



Kellogg vs. The Ministry

A CENTURY OF COLLATERAL DAMAGE

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If you happen to find additional information that somehow improves this presentation, please be so kind as to email a copy to me at dfiedler@AdventistCityMissions.org. You may also enjoy checking out our website at www.AdventistCityMissions.org.

My book on Adventist History, *Hindsight*, should also be available through that address if you want to plug the book for me. (\$5 +s/h; free s/h on 5 or more copies)

Questions and comments are also welcome, but please don't deprive yourself of sleep or food while waiting for a reply.

**Blessings,
Dave**

Why Is This Important?

“As religious teachers, we are under obligation to God to teach the students how to engage in medical missionary work.”

—Manuscript Releases, vol. 8, 297

Language Comes and Goes

- ◆ *Review and Herald*, November 21, 1893
- ◆ *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 203 (in 1901)

“Bene”

A word root that means “well” or “good”

- ◆ **Benefit**—something that promotes welfare (noun), or to act so as to promote welfare (verb)
- ◆ **Beneficent**—productive of welfare (adjective)
- ◆ **Benevolent**—inclined to promote welfare (adjective)

“Benevolent Work”

A term used by Seventh-day Adventists from the late 1860s on to describe efforts to help people—especially the poor, disadvantaged, or sick—in practical, tangible ways.

A synonym was “Christian help work.”

An even more common way to refer to the idea of helping people was to cite Isaiah 58—share your bread with the hungry,... bring the poor to your house,... clothe the naked.

“Benevolent Work”

The Seventh-day Adventist Benevolent Association was formed in 1868 to foster this sort of work.

This was largely in reaction to the failure of the church to provide for Hannah More.

Hannah More

“In this testimony I speak freely of the case of Sister Hannah More, not from a willingness to grieve the Battle Creek church, but from a sense of duty. I love that church notwithstanding their faults. I know of no church that in acts of benevolence and general duty do so well. I present the frightful facts in this case to arouse our people everywhere to a sense of their duty. Not one in twenty of those who have a good standing with Seventh-day Adventists is living out the self-sacrificing principles of the word of God.”

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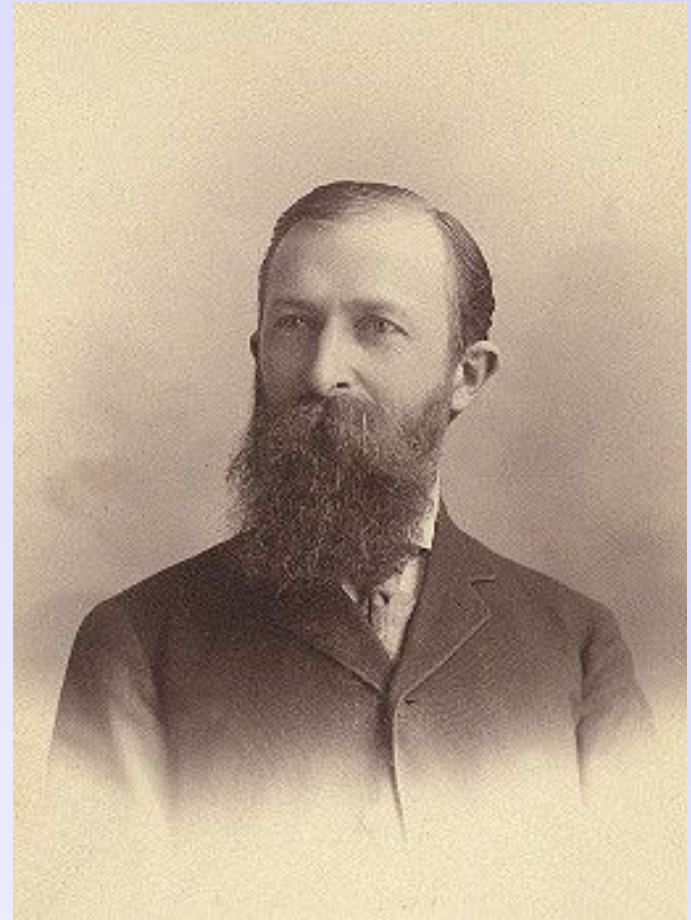
“Benevolent Work”

And then...

“Benevolent Work”

**And then... along came
Dr. Kellogg.**

**For both good and bad,
Seventh-day Adventist
benevolent work would
never be the same.**



Dr. Kellogg

Dr. John Harvey Kellogg was—

- ◆ **intelligent**
- ◆ **insecure**
- ◆ **independent**
- ◆ **proud**
- ◆ **generous**
- ◆ **decisive**
- ◆ **controlling**
- ◆ **converted**



Dr. Kellogg

“After the meeting at Minneapolis, Dr. Kellogg was a converted man, and we all knew it. We could see the converting power of God working in his heart and life.”

