
The Challenge of Service: Taking a Second Look at the Blueprint

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Our Marching Orders

Isa. 58:6-11, NASB

Is this not the fast which I choose, To loosen the bonds of wickedness, To undo the bands of the yoke, And to let the oppressed go free, And break every yoke?

Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry, And bring the homeless poor into the house; When you see the naked, to cover him; And not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

... And if you give yourself to the hungry, And satisfy the desire of the afflicted,

Then your light will rise in darkness, And your gloom will become like midday And the LORD will continually guide you, And satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; And you will be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.

Our Example

The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out,
true from start to finish.

The Only Key To Success

“Christ’s methods *alone* will give true success in reaching the people:

- The Savior mingled
 - as one who desired their good
 - He showed His sympathy
 - ministered to their needs, and
 - won their confidence.
 - *Then* He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’” MH 143
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The Chicago Mission: A 19th c. Model

In 1893, the General Conference set up the Seventh Day Adventists' Medical Missionary and Benevolent Association to operate a special outreach in Chicago. Dr. John Harvey Kellogg was made the president of the association.

The Chicago Mission: 19th c. Model -II

- On May 1, 1893, the Chicago branch of the Battle Creek Sanitarium was opened in the city of Chicago.
 - Kellogg expected that the profits from this new institution would finance a mission to help the poor in Chicago.
 - The early patronage of the Sanitarium was very good. Within a month, Kellogg began plans for launching his work for Chicago's destitute.
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The Blueprint

In 1885, Mrs. White wrote a long article on city missions (5T).

In 1894, Mrs. White wrote a series of articles in the Review and Herald on "our duty to the poor and afflicted" to endorse the missions' involvement.

Dr. Kellogg indicated that these articles and other writings by Mrs. White were the blueprint for his Chicago medical mission.

Finding a Location

- Kellogg visited the chief of police of Chicago, and asked him to direct him to "the dirtiest and wickedest place" in the city.
 - He was sent to the skid row district at the south end of the Loop.
 - Kellogg did not find a suitable location there, but he finally persuaded Henry Monroe, then the superintendent of the Pacific Garden Mission, to let him share its building at 98-100 West Van Buren Street.
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The Chicago Mission: Early Days

On Sunday, June 25, 1893, the Chicago Medical Mission was officially opened. It offered

- a free medical dispensary
 - free baths
 - free laundry
 - a school for Chinese
 - a visiting nurse service
 - Religious services in cooperation with the Pacific Garden Mission.
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Medical Dispensary

- Medical dispensary was on the street level
- Staffed all day with Sanitarium-trained nurses
- An MD from the branch sanitarium on duty at 2 hours/day
- Dr. Kellogg spent every Sunday at mission for several years

The dispensary provided:

- free medical & obstetric care for the neighborhood's poor and unemployed
 - A nutrition service with foods supplied free by Kellogg's Sanitarium Health Food Company.
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Laundry and Baths

The basement of the mission building housed the free laundry and baths

(Kellogg's view was that if men were cleaned up first, they would be easier to reach with Christian teachings. Since hundreds of Chicago's destitute had only the clothes they wore and no place to wash, they soon became filthy. It wasn't very long before they came crowding into the mission basement to wash both themselves and their clothes).

In connection with the free baths, special sanitarium water treatments and electrical treatments were also given to those who came to the clinic. These baths were particularly used for helping to sober up some of the clients. Three days a week, the baths and laundry were reserved for women and children.

The Early Months

During the 1st month, 100 men and women a day came to the mission for one of its services.

Within 6 months, 10 nurses and doctors were needed to meet the continually increasing patronage.

The work was also broadened to include

- a free day care service with kindergarten classes, for working mothers
 - Mothers' meetings (parenting classes) on the physical and moral training of children
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The Soup Kitchen

Shortly after the mission opened, Kellogg started to offer a bowl of bean soup with zwieback crackers for one cent at noon on Sundays.

It became a daily feeding program after the World's Fair closed in 1893 and unemployment increased

It was called the penny lunch counter

During fall and winter of the first year, 500-600 people received the penny lunch every day

On some days, as many as 1500 were fed

Dr. Kellogg's Philosophy

Kellogg insisted that no free meals be given, although he himself would often pay the penny for a destitute man who didn't have the money.

Kellogg also devised a way to help panhandlers resist the temptation to spend their receipts in the local bars and saloons.

He sold books of penny tickets to businessmen for distribution to panhandlers, who thus could get a hot lunch at the penny lunch counter

Dr. Kellogg's Philosophy --II

Dr. Kellogg loved to tell the story of one instance where paying the penny for one man had far-reaching results. Dr. Kellogg's penny convinced Tor Mackie that someone still had faith in him. Mackie attended religious services at the mission, was converted, and started his own mission.

