



**IT'S TIME TO  
EAT GRANDPA**



Though worded identically, there's a huge difference between **“It's time to eat, grandpa!”**





Though worded identically, there's a huge difference between **“It's time to eat, grandpa!”** and **“It's time to eat grandpa!”**





# Luke 23:43

And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, **today you will be with Me in Paradise.**”





# Luke 23:43

And Jesus said to him, “**Assuredly, I say to you today, you will be with Me in Paradise.**”





When a passage's meaning is unclear,  
context determines the correct interpretation.





# Ephesians 4:11

And He Himself gave some to be apostles,  
some prophets, some evangelists, and some  
pastors and teachers...





# Ephesians 4:12 KJV

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:





# Ephesians 4:12 NKJV

for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,





# Ephesians 4:12 NIV

to equip his people for works of service, so that  
the body of Christ may be built up





# Ephesians 4:16

from whom the whole body, **joined and knit together by what every joint supplies**, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.





# Ephesians 4:16

from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the **effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body** for the edifying of itself in love.





Paul viewed the work of the “clergy” as primarily twofold:





Paul viewed the work of the “clergy” as primarily twofold:

**1. winning souls by personal and public evangelism**





Paul viewed the work of the “clergy” as primarily twofold:

1. winning souls by personal and public evangelism
- 2. establishing churches by training up local leaders**





## 2 Timothy 4:1–5

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at[a] His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.





## 2 Timothy 4:1–5

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, **do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**





# Titus 1:4, 5

To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. **For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you**





The Seventh-day Adventist movement was built on the biblical model of cooperative labor between full-time leadership and dedicated laity.





“Well, in the first place, **we have no settled pastors.** Our churches are taught to take care of themselves, while nearly all of our ministers work as evangelists in new fields.”

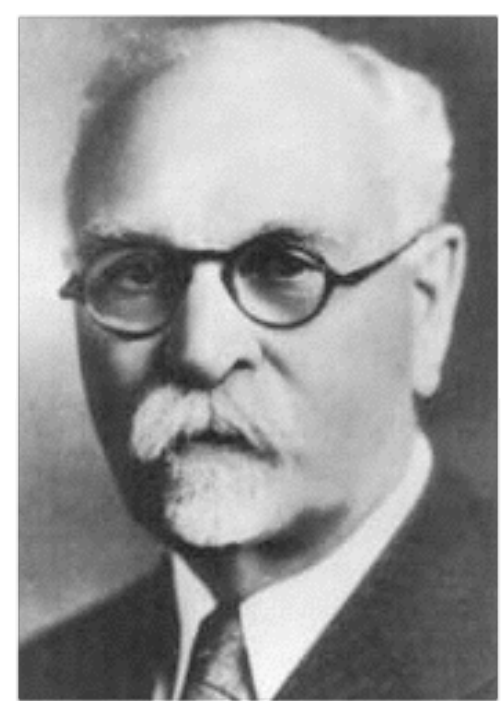


Elder G.B. Starr, **1886**





“We have not settled our ministers over churches as pastors to any large extent. In some of the very large churches we have elected pastors, but as a rule we have held ourselves ready for field service, evangelistic work and our brethren and sisters have held themselves ready to maintain their church services and carry forward their church work without settled pastors.

