

Adventist Futury I

LESSONS OF THE PAST AND FUTURE # 1

Faith and Courage

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—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, 210

Our History

“Nothing to fear”

—Life Sketches, 196

Our History

“Nothing to fear” doesn’t work when we have nothing to remember.



Camp meetings

May 1842—Committee to plan three camp meetings

- ▾ **They had thirty-one instead**
- ▾ **1843, forty; 1844, fifty-four**
- ▾ **First camp meeting—“get a tent”**
- ▾ **The “Great Tent”—the largest tent in the country, able to seat 5,000 people**
- ▾ **Ready in a month**

The Messengers

Miller wrote—“Those souls whom I have addressed in my six months’ tour are continually before me, sleeping or waking; I can see them perishing by the thousands; and when I reflect on the accountability of their teachers, who say ‘peace and safety,’ I am in pain for them.”

In early 1844—“I have preached about 4,500 lectures in about twelve years, to at least 500,000 different people. I have broken my constitution and lost my health; and for what? That if possible I might be the means of saving some.”

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James White wrote—“God forbid that I should fold my arms in lazy-lock while sinners are sinking to eternal night.”

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275 miles in 40 days

“My horse fell twice into sloughs, once while I was crossing a river, up to the stirrups.

“As I was cast into the river, the horse fell upon me; but I escaped unhurt, with the exception of a lame ankle, on which I was unable to bear my weight for some days. But none of these things moved me.”

Consecration

“We need more zeal and animation in the Lord’s work, more genuine interest in matters of eternal importance.... Since the Lord has declared that He is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him, than parents are to give good gifts to their children, why do we not accept the promise so freely made? Why do we not consecrate ourselves to God? Entire surrender to the Lord is something that is revealed in the daily life, and it exerts an influence upon other lives.”

—*Bible Training School, May 1, 1904*

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Consecration

Behold the Lamb: The Story of the Moravian Church

Herrnhut

In 1732...

The church at Herrnhut—a group of refugees—sent out a single missionary to the slaves on the Island of St. Thomas

By 1768...

In thirty-six years, seventy-nine missionaries had been murdered or died of tropical fevers.

**But in that time they had baptized nearly 4,800 slaves.
Sixty new Christians for every life given.**

By 1782...

For fifty years the Moravians labored in the West Indies without aid from any other religious denomination. They established churches on the islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John's, St. Kitts, Jamaica, Antigua, and Barbados.

They had baptized 13,000 Christians before a missionary from any other denomination arrived on the scene.

Consecration

Behold the Lamb: The Story of the Moravian Church

www.allgodsword.com/Bt1/Bt1.pdf

Consecration

“The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with his glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God. When we have entire, whole-hearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of his Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God....

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“If the truth for this time, if the signs that are thickening on every hand, that testify that the end of all things is at hand, are not-sufficient to arouse the sleeping energy of those who profess to know the truth, then darkness proportionate to the light which has been shining will overtake these souls.

Consecration

“There is not the semblance of an excuse for their indifference that they will be able to present to God in the great day of final reckoning. There will be no reason to offer as to why they did not live and walk and work in the light of the sacred truth of the word of God, and thus reveal to a sin-darkened world, through their conduct, their sympathy, and their zeal, that the power and reality of the gospel could not be controverted.”

—Review and Herald, July 21, 1896

If Other Means Fail

“God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. The Lord calls upon all who believe His word to awake out of sleep.”

—Testimonies, vol. 5, 707

Fanaticism

John Starkweather—assistant pastor at the Chardon Street Chapel—Joshua Himes' church

Conversion must be followed by a “second work”

“Usually indicated by some bodily sensation”

The “sealing power of God”

Dealing with Fanaticism

“Those who were familiar with the history of fanaticism in past ages, who had read with pain the termination of the career of the eloquent Edward Irving in England, who knew the devastation caused by fanaticism in the time of the Reformation, of its effects in the early ages of Christianity, and of the results produced by it even in many portions of our own country during the infancy of some of the sects among us, were at no loss respecting its character.”

Dealing with Fanaticism

Himes first spoke in general terms

But even this “so shocked the sensibilities of those who regarded [these manifestations] as the ‘great power of God’ that they cried out and stopped their ears. Some jumped upon their feet, and some ran out of the house. ‘You will drive out the Holy Ghost!’ cried one. ‘You are throwing on cold water!’ said another.

“I would throw on the Atlantic Ocean before I would be identified with such abominations as these, or suffer them in this place unrebuked.”