He ran the separate Star of Hope mission on West Madison street for Kellogg, and later he went out on his own initiative, first in Chicago and later in several other major cities.

Clothing Distribution

The mission also operated a clothing distribution program.

Dr Kellogg advertised for good used garments in the church's papers (Advent Review and Sabbath Herald; the Medical Missionary)

In the first four years of the Chicago mission, more than 200,000 persons made use of the free laundry, 75,000 of them had been given new clothing as a result of church members' donations of clothes.

The Chicago mission's work was the forerunner of Adventist Dorcas or welfare activities.

Three-Year Report

During the first three years of operation:

- 26,000 medical treatments had been given
 - 9,000 home visits had been made by nurses from the mission
 - 75,000 penny dinners had been served
 - 17,000 "gospel conversations" had been made
 - 13,500 tracts had been distributed
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Expansion

After three years of sharing space with the Pacific Garden Mission, it was clear that the Chicago medical mission had outgrown its space.

In the summer of 1896, the program expanded in two major directions:

1. A working men's home was established
 2. the American Medical Missionary College Settlement Building started
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The workmen's home (a shelter)

- It provided dormitory-style accommodations for up to 400 persons a night
 - The original free laundry, baths and dispensary were continued here
 - To be eligible for a bed in the home, the applicant had to agree to take a bath and have his clothing fumigated.
 - The shelter was not free. For 10 cents, a man would get a clean bed and a nightshirt, and a bowl of soup & crackers if he arrived early enough
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The workmen's home (a shelter) -II

In the morning, he could get breakfast for an average of five cents. Inflation had caused the penny meals to increase in price to a penny per item.

The workmen's home also included a reading room and a hall for religious services

This shelter provided over 70,000 individual nights' lodgings, and served nearly 600,000 meals, per year.

Advice

"Attention should be given to the establishment of various industries so that poor families can find employment. Carpenters, blacksmiths, and indeed everyone who understands some line of useful labor should feel a real responsibility to teach and help the ignorant and the unemployed."

MH, page 194

Advice -II

"By instruction in practical lines, we can often help the poor most effectively. As a rule, those who have not been trained to work, do not have habits of industry, perseverance, economy, and self denial. They do not know how to manage. Often, through lack of carefulness and right judgement, there is wasted that which would maintain their families in decency and comfort, if it were carefully and economically used." (MH, page 194-195)

Implementation

- The workmen's home was concerned not only in providing temporary shelter and support, but making a permanent difference in rehabilitating the lives of Chicago's down-and-outers.
 - A portion of the building was thus set aside as an industrial department, where temporary work for men seeking jobs in the city was provided.
 - By working at either rug or carpet weaving, or broom making, a man could earn enough to meet his expenses at the home until he found other employment.
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Medical School – 2nd Development

- In the summer of 1895, the American Medical Missionary College started with 40 students
 - A 4-year course of studies: initial classes in Battle Creek and the last third of the work (clinical experience), in Chicago
 - Only nominal tuition charged; students could earn room and board by working 2 or 3 hours a day at the Sanitarium.
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Medical School – II

- The college graduated over 200 physicians during its 15 years
 - After Kellogg broke with Adventist leaders in 1907 over matters of theology and organization, enrollment declined.
 - The school eventually merged with the University of Illinois medical school.
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Settlement Building

The Medical school operated a settlement building

A 'settlement house' was a large building, in a poor section of town that provided services to the poor in that area.

These houses served as social centers for inner-city ethnic minorities, provided classes along various lines, and organized young people into clubs.

Settlement Building --II

It served multiple purposes:

- a dormitory for the medical students while they were in Chicago.
 - a home base for 8 visiting nurses who worked in the low-income residential area surrounding the building
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Settlement House Programs

It sponsored many other activities including:

- a kindergarten,
 - a day nursery for working mothers,
 - a free laundry for women,
 - a school of health for instruction in first aid and home hygiene,
 - classes in various subjects, including correct methods of child training and principles of healthful dress, diet, and cooking.
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Settlement House Programs --II

There were also:

- health lecture courses for adults & children,
 - exercise programs,
 - a woman's club for instruction in homemaking skills, etc.
 - It also operated a free employment agency
 - a placement service for orphans, and
 - a placement service for men and women who had been reclaimed from skid row.
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Advice

"Let the members of poor households be taught how to cook, how to make and mend their own clothing, how to nurse the sick, how to care properly for the home. Let the boys and girls be thoroughly taught some useful trade or occupation." (MH, page 194)

Advice --II

"Then there are the multitudes of children who have been wholly deprived of the guidance of parents and the subduing influence of a Christian home. Let Christians open their hearts and homes to these helpless ones."
(MH, p. 203)

Medical Training

The clinical experience of the medical students included:

- working in the dispensary
 - organizing over 70 clubs among newsboys, bootblacks, and street kids
 - a visitation program to the city's jails that included classes in gymnastics and moral instruction.
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Medical Training --II

The coordination of the study of medicine with the operation of numerous welfare programs was unique.

