

Crisis at Hope - Nov 2008 Update

In October, I sent you a copy of Heidi Heiks' Open Letter to Hope International (*Heidi's Letter to Hope International [WM-1453]*). Here is his address, if you wish to contact him:

Heidi Heiks
P.O. Box 308
Brinkhaven, Ohio 43006
info@thesourcehh.org

Since then, I have learned of four other former workers and/or board members at Hope who, after trying in vain to return Hope to the principles of historic Adventism, were also sadly forced to quit and move away.

One was Richard Harris. He pastors a church in Alabama, and appeared several times on the cover of *Our Firm Foundation*. Many of you will know him very well. For quite some time, on behalf of Hope, he traveled with Ron Spear and preached in various places. You can phone Pastor Harris if you wish. He wrote a report which is included below.

Pastor Richard Harris
Birmingham, Alabama
205-356-6796

Another was George Gomell. While at Hope, he held the position of Director of Development. He was at Hope for two years, and has a day-to-day log in his computer of what was happening there. His report will also be found below. He sacrificed heavily in order to join the staff at Hope. Doing so required leaving his home and his job, and he almost lost his home for having done so.

George Gomell
Chicago, Illinois
708-283-2070

Yet another is Roscoe Smiley. He was on the Hope Board, and was another who tried in vain to correct the situation there before it became totally incorrigible.

Roscoe Smiley
Milan, Illinois
309-781-6769

And then there is Teresa Dressler. She also worked at Hope for awhile, and left after being unable to see the terrible pit that this once outstanding institution was being dragged into.

Teresa Dressler
Lancaster, Wisconsin

608-723-6738

You can phone each of the above individuals and speak with them. They will tell you what happened while they were at Hope. They were there; they know the changes which were made. They know what a desolation the Hope Ministry and property has been turned into.

For your information, it was in 2006 that Joe got rid of Ron Spear. Ron also phoned me and said he would send me a lengthy report of what happened. If it arrives in time, it will be included in this present report.

Here are the statements we have received:

What Happened at Hope by Pastor Richard Harris

"Dear Brother Farrell, I met Ron Spear in September of 2002 at a campmeeting in Georgia. He was very nice to me, even giving me some of his personal books to add to my library. Together we did programs in Birmingham and Chattanooga in 2003.

"We became, and still are, good friends. Things began to change when he brought Joe Olson aboard as Director of Development of Hope International. I invited Ron Spear to speak at my annual Spring Conference meeting here in Birmingham. Joe Olson kept pushing to be on my program, pressing over and over until I gave him a brief spot to speak. Pastor Spear and I traveled as far away as Chicago together doing meetings together.

"Joe Olson and Ron invited me to speak at a campmeeting in 2004. We had a big turnout, complete with a tent. Then they featured my sermons on their website which led to me being asked to return to the next campmeeting in the fall of 2004.

"I was for a time somewhat of a regular speaker for Hope International, filling dates in St. Louis, Missouri and Chicago, Illinois speaking for them. Pastor Spear spoke to me about coming on board full time as a traveling evangelist for Hope. This did not sit well with Joe.

"I was asked to speak at the spring campmeeting in April of 2005. It was at this meeting that Joe Olson would not allow Pastor Spear to speak. I was totally surprised. It was at this meeting I heard Joe Olson, Clark Floyd, and Lee Forbes speak of how Ron was too old to speak anymore. I was sur-

prised because Ron was the originator of Hope International and people liked him and he still drew an audience.

“I watched Ron walking around brokenhearted because he could not speak at his own campmeeting. Barred from doing so by Joe Olson. I asked Ron why he wasn’t speaking. He told me. ‘They won’t let me speak this year.’

“After I spoke for Sabbath service Ron called me aside to talk, and Joe watched as Ron spoke with me in private. Joe was seething with anger and jealousy. It was then that I warned Ron to watch Joe Olson and that I did not trust him running Hope International. I told him Joe would try to steal the ministry from him. I was featured on the cover of their magazine newsletter many times. And my sermons were broadcast on their website for a while.