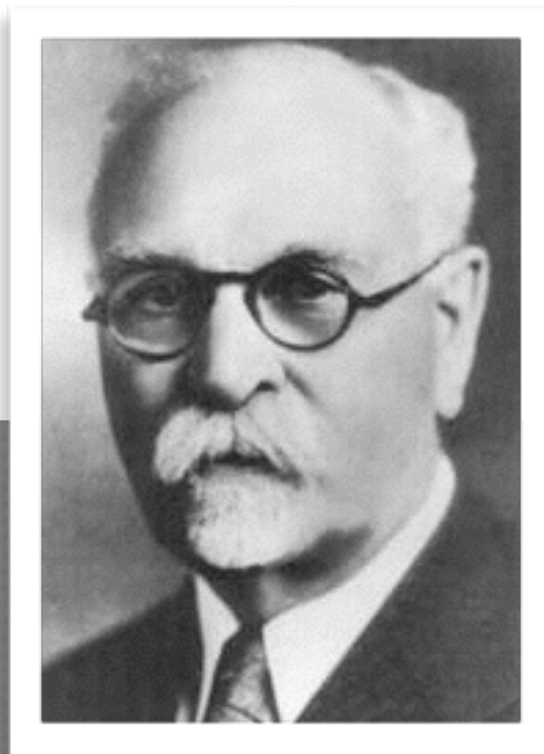


General Conference President  
A.G. Daniels, **1912**





**And I hope this will never cease to be the order of affairs in this denomination;** for when we cease our forward movement work and begin to settle over our churches, to stay by them, and do their thinking and their praying and their work that is to be done, then our churches will begin to weaken, and to lose their life and spirit, and become paralyzed and fossilized and our work will be on a retreat.”

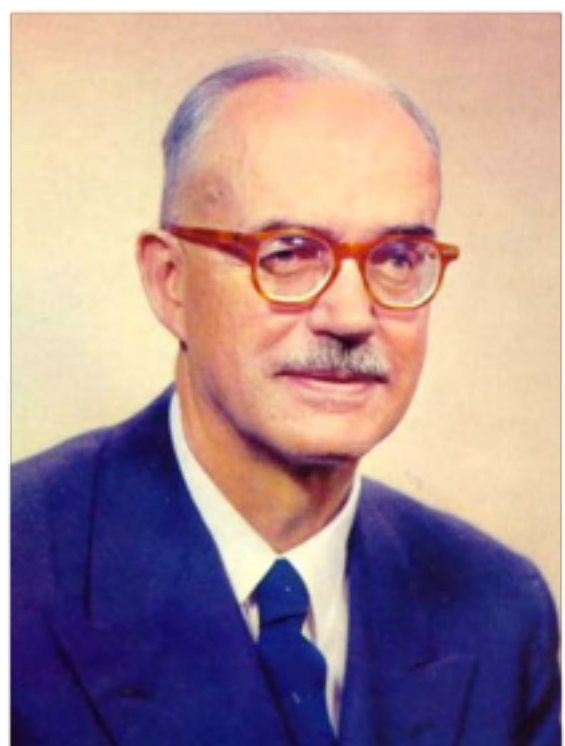


General Conference President  
A.G. Daniells, **1912**





“The time of too many of our preachers, instead of being occupied with carrying the message into new fields, is taken up in settling church difficulties and laboring for men and women who should be towers of strength instead of subjects for labor. When I was baptized, and later became a young preacher, we looked upon churches that had to have settled pastors over every flock as being decadent.

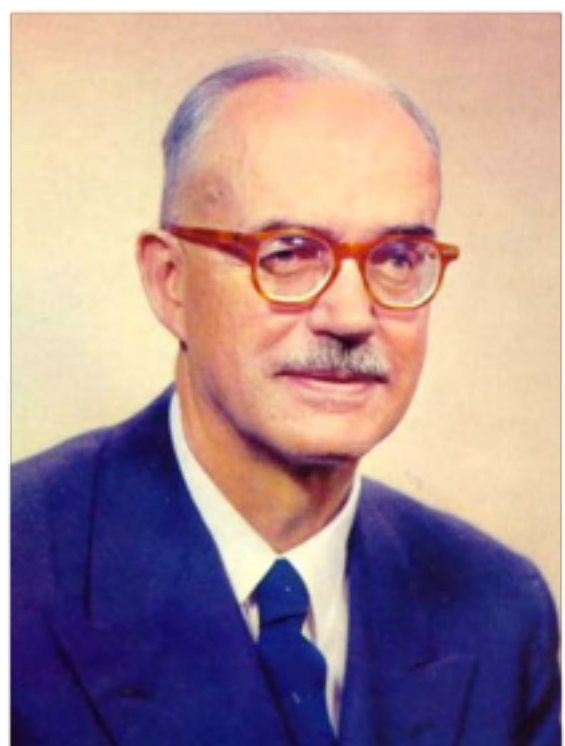


Elder HMS Richards, Sr., **1957**





Most of our preachers were out on the firing line, holding meetings, winning men to Christ, and raising up new churches. Then every few months they would come around and visit the churches that had already been established. **This seemed to be according to our view of it, the plan of the apostolic church.**”

