

Frequently Asked Questions at YCS Seminars

As we visit churches with our weekend seminars presenting classes to the remnant about being ready for end time events, we conclude some of our meetings with Question and Answer period. The following is a list of most frequently asked questions accompanied by our answers.

#1 Q: If God will protect us anyway, why should we move out of the cities?

A: The most obvious answer would be that He *asked* us to move out. First, it is the safest place to raise children and address the needs of our own character development in preparing for heaven. Second, it will be in the cities that the judgments and plagues will fall. Those who follow His counsel, as in the days of the destruction of Jerusalem, will not be found in the city. God will protect us when we follow His plan (Psalm 91:9,10).

#2 Q: Where is country? Is it a certain distance from the city? How will I know when I am in the country?

A: Country is not a place, it's what you can do there. If you can grow your food, pump water by hand, have a large buffer zone of acreage to insure elbow room where you can see no other houses, and have fuel in the form of wood so that you can cook and heat your home, then you are in the country (CL 9, 10).

#3 Q: How will we pay our taxes in the time of “no-buy no-sell”?

A: I suggest prepaying your taxes. Many counties allow a three year prepayment or large deposits on which they will pay you interest on the balance.

#4 Q: How is it that I have been an Adventist my whole life and never understood that this “out of the cities” message is applicable today?

A: God has given us the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy to give us advice for these last days and the events just ahead of us. It is time that we rediscover these counsels for ourselves and to understand the messages that they contain.

#5 Q: What if I am in debt (see chapter 9 in YCS on financial preparations)?

A: Jesus says that we should shun debt like the leprosy (6T 217). With the command is the promise for success (Ed 126). When the time of no buy-no sell comes (Rev. 13:17) we will not be able to pay debts. Now is the time to be debt free. If we are not debt free, then we are in a trap which the world will hold over our heads and enslave us because we can't pay our debt.

#6 Q: How will we find work in the country?

A: Our experience is that God will supply all of our needs (Phil. 4:19) When we came to British Columbia, we found work when we had less than a hundred dollars in our pocket! Later, we developed our own greenhouse business, and have been self employed for 20 years.

#7 Q: We don't have any money, how will we pay for property?

A: Medical Ministry 310 tells us that God will help His people find such homes outside the cities. We have stories from people who were able to find country property with no money, no job, and in debt.

#8 Q: If we are out in the country how will we do evangelism?

A: Evangelism p. 77: *"We are to work the cities from outposts."* Once we have located in the country we do not hermitize, but seek early to witness to others about God's plan for evangelism and about the soon return of Jesus. *"God does not mean that any of us should become hermits or monks and retire from the world in order to devote ourselves to acts of worship. The life must be like Christ's life --- between the mountain and the multitude"* (SC 101).

#9 Q: The church in the city will lose members if we all move out! How will it be supported?

A: The church is an evangelistic center and helps to train others about the soon return of Jesus and open her doors to new people living in the cities who need to be free of debt, to be safe from threats of destruction, and to prepare their children in a better way for the soon return of Jesus. Hence, as others leave, they come back to support the church financially and in outreach.

#10 Q: Should our schools be in the country, too?

A: Yes. Please consider the following references FE 326: *"If our schools are located in the cities it will be tenfold harder to develop spiritually for both parents and children."* FE 322: *"All schools should be located in the country."* And finally, Life Sketches p. 351: *"Never can the proper education be given unless our schools are located a wide distance from the cities."*

#11 Q: What are the characteristics of good country property?

A: We must have wood that will supply our needs for heat and for cooking for several years. We must have land on which we can raise our own provisions even if we can't go to the store. We must have water at the surface in form of a hand pump in a well or a spring on the hillside that will supply gravity pressure to our homes. These are three vital, basic components of the kind of property we need in anticipation of the time of no buy-no sell. (CL 9,10)

#12 Q: Should we hoard food?

A: Hoarding versus sharing-- the principle of true survival is sharing. There will be no hoarding of food or other provisions during the time of trouble which occurs after the close of probation *"I saw that if the saints had food laid up by them or in the field in the time of trouble, when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it would be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water will be sure at that time and that we shall not lack or suffer hunger; for God is able to spread a table before us in the wilderness"* (EW 56). Corrie Ten Boom says that the principle of sharing operated almost miraculously among survivors of Nazi concentration camps. It is

our principle of operation, during the time ahead, to help everyone get to the kingdom. We can do this by sharing our food, water, our wood, and shelter. God says in Country Living, pages 9 and 10, that we are to raise our own provisions. Because of His counsel, we should be prepared to grow our own food, but we can dry, sprout, can, or store food in our root cellar to help us through the year.

#13 Q: What about those things we can't provide for in the time of trouble, such as clothing?

A: Claim promises. An example comes from the experiences of the children of Israel during their wilderness wanderings for 40 years. Their clothing did not wear out, neither did their shoes during desert journeys in Deuteronomy 29:5: "And I have led you 40 years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot." So it is for us; we will claim promises and ask God to help us for the things the devil will bring upon us and those things which we cannot supply by the labor of our hands and the education of our hearts. In fact, the dedication of our hearts will make possible all that we need.

#14 Q: Will there be some of us left behind as we flee?

A: No one gets left behind! Not unless they choose not to go on with us. As with Noah in the ark, when the door was shut there were those left behind who had chosen not to come in to the ark. During the times ahead, we will leave no one behind who wishes to go with us, regardless of their physical health, the challenges they may experience physically, their age. God will provide for us in the most extenuating circumstances. *"Yes, tell it in words full of cheer, that no one who perseveringly climbs the ladder will fail of gaining an entrance into the heavenly city"* MYP 95.