“After seeing us talking, Joe was very rude to me in ways I will not describe. I made my mind up then and there never to speak for Hope International again. And I didn’t. Joe repeatedly asked me to return to do a program, but I flat-out refused. I told him I did not trust him and would not come back to Hope under any circumstances.

“I had known that Joe’s wife was a smoker; you could smell it on her breath. I then met another man, Elder Roscoe Smiley, whom they put on the board of Hope International. He and I became good friends. After I left we kept in contact, and he would call with very disturbing information about Joe’s habits of inflating book prices at the campus bookstore. Advertising one price, then charging people another when they got to Hope International for meetings. He would tell people we are running low on the item, so we have had to raise the price. Yet there was a full shelf of the material in the store-room.

“He spoke of meetings where they (Lee Forbes & Clark Floyd) openly spoke of getting rid of Ron. He did not like the notion. According to Elder Smiley he spoke to Ron and also warned him not to trust Joe Olson. Then he, Smiley, resigned from Hope International.

“I also met Mr. George Gomoll who was serving as Director of Development. Joe Olson fired Mr. Gomoll without cause for fear he would expose fraudulent business dealings done by Joe; then put George and his wife out of their home on the campus of Hope International.

“After I quit and Elder Smiley resigned Joe needed a black face to show at their campmeetings. He asked a friend of mind who I will not name. But people in the know can connect the dots. I warned this friend Hope was going down and he should think twice about attending.

“When I heard Joe Olson had fired Ron, even taking his pension, I called by phone to him. Then Betty, his wife, was still alive and I talked to them both. Ron told me ‘Richard, I should have listened to you and Elder Smiley. They took everything from me, even my pension; and Clark Floyd was the worst one.’

“In my short time there I saw money wasted like you would not imagine. I heard of Joe eating a Big Mac [beefburger] while writing articles on the health message for the magazine. Often articles written and noted anonymous were nothing but articles written by Joe himself because he could not get people to write for him.

“I’m sorry this has happened, but people need to know the truth. I am not ashamed of what I say because it is the truth.

“I can be reached at 205-356-6796 or at Seven Thunder Ministries, P.O. Box 110116, Birmingham AL 35211.

“Ron Spear can’t be held accountable for much of this because he is old and very trusting, and was not at Hope International much of the time.”—*Pastor Richard Harris of Birmingham Alabama, pastor of Kingdom Growth Advent church and director of Seven Thunder Ministries.*

Is There Hope for Hope International? by George Gomoll

“It has been some time since our leaving Hope International. Many have asked ‘what happened?’ We have shared some details with many of you, but thought it was time to give as many details as we can recall over what happened in our year of service at Hope. Please feel free to share this information with anyone you think might benefit from knowing what is happening at Hope International.

“All of the things we share here can be summarized in one thought: All the Executive Director [Joe Olson] cares about is being in charge!!! He has put his personal needs above the real needs of the ministry. Instead of religion being about relationships, he believes religion is about who is in charge. He ended up firing 1/3 of the staff for no other reason than that they disagreed with him or had questions about some of his actions.

“A little over a year ago, he made a case against the maintenance man and fired him, to make room for his brother to join the staff. He decided to hire his brother over two other candidates that had extensive maintenance experience while his brother had none. He also decided to pay his brother considerably more than what he had told the other candidates was the going wage. When his brother was going through a divorce and found another woman

1 that he thought he was in love with, the executive
4 director immediately hired her and arranged to help
5 pay her moving expenses to Hope with ministry
7 funds. When the relationship did not work out, this woman was moved from a three-bedroom home to a tiny one bedroom, where her son ended up sleeping under a stairway just outside the apartment.

“When his daughter and her new husband came to visit during the summer, the director took his family out shopping and bought a paddleboat for them to play with at ministry expense. A few months later when questioned about this, he said the paddleboat was for the entire ministry to use. It was too bad he had not informed the staff of this change in policy. When his wife’s grandchildren were scheduled to visit, all of a sudden one of her shopping trips produced life jackets for the paddleboat, paid for with ministry funds; since he said campmeeting was approaching and many people would want to use the paddleboat and would need the life jackets.

