

General Association
of
Davidian Seventh Day Adventists
Mt. Carmel Center
Waco, Texas

November 24, 1957

Dear Fellow Davidians:

A special meeting was called in the Mt. Carmel Chapel the evening of November 19 so that information concerning the latest developments in God's work might be given to the Davidians here. This same information we now wish to pass on to you, but before doing so, we would like to quote for you the same paragraphs which were first read in the prayer meeting here. They are taken from the chapter in Testimonies, Vol. 4, entitled "Go Forward," which deals with God's leading the children of old, our types:

C "The history of the children of Israel is written for the instruction and admonition of all Christians. When the Israelites were overtaken by dangers and difficulties, and their way seemed hedged up, their faith forsook them, and they murmured against the leader whom God had appointed for them. They blamed him for bringing them into peril, when he had only obeyed the voice of God.

O "The divine command was, "Go forward!" They were not to wait until the way was made plain, and they could comprehend the entire plan of their deliverance. God's cause in onward, and he will open a path for his people. To hesitate and murmur is to manifest distrust in the Holy One of Israel. God in his providence brought the Hebrews into the mountain fastnesses, with the Red sea before them, that he might work out their deliverance, and forever rid them of their enemies. He might have saved them in any other way, but he chose this method in order to test their faith and strengthen their trust in him.

P "We cannot charge Moses with being at fault because the people murmured against his course. It was their own rebellious, unsubdued hearts that led them to censure the man whom God had delegated to lead his people. While Moses moved in the fear of the Lord, and according to his direction, having full faith in his promises, those should have upheld him became discouraged, and could see nothing before them but disaster, defeat, and death.

Y "The Lord is now dealing with his people who believe present truth. He designs to bring about momentous results, and while in his providence he is working toward this end, he says to his people, 'Go forward!' True, the path is not yet opened; but when they move on in the strength of faith and courage, God will make the way plain before their eyes. There are ever those who will complain, as did ancient Israel, and charge the difficulties of their position upon those whom God has raised up for the special purpose of advancing his cause. They fail to see that God is testing them by bringing them into strait places, from which there is no deliverance except by his hand.

"There are times when the Christian life seems beset by dangers, and duty seems hard to perform. The imagining pictures impending ruin before, and bondage or death behind. Yet the voice of God speaks clearly above all discouragements, 'Go Forward!' We should obey this command, let the results be what it may, even though our eyes cannot penetrate the darkness, and though we feel the cold waves about our feet.

"The Hebrews were weary and terrified; yet if they had held back when Moses bade them advance, if they had refused to move nearer to the Red Sea, God would not have opened the path for them. In marching down to the very water, they showed that they had faith in the word of God as spoken by Moses. They did all that it was in their power to do, and then the Mighty One of Israel performed his part, and divided the waters to make a path for their feet.

"The clouds that gather about our way will never disappear before a halting, doubting spirit. Unbelief says, 'We can never surmount these obstructions; let us wait until they are removed, and we can see our way clearly.' But faith courageously urges an advance, hoping all things, believing all things. Obedience to God is sure to bring the victory. It is only through faith that we can reach heaven.

"There is great similarity between our history and that of the children of Israel. God led his people from Egypt into the wilderness, where they could keep his law and obey his voice. The Egyptians, who had no regard for the Lord, were encamped close by them; yet what was to the Israelites a great flood of light, illuminating the whole camp, and shedding brightness upon the path before them, was to the hosts of Pharaoh a wall of clouds, making blacker the darkness of night.

"So, at this time, there is a people whom God has made the depositaries of his law. To those who obey them, the commandments of God are as a pillar of fire, lighting and leading the way to eternal salvation. But unto those who disregard them, they are as the clouds of night. 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.' Better than all other knowledge is an understanding of the word of God. In keeping his commandments there is great reward, and no earthly inducement should cause the Christian to waver for a moment in his allegiance. Riches, honor, and worldly pomp are but a dross that shall perish before the fire of God's wrath.

"The voice of the Lord bidding his faithful ones 'go forward,' frequently tries their faith to the uttermost. But if they should defer obedience till every shadow of uncertainty was removed from their understanding, and there remained no risk of failure or defeat, they would never move on at all. Those who think it impossible for them to yield to the will of God and have faith in his promises until all is made clear and plain before them, will never yield at all. Faith is not certainty of knowledge; it 'tis the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.' To obey the commandments of God is the only way to obtain his favor. 'Go forward' should be the Christian's watchword." - - Testimonies, Vol. 4, pp.25-28. (Italics ours.)

Since our command now is still to "Go forward," I am sure none of us want to lag behind and refuse to go ahead just because the way before us may not seem clear to all. The Lord has given His pledge that He will open a path for us as we move on by faith.