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Fanaticism Will Return

“I was instructed that fanaticism similar to that which we were called to meet after the passing of the time in 1844 would come in among us again in the closing days of the message, and that we must meet this evil just as decidedly now as we met it in our early experiences.”

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“I have been shown that deceptions like those we were called to meet in the early experiences of the message would be repeated, and that we shall have to meet them again in the closing days of the work.”

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“I have long known that fanaticism will be manifest again, in different ways. We are to strengthen our position by dwelling on the Word, and by avoiding all oddities and strange exercisings that some would be very quick to catch up and practice.”

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...a whole new word. The idea is to focus on lessons from the past that are good for the future.

Faith and Courage

“The Lord directed Moses to recount to the children of Israel His dealings with them in their deliverance from Egypt and their wonderful preservation in the wilderness.

This is a great balanced statement on Sacred History.

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Bad news about us, but good news about God.

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Faith and courage. This doesn't come from just the bad news or just the good news. Some people only want to talk about one or the other—not good.

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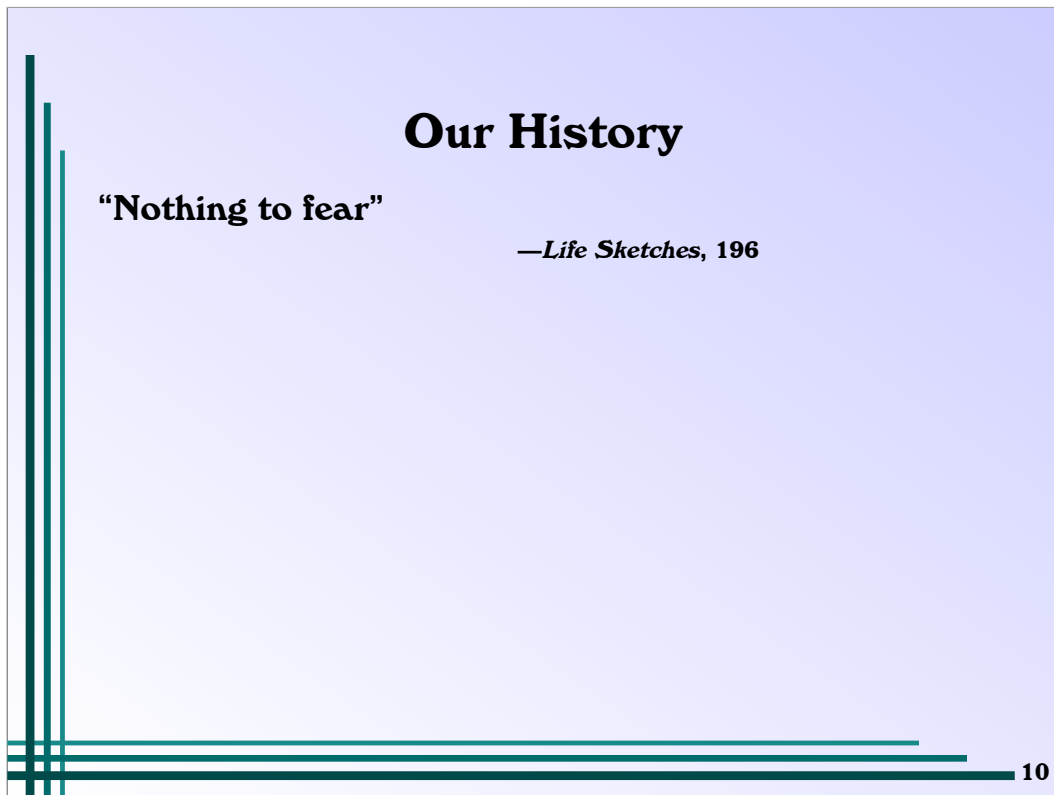
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—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, 210

“Ever repeating”--that’s why there is value in history.