“When he found out that Ron Spear had been invited to Hawaii to speak, he insisted that he must accompany Ron and made sure he spoke one time, so that the ministry would cover his expenses. He then stayed another week with his wife to vacation. This same plan has been used to make sure that he and his wife get to visit Portugal on a regular basis on ‘ministry business.’

“When he had the chance to be ‘bumped’ on air flights to get free tickets, he made sure he was bumped over a two day period so that he could get two free airline tickets which he and his wife used to vacation in Las Vegas!!!

“Here are some other actions of the Executive Director that at best would be called questionable.

- Using ministry money to pay for cleaning his suit.

- Buying candy bars with ministry money while at airports.

- Buying cheeseburgers to eat at airports with ministry funds.

- Allowing his executive secretary to take two hour trips to town each day and spend time shopping at Wal Mart and using ministry funds to buy skittles candy while at Wal Mart.”—*George Gomell, Chicago, Illinois, 708-283-2070. Deeply saddened by what happened, he welcomes phone calls to discuss this further.*

While I Was at Hope by Roscoe Smiley

“Vance, my name is Roscoe Smiley. And Richard Harris asked me to write to you about Hope International. I was reluctant at first, because it is a sore

As we go to press—I have just spoken with the husband of a very soft-toned, kindly couple, both of whom worked at Hope. Saddened by the unchristian things repeatedly done there, when the husband told Joe that they would be leaving, Joe became very angry and refused to pay his last three months’ salary, and then stopped a friend from helping to pay for a rental truck to haul their belongings to a different location. They request that I not give their phone number. —bf

spot to me; one I would like to forget. I was invited to join Hope International in 2004 as one of the speakers. It was not until the early part of 2005 that I met with Ron Spear, Joe Porozo, Clark Floyd, Lee Forbes, and Joe Olson (the then board of Hope International) that I became a member of the board.

“I witnessed many things before and while I was on the board of Hope International. The first thing that I noticed was that it was Joe Olson’s way or no way at all. Joe was, and is, very clever in getting his way. Everybody reported to him and he would make the decisions. When I approached him about it, he made up some excuses and went on his way. From that point on, he began to call the board rather than meet on a regular basis.

“Then I noticed that I had not seen Joe Porozo for awhile. When I asked Joe Olson about it, he told me that Joe Porozo had quit. Then Olson started making all kinds of accusations about how Joe Porozo had lied on His wife and was trying to get his position. Now I had known Joe Porozo to be a very honest and spiritual man, and the story could not have been true; but it was too late, Joe was gone and I never got his side of the story. I noticed that Ron Spear was usually very quiet around Joe and that Joe did not have the respect for Ron that I thought he should have had.

“The people liked Pastor Richard Harris and this brought criticism from Joe Olson. You could see the jealousy that was there. I remember once on the way to St. Louis that Joe was telling everybody how he had to fire the board and get a new board because, in his words, the members of the board were trying to take Hope International from Ron Spear. Ron at that time agreed with everything that Joe was saying. It seemed that he had complete confidence in Joe.

“Although stories that I heard from others were different, those stories revealed that it was Joe who was building his own organization right under Ron’s nose. I also noticed the expensive clothes and sun glasses that Joe wore. It was not the kind of thing that I thought should be happening.

“Then Joe Olson started talking very negatively about Harvey Steck, who had been with Ron for more than 20 years. Harvey was the person in charge of getting the magazine out and other jobs having to do with computer work. He was a very valuable person to have around. Joe began to find fault with everything that Harvey did. A little while later Harvey, his wife, and 3 girls were gone. The man had no job and no way to get back to the state of Washington. You see, Joe Olson wanted to start (and did indeed start) a church on the grounds; and Harvey made the mistake of telling Joe Olson that

there was a SDA church in town a few miles away and that it would send a bad signal about Hope International—which it did. This and several other things sealed it for me.