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Righteousness by Faith

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“Dear Brethren: While in Petoskey I had some conversation with your physician-in-chief in regard to establishing a home for orphan children at Battle Creek. I said that this was just what was needed among us as a people, and that in enterprises of this kind we were far behind other denominations.”

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In 1892, Mrs. Caroline Haskell came as a guest to the Sanitarium. Impressed by what she had seen, she asked Dr. Kellogg if there were any special needs toward which she might donate.

Her interest eventually led to a \$30,000 gift given as a memorial to her late husband, Frederick Haskell.

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“I never had much faith in God until I went down to the Jerry McAuley Mission in New York City, and saw how the Lord could save drunkards.”

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Initial Support (1895)

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Initial Support (1897)

“My brethren in America, in the place of questioning and criticizing Dr. Kellogg because he is doing the class of work he is, when you do your God-given service, you will be heart and soul engaged in doing the same kind of work, which will be of far more account in the sight of God than for so many to flock into Battle Creek, where they become religious dwarfs because they do not do the work God has appointed them.”

—*Home Missionary*, November 1, 1897

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“The question has been asked, did you not give Dr. Kellogg encouragement after he had entered into this work? I answer, I did; for I had been instructed that a work of this character should be done by all our churches; that a deep interest should be taken in this very line of work; that according to the light which the Lord had been pleased to give me, this line of work should have been taken hold of with resolution by our ministers, not to create a large center in one place, but to establish the work in many cities....

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“The work God pointed out for those in Battle Creek was for them to leave Battle Creek and work in places where there was nothing to represent the truth. Thus plants would have been made in many places....”

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“God has not forsaken His people, but His people have forsaken Him. Those in Battle Creek should have worked for the ones who needed their help. Dr. Kellogg took up the work they did not do. The spirit of criticism shown to his work from the first has been very unjust, and has made his work hard. The lack of sympathy his brethren have shown him has prepared the way for the work he has been doing in criticizing them. The Lord has no justification for any such work.

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“Had the church done in different localities the work given them by God, had they followed the example left them by Christ, there would now be centers all through America. Plants would be established in many places. There would not be a great showing in Chicago alone; the work would be multiplied in many places, with the full co-operation of the institutions established in Battle Creek.

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“The past should be subject for keen regret. The Lord would now have the medical missionary work recognized as the helping hand of God. But this work has been carried too heavily in one place, when plants should have been made in many places.

“The Lord has given Dr. Kellogg his work. It is a fact that our ministers are very slow to become health reformers, notwithstanding all the light which the Lord has given upon this subject. This has caused Dr. Kellogg to lose confidence in them.

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“Their tardy work in health reform has created in him a spirit of criticism, and he has borne down on them in an unsparing manner, which the Lord does not sanction. He has belittled the gospel ministry, and in his regard and ideas has placed the medical missionary work above the ministry. I have seen that in the censuring of ministers remarks have been made which have not been to the honor and glory of God.”

—Battle Creek Letters, 11-13

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“Those who refused the warnings of God followed a course of action which brought its sure result. These influences have sometimes made the work of Dr. Kellogg doubly as hard as it should have been. They have led him to stand apart to some degree from the ministry. I desire to present matters as they are presented to me. Such a spirit of criticism and fault-finding has done the work Satan designed should be done. Dr. Kellogg has been led to take the course he deemed it his duty to take. He has not connected with those who were not in sympathy with the work he knew to be of God.

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“Our people have not all appreciated as they should the man through whom God has worked, and with whom He has cooperated upon the subject of health reform. They have not reasoned from cause to effect to understand how great was the blessing of the Sanitarium at Battle Creek under the management of Dr. Kellogg and his faithful associates. Through this work the truths of the third angel’s message have entered where it would otherwise have been very difficult for them to find entrance. But the perceptions of our people have been blinded.”

—Battle Creek Letters, 15

What Happened? (1900)

“Seek to save Dr. Kellogg from himself. He is not heeding the counsel he should heed. He is not satisfied because the Lord has signified that the missionary work does not consist alone in the slum work in Chicago. That work, thought to be the great and important thing to be done, is a very defective and expensive work.”

—Manuscript Releases, vol. 4, 427

What Happened? (1900)

“God forbid that the purposes Dr. Kellogg has in mind should be carried out. Our work is not to be a divided work.”

—Manuscript Releases, vol. 4, 416

“When the gospel ministers and the medical missionary workers are not united, there is placed on our churches the worst evil that can be placed there.”