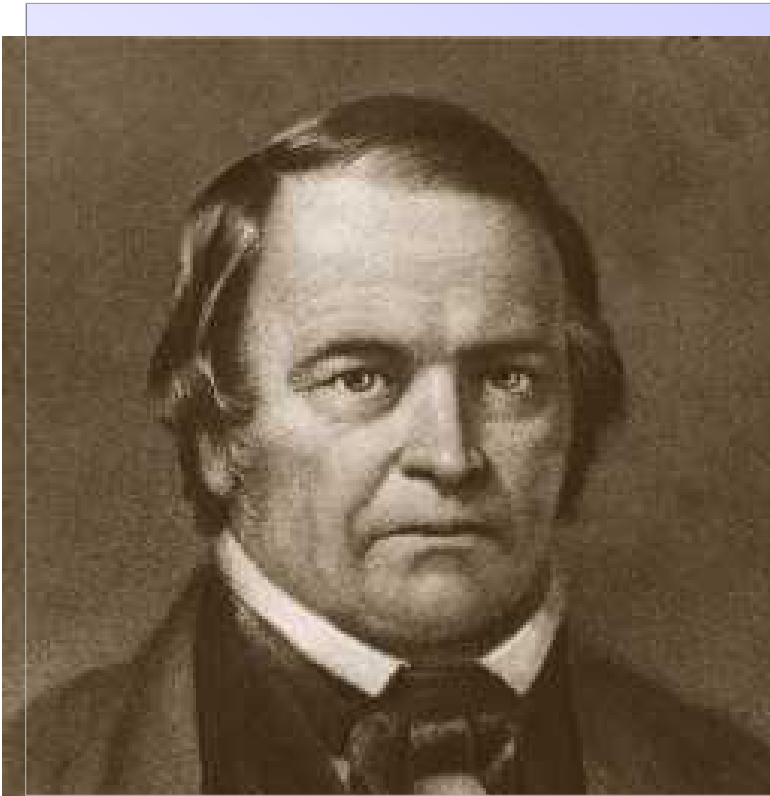
Nothing to fear for the future except as we forget the way the Lord has led us in the past and His teaching in our past history.--*Life Sketches, 196*

This is probably the best known of all Ellen White comments on history. It's a very encouraging statement, but...

Our History

"Nothing to fear" doesn't work when we have nothing to remember.

So allow me to recommend learning some Adventist History. That way you'll have something that's worth not forgetting.



Miller started it all (brief bio) [CLICK](#) for picture

A lot of help from Joshua V. Himes, who was the pastor of the Chardon Street Chapel in Boston. This was sort of a high society, cushy position. But then he listened to William Miller.

Believed Miller, gave up pretty much everything he had in order to spread the word.

That was in December 1839. Himes had the contacts that Miller (just an old farmer) didn't. Within a month, Himes had the Signs of the Times rolling off the presses.

Himes published dozens of books, the 1843 Chart, started up several magazines, and got speaking appointments for Miller in Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Washington, D.C.

Camp meetings

May 1842—Committee to plan three camp meetings

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- ▾ **Ready in a month**

What made the Millerite Movement go?

Commitment and enthusiasm. Here's an example:

CLICK for six items

Another example—A Millerite lecturer was in Toronto, but there was no hall big enough. At a prayer meeting, someone suggested they build a hall of their own.

Everything needed was donated within 2 hours:
Land, lumber, nails, labor.

30 x 90 feet—ready in 6 days

The Messengers

Miller wrote—“Those souls whom I have addressed in my six months’ tour are continually before me, sleeping or waking; I can see them perishing by the thousands; and when I reflect on the accountability of their teachers, who say ‘peace and safety,’ I am in pain for them.”

In early 1844—“I have preached about 4,500 lectures in about twelve years, to at least 500,000 different people. I have broken my constitution and lost my health; and for what? That if possible I might be the means of saving some.”

This level of commitment and enthusiasm wasn't something that came from some gimmicky ad campaign, it was real.

The leaders of the movement weren't trying to generate something they didn't feel themselves.

The Messengers

James White wrote—“God forbid that I should fold my arms in lazy-lock while sinners are sinking to eternal night.”

Joel Spaulding—

275 miles in 40 days

“My horse fell twice into sloughs, once while I was crossing a river, up to the stirrups.

“As I was cast into the river, the horse fell upon me; but I escaped unhurt, with the exception of a lame ankle, on which I was unable to bear my weight for some days. But none of these things moved me.”

I think “lazy-lock” is folding your arms across the chest.

CLICK for name:

Here’s another one, from a less well known preacher of the message. He wrote about a speaking tour he had just completed—

CLICK for text:

And remember, this was on foot, or horseback, or maybe a horse and wagon. Plus probably about 30 sermons along the way. He did have some minor problems...

CLICK for text:

Consecration

“We need more zeal and animation in the Lord's work, more genuine interest in matters of eternal importance.... Since the Lord has declared that He is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him, than parents are to give good gifts to their children, why do we not accept the promise so freely made? Why do we not consecrate ourselves to God? Entire surrender to the Lord is something that is revealed in the daily life, and it exerts an influence upon other lives.”