“First, Joe Olson brought his friend, a Gary Foster who had been the North American President of the Reform Church on board. I tried to tell him that it wasn’t a good idea because of the possible fallout; only to find out that Joe Olson had also been a reform church member in the south with Gary. Joe brought him on board anyway after writing a letter of resignation to the ‘president,’ a letter that was not signed by him and looked very suspicious to me like it was written in the office and then e-mailed to everybody.

“Then it got to the place where Joe would leave Ron in the airport for long periods of time. Now Ron was legally blind and had hearing aids in both of his ears. It really got to me and I tried to get Joe to have somebody at the airport when Ron got off the plane.

“Then, at what was to be my last board meeting, the agenda was mainly about letting Ron go and not giving him any retirement. Clark Floyd, Lee Forbes, Joe Olson, and I were all at the meeting. Joe and Clark were saying he is just an old man and that he was getting a pension from General Conference and that should be enough. Joe would not let Ron speak anymore. He and Clark Floyd said Ron only spoke the same sermon over and over again and that the people were tired of it. They tried their best to get me to make the motion, but there was no way that I could do that and love Jesus; no way. I really liked and respected Ron too much to do that; and, besides, that is not my way of doing things. Richard Harris and I both tried our very best to warn Ron, but Joe Olson got to him and convinced him that he would never do that. A few weeks later I sent by e-mail to Joe Olson, Clark Floyd, and Lee Forbes my resignation.

“I was told later that Ron called a meeting with Joe Olson, Clark Floyd, and Lee Forbes in Virginia. When they all met there at Clark Floyd’s house, Clark Floyd and Joe Olson told Ron that he had signed papers turning Hope International over to Joe Olson, and that it was Clark Floyd—who is a lawyer—who drew up the papers that Ron signed. It just seemed to me that it would be very easy to get a legally blind man who trusts you to sign away his share of Hope International and his pension. I have not shared this because I believe God, when

He says, ‘Vengeance is Mine. I will repay.’ However this seems like the time to tell what happened.

“I pray God that this will help many to understand the truth of what happened at Hope.”—*Roscoe Smiley, 309-781-6769. Roscoe is another eyewitness to what happened, whom you can call.*

I thought I was shocked at what I had earlier learned from these reports; but, after reading Roscoe’s letter, I am doubly shocked. *What those men did was evil! Oh, that we may never be party to the dark secrets done there! (Great Controversy, 486:2-3).* As for me and my house, we want nothing to do with that organization.

Yesterday, after reading our first report on Hope, a lady in the Northwest phoned. She wanted to know if any other independent ministries were connected with Hope. I explained that Hope International in Knoxville, Illinois, along with its various activities, are not connected with anyone else. It stands alone.

Teresa Dressler is another eyewitness to what occurred at that time at Hope. She has been out of town recently and unable to provide you with a written report at this time. But you can phone her at 608-723-6738. She now lives in Lancaster, Wisconsin. I am told that she will be glad to discuss the matter with you.

You may also wish to contact Hope International, P.O. Box 220, Knoxville, Illinois 61448.

These reports I have brought to you consist of eyewitness statements of what actually occurred. If anyone wishes to investigate this further, they should contact these eyewitnesses, all of whose names and phone numbers are listed on these pages.

I will conclude this four-page tract here, unless I receive more reports in the next few days.

Last week, I received a phone call from a close friend of many years who has done extensive missionary work in Mexico. He then sent a follow-up letter which just arrived:

A Weekend Visit to Hope by John Weeks

“I was glad to catch you on the phone this morning and visit with you concerning Ron Spear and Hope International. We have talked much about Hope in our many years together, and the impression made

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**PART TWO
OF TWO**

Continued from the preceding tract in this series

on us by Ron and his group in Washington.

“Mary and I watched from afar as the move was made from Eatonville to Knoxville, and a change was made in leadership, and always wondered where Ron was in the picture. Mind you, we did this from our Mexican vantage point and what news trickled to us by way of the grapevine, through occasional phone calls, or the mail. But we noticed there was definitely a change in the Hope program.