—Sermons and Talks, vol. 1, 347 (1904)

What Happened? (1900)

“The Lord has sent you warnings, but you have not heeded them....

“Of the work you have taken up in Chicago the Lord inquires, ‘John, who hath required this at your hands?’ You have establishments in America of your own ambitious creating. As you belong to the Seventh-day Adventist people, God has given you another work to do. You have not been called to do this work....

What Happened? (1900)

“The deceptive power of the enemy has led you to leave God’s banner trailing in the dust while Dr. Kellogg has committed himself as working ‘undenominationally’ in a work which has taken the money from a people who are decidedly a denominational people.

“Isaiah fifty-eight.... does not sustain you in the kind of work you are doing and in expending God’s revenue on that class of people found in the slums. There we obtain the least results for labor put forth....

What Happened? (1900)

“The work has been hindered, the cause of God should have a different showing, far different, and who is to blame for this hindrance? You give heed to men not of our faith. You delight to show what you have done, and by a free use of money that was not yours to handle, in a way that God has not appointed....

“God never set you to engage in gathering means, and in doing the work that the Salvation Army are doing. Let them work in that line, and you attend to your appointed work.”

—Manuscript Releases, vol. 4, 429–432

What Happened? (1903)

“God does not endorse the efforts put forth by different ones to make the work of Dr. Kellogg as hard as possible, in order to build themselves up. God gave the light on health reform, and those who rejected it, rejected God. One and another who knew better, said that it all came from Dr. Kellogg, and they made war upon him. This had a bad influence on the doctor. He put on the coat of irritation and retaliation. God did not want him to stand in a position of warfare, and he does not want you to stand there.”

—*General Conference Bulletin*, April 6, 1903

The Fire

The Haskell Home burned down in the early morning of February 9, 1909. Three children died.

Unfortunately, this sad event led to a new round of accusations.

Accusations

“The Haskell Home never was owned or controlled by the Seventh-day Adventists or any other church organization. The money with which the home was built was given to me personally by Mrs. Caroline Haskell.... The leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination were never much in sympathy with the Haskell Home enterprise, nor for that matter with any other line of philanthropic work.”

—J.H. Kellogg in the *Battle Creek Enquirer*, February 5, 1909

Accusations

“This representation is not borne out by the original records and accounting which were kept by the founders and managers of the Haskell Home.... In view of the wide difference between Dr. Kellogg’s statements and the original records signed by himself as chairman, I consider it only fair to all parties to give the facts in this case as we find them recorded in the documents.”

—A.G. Daniells in the Battle Creek *Enquirer*, April 25, 1909

The Fallout

In the early 1900s, there were more than fifty “Benevolent” institutions operated by Seventh-day Adventists.

Following Dr. Kellogg’s loss of church membership over pantheism and other issues (1907), and the Haskell Home fire (1909), this number declined rapidly.

To a large degree, the denomination had washed its hands of the “Benevolent Work.”

Miscellaneous Comments (1868)

“You may say you have been taken in and have bestowed your means upon those unworthy of your charity, and therefore have become discouraged in trying to help the needy. I present Jesus before you. He came to save fallen man, to bring salvation to His own nation; but they would not accept Him.... Though your efforts for good have been unsuccessful ninety-nine times, and you received only insult, reproach, and hate, yet if the one-hundredth time proves a success, and one soul is saved, oh, what a victory is achieved!”

—Testimonies, vol. 2, 31

Miscellaneous Comments (1885)

“There is enough wealth in your conference to carry forward this work successfully; and shall the prince of darkness be left in undisputed possession of our great cities because it costs something to sustain missions? Let those who would follow Christ fully come up to the work, even if it be over the heads of ministers and president. Those who in such a work as this will say, ‘I pray thee have me excused,’ should beware lest they receive their discharge for time and for eternity.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, 369

Miscellaneous Comments (1895)

“In the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah, the work that the people of God are to do in Christ’s lines, is clearly set forth. They are to break every yoke, they are to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to bring the poor that are cast out into their houses, to draw out their souls to the hungry, and to satisfy the afflicted soul. If they carry out the principles of the law of God in acts of mercy and love, they will represent the character of God to the world, and receive the richest blessings of Heaven.”

—Review and Herald, August 20, 1895

Miscellaneous Comments (1898)

“Again and again the Lord has pointed out the work which the church in Battle Creek and those all through America are to do. They are to reach a much higher standard in spiritual advancement than they have yet reached. They are to awake out of sleep and go without the camp, working for souls that are ready to perish.

“The medical missionary workers are doing the long-neglected work which God gave to the church in Battle Creek—they are giving the last call to the supper which He has prepared.