Dr. Stephen Smith, founder of the American Public Health Association, called the S.D.A. medical school in Chicago, "the most important educational institution in the world."

The Farm

Another program was an outpost center outside of the city.

This was a farm where men reclaimed from skid row could be sent to work and to be free from urban temptations.

Truck garden produce was raised on this farm, and many rehabilitated alcoholics and homeless men were employed there during the several years that it was in operation.

Kellogg had hoped that the farm would support as many as 400 men at a time.

Ministry to Prostitutes-1

Another innovative feature of the work was the rescue work carried on among the city's prostitutes. In 1893, it was estimated that there were between 10,000 and 25,000 prostitutes in Chicago

The work in Chicago had three programs: a maternity home, the Lifeboat Rescue Service, and the Rescue Home

The maternity home was established in 1896, and was ultimately able to provide shelter to 20 girls at a time.

Lifeboat Rescue Service

The Lifeboat Rescue Service was more daring.

It began with 4 women who ventured into the red-light districts of Chicago by night to do personal work among streetwalkers, supposedly the most desperate class of prostitutes.

Operating in teams of 2, these women worked until 12 to 1:30 a.m., and were successful during their first year of operation in persuading 75 girls to leave the street and return to a better life.

Lifeboat Rescue Home for Girls

The Lifeboat Rescue Home for Girls was first located in a large converted barroom surrounded by brothels.

The rescue home was established to receive unwed mothers, and to provide a halfway house for prostitutes who had left their trade.

Lifeboat Rescue Home for Girls --II

In harmony with the Gospel injunction as to whom Christians should invite to a feast, the women who ran this program, on one occasion, gave a dinner to which every girl on the street was invited, along with some of the most prominent women in Chicago's churches.

30 prostitutes responded, two of whom changed their way of life as a result of the experience.

Lifeboat Rescue Home for Girls --III

In 1909 the rescue home was moved to Hinsdale, IL. This move to permanent quarters was to provide the young women who came to the home a more amiable atmosphere outside the city.

Speaking at the dedication of that home in July, 1909, Judge H.A. Parkin, the Asst. U. S. District Attorney in Chicago, described the work of the rescue home as "the first in this district at least, that I know of in the United States, that is meeting the need, possibly the greatest need, in the suppression of this great evil."

Growth and Decline

By 1909, the Chicago medical mission consisted of some eight institutions, with 25 distinct lines of work employing over 200 people in various departments.

The Chicago medical mission ceased operations in 1913.

“But we don’t have the Money!”

Where did the Chicago mission money come from? Answered prayer

Kellogg and his medical students had discussed the need for a farm, but because they lacked money at the time, Kellogg told them to make it a matter of prayer. Within a week, a wealthy patient at the sanitarium, Edward S. Peddicord, approached Kellogg and asked if there were some need in connection with the Chicago work to which

“But we don’t have the Money!” -- II

...he might contribute. Kellogg immediately mentioned the idea of the mission farm, and before the interview was completed, Peddicord gave him the 160 acres that he owned in LaSalle county, Illinois, to be used for the work.

But My Church is too Small

"The medical missionary work should be part of the work of every church in our land."
(6T, p. 289)

"Medical missionary work should have its representative in every place in connection with the establishment of our churches. The relief of bodily suffering opens the way for the healing of the sin-sick soul." (MH, p. 322)

But My Church is too Small --II

"In every city where we have a church, there is need of a place where treatments can be given." (6T, p. 113)

"Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings, how to conduct and teach classes, how best to help the poor, and to care for the sick, how to work for the unconverted." (MH, p. 149)

Christ's Compassion

“He who took humanity upon Himself knows how to sympathize with the sufferings of humanity. Not only does Christ know every soul, and the peculiar needs and trials of that soul, but He knows all the circumstances that chafe and perplex the spirit. His hand is out stretched in pitying tenderness to every suffering child.” MH 249

How To Get That Love

“Love is the basis of godliness. Whatever the profession, no man has pure love to God unless he has unselfish love for his brother. But we can never come into possession of this spirit by trying to love others. What is needed is the love of Christ in the heart.” COL 385

How To Get That Love-II

“When self is merged in Christ, love springs forth spontaneously. *The completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within-when the sunshine of Heaven fills the heart and is revealed in the countenance.*” COL 385