“We [John and Mary], for various reasons, pulled up stakes in Mexico at the end of 2006, and made a trip to Norberto Restrepo’s place in Venezuela, where we were for eight months, during which time we discussed and prayed for our future on returning to the United States. Hope International came to mind more than once, and I began e-mailing Joe Olson about the possibility of working with him when we came back. We discussed that possibility a few times and were settled on the idea.

“When we did arrive in the U.S., we made a detour to Wisconsin where we spent the winter.

“In April of this year [2008] we decided to stop by and see how Hope International was doing, and its new leader; for an institution depends much on the personality and character of its leader. Could he or would he be the type that Ron was earlier, as he headed up Hope?

“Well, we only spent a long weekend there, and that was enough for us. We were put up in the furnished room downstairs in the chapel. The first order of the day was to visit Joe up on second story of his Log Home office. He is all there is up there. More than six feet tall and plenty pounds more than what a man should be, he keeps working away to make more dollars. It’s a science with him. Hope is a moneymaking machine now.

“But Joe spent about 30 minutes with me, describing his institution and how it has been improved since he came in as its head. And after the story, he excused himself so he could make contacts to bring in more money. What dedication there is in that man is focused on being in constant touch with his mailing list, e-mailing, phoning, and writing personal letters to each donor, especially to the ones who are the larger donors, calling each one on a first name basis.

“He runs on a skeleton crew of perhaps 6 more people besides himself, and almost all related to him in some way; and many of the houses only have a few of his relatives living in them.

“One young man, a new Christian named Gregory, about 20 years old, not related, has been the translator for the Spanish *Our Firm Foundation*, spending endless after-hours to translate the monthly issue. He also is the one who keeps the many rented DVD towers operating. DVDs seem to bring in more donations, according to what Joe told me.

“On Sabbath we met together at the chapel. I expected to see folks drive in from outside the premises. But no, only the occupants and workers met together. We studied the Sabbath School lesson from their quarterly; and, in preparation for the 11 o’clock service, there was quite a stir and a lot of work to get all the video equipment put in place and working, so Joe could be videoed as he preached. Each Sabbath service is recorded for sending out to the ones on the mailing list.

“Potluck was at Joe’s home. We were all invited for sundown worship at Joe’s. And it was a long worship, consisting (on the weekend we were there) of the wife of Heidi, who was publishing the book on the ‘daily,’ and a synopsis of interesting points of history which entered into the ‘daily’ study.

“Mary and I were each asked to give our testimony. These were followed by Joe’s comments. To any ordinary person, his comments were a barrel of laughs; but there was just too much lightness and levity, and making fun of various things, especially Ron Spear and his *Preparing for Eternity*.

“I had earlier brought Ron to Keene in 1985 for a weekend of talks, and it was fairly well attended, in spite of the inclement weather, and being held in a tent. So I knew Ron to be a good man. So these laughs by Joe just hit too close to home. Joe told about some of his experiences when he first met the folks at Eatonville, and being with Ron, all comical to him. Mary and I left his place in disgust.

“In summary of what we learned at Hope was that all Joe could talk about was, first, to ridicule Ron Spear and, second, ways to make money. Those two subjects seem to be all he thinks about.

“This past weekend, we ran into Ron at Raphael Perez’ campmeeting in Tuskahoma, here in Oklahoma. We spoke with him. He still has a sharp mind, although he is now wearing two hearing aids and is legally blind. He shows no bitterness, no remorse for what happened.

“Well, now to hear the stories of things going on at the Hope campus fits together with all we experienced,—and we affirm, and are convinced more

than ever, that Hope was absconded and stolen! We don't know how, but it happened, and we stand aghast of what happened. May God help us all in these closing hours, and we should not be surprised at anything!

"But above the distractions of earth, God sits enthroned. Also God says in His Word that He will make crooked things straight. Because He will come with vengeance, and also a recompense. ALL is under His control. Praise God. Hello to those who are there with you, Vance. May God bless your ministry as you try to help the people in so many ways."—*John Weeks, Oklahoma, October 8, 2008.*

Ron Spear has just sent me a brief statement of what occurred. As you will read below, he knew exactly what happened on the inside of the organization. He knew about the massive waste of money by the new management which then fired him, after having wrested control of Hope from Ron.

