Work of First Importance

“...like the leaves of autumn...”

If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures.” Christian Service, 145

In 1978 an Adventist pastor and I were riding in his car in Washington state. As I recall we were talking about the Soviet Union and how once the Communist governments took over any country, it was apparently impregnable to any attempt internally or from without for that country to regain its freedom for its citizens. Cuba and the bay of pigs episode—one of the large miscalculations and resulting disasters of the John F. Kennedy presidency—were still fresh in memory.

Since 1989 the world situation does not look at all the same, does it? In 1978 a careful student of prophecy could know that as we drew near the end of the world, in spite of whatever mistakes are made by government leaders in this country, the United States would be a leading nation in the world that would take a leading part in enforcing the mark of the beast and the worship of the image of the beast.

In a similar way, in the 1980s we heard talk from apparently every quarter about the coming “paperless office.” The business world was going to become electronic. Everything was going to be done by computers and information would be communicated and stored electronically so we would not need to use paper much anymore. That was the theory, anyway. Adventists were heard saying that printed literature was going to become obsolescent. We would communicate the gospel electronically to the whole world. While we at Steps to Life have always been interested in electronic communication, whether by radio, television, internet or any other electronic means, we need to always pay attention to what the Spirit of Prophecy says about old fashioned hard copy—the printed page. Notice this passage:

“Son, go work today in my vineyard...” Matthew 21:28
“In a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power and lightens the earth with his glory.” Testimonies, vol. 7, 140

In 1849 James White was impressed that it was his duty to write and publish the present truth, but his poverty led to much discouragement and delay. Although there were brethren who had means, they were not moved to help him. So he decided that despite his poor health, he would go mow a field of grass to earn funds. When he left home to perform this humble work, a burden came upon Mrs. White that caused her to faint. After prayers were offered for her and she recovered, she was taken in vision. She was shown that the Lord would not give James strength to labor in a field, for He had another work for him. They were both to walk by faith and commence writing and publish present truth. More than 170 years later, publications of present truth are still being produced and distributed worldwide.

“The printed page is therefore essential, not only in awakening them to the importance of the truth for this time, but in rooting and grounding them in the truth and establishing them against deceptive error. Papers and books are the Lord’s means of keeping the message for this time continually before the people. In enlightening and confirming souls in the truth the publications will do a far greater work than can be accomplished by the ministry of the word alone. The silent messengers … will strengthen the gospel ministry in every way; for the Holy Spirit will impress minds.” Testimonies, vol. 6, pages 313-316

As stated above in the opening quote, it is of great importance that publications filled with present truth get published and distributed to lead recipients to search the scriptures while they have the freedom and privilege to do so. We must not forget that this privilege was once not allowed and it resulted in gross darkness during the 1260 years of papal suppression of the truth.

“The accession of the Roman Church to power marked the beginning of the Dark Ages. As her power increased, the darkness deepened. Faith was transferred from Christ, the true foundation, to the pope of Rome. Instead of trusting in the Son of God for forgiveness of sins and for eternal salvation, the people looked to the pope, and to the priests and prelates to whom he delegated authority. They were taught that the pope was their earthly mediator, and that none could approach God except through him, and, further, that he stood in the place of God to them, and was therefore to be implicitly obeyed. A deviation from his requirements was sufficient cause for the severest punishment to be visited upon the bodies and souls of the offenders. Thus the minds of the people were turned away from God to fallible, erring, and cruel men, nay more, to the prince of darkness himself, who exercised his power through them. Sin was disguised in a garb of sanctity. When the Scriptures are suppressed, and man comes to regard himself as supreme, we need look only for fraud, deception, and debasing iniquity. With the elevation of human laws and traditions, was manifest the corruption that ever results from setting aside the law of God.” The Great Controversy, 55

“Let every Seventh-day Adventist ask himself, ’What can I do to proclaim the third angel’s message?’ Christ came to this
The accession of the Roman Church to power marked the beginning of the Dark Ages. As her power increased, the darkness deepened.

world to give this message to His servant to give to the churches. It is to be proclaimed to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. How are we to give it? The distribution of our literature is one means by which the message is to be proclaimed. Let every believer scatter broadcast tracts and leaflets and books containing the message for this time. ” *Southern Watchman*, January 5, 1904

With the Lord’s blessing, the types of publications mentioned in the above quotes will serve two primary purposes. They will be the means of keeping continually before the people 1) God’s last warning message for this time and 2) His gracious invitation to be saved. It is our publications that must show that the end of all things is at hand. The world is to receive this message through the evangelizing ministry of the word through books and periodicals. Publications containing light on present truth must be placed before as many as possible.

“Church members, awake to the importance of the circulation of our literature, and devote more time to this work. Place in the homes of the people papers, tracts, and books that will preach the gospel in its several lines. There is no time to be lost. Let many give themselves willingly and unselfishly to the canvassing work, and thus help to sound a warning that is greatly needed. When the church takes up her appointed work, she will go forth ‘fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.’ ” *Ibid.*, November 20, 1902.