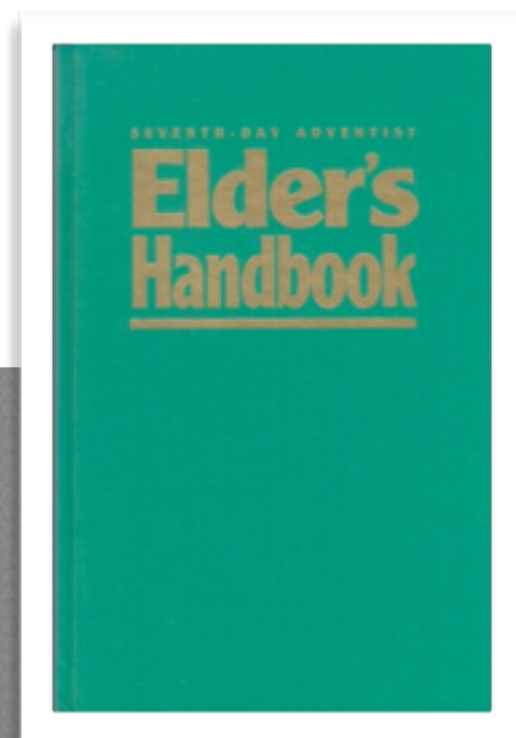


Elder HMS Richards, Sr., 1957





“During the Middle Ages, the clergy largely took over the work of the church. The Seventh-day Adventist Church still struggles to overcome that Medieval tradition and seeks to restore the biblical concept that all believers are ministers. Members in general, and elders in particular, need a greater vision of their significance and responsibility in the church and its work.”

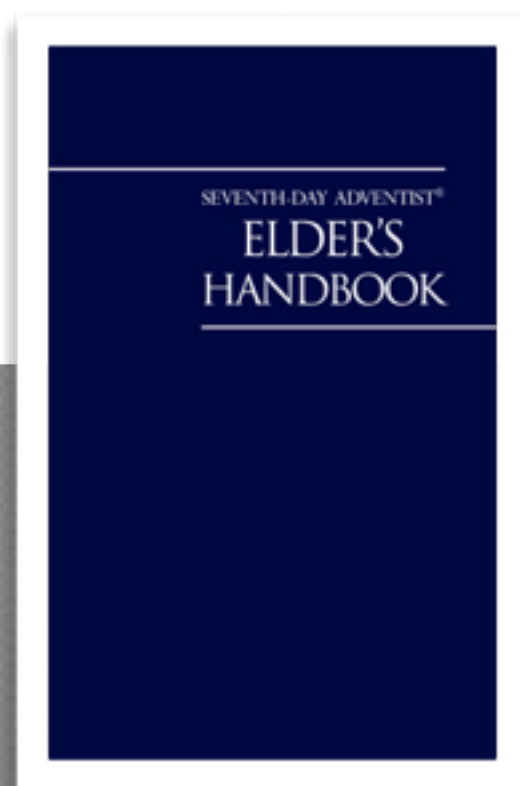


SDA Elder's Handbook, p. 23 **1994**





“The Seventh-day Adventist Church is growing rapidly and **many churches are understaffed**. In such situations there may be large multi-church districts where a pastor is shared among several churches and is able to visit each church only once every two or three months. It is the faithful service of local elders that helps keep these churches strong and growing.”