Ron dictated the following letter to a friend who then mailed it to me:

**Ron Spear
An Open Letter to Hope**

"An open letter to Joe Olson, and the board and staff of Hope International:

"I recently had Heidi and Robin Heiks' letters of resignation read to me. Joe, I was hoping and praying that I would never have to write this letter to you; but I feel terrible for the faithful supporters, whose donations and prayers helped carry on Hope International's work for so long. I am sorry for them and how their trust has been betrayed.

"Due to your actions (which were backed by your board), there is really no solution left that does not involve your resignation and the dissolving of your present board. What has taken place there under your watch, and that of Clark Floyd and the rest of your board, is absolutely unacceptable and has done irreversible damage to your individual reputations and terrible damage to that of the name "*Hope International*," a ministry which I (and many others) had worked 23 years to build. I wrote to you some time back, that you had two options: one was to resign and save the ministry; the other was to let it run into the ground. Apparently, you have chosen the latter.

"The damage to the reputation in your ministry may be irreversible; but, with the right decisions, your records in heaven could reflect something different. The choice is yours. Joe, you and the rest who are there could go down, written in the hall of shame or, like Sampson, you could use your last moments to

do something noble.

"Since you and your board fired me, I know I have no authority to make any decisions there; but, as a servant of God, I want to appeal to you to do that—for Christ's sake, your consciences' sake, and for the sake of the souls who could be positively touched with the Everlasting Gospel. Again, the choice is yours. And I pray that you make the right one.

"You could, before you resign and dissolve Hope International, decide to honor God and His closing work by turning over the ministry and property to another nonprofit organization. One with a vision for teaching and reaching souls with God's last message of hope.

"Joe, your newsletter and DVDs show your talent as a comic and an actor, but you are not an administrator after God's order. I have to take some responsibility for bringing you on board and putting you in a place of trust. I ask God's forgiveness for doing that. Joe, you showed talents; but they have been very poorly invested.

"Very much of the \$1,200,000 acquired from the sale of the institution [the property in Eatonville, Washington] that God called me to build up since 1984 was poorly spent in less than two years. Yes, some of it went into capital improvement, in rebuilding the dormitories to bring in patients. However, the dormitories were never used for that purpose. I made another mistake in turning over the executorship (as you asked) of that \$720,000 from the man in Tennessee. That also was not wisely invested. The hundreds of thousands of dollars lost in the Portugal land disaster is another example of poor administrative skills.

"Joe, board and staff of Hope International, we have to face in the judgment what we have done with God's resources and especially those who have been placed in positions of trust! Now is your opportunity to change how you are being weighed in the balances.

"I appeal to your decency and your conscience to let the ministry survive. One solution would be to let it's founder come back and a new board and staff be formed. I still have friends and influence around the world, and it may be that a difficult turnaround can be made.

"Joe, I and many others will be praying for God's special intervention, no matter what decision you make.

"Sincerely,
Ron Spear."

May I, just now, give you a personal testimony of thanksgiving? We are told to share our praises to God with our brethren, so I would

1 **like to share one with you. I have just arrived**
4 **in after lunch.** Ron's letter arrived late this morn-
5 ing. When I went home at noon, I decided to lay out
8 on the grass and get a little sun on my face before
preparing lunch. Since it was windy, I went to an
area where I do not generally go. Throwing down a
sheet, I laid down; and, after taking some sun on
one side of my face, I rotated my legs completely
around in order to sun the other side. Unknown to
me, I had passed my leg right over a ground hornets'
nest, and then stopped with my lower legs right next
to it.

A faint buzz increased very rapidly until I heard
a loud buzzing somewhere down by my feet, but I
ignored it. Then a couple dozen yellow-backed hor-
nets began buzzing all around my face, even touch-
ing it; as much as to say, "Why are you here?"