For some time we have been considering the fact that the time will soon be here when the remainder of the property here at Mt. Carmel (approximately eleven acres) will have to be sold, as well as the other two institutions which operate under the auspices of this Association--the Davidian S. D. A. Rest Home at Salem, S. C. and Hillview Home at Yoder, Wyoming, both of which are now taking care of our elderly Davidian folks. As we all did sense keenly the imminence of this event, we were awaiting God's leadings in this important matter.

Then, through the Lord's providence, we were brought into contact with what promises to be the solution to the problem. And we are definitely convinced that it was the Lord's own planning which brought this about.

It had been the general opinion among us that when we should approach the situation we now find ourselves in, we should perhaps look for small acreage, just enough to accommodate the barest needs of the work. But a real estate agent contacted us in the interest of selling us a large farm for a man who had in recent months undergone brain surgery, and had been urged by his physician to sell his property at once because of his health. Therefore he set his price low in order to sell the property immediately for cash.

After several trips to the farm and many hours spent together in prayer and in consideration of the matter, the Executive Council was convinced that the Lord wanted us to sell the present Mt. Carmel and Salem Rest Home and advise the operator of the Yoder Rest Home to sell that property, and that we should purchase where the personnel and the activities of all three places can be consolidated into one operating unit. Therefore, acting in the fear of the Lord and under the command to "Go Forward," this farm was purchased and the three properties were immediately put up for sale. Below, are some of the underlying reasons which formed the basis of our decision:

In the first place, at the price this farm which consists of 941 acres was offered to us, less actual cash will be invested in this one place than is tied up in all three of the present locations put together, even though the acreage of the farm exceeds the amount of these three locations put together. Thus we will have more land for less money, and we will have the property holdings consolidated into one location which will be much easier to dispose of when the time comes for our last move than three locations would be.

Secondly, another consideration from the financial standpoint is that if the Lord should see fit, we could sell if necessary half of the farm for the price we are now giving for the whole farm, and thus pay for the land we would then occupy.

Also in favor of the location of the farm is that it is situated in the country (approximately 13 miles east of downtown Waco), whereas our present location is now within the city limits and is being surrounded by the homes of the Gentiles. There are several advantages of being in the country, not the least of which is peace and privacy. Also, there will be no city taxes to pay, which currently is one of our large expenses, amounting to several thousands of dollars annually. Furthermore, the Lord's command to His people is to come out of the cities, and Mt. Carmel would be in no position to tell others to come out of the cities into the country if it were in the city itself.

The farm is largely under cultivation, and the soil is in excellent condition and productive. Therefore, the land itself will provide a source of income to help with the other phases of the work. In contrast, our present location involves only an upkeep expense rather than an income if we should keep it.

At the farm we will also be able to raise a garden to provide food for ourselves, which has not been possible here. This in itself will be a great blessing, for no produce can be better than those home-grown.

Then, too, should some world event in the future make it necessary for God's people to be cared for through a troublous time, this new country location could provide sanctuary for Davidians. This would not be possible here in the city with limited grounds and no means of producing food.

And the last but not least factor: We do not know that the Lord will not call a solemn assembly (Joel 2:15-17) before His people are taken to Palestine. And if such a thing should come to pass, there of course would be no place for such an event to be held here, nor is there privacy. The farm, though, has several places in its natural state which could easily be used as amphitheaters--better places for such an assembly than this Mt. Carmel ever afforded.

You will notice that we referred to "this Mt. Carmel." The reason quite simply is that Mt. Carmel will not be a thing of the past with the selling of this location, for the property will also go by the name of "Mt. Carmel" and it will still have the same mailing address-- Mt. Carmel Center, Waco, Texas. You see, "Mt. Carmel" will only be moving from one piece of land to another. We also continue to have a telephone ~~number~~ with a Waco exchange number.

And not for a description of the farm itself: As we have mentioned before, the acreage totals 941. A country road runs through the middle of the property, on one side 1 3/4 miles long and on the other side 1 1/4 miles, which forms a natural dividing line should we wish to sell half of the property as suggested previously. A total of 392 acres are under cultivation at the present time, 30 acres are in timber, and the rest is in pasture although most of it too could be cultivated if desired. A portion of the cultivated area--130 acres of it--is very good bottom land, along a creek; the timberland is along the creek also. There are seven stock tanks on the property, which actually are lakes or ponds formed by dams constructed in the natural terrain of the land. Two houses are already on the land; one is a nice home the present occupants built within the past few years, and the other is an older farmhouse. In addition there are several farm buildings for livestock, machinery, etc.

At present we do not know how long it will be before the farm is ready for us to occupy, for there is much hard ahead to be done first, as housing for the office and publishing department and the workers must be provided. Much planning and close figuring will also have to be done. But we are confident of the Lord's leading, and we know that with the help and support of each one of us everything will work out according to God's time schedule.

In closing we wish to ask each of you in the field to unite with us in prayer to the end that each of us will follow the Lord's leadings in our own lives, and in the work as a whole, and that we might all be faithful to the end and receive the commendation, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

Sincerely yours to hasten
the glad day when the work
will be completed,

(Mrs.) V. T. Houteff