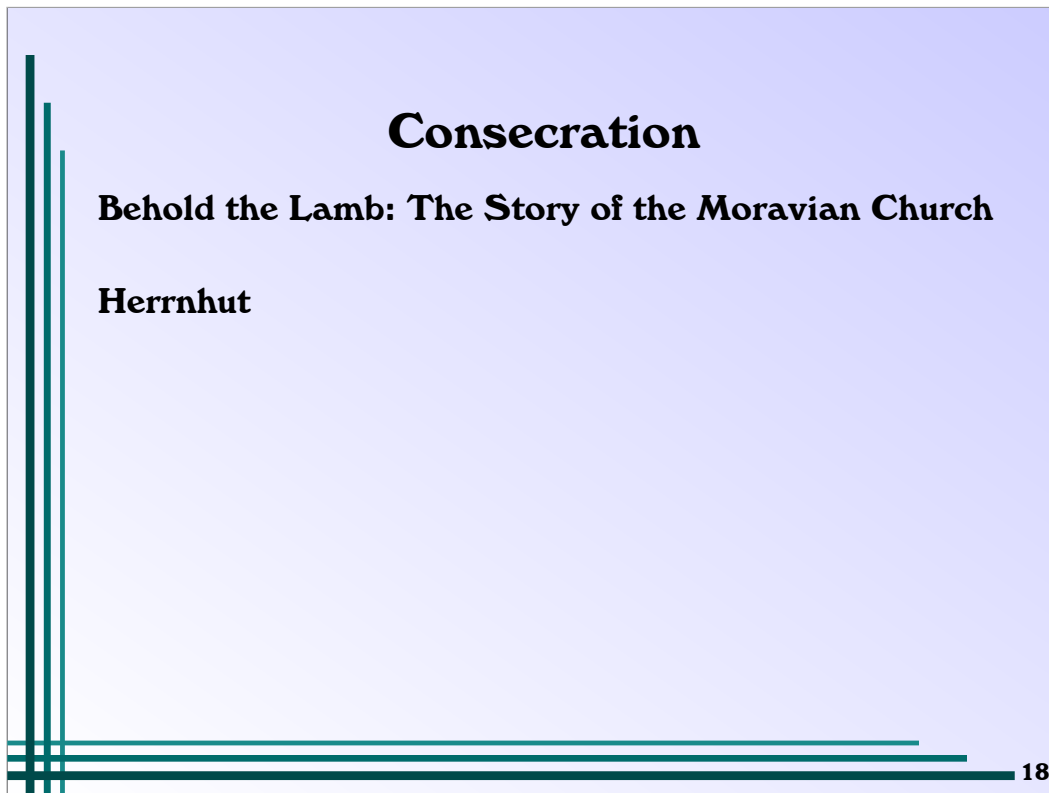
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Never buy the line that you can't do something. You may be only one person, but you may be the one that will influence others.



Diverging from Adventist History for a moment...

Amazing book—and it's free. Get the PDF.

The Moravians were the descendants of people who had never fully bought in to Catholicism. John Hus was Moravian in his teaching (though a Catholic priest in position). Following Hus's martyrdom, many Moravians revolted against the Catholics. This led to the "Hussite Wars," which the Moravians won. But soon division split their camp and they began fighting among themselves. But a small group, the "Unitas Fratrum" (Brotherly Unity) were pacifist. They were also annihilated—almost. In the 1720s, they found a home in Germany on the estate of Count Zinzendorf,

CLICK for text:

It was called "Herrnhutt" (The "Place of the Lord's Watching").

In 1732...

The church at Herrnhut—a group of refugees—sent out a single missionary to the slaves on the Island of St. Thomas

19

Barely settled on their new home in Germany, the young people of the colony experienced a mission-based revival in 1727. After several years of “caution” from the group leadership, they finally won permission to do something.

Anton Ulrich—a slave from the island of St. Thomas—was brought to Herrnhutt, and told them about the plight of the slaves. Sugar plantations—a year and a half life expectancy. “Christian” masters.

Leonard Dober, 22, and David Nitschmann, an older member, set off with one ducat each and a little bag of clothes.

Nearly four months later—St. Thomas. Nitschmann returned in April, and Dober nearly died of fever. But HE GOT IT STARTED!

Firstfruits—movie about this story.

By 1768...

In thirty-six years, seventy-nine missionaries had been murdered or died of tropical fevers.

