assurance that David had when, after confession of his sin, he prayed: "Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee." Psalm 51:12, 13.

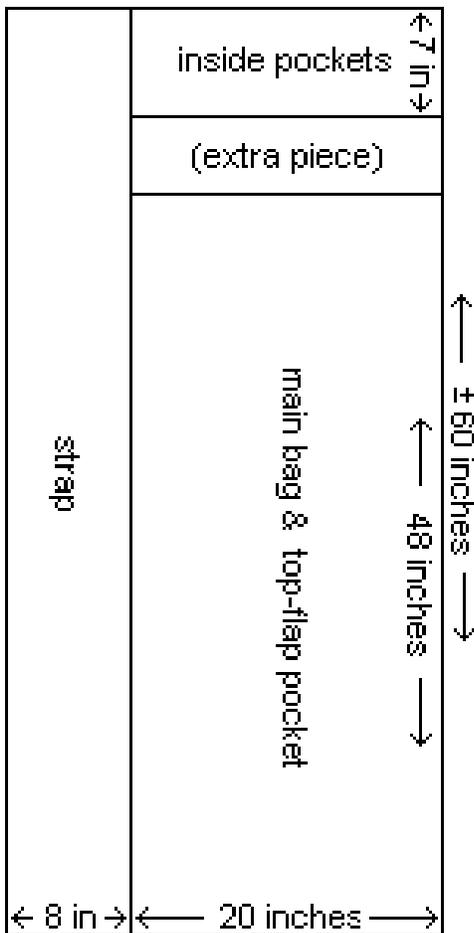
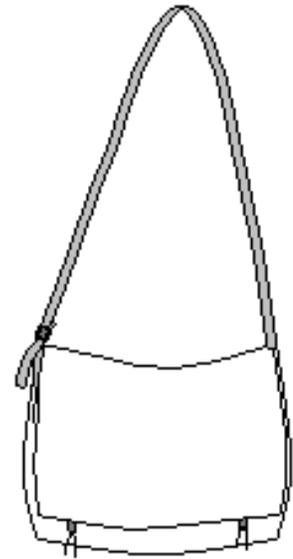
When the grace of God reigns within, the soul will be surrounded with an atmosphere of faith and courage and Christlike love, an atmosphere invigorating to the spiritual life of all who inhale it. Then we can go to the camp meeting not merely to receive, but to impart. Everyone who is a partaker of Christ's pardoning love, everyone who has been enlightened by the Spirit of God and converted to the truth, will feel that for these precious blessings he owes a debt to every soul with whom he comes in contact. Those who are humble in heart the Lord will use to reach souls whom the ordained ministers cannot approach. They will be moved to speak words which reveal the saving grace of Christ.

And in blessing others they will themselves be blessed. God gives us opportunity to impart grace, that He may refill us with increased grace. Hope and faith will strengthen as the agent for God works with the talents and facilities that God has provided. He will have a divine agency to work with him.

## MAKING A SHOULDER BAG

Shoulder bags work good for day hikes, and in connection with a bedroll, can be used for overnight hikes. One advantage to using shoulder bags is the ability to get in and out of them without having to take them off and open it up—even while walking down the trail!

This simple shoulder bag is not difficult or expensive to make. Besides regular sewing equipment, you will only need about one yard of canvas, three to five buttons, and a 2 inch “slider buckle” for the strap. This pattern is for 60 inch wide material, but other widths can also be easily adapted. Untreated canvas shrinks about 80% in “running length,” but for some reason the shrinkage in the width is negligible. If you are using this type of canvas, purchase at least one yard, (36 inches), in “running length”—the 36 inches will shrink down to about the 28 inches you need! Be sure to pre-wash the material before working with it to avoid problems later.



### Lay-Out

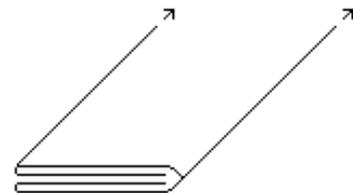
Lay the material out, and cut or rip out: an 8 by 60 inch strip along the width of the material for the **shoulder strap**; a 20 by 48 inch piece for the **main bag & top-flap pocket**; and a 20 by 7 inch piece for the **inside pockets**. If possible, one of the long edges of the **inside pockets** piece should be along the selvedge edge. If not, make the piece 20 by 8 inches to allow for a hem.