Miscellaneous Comments (1898)

“In order to be carried forward aright, the medical missionary work needs talent. It requires strong, willing hands, and wise, discriminating management. But can this be while those in responsible places—presidents of conferences and ministers—bar the way?”

“The Lord says to the presidents of conferences and to other influential brethren: ‘Remove the stumbling blocks that have been placed before the people.’...”

Miscellaneous Comments (1898)

“Please read the invitation to the supper, and the last call to be made. Study what is being done to meet the command of Jesus. I cannot understand why such indifference is manifested, why you should stand afar off and criticize and draw away. The gospel net is to be cast into the sea, and it draws both good and bad. But because this is so, shall men and women ignore the efforts made to save those who will believe and who will unite in reaching that class of whom Christ spoke in His rebuke to the Pharisees? ‘Sinners and harlots,’ He said, ‘go into the kingdom of God before you.’

Miscellaneous Comments (1898)

“Brethren, be careful, very careful. There is a work being done by [to] the medical missionaries which answers to the description given in Matthew 24:48–51. The Lord is working to reach the most depraved. Many will know what it means to be drawn to Christ, but will not have moral courage to war against appetite and passion. But the workers must not be discouraged at this.... Is it only those rescued from the lowest depths that backslide?”

Miscellaneous Comments (1898)

“There are those in the ministry who have had light and a knowledge of the truth, who will not be overcomers. They do not restrict their appetites and passions or deny themselves for Christ’s sake. Many poor outcasts, even publicans and sinners, will grasp the hope set before them in the gospel and will go into the kingdom of heaven before the ones who have had great opportunities and great light, but who have walked in darkness. In the last great day many will say: ‘Lord, Lord, open unto us.’ But the door will be shut, and their knock will be in vain.

Miscellaneous Comments (1898)

“We should feel deeply over these things, for they are true. We should have a high estimate of truth and of the value of souls. Time is short, and there is a great work to be done. If you feel no interest in the work that is going forward, if you will not encourage medical missionary work in the churches, it will be done without your consent; for it is the work of God, and it ***must*** be done. My brethren and sisters, take your position on the Lord’s side and be earnest, active, courageous co-workers with Christ, laboring with Him to seek and save the lost.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, 71–75

Miscellaneous Comments (1903)

“The Lord signified His displeasure by permitting the principal buildings of these institutions to be destroyed by fire.

“Notwithstanding the plain evidence of the Lord’s providence in these destructive fires, some among us have not hesitated to make light of the statement that these buildings were burned because men had been swaying things in directions which the Lord could not approve.



Miscellaneous Comments (1903)

“Men have been departing from right principles, for the promulgation of which these institutions were established. They have failed of doing the very work that God ordained should be done to prepare a people to ‘build the old waste places’ and to stand in the breach, as represented in the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. In this scripture the work we are to do is clearly defined as being medical missionary work. This work is to be done in all places.”

—Testimonies, vol. 8, 218

Miscellaneous Comments (1908)

“I have been instructed to refer our people to the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. Read this chapter carefully and understand the kind of ministry that will bring life into the churches.... When you meet suffering souls who need help, give it them. When you find those who are hungry, feed them. In doing this you will be working in lines of Christ’s ministry. The Master’s holy work was a benevolent work. Let our people everywhere be encouraged to have a part in it.”

—*Medical Ministry*, 263

Miscellaneous Comments (1875)

After telling the story of the Good Samaritan—

“Here the conditions of inheriting eternal life are plainly stated by our Saviour in the most simple manner. The man who was wounded and robbed represents those who are subjects of our interest, sympathy, and charity. If we neglect the cases of the needy and the unfortunate that are brought under our notice, no matter who they may be, we have no assurance of eternal life; for we do not answer the claims that God has upon us.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, 524

Miscellaneous Comments (1900)

“Those who wait for the Bridegroom’s coming are to say to the people, ‘Behold your God.’ The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them.”

—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, 415

Miscellaneous Comments (1898)

“The sufferings of every man are the sufferings of God’s child, and those who reach out no helping hand to their perishing fellow beings provoke His righteous anger. This is the ‘wrath of the Lamb.’”

—Desire of Ages, 825

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Why Is This Important?

“As religious teachers, we are under obligation to God to teach the students how to engage in medical missionary work.”

—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 8, 297

This is an obligation that has sometimes, perhaps most of the time, been lost sight of. How can “medical missionary work” be a mandatory part of Christian education? Surely not everyone is going to become a doctor or a nurse.

Well, it turns out that “medical missionary work” is actually a rather broad term, and that it is far more simple and basic than we have been accustomed to think of it. It has also been seriously neglected.

