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A MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATIONS WITH MRS. ELLEN G. WHITE
ON THE HOME LIFE OF MINISTERS AND OTHER WORKERS

Statement prepared by Elder C. C. Crisler and approved by Ellen G. White with the following written endorsement: "I have read this. It is excellent. E. G. White."

During the past few weeks Sister E. G. White has been referring to various problems connected with home life and with the training of children. In some of the conversations we have had with her, she has emphasized the responsibility of ministers, physicians, and institutional managers, as well as of parents and teachers, in the bringing about of needed reforms.

Much that has been pointed out, has in former years been dwelt upon at length by Sister White in her published works; and so in this brief statement an attempt is made to set forth only a few principles that have special bearing on the present situation,—principles that in the very nature of things are inseparably connected with general presentations of the problems of home life and of child-training, but that are, nevertheless, often overlooked in the life practise.

It is being urged upon Sister White during the night season, that our workers occupying positions of responsibility, particularly in our institutions and in our great mission fields at home and abroad, must now realize as never before, the value of whole-hearted service. The times demand full consecration of every talent. The needs of the world can not be met by anything short of undivided service. The time of the worker, and all his powers and capabilities, should be devoted to God, and not to any selfish purpose, however good that purpose may be under ordinary circumstances. Hence the call of God upon His workers at this time when extraordinary demands are being made upon them for whole-hearted service, to make sure that their home life is all that it should be.

In former years, Sister White has often pointed out the good that emanates from a well-ordered home in mission territory. It is now revealed to her that attention should be directed to this instruction, and that evangelists, physicians,

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and managers of institutions--in fact, all who are called to give their time to public work--should be admonished anew to make their home life a help, and not a hindrance. The public service is ever to be of paramount importance, and yet no worker is to feel free to neglect home duties in order to give his time more fully to ministry for others. His public ministry is to be strengthened and established by wise ministry in the home.

Since no worker is to overlook his duty to assist in the training of his children, and since the worker is also to give his chief energies to the performance of stern duties that must be faced in the conduct in mission enterprises and in the management of institutional work, it is apparent that these duties both private and public, can be fulfilled acceptably only when the home life occupies its proper sphere, and is not allowed to become all-absorbing. The minister or physician or manager who has broad conceptions of the great work to be done in our world in preparation for the second advent, will so order his home life as to make it a decided blessing to him in his public labors--a source of strength and inspiration, rather than of hindrance and wearing anxiety. He will not regard it as his chief duty to fill his home with many children, but will in the fear of God make it possible for himself and his wife to stand on vantage-ground as the Lord's chosen workers to advise and counsel.

In view of the peculiar evils of this degenerate age, it is becoming increasingly difficult to give children a training that will make them strong to resist evil. God desires those who have dedicated their lives to the solemn work of ministry, warning an impenitent world, to remember that they are living in the time of the end, and that they are held accountable for the salvation of the unwarned. In their home life it is their privilege to assume responsibilities no larger than can be carried without robbing the cause of time and thought and energy that should be devoted to public effort. The children that the Lord may entrust to them are to receive a proper proportion of their personal care, and are to be trained for service.

When a gospel worker keeps these principles ever before him--and it is the will of God that this matter be placed before those engaged in gospel ministry--his companion is not kept so overburdened with the constant care of helpless infants, that she has but little time and energy to give to her older children the training they need. The husband, freed from the engrossing cares incident to the upbringing of many small children, has ample opportunity to share the burdens of home life, uniting heartily with his wife in the training of their children they already have in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and at the same time he is able to give a proper proportion of his time, his thought, and his energy to aggressive work for the general public. His is to be a sacred, model home; he and his wife and his children are chosen to be missionaries for God in every community where it may fall to their lot to dwell and labor. His family is a living testimony to the power of a well ordered Christian home; his companion stands by his side as a wise counselor and an unwearied helper; his home is to him a refuge and a Bethel.

How different is the case of the worker who allows the arch-deceiver so to blind his eyes to the needs of unwarned multitudes, as to lead him to give his time, his thought, and his energies very largely to the building up of a home filled with many children! Especially sad is the case of an otherwise capable worker who chooses to follow this course, and yet who by nature is slack in family government and in financial management.

In response to questions asked Sister White as to the advisability of young ministers and Bible workers called to such fields as China and India, uniting in marriage before undertaking labor where temptations are rife and suspicions are easily aroused, she replied that it is in the order of God that His workers shall place themselves on vantage-ground before the people for whom they expect to labor. Men and women of consecration and mature judgment are to stand side by side in His service; yet it is decidedly contrary to His plan that such workers should regard it as their privilege to make their home life all-

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absorbing. They are to remember that they are under divine appointment, not to fill their homes with children, but to give their energies chiefly to the work of proclaiming the message. At the same time, they are to remember that they are held accountable before God to train conscientiously the children He may entrust to their care. Because of the times in which we live and the uncertainty of the future, sensible plans must be formed. Theirs is to be a model home, where angels delight to dwell--a home the atmosphere of which reveals the painstaking care given by both father and mother in the upbringing of their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The Lord observes the well directed efforts of the parents and will bless them.

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