**But in that time they had baptized nearly 4,800 slaves.
Sixty new Christians for every life given.**

After that first beginning, the Moravians sent out missionary after missionary.

CLICK for text:

This is one local church!

Maybe 3,000 members? Even if it was 5,000...

CLICK for two items:

By 1782...

For fifty years the Moravians labored in the West Indies without aid from any other religious denomination. They established churches on the islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John's, St. Kitts, Jamaica, Antigua, and Barbados.

They had baptized 13,000 Christians before a missionary from any other denomination arrived on the scene.

Do you remember William Carey, the “father of modern missions”?

It was the Moravians who got him stirred up to take the gospel to the world. He went to India in 1793...

Consecration

Behold the Lamb: The Story of the Moravian Church

www.allgodsword.com/Bt1/Bt1.pdf

Here's the info on the book.

Better write it down, or you'll never remember it.

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“The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with his glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God. When we have entire, whole-hearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of his Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God....

Simply put, our work isn't done, and there are a lot of lives that need to be influenced.

Consecration

“If the truth for this time, if the signs that are thickening on every hand, that testify that the end of all things is at hand, are not-sufficient to arouse the sleeping energy of those who profess to know the truth, then darkness proportionate to the light which has been shining will overtake these souls.

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“There is not the semblance of an excuse for their indifference that they will be able to present to God in the great day of final reckoning. There will be no reason to offer as to why they did not live and work in the light of the sacred truth of the word of God, and thus reveal to a sin-darkened world, through their conduct, their sympathy, and their zeal, that the power and reality of the gospel could not be controverted.”

—Review and Herald, July 21, 1896

This is pretty challenging material. But I think we need to be challenged.

If Other Means Fail

“God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. The Lord calls upon all who believe His word to awake out of sleep.”

—Testimonies, vol. 5, 707

Actually, God sometimes sees that we need to be challenged, and He will apparently do just about whatever it takes to make it happen.

CLICK for text:

But the point here isn't to just hunker down and “resist the heresy.” The point is to practice more complete consecration to God, and to start exerting that influence on others.

But the test of heresy and fanaticism will come if we give the devil the opportunity. Here, too, we can learn a few things from our history.

Fanaticism

John Starkweather—assistant pastor at the Chardon Street Chapel—Joshua Himes' church

Conversion must be followed by a "second work"

"Usually indicated by some bodily sensation"

The "sealing power of God"

With consecration and enthusiasm, there is always the danger of fanaticism.

This was Himes' assistant pastor! Not good.

Dealing with Fanaticism

“Those who were familiar with the history of fanaticism in past ages, who had read with pain the termination of the career of the eloquent Edward Irving in England, who knew the devastation caused by fanaticism in the time of the Reformation, of its effects in the early ages of Christianity, and of the results produced by it even in many portions of our own country during the infancy of some of the sects among us, were at no loss respecting its character.”

Here's a case where a little historical knowledge proved to be helpful.

When this all came up, Himes hurried back home to keep things from deteriorating.

Dealing with Fanaticism

Himes first spoke in general terms

But even this “so shocked the sensibilities of those who regarded [these manifestations] as the ‘great power of God’ that they cried out and stopped their ears. Some jumped upon their feet, and some ran out of the house. ‘You will drive out the Holy Ghost!’ cried one. ‘You are throwing on cold water!’ said another.

“I would throw on the Atlantic Ocean before I would be identified with such abominations as these, or suffer them in this place unrebuked.”

CLICK for two items:

Sometimes you just have to “make it plain.”

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James White wrote—[The seventh month movement] “was subversive of all those forms of fanaticism which had made their appearance somewhat in connection with the second advent cause. And it is a fact that Satan had crowded upon some who bore the advent name almost every stripe of fanaticism he had ever invented. But these were at once swallowed up by the solemn power of the Midnight Cry, as the rods of the magicians were by the rod of Aaron.”

It turns out that truth and the clear evidence of God’s leading are great antidotes for fanaticism.

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—*Great Controversy*, 401

It seems to me that we have a great deal to learn from this whole time period.

Unfortunately, the one item that Ellen White warns us of more than any other in this direction is the threat that...

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—Selected Messages, Book One, 221

Did it ever go away?

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We have been warned.

But what are we to do? How are we to “meet” fanaticism when it comes?

More study, so we are not deceived? Yes, but that’s not all. Our best response will be much the same as the best response back in Miller’s day. Demonstrate the power of God’s truth with enthusiasm and commitment.