#15 Q: How much attention should we give to conspiracy theories?

A: GC 528 states that God's people know little of the devil's plots and the God will overrule for the furtherance of His deep designs, all things that the devil is able to thrust upon us. So, we will leave God to do His work, both at the head of the church (2SM 390) and in all conspiracy theories thrust at us demanding our immediate response. We do not have to respond to any conspiracy because they come in waves, and pass away just as quickly as the ocean tide.

#16 Q: How will we travel during the time of no buy-no sell?

A: Travel restrictions will not hamper the Lord in getting His work accomplished. Philip was transported by the Spirit after a visit with an Ethiopian prince, to give him the gospel. (Acts 8:26-40) Another thought that we should remember is that the Lord will transport us all at His second coming and, if needed, He can transport us before He comes. Today we practice doing His bidding in the little things-- tomorrow He will use us to accomplish greater things in His name.

#17 Q: How important is it to give our tithe to the church?

A: Originally the tithe was given to the Levites and placed in a storehouse outside the temple. Today, there are several references that we should pay tithe to the treasury of the remnant church. This means that the anti-type today is to provide support for ordained

ministers and not be given to those called to a self-supporting ministry. I am not the treasury! (See our "TITHE" brochure, pages 6-10. Can be ordered from Ruth Maddy 509-369-2671).

#18 Q: We have noticed in your Power Point program that the ladies at Sanctuary Ranch who are involved in your ministry, wear dresses at all times. Why is that?

A: The Ribbon of Blue mentioned in Numbers 15: and a statement about distinction about the distinction of dress between men and women in Deut 22:5 indicates that early in the experience of God's remnant people, dress was important. We are told that the ribbon of blue which was given to ancient Israel, is a symbol today of dress reform in God's remnant church (3T 171). There are health reasons for dress reform as found in 2 SM 470 and there is the beauty of dress that lets people know of our commitment to God. Please see brochure entitled "Ribbon of Blue".

#19 Q: What about Matthew 6:25, 31, 34 where it says that we should not worry about provisions for tomorrow?

A: The text you refer to, take no thought for your life or what you shall eat, is counsel from Jesus for two periods of time in our life. The first, our daily needs for food, clothing, shelter today. These texts are also applicable to the time after the close of probation when we make no preparations for our temporal wants (during the time of trouble: Early Writings 56).

Phil 4:19 says My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Matthew 6:34 pertains to our temporal wants as we live our daily life for it even says "*sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof*"...

(Please see re Matthew 6:34: Gospel Workers 244, also Ministry of Healing p 481, and Steps to Christ 121, 122)

Country Living p 9-10 states, "*Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one.*" I think you will see that the application of the verses in Matthew 6, when applied to preparation for the future, does not fit harmoniously with the voluminous counsel to move out of the cities and prepare for the Lord's second coming. Both counsels are authored by the same Lord.

#20 Q: Our schools- what will we do to have them ready for our Lord's return?

A: "*Before we can carry the message of present truth in all its fullness to other countries, we must first break every yoke. We must come into line of true education, walking in the wisdom of God, and not in the wisdom of the world. God calls for messengers who will be true reformers. We must educate, educate, to prepare a people who will understand the message and then give the message to the world*" (Testimonies, Series B, no. 11, page 30).

#21 Q: Is there a time established when Jesus must come?

A: Early Writings page 75 says: "*Time has not been a test since 1844, and it will never again be a test. The Lord has shown me that the message of the third angel must go and be proclaimed to the scattered children of the Lord, but it must not be hung on time.*"

#22 Q: Why should we move out to the country now? Why not wait until the Sunday Law is passed?

A: We should move out now as an indicator of our loyalty and love for Jesus, because He asked us to. It also reveals that we wish to be detached from the world as soon as possible, rather than wait until the last minute.

#23 Q: What is the correct motivation for getting ready for the Lord's coming?

A: 2 Timothy 4:7,8, DA 480.3, and my fond memories of Uncle John.

Love is really the only motivational force that can get us, and keep us, ready for the arrival of our Best Friend. When I was a young boy, about 9-years-old, we lived in a very run down, abandoned streetcar. We were migrant farm workers. We wanted to get one of the tenement apartments but couldn't afford it. In the winters we were on welfare. My father was extremely dictatorial and abusive, often beating my sister and me with anything he could lay his hands on. I often thought that I would probably be killed by one of his violent outbursts. I would go to the garbage cans to find pop and beer bottles for resale so that I could get money for my sister and me. My Dad many times took our welfare check down to the local tavern to gamble it in hopes to increase the amount of money, but most often returned home empty-handed. Hence, the last two weeks of the month we had very little food in the house.

The bright spot in this situation was my Uncle John. When he would send word that he was coming to visit he would ask if I had my stuff ready. I knew what he meant. My "stuff" was stored in a tobacco can; 20 feet of fishing line, a hook, and a cork that I had found in a discarded wine bottle. When Uncle John said he would come, I knew he would. Even if he delayed, my enthusiasm remained high. Why? Because he represented a few hours of rescue from my abusive environment. Nothing could discourage my anticipation of his coming.

So it is in the world today. It is abusive. This world is not our home. We want to be with Jesus, just like I wanted so desperately to be with my Uncle John. My preparations were made because of my love for him, not because someone was forcing me or urging me to be ready. I longed for my Uncle John to come and be with me, just as we want Jesus to be with us. Such motivations as time-setting, dated charts, and conspiracy theories fall far short of God's ideal. It is pure joy to have our stuff ready if we love Him!