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THE LIVING TEMPLE CRISIS

By B. W. Brown

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God Speaks Through Spirit of Prophecy
In Regard to the Book Living Temple
Written by J. H. Kellogg

In April 1903 the General Conference was held in Oakland, California. The new book had been mailed to all the leading brethren so they might be in a position to advise the laity to buy the book, when it was offered for sale at our different camp meetings. During the Oakland, California General Conference, the book was discussed among ministers, but to my knowledge was not discussed in the meetings.

Kansas Conference camp meeting was held in Newton, Aug. 27, Sept. 7, 1903. Elder ~~Charlie~~ McReynolds was President. Elder Bert W. Brown was acting as Vice President. Dr. J. H. Kellogg was to be the General Conference speaker. Elder Brown had been asked to pitch the camp. Ministers were asked to be in Newton ten days before Aug. 27. On Aug. 26, the tents were all up and ready for the people to occupy. Our president arrived on the ground in the forenoon of the 26th. He called a meeting of the conference committee to meet at 8 P.M. to discuss several matters that needed attention. Among the items to be discussed was where the book Living Temple was to be placed so as to be sold, as Dr. K. had shipped 1500 copies to be sold to our people. When this item came up for discussion, several men spoke in favor of the book. Others were silent. The Chairman asked Elder Brown what he thought of the book. Elder Brown replied, "I had rather not speak at this time." Elder McReynolds urged him to speak. Elder Brown replied, "I don't think the book teaches the Advent message, and is filled with that which will mislead our people as it teaches Pantheism."

Elder McReynolds replied, "Bert, you are a young man and should not

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condemn the Doctor's book. He is our leading man in the General Conference."

I replied, "I am sorry but his book is wrong."

The committee meeting broke up with a divided committee. Elder McReynolds did not take a vote but called for a meeting next day at 1 P.M.

Thursday, the camp meeting was to start at 7:30 P.M. I was working near the entrance of the camp when a boy riding a Western Union telegraph bicycle rode in at 8 A.M. He asked where he could find Elder McReynolds. I pointed out his tent. The boy rode there and called out "Telegram!" McReynolds came out and was handed a night letter. The boy went back. The elder read the message, stood still looking at it. Soon he whistled and called me. He said, "Here is a message from Sr. White and I owe you an apology. I replied, "No, you do not." The message read:

"Elder C. McReynolds
SDA Camp Ground
Newton, Kansas

The Lord has shown me that the book Living Temple by Dr. Kellogg is filled with Pantheism and it should not be sold to our people on the camp ground or any other place.

Mrs. E. G. White"

I was to meet Dr. Kellogg at 10 A.M. I took horse and buggy at the appointed time, drove to the depot. When the Dr. got off the train, he shook my hand and he said, "Are my books here?" I assured him there was a number of large boxes. His reply was, "I expect to sell 1500 copies to our people." I made no reply. I drove him to Elder McReynolds tent. He said, "Elder Brown tells me that 1500 of my books are here, Charlie. I plan to sell them all here."

No reply from Elder McReynolds, but he took out the message from Sister White, and handed it to the Doctor. He read it and turned white. He said, "Charlie, are you going to listen to that old woman or can I sell my book?"

Elder McReynold replied, "I shall listen to the Spirit of Prophecy."

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The Doctor replied, "I will never preach a sermon for you and no other General Conference help will be here."

Then he turned to me. "Can you, Elder Brown, get my books to the depot so I can take them on the noon train?" I replied, "I shall do my best."

I called for the ministers to get the horses and wagon, load the books quickly and drive them to the depot, and I took the Doctor in the buggy. We had him and all his books on the train, as he took the books by express on the same train he rode. '

Elder Bert W. Brown

P. S. I could tell you that I was asked by the conference to follow the Doctor and defend the Spirit of Prophecy. In that way God used me to save many of our people as well as several ministers from shipwreck.

B.W.B.

Statement received at the White Estate
from B. W. Brown, November 12, 1963