Looking up I saw a great cloud of hornets an-
grily buzzing back and forth.

So I stood up, gathered up the sheet and walked
away. Not one sting, yet they were angrily buzzing
all about me. In this crisis, He considered it best to
overrule my foolishness and give me full protec-
tion, knowing that I probably could not have recov-
ered from 50 or 70 stings.

I want you to know that God cares for His little
ones. I have a close friend who, after being stung by
six or seven of them, nearly died. But his wife im-
mediately gave him cayenne pepper, to stimulate
his heart, and charcoal packs over the sting areas.
He was going into shock and was beginning to lapse
into unconsciousness, but God told her what to do
and it saved him.

You have read my recent reports on the finan-
cial crisis, *but I want you to know that, if faithful,
God is going to guard and protect each of us in
the days ahead, if we will be faithful to Him.* This
is a promise, based on the Word of God! We live in
a dangerous time in history, but our God is going to
care for His faithful ones to the very end! And, after
the end comes, we are going to rejoice in heaven,
and gather around the throne and sing praises to
our God!

"When the strongholds of kings shall be over-
thrown, when the arrows of wrath shall strike
through the hearts of His enemies, His people will
be safe in His hands."—*Prophets and Kings*, 176.

"The dealings of Providence bring to the unbeliev-
ing, darkness and despair, while to the trusting soul
they are full of light and peace. The path where God
leads the way may lie through the desert or the sea,
but it is a safe path."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*,
290.

**To conclude this two-part tract set, here are
several pertinent quotations:**

"Especially should those who have a voice in the
management of the work have breadth of mind and
sanctified judgment. They should not waste their
Lord's money by thoughtlessness or lack of business
tact; neither should they make the mistake of limiting
the work by the adoption of narrow plans and trust-
ing the work to men of small ability.

"It has been repeatedly represented to me that all
our institutions should be managed by men who are
spiritually minded and who will not weave their own
defective ideas and plans into their management. This
work should not be left to men who will mingle the
sacred with the common and who will regard the work
of God as being upon about the same level as earthly
things, to be managed in about the same common way
in which they have been in the habit of managing their
own temporal affairs. Until those can be connected with
our institutions who have breadth of mind and who
can lay plans in harmony with the growth of the work
and its exalted character, the tendency will be to nar-
row down everything that is undertaken, and God will
be dishonored.

"Oh, that all who have responsibilities to bear in
connection with the cause of God would come up into
a higher, holier atmosphere, where every true Chris-
tian should be! If they would, then both they and the
work which they represent would be elevated and
clothed with sacred dignity, and they would command
the respect of all connected with the work."—*5 Testi-
monies*, 550.

"The men who act as presidents of state conferences
should be carefully selected. Then let these men bear
the responsibilities of the conference in a most thor-
ough, earnest, God-fearing manner. If they are not qual-
ified to do the work thoroughly and successfully, do
not keep them in that position."—*Testimonies to Min-
isters*, 322.

"God declares, 'I will be glorified in My people;' but
the self-confident management of men has resulted in
putting God aside, and accepting the devisings of men.
If you allow this to continue, your faith will soon be-
come extinct. God is in every place, beholding the con-
duct of the people who profess to represent the prin-
ciples of His Word. He asks that a change be made."—
Testimonies to Ministers, 481.

"Let all who are connected with our institutions
humble themselves before God. Let them ask God to
help them to plan so wisely and economically that the
institutions will take firm root and will bear fruit to
God's glory. Depend not on men. Look to Jesus. Con-
tinue in prayer and watch unto prayer with thanks-
giving. Be sure that you have a close connection with
Christ."—*Medical Ministry*, 157.

"Our institutions are far beneath what God would
have them be, because many of those connected with
them are not in fellowship with Him. They are not
growing men. They are not constantly learning of
Jesus; therefore they are not becoming more and more
efficient. If they would come close to Him and seek
His help, He would walk with them and talk with them;

He would be their counselor in all things, and would grant to them, as He did to Daniel, heavenly wisdom and understanding.”—*5 Testimonies*, 553.