“The light of truth is shedding its bright beams upon the world through missionary effort. The press is an instrumentality by which many are reached whom it would be impossible to reach by ministerial effort.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 388

“The night of trial is nearly spent. Satan is bringing in his masterly power because he knoweth that his time is short. The chastisement of God is upon the world, to call all who know the truth to hide in the cleft of the Rock, and view the glory of God. The truth must not be muffled now. Plain statements must be made. Unvarnished truth must be spoken, in leaflets and pamphlets, and these must be scattered like the leaves of autumn.” *Ibid*, vol. 9, 231
Mission Project Updates

Bibles and More
Kansas State Fair

We usually use this space for reports from foreign mission fields. However, in this issue we want to report on a mission field closer to home.

September 9-18, 2022, personnel from Steps to Life, volunteers from Prairie Meadows Church and from the Historic Sabbath Church in Hutchinson, Kansas, staffed our booth at the Kansas State Fair. This was the 28th year that the ministry and the church have worked together to spread the good news before the thousands who attend the fair each year.

Well over 3,000 pieces of literature were given away free to folks who expressed an interest in our offerings. The most popular titles were The Great Controversy, The Desire of Ages, Ministry of Healing, and Bible Readings for the Home.

There were many opportunities for witnessing and all who staffed the booth were blessed with uplifting experiences.

Many Spirit of Prophecy books and pamphlets were made available at the 2022 Kansas State Fair.

To support similar efforts, please mark your donations Bibles/SOP.

Tabloid Project

For many years, Steps to Life has helped raise funds for Cornerstone Publishing to print inexpensive tabloids that have enabled hundreds of thousands of people to receive the three angels’ messages for the first time.

Since 1994, beginning with a work by Reuben Teske, Cornerstone has been a major provider of “autumn leaves” that have carried the present truth to the far corners of the world.

After Brother Teske’s passing, his work was assumed by Vance Ferrell at Harvestime Books. Vance’s son, Seth, is now guiding the work first begun 28 years ago.

To assist in this worthwhile effort, please mark your donations Tabloids.

Orphanages

Pastor Domingo continues to work with Daniel and Ruby Terence to develop an orphanage in Nigeria. The building is currently under construction, and we look forward to providing a full report once that facility is operational.

In October, Pr. Domingo spent two weeks there making final arrangements for the opening.

Please keep this operation in your prayers. To support this worthwhile work, mark your donations Orphans.

This amount represents 2022 funds raised for several orphanages in Africa which Steps to Life supports.
A Letter from Colombia

Dear Brethren at Steps to Life:
It’s been a blessed month. The Lord has been very gracious to us.

We continue in building the cabins at El Arbolito outpost. We come to Valencia farm to print, where we have the printers. We have to walk almost two hours to get to Valencia.

There is a schedule for the services for each Sabbath at the Valencia auditorium. We are scheduled every six weeks for the Sabbath school lesson or for preaching.

At El Arbolito, we have the help of three brothers. Two are in charge of building and one is in charge of the vegetable gardens and in taking care of the farm. Many, many chores...

We want to thank you for all your help to support our ministry.

May the Lord bless each one of you.

In the Christian hope,

Benjamin and Rosana Cortes

Progress in Kenya

The results of months of planning and work are beginning to materialize in Keroka, Kenya. Pastor Domingo Nunez has coached Zachary Makworo, who has overseen the interests of our ministry in Kenya for over a decade, in the execution of an impressive plan to construct a base for our work there. Pastor Domingo has recently returned from a two-week visit there during which he provided final guidance for the completion of a new building that will house offices, a printing operation, a meeting room, and study facilities. Future plans call for the construction of a church. During the first Sabbath worship, the building was filled to capacity.

“Evangelism, the very heart of Christianity, is the theme of primary importance to those called to herald God’s last warning to a doomed world.”

Evangelism, 5

In November

If you’re a LandMarks subscriber, mostly likely you have the November issue in your hands already. If you’re not a subscriber, you can access the magazine online at www.stepstolife.org.

Have you ever wondered if our lives on this Earth can be victorious? There is good news! Because of Christ’s victory over the temptations of Satan, both in the wilderness and throughout His life, we, too, have the ability by His grace to be victorious. Read the article “The Temptations of Christ.”

Despite our struggles, our lives today are easier than in any time in history. We have medical care that past generations didn’t even dream of. We have food choices on our tables from all parts of the world. We live in material comfort. Since not all world inhabitants live in such excess, what made the western world so wealthy? We can thank the Protestant Reformation for this wealth. Read more in the article “The Calvinist Reformation.”

As every month, this issue of LandMarks has your favorite section as well.

You can receive a complimentary subscription of this spiritually uplifting magazine.

Haven’t gotten a subscription yet? Call us today to subscribe!
## Steps to Life

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- Sab, 2:00pm: Praise in Song and Word

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