In order to see how this all fits together, we need to cover a fair bit of history. And to get it right, we need to go back to a time when “Medical Missionary Work” was unheard of in the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Language Comes and Goes

- ◆ *Review and Herald*, November 21, 1893
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The “Word of the Lord” lasts forever, but human languages and expressions change. Ellen White didn’t always use the term “Medical Missionary.”

She never used it in any of her *Review and Herald* articles until...

CLICK 1893

And it didn’t make it into the *Testimonies* until...

CLICK 1901

Before that, the word was...

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This was largely in reaction to the failure of the church to provide for Hannah More.

Missionary-teacher-author-preacher

Many years in Liberia, west coast of Africa, just above the equator

on furlough in 1863, met Stephen Haskell—he gave her some books on the Sabbath

Eventually fired for keeping Sabbath in Africa

Paid her own way back to the States, then to Battle Creek.

Whites were out of town, never met her in person

Spent weeks looking for work and housing in BC

Ran out of money—no job, no home, old clothes, stayed in San

Had to go to Northern Michigan—lived with former Baptist co-workers. Poor conditions. Got TB.

Died in March of 1868

Hannah More

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“In the case of Sister Hannah More, I was shown that the neglect of her was the neglect of Jesus in her person. Had the Son of God come in the humble, unpretending manner in which He journeyed from place to place when He was upon earth, He would have met with no better reception.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, 140

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GCDB, 1888, Oct. 29, 1888, vol. 2, No. 8, p.2 cited by James Nix in *The Chicago Mission and Workingmen’s Home*.

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12

Intelligent—Dictate books while exercising

Insecure—Bench in office wall

Independent—Refused birthday watch

Proud—If not Mary Kelsey, then Ella Eaton
CLICK for pic

Generous—Raised 42 adopted/foster children; put at least
50 students through college

Decisive—Drew plans for bigger San on train

Controlling—Got rid of popular doctors

Converted—In 1888, Ellen White said so

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The “meeting at Minneapolis” was, of course, the 1888 General Conference session made famous by the presentations of E.J. Waggoner and A.T. Jones on the subject of Righteousness by Faith.

This was—as Ellen White later described it—the beginning of the Loud Cry. And that’s when Dr. Kellogg was converted. Everyone could see it.

But *how* could they see it? Well, again as Ellen White described it—true faith bears a predictable kind of fruit.

CLICK and read item on this page.

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Emphasis in original here, too

Initial Support (1897)

“My brethren in America, in the place of questioning and criticizing Dr. Kellogg because he is doing the class of work he is, when you do your God-given service, you will be heart and soul engaged in doing the same kind of work, which will be of far more account in the sight of God than for so many to flock into Battle Creek, where they become religious dwarfs because they do not do the work God has appointed them.”

—Home Missionary, November 1, 1897

Ouch!

Do you enjoy watching someone get put in his place? I have to admit that I do. The frightening thing about this quotation, though, is that I suspect it applies to most all of us here today—myself included.

The best defense I can give for myself at the moment is that I'm trying to change the situation.

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“The question has been asked, did you not give Dr. Kellogg encouragement after he had entered into this work? I answer, I did; for I had been instructed that a work of this character should be done by all our churches; that a deep interest should be taken in this very line of work; that according to the light which the Lord had been pleased to give me, this line of work should have been taken hold of with resolution by our ministers, not to create a large center in one place, but to establish the work in many cities....

By the next year, though, there was what may look like a new line of thought in Ellen White's comments.

This can be confusing. Remember, she didn't write the same things to everyone. If I'm a doctor, I vary my treatment according to the patient. One guy may need his appendix yanked out as fast as possible, but I don't do that to everyone who comes to my doctor's office.

The problem is that there were mistakes on both sides of this story, and Ellen White was stuck in the middle. She did her best to reprove wrong on both sides, but to encourage both sides to see the good in the other.

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“The work God pointed out for those in Battle Creek was for them to leave Battle Creek and work in places where there was nothing to represent the truth. Thus plants would have been made in many places....

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“God has not forsaken His people, but His people have forsaken Him. Those in Battle Creek should have worked for the ones who needed their help. Dr. Kellogg took up the work they did not do. The spirit of criticism shown to his work from the first has been very unjust, and has made his work hard. The lack of sympathy his brethren have shown him has prepared the way for the work he has been doing in criticizing them. The Lord has no justification for any such work.

27

Both Ministers and Kellogg were wrong.

But there’s an old saying among secular historians—
“The Victor writes the history.” That’s one reason you don’t see many sympathetic accounts of Hitler’s Third Reich... he didn’t win!

In the story we’re looking at now, Kellogg clearly “lost,” from the Adventist church’s point of view. And the history is often written as though it were all his fault.