SDA Elder's Handbook, p. 28 **2013**





“If the proper instruction were given, if the proper methods were followed, every church member would do his work as a member of the body. He would do Christian missionary work. But the churches are dying, and they want a minister to preach to them...**They should be taught that unless they can stand alone, without a minister, they need to be converted anew, and baptized anew. They need to be born again.**”





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





*Atlantic Union Gleaner,*  
January 8, 1902

**“There should not be a call to have settled pastors over our churches, but let the life-giving power of the truth impress the individual members to act, leading them to labor interestedly to carry on efficient missionary work in each locality. As the hand of God, the church is to be educated and trained to do effective service. Its members are to be the Lord’s devoted Christian workers.”**





*Pacific Union Recorder,*  
April 24, 1902

Oh, what a work there is before us! **Our ministers are not to hover over those who have received the message.** Just as soon as a church is organized, let the minister set the members to work. The newly-formed churches will need to be educated. **The minister should devote more of his time to educating than to preaching. He should teach the people how to extend the knowledge of the truth.”**





The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God, and to depend on Him, not on the ministers... Let the minister devote more of his time to educating than to preaching. Let him teach the people how to give to others the knowledge they have received.





**My brethren and sisters, there is something more for you to do than to sit in your churches Sabbath after Sabbath and to listen to the preaching of the Word. You have a work to do for friends and neighbors.**





God requires... that you visit these families and seek to create an interest in the truth for this time. You are not laboring together with God if you neglect the work of helping others to take hold upon eternal realities. **Our ministers are not to be encouraged to hover about the churches to repeat to the believers week after week the same truths.**





If the ministers would get out of the way, if they would go forth into new fields, the members would be obliged to bear responsibilities, and **their capabilities would increase by use.**





*Review and Herald,*  
October 22, 1889

If church members are educated to be silent and useless members, instead of benefiting the church, they will be a hindrance to its advancement and growth. If they are educated to lean upon the minister, they will become only inefficient and demoralized members, and the church will be powerless, instead of active and efficient.”





*Review and Herald,*  
October 22, 1889

If church members are **educated to be silent and useless members**, instead of benefiting the church, they will be a hindrance to its advancement and growth. If they are **educated to lean upon the minister**, they will become only inefficient and demoralized members, and the church will be powerless, instead of active and efficient.”





*Review and Herald,*  
October 22, 1889

If church members are **educated to be silent and useless members**, instead of benefiting the church, they will be a hindrance to its advancement and growth. If they are **educated to lean upon the minister**, they will become only inefficient and demoralized members, and the church will be powerless, instead of active and efficient.”





In some respects the pastor occupies a position similar to that of the foreman of a gang of laboring men or the captain of a ship's crew. They are expected to see that the men over whom they are set, do the work assigned to them correctly and promptly, and only in case of emergency are they to execute in detail.





The owner of a large mill once found his superintendent in a wheel-pit, making some simple repairs, while a half-dozen workmen in the line were standing by, idly looking on. The proprietor, after learning the facts, so as to be sure that no injustice was done, called the foreman to his office and handed him his discharge with full pay.





In surprise the foreman asked for an explanation. It was given in these words: ' I employed you to keep six men at work. I found the six idle, and you doing the work of but one. Your work could have been done just as well by any one of the six. I cannot afford to pay the wages of seven for you to teach the six how to be idle.'





This incident may be applicable in some cases, and in others not. But many pastors fail in not knowing how, or in not trying to get the full membership of the church actively engaged in the various departments of church work. If pastors would give more attention to getting and keeping their flock actively engaged at work, they would accomplish more good, have more time for study and religious visiting, and also avoid many causes of friction.”





The work of God in the earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers.





Counterintuitive as it may be, statistically, territories with fewer pastors almost always grow faster.





Most pastors aren't doing a bad job,  
they're merely doing the *wrong* job.





Our big problem isn't poor pastors, but poor expectations of pastors held by both laity and leadership.





To truly be a “people of the Book,” we should work the way the Book directs. Inspiration has warned and history has demonstrated that settled pastors lead to settled elders, settled deacons, and settled members. Jesus said the harvest is plenty, but the workers are few.





We have too many watchers and not enough workers.  
We have too many mere members and not enough  
genuine missionaries.

