“Make Your Calling and Election Sure”

The most important election is the one that is taking place in heaven right now.

The world becomes intrigued every four years with the presidential election in the United States. There is a race, a competition, to influence the people to vote for certain people or parties. The people are bombarded with advertising and solicitations of all kinds and through every available media. Ellen White makes this relevant comment: “An intensity such as never before was seen is taking possession of the world. In amusement, in moneymaking, in the contest for power, in the very struggle for existence, there is a terrible force that engrosses body and mind and soul. In the midst of this maddening rush, God is speaking. He bids us come apart and commune with Him. ‘Be still, and know that I am God’ (Psalm 46:10).” *Education*, 260.

The most important election is the one that is taking place in heaven right now and has been for 175 years. This is the election that will determine your eternal destiny. It is an election over which God the Father presides and over which Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, is devoting His intercession 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (See Daniel 7, Zechariah 3 and Matthew 22.) It is an election in which your vote—that is the life you live—will be the decision-making move. The apostle Peter wrote, “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:10, 11).

“Every soul is elected who will work out his own salvation with fear and trembling. He is elected who will put on the armor and fight the good fight of faith. He is elected who will watch unto prayer, who will search the Scriptures, and flee from temptation. He is elected who will have faith continually, and who will be obedient to every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. The provisions of redemption are free to all; the results of redemption will be enjoyed by those who have complied with the conditions.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 208.
“There is an election of individuals and a people, the only election found in the word of God, where man is elected to be saved. Many have looked at the end, thinking they were surely elected to have heavenly bliss; but this is not the election the Bible reveals. Man is elected to work out his own salvation with fear and trembling. He is elected to put on the armor, to fight the good fight of faith. He is elected to use the means God has placed within his reach to war against every unholy lust, while Satan is playing the game of life for his soul. He is elected to watch unto prayer, to search the Scriptures, and to avoid entering into temptation. He is elected to have faith continually. He is elected to be obedient to every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, and that he may be, not a hearer only, but a doer of the word. This is Bible election.”

Testimonies to Ministers, 453, 454.

God’s word tells us that we are His “elect.” The apostles Peter and Paul made sure that this wonderful truth was never forgotten. We are privileged to still have their letters to the churches, God’s elect, because “…the word of God, …lives and abides forever” (1 Peter 1:23).

After the apostle Paul opens his first epistle to the Thessalonians expressing his ardent love and thankfulness for the report of his fellow worker Timothy concerning their faithfulness, he goes on to mention “O, brethren, beloved of God, we recognize and know that He has selected (chosen) you” (1 Thessalonians 1:4 [Amplified Bible]). Are you steadfastly fighting the good fight of faith “to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” Acts of the Apostles, 533.

History has recorded that the rivalry between individuals competing for the nomination of leader of an established nation can propel the people into sheer madness. These historical frenzied circumstances would never have occurred if the people of this earth had never chosen to have an earthly ruler instead of the Creator, the Ruler of heaven and earth.

“When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man…even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind. (Romans 1:21-25, 28).”

After many years of man’s departure from his Creator, God called out Abraham to be father of all who would have Him alone to be their God. … They worshipped Him, were faithful to Him for a while. Then, again, they rejected him as their ruler. They wanted to be like the nations of the land. They wanted a king.

“The first form of government over men was established by God himself and acknowledged him as the only Sovereign. He made known His will by written commands and revelations, by messages to His chosen servants, by dreams, by signs, and wonders. He would have continued to be their king, had they content with His paternal care. …

“The government of Israel had never been conducted with so great wisdom and success as under Samuel’s sole administration. In no previous ruler had the people reposed so implicit confidence. He had labored with untiring and disinterested zeal for the highest good of the nation. In every transaction he had been governed by justice and benevolence. And not only was his course wholly unselfish, but he was often inattentive to his own dues and rights. Hence, the selfishness manifested by his sons appeared more striking in contrast with the course of their faithful father.