“Those who are placed in charge of the Lord’s institutions are in need of much of the strength and grace and keeping power of God, that they shall not walk contrary to the sacred principles of the truth. Many, many are very dull of comprehension in regard to their obligation to preserve the truth in its purity, uncontaminated by one vestige of error. Their danger is in holding the truth in light esteem, thus leaving upon minds the impression that it is of little consequence what we believe, if, by carrying out plans or human devising, we can exalt ourselves before the world as holding a superior position, as occupying the highest seat.

“God calls for men whose hearts are as true as steel, and who will stand steadfast in integrity, undaunted by circumstances. He calls for men who will remain separate from the enemies of the truth.”—*Counsels on Health*, 290.

“If we are determined not to be separated from the Source of our strength, Jesus will be just as determined to be at our right hand to help us, that we may not be put to shame before our enemies. The grace of Christ can accomplish for us that which all our efforts will fail to do. Those who love and fear God may be surrounded with a multitude of cares, and yet not falter or make crooked paths for their feet. God takes care of you in the place where it is your duty to be.”—*Counsels on Health*, 424.

“The men whom God has connected with His institutions are not to feel that there is no improvement for them to make because they stand in responsible positions. If they are to be representative men, guardians of the most sacred work ever committed to mortals, they must take the position of learners.

“They must not feel self-sufficient or self-important. They should ever realize that they are treading on holy ground. Angels of God are ready to minister to them, and they must be continually in reception of light and heavenly influences, or they are no more fitted for the work than unbelievers.”—*5 Testimonies*, 557-558.

“Unless the men who stand as managers of our institutions are humble enough to be managed by the Lord Jesus, they will move unadvisedly. In order for men to strengthen the cause of God, their ability must be sanctified, that they may reason wisely from cause to effect.”—*Medical Ministry*, 153.

“Men who might have done well if they had consecrated themselves to God, if they had been willing to work in a humble way, enlarging their business slowly and refusing to go into debt, have made a failure because they have not worked on right lines. And after

getting into difficulty they have sold out as men incompetent to manage. They desired relief from financial pressure, and did not stop to think of the after results.”—*Medical Ministry*, 157.

“We are to have only those connected with our institutions who will hear the word of the Lord and appreciate and obey His voice. When a man will plead and urge to have his mind and his judgment to be supreme in any one of our institutions, you can have no greater evidence that that man does not know himself and is not qualified to manage. He will make mistakes and injure rather than restore. He does not know what responsibilities are involved in his relation to God or to his fellowmen.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 420.

“Men who are controlled by selfish desires should not remain connected with our institutions, and their course of action would better be exposed, that every church of Seventh-day Adventists may know what principles govern these men.”—*1 Manuscript Releases*, p. 197 (*General Conference Daily Bulletin*, January 30, 1893, par. 8).

“No one in an institution, not even the superintendent, should take the position that he is free to follow his own judgment in all things. Let know one think he knows so much that he no longer needs to learn. Unless we are constantly learning of Christ and unless we are willing to take counsel and advise from our brethren, we shall fail in our work; for we shall become self-sufficient, and with those who are self-sufficient God cannot work.”—*Medical Ministry*, 166.

“If the character of the men connected with the office at Battle Creek were so transformed that they could have a helpful influence over those under their control, then the outlook would be more encouraging. Whatever the men employed there may think of their ability, I have reason to say that many will need to improve greatly before they are qualified to fill their positions acceptably. They may feel competent to give counsel, but they are themselves in need of counsel from Him who is unerring in wisdom. Great and important interests are in danger of being misshaped and of coming forth defective from their hands. If all felt their ignorance more, and would depend less on self, they might learn of the great Teacher meekness and lowliness of heart.

“God is observing everything that transpires in the office. ‘Thou God seest me,’ should be always in mind.”—*5 Testimonies*, 558.

Oh, my friend, may we be faithful to our God to the end. Satan is determined to intrude his presence and destroy Advent believers and the work they are trying to carry on. It is urgent that we be guarded, and faithful to His Word, to the end.

—*vf*