

You Are My Witnesses

"'You are My witnesses,' says the Lord."

Isaiah 43:10, first part

All of us have a duty to witness

"To everyone God has committed a work, to make known His salvation to the world. In true religion there is nothing selfish or exclusive. The gospel of Christ is diffusive and aggressive. It is described as the salt of the earth, the transforming leaven, the light which shineth in darkness. It is impossible for one to retain the favor and love of God, and enjoy communion with Him, and still feel no responsibility for the souls for whom Christ died, who are in error and darkness, perishing in their sins.

"If those who profess to be followers of Christ neglect to shine as lights in the world, the vital power will leave them, and they will become cold and Christless. The spell of indifference will be upon them, a deathlike sluggishness of soul, which will make them bodies of death instead of living representatives of Jesus. All must lift the cross and in modesty, meekness, and lowliness of mind take up their God-given duties, engaging in personal effort for those around them who need help and light.

"All who accept these duties will have a rich and varied experience, their own hearts will glow with fervor, and they will be strengthened and stimulated to renewed, persevering efforts to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling, because it is God that worketh in them both to will and to do of His good pleasure." *The Review and Herald*, July 21, 1891

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The Upward Look,

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The Upward Look, 344

To Witness Successfully, First Crucify Self

"God's word to us is 'Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.' He calls upon everyone to crucify self. Those who respond grow strong in Him. They learn daily from Christ, and the more they learn, the greater is their desire to build up God's kingdom by helping their fellow beings. The more enlightenment they have, the greater is their desire to enlighten others. The more they talk with God, the less they live to themselves. The greater their privileges, opportunities, and facilities for Christian work, the greater is the obligation they feel to work for others.

"Human nature is ever struggling for expression. A person who is made complete in Christ must first be emptied of pride, of self-sufficiency. Then there is silence in the soul, and God's voice can be heard. Then the Spirit can find unobstructed entrance. Let God work in and through you. Then with Paul you can say, 'I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.' But until self is laid on the altar, until we let the Holy Spirit mold and fashion us according to the divine similitude, we cannot reach God's ideal for us.

"Christ said, 'I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.' This life is what we must have in order to work for Christ, and we must have it 'more abundantly.' God will breathe this life into every soul that dies to self. But entire self-renunciation is required. Unless this takes place, we carry with us that which destroys our happiness and usefulness.

"The Lord needs men and women who carry with them into the daily life the light of a godly example, men and women whose words and actions show that Christ is abiding in the heart, teaching, leading, and guiding. He needs men and women of prayer, who, by wrestling alone with God, obtain the victory over self, and then go forth to impart to others that which they have received from the Source of power.

"God accepts those who crucify self, and makes them vessels unto honor. They are in His hands as clay in the hands of the potter, and He works His will through them. Such men and women receive spiritual power. Christ lives in them, and the power of His Spirit attends their efforts. They realize that they are to live in this world the life that Jesus lived—a life free from all selfishness; and He enables them to bear witness for Him that draws souls to the cross of Calvary." *The Signs of the Times*, April 9, 1902

"Talk as Christ talked. Work as Christ worked. We must look to Christ and live. Catching sight of His loveliness, we long to practice the virtues and righteousness of Christ. It is by beholding Christ that we become changed into His image, and by renouncing self, giving our hearts up wholly to Jesus for His Spirit to refine, ennoble, and elevate, we will be in close connection with the future world, bathed in the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness. We rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. Then we are commanded to go into other cities and towns and tell them the good news with hearts all aglow with divine love, even to them that are afar off, even as many as the Lord your God shall call.

"Tell to others the blessed truths of His word, and in obeying the words of Christ, continue in His love. [Tell them] how He urges us by the love we bear to Him to keep His commandments. ...

"Tell it to others with pen and voice, with piety, with humility, with love, representing the character of Christ. 'And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely' (Revelation 22:17)." The Upward Look, 344

Carry Light and Hope Everywhere

"It is essential that these who have newly come to the faith should have a sense of their obligation to God, who has called them to a knowledge of the truth, and filled their hearts with His sacred peace, that they may exert a sanctifying influence over all with whom they associate. ...

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

"Practical work will have far more effect We are to give food to the hungry, clothing to the naked, and shelter to the homeless.



And we are called to do more than this. The wants of the soul, only the love of Christ can satisfy. If Christ is abiding in us, our hearts will be full of divine sympathy. The sealed fountains of earnest, Christlike love will be unsealed.

"God calls not only for our gifts for the needy, but for our cheerful countenance, our hopeful words, our kindly hand-clasp. When Christ healed the sick, He laid His hands upon them. So should we come in close touch with those whom we seek to benefit.

"There are many from whom hope has departed. Bring back the sunshine to them. Many have lost their courage. Speak to them words of cheer. Pray for them. There are those who need the bread of life. Read to them from the word of God. ...

"Light is a blessing, a universal blessing, pouring forth its treasures on a world unthankful, unholy, demoralized. So it is with the light of the Sun of Righteousness. The whole earth, wrapped as it is in the darkness of sin, and sorrow, and pain, is to be lighted with the knowledge of God's love. ...

"The message of hope and mercy is to be carried to the ends of the earth. ...

But no one can impart that which he or she has not received. In the work of God, humanity can originate nothing. ... It is the love of God continually transferred to men and women that enables them to impart light." *To Be Like Jesus*, 260, 261

Books Silent Witnesses

"The Lord has sent his people much instruction, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little. Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light. O, how much good would be accomplished if the books containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain! ...

"My brethren and sisters, work earnestly to circulate these books. Put your hearts into this work, and the blessing of God will be with you. Go forth in faith, praying that God will prepare hearts to receive the light. Be pleasant and courteous. Show by a consistent course that you are true Christians." Colporteur Evangelism, 37

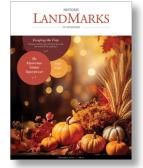
"The Lord has a special work to do for us individually. ... [L]et us draw near to God, and by living faith lay hold of His promises, that the grace of Christ may be manifest in us. We may have an influence, a powerful influence, in the world. If the convicting power of God is in us, we shall be enabled to lead souls that are in sin to conversion." *My Life Today*, 62, 63



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Foreign Mission Project Update

Nigeria

The Elelem Church and School and the Amala church in East Nigeria

Bible worker - Okere Emanuel

















First row from the left:

Amala church- structure donated by brother Abraham, a Bible worker Elelem church after worship Elelem church at worship

Second row from the left:

Elelem church building and school Elelem church Sabbath School Some of the school pupils

Bottom row from the left:

Local church school managed by Elelem Church Okere (in grey and blue shirt) with Bible students

India

Outreach Efforts in India

In the last quarter of 2024, after five years of Covid-19, the Indian government lifted its restrictions and the work of witnessing could fully resume. Here are our Bible workers in India, divided per geographical locations.

Rajahmundry:







Moses Venkatrao



Barnabas Jeremiah



Jeevarathnam Adam and his son Jessi Kumar



Bengaluru: Dennis Gorge and family



Hyderbad: Chanty David (right)

I present before you our foreign missions as the object of your Christmas gifts. While we are not to neglect the fields at our own doors, let us at this time remember those that are in still greater darkness and destitution. Few realize the vast extent of the work which God has committed to us in our foreign missions.

The Signs of the Times, November 8, 1887, par. 10



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