“The arrogance and injustice of these judges caused much dissatisfaction among the people, who were far more troubled by dangers threatening their temporal interests than they had been by the profligacy and sacrilege of Hophni and Phinehas. Ere long many who considered themselves aggrieved presented their complaints to the elders of Israel. A pretext was thus furnished for urging the change which had long been secretly desired.

“Had Samuel been informed on the unjust course of his sons, he would at once have removed them and appointed others more
“It is a hazardous step to place the scepter in the hands of finite man and crown him monarch.”

Signs of the Times, July 13, 1882

upright in their place. When, however, the complaint against his sons was laid before him, followed immediately by the petition for a king, Samuel saw that the real motive was discontent and pride. He perceived that the desire did not spring from a sudden impulse, but was the result of long deliberation and a determined purpose. …

“Samuel carried this new and, to him, difficult matter to the Lord in prayer, and sought counsel alone from Him. His petitions were heard; ‘and the Lord said unto Samuel, hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee; for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.’ The prophet was reproved for grieving at the conduct of the people toward himself as an individual. They had not manifested disrespect for him, but for the authority of God, who had appointed the rulers of his people. …

“It is a hazardous step to place the scepter in the hands of finite man and crown him monarch. God understands the human heart far better than men understand it themselves. A departure from the Lord’s wise arrangement would pervert authority into tyranny and subjection into slavery. Even if a ruler were naturally merciful and benevolent, unlimited power over his fellow-men would tend to make him a despot. Such power God alone is able to use with justice and wisdom.

“The Lord had, through His prophets, foretold that Israel would be governed by a king. But it by no means follows that this form of government was according to His will. Though He foresees all things, He often permits men to take their own course when they refuse to be guided by the counsels of infinite wisdom. In this instance, He instructed Samuel to grant their request, but to faithfully warn them of the Lord’s disapproval, and also make known what would be the result of their course: ‘Now therefore hearken unto their voice.

Howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.’ …

“But the people were bent upon following their own course. The solemn warnings from God, through His aged prophet, had no effect to turn them from their purpose. They returned the answer, ‘Nay; but we will have a king over us, that we may also be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.’

“‘Like other nations’--the Israelites did not realize that to be in this respect unlike other nations was a special privilege and blessing. God had separated Israel from every other people to make them His own peculiar treasure. But they, disregarding this high honor, eagerly desired to imitate the example of the heathen. What blindness! What ingratitude! …

“Would that this passage in Israel’s history had no counterpart in the present experience of God’s people! But alas, we see it frequently repeated! A discontented desire for change, a longing to conform to worldly plans and worldly customs, too often controls even professed Christians. As they depart from God, they become ambitious for the gains and honors of the world. Those who stand firm against conformity to the world, discouraging pride, superfluity, and extravagance, and enjoining humility and self-denial, are looked upon as critical, peculiar, and severe. Some argue that by uniting with worldlings and conforming to their customs, Christians might exert a stronger influence in the world. But all who pursue this course thereby separate from the source of their strength. Becoming friends of the world, they are the enemies of God…” Signs of the Times, July 13, 1882
**Mission Project**  
**Updates**

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### Bibles and More  
**Spreading the Word in Malawi and Mozambique**

We offer the highest praise to our heavenly Father that so many of you have helped us provide Bibles in areas where they are so scarce and where those hungering and thirsting for the truth have absolutely no money to purchase a Bible, even if they were available.

In our last newsletter, we told you of the Bible distribution you made possible in Nigeria. In this issue, we want to tell you how you have helped in Malawi and Mozambique, as reported by our tireless worker in Zambia, Henry Mwesa.

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We have distributed Bibles in Malawi and are taking some soon to Mozambique. The people here were the most benefitted as they completely had no Bibles. We have also given a copy to each of the needy home churches in Malawi so they could read together as they go through the Sabbath school lessons. This has been a blessing, as some of these people are so poor they can’t afford to buy a Bible.