But it wasn’t that way. Kellogg had faults, that’s for sure. And his biggest fault may well have been his reaction to the faults of the ministers who criticized him unjustly.

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“Had the church done in different localities the work given them by God, had they followed the example left them by Christ, there would now be centers all through America. Plants would be established in many places. There would not be a great showing in Chicago alone; the work would be multiplied in many places, with the full co-operation of the institutions established in Battle Creek.

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“The past should be subject for keen regret. The Lord would now have the medical missionary work recognized as the helping hand of God. But this work has been carried too heavily in one place, when plants should have been made in many places.

“The Lord has given Dr. Kellogg his work. It is a fact that our ministers are very slow to become health reformers, notwithstanding all the light which the Lord has given upon this subject. This has caused Dr. Kellogg to lose confidence in them.

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“Their tardy work in health reform has created in him a spirit of criticism, and he has borne down on them in an unsparing manner, which the Lord does not sanction. He has belittled the gospel ministry, and in his regard and ideas has placed the medical missionary work above the ministry. I have seen that in the censuring of ministers remarks have been made which have not been to the honor and glory of God.”

—Battle Creek Letters, 11-13

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“Those who refused the warnings of God followed a course of action which brought its sure result. These influences have sometimes made the work of Dr. Kellogg doubly as hard as it should have been. They have led him to stand apart to some degree from the ministry. I desire to present matters as they are presented to me. Such a spirit of criticism and fault-finding has done the work Satan designed should be done. Dr. Kellogg has been led to take the course he deemed it his duty to take. He has not connected with those who were not in sympathy with the work he knew to be of God.

Talk about being in a hard spot!

Kellogg knew his work was of God. What he didn't know was how to relate to people who should have known that too, but managed to fool themselves into thinking otherwise.

Changing Circumstances (1898)

“Our people have not all appreciated as they should the man through whom God has worked, and with whom He has cooperated upon the subject of health reform. They have not reasoned from cause to effect to understand how great was the blessing of the Sanitarium at Battle Creek under the management of Dr. Kellogg and his faithful associates. Through this work the truths of the third angel’s message have entered where it would otherwise have been very difficult for them to find entrance. But the perceptions of our people have been blinded.”

—Battle Creek Letters, 15

What Happened? (1900)

“Seek to save Dr. Kellogg from himself. He is not heeding the counsel he should heed. He is not satisfied because the Lord has signified that the missionary work does not consist alone in the slum work in Chicago. That work, thought to be the great and important thing to be done, is a very defective and expensive work.”

—Manuscript Releases, vol. 4, 427

READ text...

This was written to Elder Irwin, January 1, 1900

Then On January 12, she wrote...

CLICK for next slide

What Happened? (1900)

“God forbid that the purposes Dr. Kellogg has in mind should be carried out. Our work is not to be a divided work.”

—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 4, 416

“When the gospel ministers and the medical missionary workers are not united, there is placed on our churches the worst evil that can be placed there.”

—*Sermons and Talks*, vol. 1, 347 (1904)

READ quote, then

Four years later she made a related comment that helps us see how serious she was on this point.

CLICK for next comment

“Worst evil”? Isn’t that a bit overblown?

Perhaps not. If a united program of benevolent healing and gospel teaching is required to finish the Lord’s work, to separate the two would guarantee that we would never finish the work.

Is that the “worst evil”?

What Happened? (1900)

"The Lord has sent you warnings, but you have not heeded them...."

"Of the work you have taken up in Chicago the Lord inquires, 'John, who hath required this at your hands?' You have establishments in America of your own ambitious creating. As you belong to the Seventh-day Adventist people, God has given you another work to do. You have not been called to do this work...."

To Kellogg

He's clearly going off track by this time. Notice why.

Ambition

What Happened? (1900)

“The deceptive power of the enemy has led you to leave God’s banner trailing in the dust while Dr. Kellogg has committed himself as working ‘undenominationaly’ in a work which has taken the money from a people who are decidedly a denominational people.

“Isaiah fifty-eight.... does not sustain you in the kind of work you are doing and in expending God’s revenue on that class of people found in the slums. There we obtain the least results for labor put forth....

What Happened? (1900)

“The work has been hindered, the cause of God should have a different showing, far different, and who is to blame for this hindrance? You give heed to men not of our faith. You delight to show what you have done, and by a free use of money that was not yours to handle, in a way that God has not appointed....

“God never set you to engage in gathering means, and in doing the work that the Salvation Army are doing. Let them work in that line, and you attend to your appointed work.”

—Manuscript Releases, vol. 4, 429–432

It was Kellogg's dislike for the ministers who annoyed him, plus his own pride that lead him off track.