### Shoulder Strap

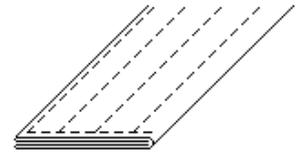
① Fold the 8 by 60 inch piece of material in half lengthwise, and iron a crease down the center. Be precise, as the material may have a tendency to “crawl” during ironing.

② Open, and fold each of the out-side edges into the center, ironing a crease along each of these folds. Again, be precise to avoid “crawling.”

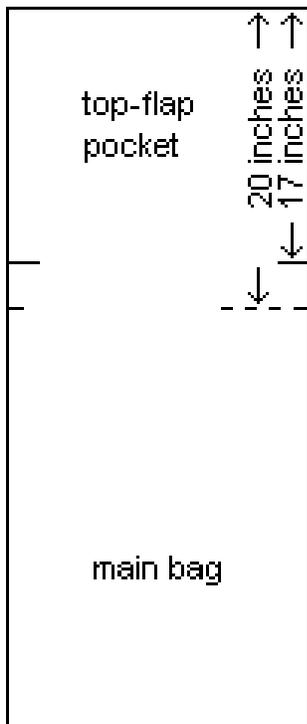
③ Fold the two sides together to make a strap that is four layers thick. Iron one last time if necessary to help keep it all together.



④ Pin along the open edge to keep it together, then sew along the edge. Turn and sew back down the center of the strap. Turn again and sew in between the first line of stitching and the center line of stitching. And finally turn and sew between the opposite edge and the center to end up with four lines of stitching running along the full length of the strap.



⑤ Cut about 6 inches from one of the selvedge ends of the finished strap, and about 46 inches from the other selvedge end. Discard the extra piece of strap from the middle.



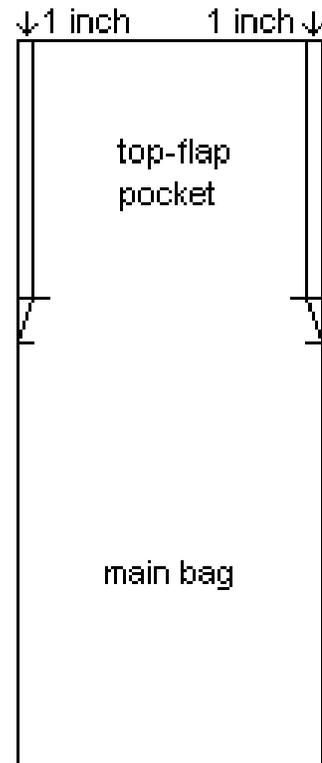
**Main Bag & Top-flap Pocket**

① Make two marks, one 17 inches and the other 20 inches, down from one end along the long sides of the **main bag** and **top-flap** piece of material. This end will become the **top-flap pocket**.

② Mark 1 inch in, along both sides of the material down to the 17 inch mark, and then diagonal over to the edge of the material at the 20 inch mark, (as shown). Cut off this strip.

③ At this point, it may be a good idea to make the material water-repellant by rubbing wax or paraffin over the entire piece on the opposite side of the marks, (this will become the “outside” of the shoulder bag). Rub in as much wax as possible so that the material appears “frosted.” Then iron the material, to

melt the paraffin/wax into it. Give it a second coat. After this treatment, the material should be somewhat stiff, but not rigid.