Thank you and God bless you.

*Henry Mwesa*

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### Tabloid Project  
**Continued Work in Central America**

Seth Ferrell sends words of encouragement following this brief report on the work in Quetzaltenango and Totonicapan, small cities in Guatemala. It is exciting to see how the tabloids have been distributed in Guatemala. These brethren are diligent to make sure that these truth packed messages are taken to those in need. Guatemala is a very poor country that needs hope in these last days.

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By Seth Ferrell

I contacted the man in Uruguay to see how the distribution of tabloids is going on in that country. He told me that the whole country is on quarantine and no one can go outside. God forbid, but it looks like no literature will be handed out in that country for some time. Brothers and sisters, as we look around, we can tell that time is short. “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.” *Christian Service*, 158.

Yes, friend the night is coming when no man can work. But, before the nightfall arrives, it will steadily get darker and darker. We are entering that time now. It is time to work now as we have not in the past. There is an urgency in the air, in the news, and in the signs all around us. We must awaken from our dormant stupor and work with all our energies. Oddly enough during one of that greatest crises on earth the church was sleeping, that crisis is explained in *The Desire of Ages*.

“The humanity of the Son of God trembled in that trying hour. He prayed
In His Steps
May - June 2020

2020 Camp Meeting
Via Internet Stream Only

Because of the corona virus outbreak, which is presently restricting travel and assemblies, and because we do not know how long the effects of these restrictions will last, we will be having an electronic camp meeting this year, to be live streamed from our sanctuary. It will be available worldwide for those who have access to the Internet. Because of restrictions on size of assemblies, currently limited to ten per building in our county, only those who are staffing the program can be present in person. Also, there will be no food service this year.

If you do not have access to the Internet, we can provide DVDs or CDs of the presentations for the cost of shipping only, hopefully by late summer.

If the world situation completely opens up before the date of the camp meeting, currently scheduled for May 20 – 24, please call our office at 316-788-5559 to find out what last-minute changes might have been made to the program.

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Bible Distribution in Nigeria
Successful Bible students received Bibles as gifts

By Daniel Terence

We began distributing the Bibles that your support enabled us to acquire with the Steps to Life Bible correspondence students. Each of these students has also received Bible lesson cards to give to their friends and family members. In the church in Makurdi, some members have used these cards to introduce the STL lessons to friends and family members. I am collecting the cards that have been returned to begin giving out the lessons as I visit those who cannot come to the office themselves to collect lessons.

By His grace Bibles and Spirit of Prophecy books were given to newly baptized members of the church in Gboko.

We are also collaborating with a Pentecostal church for an outreach effort at Tyowanye, about 120 km from Makurdi for a one week program to cover prophecy and the health laws. Bibles will be given out especially to those who have attended all sessions and have answered the daily Bible quiz correctly during the program. Those who desire further studies will begin Bible lessons. Lesson cards will be made available to the attendees.

The first week of April 2020 has been scheduled for the Gboko Outreach where Pastor Nunez will be ministering at the JSTarka stadium, and Bibles will be given out to those who attend all sessions and agree to study more. We will also be conducting health presentations and treatments by use of natural remedies to those who attend.

May the Lord use these materials to enrich the souls that will be in attendance during the program. May the Lord prepare us all for that event to glory and honor of His name. We appreciate Steps to Life and all donors for their God-given love and kindness and donations. May His wondrous grace continue to abound towards you all in Jesus name. Amen.

[Note: Due to the worldwide effects of the Covid-19 virus, the Gboko outreach mentioned above has been postponed.]

“If the Bible were studied as it should be, men would become strong in intellect. The subjects treated upon in the Word of God, the dignified simplicity of its utterance, the noble themes which it presents to the mind, develop faculties in man which cannot otherwise be developed.”

Child Guidance, 507

Four persons baptized with their gifts of Bibles and Spirit of Prophecy books.

A student receiving a Bible following baptism.
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