But, as they say, “there are always two sides to the story.”

Ellen White made this all clear in a public sermon at the General Conference of 1903.

CLICK

What Happened? (1903)

“God does not endorse the efforts put forth by different ones to make the work of Dr. Kellogg as hard as possible, in order to build themselves up. God gave the light on health reform, and those who rejected it, rejected God. One and another who knew better, said that it all came from Dr. Kellogg, and they made war upon him. This had a bad influence on the doctor. He put on the coat of irritation and retaliation. God did not want him to stand in a position of warfare, and he does not want you to stand there.”

—General Conference Bulletin, April 6, 1903

READ text

This is from a public sermon at the 1903 General Conference.

Two sides, both branching off as they got annoyed with the other

BUT it's the victors who write the history books.

The Fire

The Haskell Home burned down in the early morning of February 9, 1909. Three children died.

Unfortunately, this sad event led to a new round of accusations.

Accusations

“The Haskell Home never was owned or controlled by the Seventh-day Adventists or any other church organization. The money with which the home was built was given to me personally by Mrs. Caroline Haskell.... The leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination were never much in sympathy with the Haskell Home enterprise, nor for that matter with any other line of philanthropic work.”

—J.H. Kellogg in the *Battle Creek Enquirer*, February 5, 1909

The first half of this is a lie. The second half... well, that's a bit harder to say.

Accusations

“This representation is not borne out by the original records and accounting which were kept by the founders and managers of the Haskell Home.... In view of the wide difference between Dr. Kellogg’s statements and the original records signed by himself as chairman, I consider it only fair to all parties to give the facts in this case as we find them recorded in the documents.”

—A.G. Daniells in the *Battle Creek Enquirer*, April 25, 1909

The Fallout

In the early 1900s, there were more than fifty “Benevolent” institutions operated by Seventh-day Adventists.

Following Dr. Kellogg’s loss of church membership over pantheism and other issues (1907), and the Haskell Home fire (1909), this number declined rapidly.

To a large degree, the denomination had washed its hands of the “Benevolent Work.”

Read slide, then—

That’s not to say that Seventh-day Adventists never did kind things anymore. That wouldn’t be fair to all the Dorcas Societies that operated down through the decades, or ADRA. But again, because of the acceptance of government funds, ADRA is rather limited in what can be done in terms of specific evangelism,

But as an integral part of our *evangelistic outreach*, this kind of work has been largely neglected, except to some degree in our third-world mission programs. But not here, not in America, not in the “developed” world.

Miscellaneous Comments (1868)

“You may say you have been taken in and have bestowed your means upon those unworthy of your charity, and therefore have become discouraged in trying to help the needy. I present Jesus before you. He came to save fallen man, to bring salvation to His own nation; but they would not accept Him.... Though your efforts for good have been unsuccessful ninety-nine times, and you received only insult, reproach, and hate, yet if the one-hundredth time proves a success, and one soul is saved, oh, what a victory is achieved!”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, 31

Miscellaneous Comments (1885)

“There is enough wealth in your conference to carry forward this work successfully; and shall the prince of darkness be left in undisputed possession of our great cities because it costs something to sustain missions? Let those who would follow Christ fully come up to the work, even if it be over the heads of ministers and president. Those who in such a work as this will say, ‘I pray thee have me excused,’ should beware lest they receive their discharge for time and for eternity.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, 369

This was written to a Conference president.

“Over the heads” comment is pretty rare for Ellen White. She did not lightly bypass the church.

Only other time was 1888—“If the ministers will not receive the light, I want to give the people a chance; perhaps they may receive it.” —*The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 152

Interestingly, both the “1888 Message” and “Medical Missionary Work” are described as being part of God’s final message.

Miscellaneous Comments (1895)

“In the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah, the work that the people of God are to do in Christ’s lines, is clearly set forth. They are to break every yoke, they are to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to bring the poor that are cast out into their houses, to draw out their souls to the hungry, and to satisfy the afflicted soul. If they carry out the principles of the law of God in acts of mercy and love, they will represent the character of God to the world, and receive the richest blessings of Heaven.”

—Review and Herald, August 20, 1895

Miscellaneous Comments (1898)

“Again and again the Lord has pointed out the work which the church in Battle Creek and those all through America are to do. They are to reach a much higher standard in spiritual advancement than they have yet reached. They are to awake out of sleep and go without the camp, working for souls that are ready to perish.

“The medical missionary workers are doing the long-neglected work which God gave to the church in Battle Creek—they are giving the last call to the supper which He has prepared.

Miscellaneous Comments (1898)

“In order to be carried forward aright, the medical missionary work needs talent. It requires strong, willing hands, and wise, discriminating management. But can this be while those in responsible places—presidents of conferences and ministers—bar the way?”