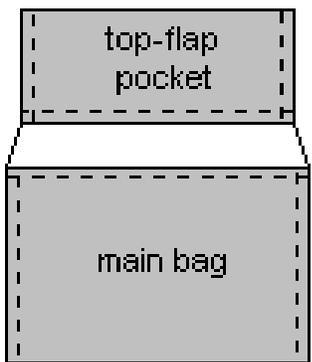
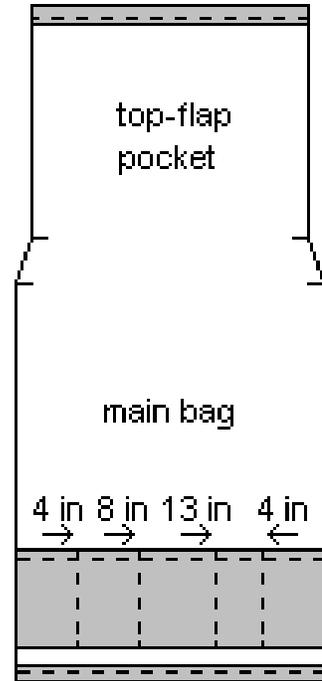
④ Fold under, and hem both ends. (From now on, the shading in the drawings represents the side of the material that will become the outside of the shoulder bag.)



⑤ Make a line 8 inches in from the **main bag** end of the material. Lay the **inside pockets** piece along this line as shown with its selvedge edge, (or hemmed edge), toward the center of the **main bag** piece, and pin in place. Sew  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in from the edge parallel to the line.

⑥ Fold the **inside pockets** piece back along this seam and sew across the fold.

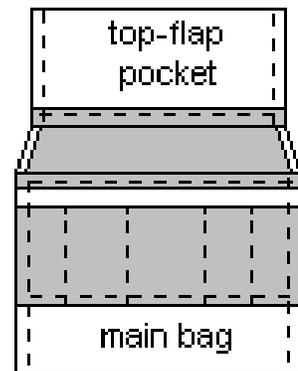
⑦ To make the individual pockets, measure in and mark, top and bottom from the left side: 4 inches, 8 inches, and 13 inches; and from the right side 4 inches. Draw lines to connect these marks if necessary and sew along these lines to make the pocket divisions, as shown.



⑧ Fold the **main bag** end of the material in to the 20 inch mark made in step ①, and pin along both sides. Fold the **top-flap pocket** end of the material to the 17 inch mark made in step ①, and pin along both sides. Sew  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch seams along both sides of the material. (If not using pins, start at the marks and sew out to the corners to keep the material from “crawling.”)

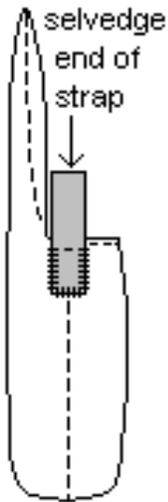
⑨ Turn the **main bag** and **top-flap pocket** inside out, and sew “french seams” to prevent the material from unraveling.

⑩ Turn the bag right-side-out. Between the **main bag** and **top-flap pocket**, there will be a “flap” of material. Turn this “flap” under and hem it down.



### Closing the Pockets

To close the **top-flap pocket**, and possibly the largest of the **inside pockets**, stitch ties, or an additional flap, with corresponding buttons, to hold them shut and keep the contents inside. You may also want to attach ties to the outside bottom of the **top flap pocket**, with corresponding buttons on the front of the **main bag** to hold down the **top flap** and close off the **main bag**, (see sketch at the beginning of this article).



### Sewing the Strap onto the Bag

Sew one piece of the shoulder strap on each side of the **main bag**. It is best to sew the “cut end” of the strap to the bag so it will not unravel, and leave the selvedge edge for the loose end. Center the end of the strap over the seam, with the “cut end” about 2½ inches down from the upper edge of the **main bag** as shown. It might be easier to hand sew this with heavy thread, rather than sew it with a machine, as the strap straddles the bulky “french seam” inside the bag. After the two sections of strap have been sewn to the **main bag**, the ends are joined with the 2 inch “slider buckle” to allow the length of the strap to be adjusted.

### Using the Shoulder Bag

Only pack flat items in the top-flap pocket, otherwise it simply will not lay right. Bulkier items should go into the main bag. Adjust the length of the strap after you have loaded the bag to see how it “hangs.” Experiment with different strap lengths to find out what works best for you. When the strap is worn across the torso, the bag seems to ride most comfortably in the hollow of the back, or slightly lower. This may seem higher than it should be, but if the bag is worn too low, it will swing with each step and can be most annoying! The shoulder bag can be worn in a number of ways, so when one shoulder gets a little tired, experiment with a different position.