

Proper Sabbath Keeping

Sanitarium, Cal., May 22, 1912.

Arpin, Wis.

Dear Brother

Your letter of April 27, addressed to Sister Sara Mc Enterfer, requesting her to ask Mother if it is right for us as a people to bring into our Sabbath service the matter of securing subscriptions to our periodicals and other matters of like nature, came duly to hand, and Sister Mc Enterfer has handed the letter to me, with the request that I answer it.

Mother is now eighty-four years of age. She feels that her work is nearly done, and that what little strength she has must be reserved for special work, such as the examination of the MSS. for her new books and speaking occasionally to our people on the Sabbath. During the last two years, she has often said to us that the Lord has released her from the responsibility of writing letters and answering questions from our brethren regarding matters of duty. Mother often says, The light that the Lord has given me has been written out, and our people have it, and the numerous questions which arise must be referred to the conference officers.

The question of proper Sabbath observance is one about which Mother has often spoken. She has often appealed to our people to make the Sabbath a day of worship, devotion, and communion with God, and to sacredly guard it from secular business. Also during the years she has often pointed out that the bringing of gifts to the Lord is a very important part of worship, and as a part of worship is proper for the Sabbath. Mother has often instructed the ministers to make more prominent the teaching of the

church as to how to ~~encourage~~^{engage} in missionary labor, and has pointed out that a part of our regular Sabbath service may be spent profitably in counseling together how to carry the truth to our neighbors and friends. I do not know where to look in her writings for the direct answer to your questions. It seems to me that this matter cannot easily be regulated by rule. In each church we must study the matter according to the conditions under which we labor.

Wherever it is possible to have missionary meetings on Sunday or on a weekday evening, I should regard it as preferable to consider~~ing~~ all campaign plans as such meetings. But my experience has been that in churches where our people are scattered and the only time to meet them is on the Sabbath that there is a genuine blessing in considering the work we have to do to win our neighbors and the people of the community wherein we live to a love of the truth, in connection with the regular Sabbath service.

If the circulation of the "Signs of the Times" was in any sense a speculation, a piece of business for individual comfort or profit, I should look with much more dis~~pleasure~~^{approval} upon its being discussed in the Sabbath meeting than I do when considering that it is purely a missionary enterprise, a matter of planning how we may send to those that are in peril the message of God's love and the message of His warning.

The perplexity regarding the matter as to how far we should go is so well stated in your letter to Sister McEnterfer, that I shall ask her to allow me to forward your letter to the President of the General Conference.

With this I shall send you copy of a circular letter just written, telling something of Mother's labors and plans.

With kindest regards and in haste, I am

Yours very truly, *W. E. W.*