“The Lord says to the presidents of conferences and to other influential brethren: ‘Remove the stumbling blocks that have been placed before the people.’...”

Miscellaneous Comments (1898)

“Please read the invitation to the supper, and the last call to be made. Study what is being done to meet the command of Jesus. I cannot understand why such indifference is manifested, why you should stand afar off and criticize and draw away. The gospel net is to be cast into the sea, and it draws both good and bad. But because this is so, shall men and women ignore the efforts made to save those who will believe and who will unite in reaching that class of whom Christ spoke in His rebuke to the Pharisees? ‘Sinners and harlots,’ He said, ‘go into the kingdom of God before you.’

Miscellaneous Comments (1898)

“Brethren, be careful, very careful. There is a work being done ~~by~~ [to] the medical missionaries which answers to the description given in Matthew 24:48–51. The Lord is working to reach the most depraved. Many will know what it means to be drawn to Christ, but will not have moral courage to war against appetite and passion. But the workers must not be discouraged at this.... Is it only those rescued from the lowest depths that backslide?”

Special Testimonies, Series A, No. 11, 27 and *Special Testimony to the Brethren in Battle Creek*, 7 (both published before 8T) say “to” rather than “by.”

Matthew 24:48 "But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'
49 "and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,
50 "the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of,
51 "and will cut him in two and appoint [him] his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Miscellaneous Comments (1898)

“There are those in the ministry who have had light and a knowledge of the truth, who will not be overcomers. They do not restrict their appetites and passions or deny themselves for Christ’s sake. Many poor outcasts, even publicans and sinners, will grasp the hope set before them in the gospel and will go into the kingdom of heaven before the ones who have had great opportunities and great light, but who have walked in darkness. In the last great day many will say: ‘Lord, Lord, open unto us.’ But the door will be shut, and their knock will be in vain.

Miscellaneous Comments (1898)

“We should feel deeply over these things, for they are true. We should have a high estimate of truth and of the value of souls. Time is short, and there is a great work to be done. If you feel no interest in the work that is going forward, if you will not encourage medical missionary work in the churches, it will be done without your consent; for it is the work of God, and it ***must*** be done. My brethren and sisters, take your position on the Lord’s side and be earnest, active, courageous co-workers with Christ, laboring with Him to seek and save the lost.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, 71–75

Miscellaneous Comments (1903)

“The Lord signified His displeasure by permitting the principal buildings of these institutions to be destroyed by fire.

“Notwithstanding the plain evidence of the Lord’s providence in these destructive fires, some among us have not hesitated to make light of the statement that these buildings were burned because men had been swaying things in directions which the Lord could not approve.



San on top—February 1902

Review on bottom—December 1902

Miscellaneous Comments (1903)

“Men have been departing from right principles, for the promulgation of which these institutions were established. They have failed of doing the very work that God ordained should be done to prepare a people to ‘build the old waste places’ and to stand in the breach, as represented in the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. In this scripture the work we are to do is clearly defined as being medical missionary work. This work is to be done in all places.”

—Testimonies, vol. 8, 218

It was their failure to carry out Isaiah 58 that led to the fires.

They had built up big institutions in a few places, and neglected everywhere else. Not good.

Miscellaneous Comments (1908)

“I have been instructed to refer our people to the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. Read this chapter carefully and understand the kind of ministry that will bring life into the churches.... When you meet suffering souls who need help, give it them. When you find those who are hungry, feed them. In doing this you will be working in lines of Christ’s ministry. The Master’s holy work was a benevolent work. Let our people everywhere be encouraged to have a part in it.”

—Medical Ministry, 263

Miscellaneous Comments (1875)

After telling the story of the Good Samaritan—

“Here the conditions of inheriting eternal life are plainly stated by our Saviour in the most simple manner. The man who was wounded and robbed represents those who are subjects of our interest, sympathy, and charity. If we neglect the cases of the needy and the unfortunate that are brought under our notice, no matter who they may be, we have no assurance of eternal life; for we do not answer the claims that God has upon us.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, 524

Miscellaneous Comments (1900)

“Those who wait for the Bridegroom’s coming are to say to the people, ‘Behold your God.’ The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them.”

—Christ’s Object Lessons, 415

No wonder we’re supposed to work the way Jesus did!
We’re supposed to reveal His character and manifest His glory.

Miscellaneous Comments (1898)

“The sufferings of every man are the sufferings of God’s child, and those who reach out no helping hand to their perishing fellow beings provoke His righteous anger. This is the ‘wrath of the Lamb.’”

—Desire of Ages, 825