

HANDING OUT LITERATURE WORKS!
CLEM & ABBIE STUMP ARE MY
GREAT GRANDPARENTS, & NEIGHBORS
IN TWO DIFFERENT LOCATIONS
GAVE THEM LITERATURE,
PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE FOR PROPOSAL,
AS THE LORD ENABLES

A Far-reaching Decision

By Roy F. Cottrell

Clem and Abbie Stump were public-school teachers at Falls City, Nebraska. They were also devoted members of the Church of the Brethren; and in the Sunday school he taught the men's Bible class, and she the adult class for women. The Lord had given them two lovely children to gladden their home, and they were supremely happy in their work and in their church and community life.

A wealthy member of the same church owned and operated a chain of grain elevators. One day he invited Clem into his office for a little chat. On reaching home the young teacher had startling news for his wife. "What do you think, Abbie?" he exclaimed; "I have been offered the position as manager of the big elevator at Manley."

"That's just wonderful!" she replied; "but how we would miss our boys and girls at the school! And then there is the contract for teaching that we have already signed."

"Oh," replied Clem, "I'm sure that can be arranged with the trustees of the school district. And this seems like such a fine opportunity, we can't afford to let it slip. Do you think we can be ready to move the first of next week?"

The following days were brimful of activity in the Stump home, and almost before they realized it, they were busily engaged in their new work. Among the friendly neighbors with whom they soon became acquainted, was a Mrs. Prescott, a prim, pleasant little lady, who thoroughly enjoyed life and people. One day she remarked: "Mrs. Stump, you people appear to be quite religious. I wonder if you would enjoy some Christian literature that helps to make the

Bible more interesting?" So from time to time she brought papers, booklets, and tracts that explained the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the prophecies of Christ's second coming, the resurrection, the millennium, and the new earth.

Clem and his wife were delighted with this literature that opened so many treasured truths of the Bible. They eagerly studied these themes, thinking that the new ideas might be a special help to them in Sunday school teaching.

But at length when the true Sabbath was presented, they said to themselves, "We're getting into too deep water. We don't want to offend Mrs. Prescott, and we certainly don't want to keep Saturday for Sunday. So what shall we do?" Long and anxiously they sought a way out of their predicament. At length Clem gave up his position with the grain elevator and the family moved back to Falls City. There they purchased a farm in the country, and with their former church and congenial friends settled down to happy living.

Ere six months had elapsed, a Mr. and Mrs. Ransom from North Dakota bought the farm directly across the road. One day Mrs. Ransom came to call, and she opened her handbag, saying: "Here is some literature that we have found most interesting. I thought you also might like to read it." They looked, and what was their astonishment to observe that it was just like the papers and tracts they had received from the friend in Manley. Then something very real began to dawn upon their minds, and Clem exclaimed, "This may be God's call to us. We had better study it through to a finish, and find out for ourselves."

SOON BIBLE STUDIES WERE HELD IN THEIR home, and about six months later, they wholeheartedly accepted God's message for today.

This truth became very precious to them, and they at once felt a deep responsibility to share it with their relatives and friends. They joined with the Ransom family in an appeal to the officers of the Nebraska Conference to send a group of workers to Falls City. That spring L. A. Hoopes, Daniel Nettleton, and George A. Wheeler, with their wives, responded to the call and pitched a gospel tent in a beautiful grove of maple trees near the little city. These devoted workers, uplifting a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour, were blessed of God, and at the close of the evangelistic series a church of some twenty-five or thirty members was organized.

Among these were Clem's younger brother, Chester, and his wife, Alverta, who soon entered the nurses' training course at the Hastings Sanitarium in Nebraska, graduating in the spring of 1913. Both of these young people took postgraduate work in Chicago, after which, for more than a quarter of a century, they engaged in medical missionary work at Hastings—Chester serving as anesthetist in the hospitals of that city, and Alverta working sometimes as nurse, and also for a long period as administrative superintendent of the Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital.

Now let us return to pick up the thread of our story with Clem and Abbie. As soon as the little church was organized at Falls City, they established a church school in their home, where their precious children were taught that the "fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." A little later, because of ill health, they moved to Arizona, where the children, by this time six in number, were given the privilege of a Christian education. The devoted young mother's life was cut short, but her earnest prayers and consecrated efforts have been abundantly rewarded.

Two of her sons graduated from the College of Medical Evangelists, one settling in northern California to develop a wide practice and become a pillar in the local church, the other to become a successful physician and surgeon in Arizona. Two others are in educational work, one having served as president of Philippine Union College for ten years; and after surviving the rigors of a prison camp during the war, is now president of one of our senior colleges in America. One has been a member of the Arizona State Legislature; another, a successful dairy farmer; and all but one of the children are loyal mem-

bers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Of the third generation in this family, one granddaughter is the wife of a successful evangelist in California, while two others are employed as academy teachers in the Golden State.

As regards Chester and Alverta, their home was blessed with two children. Their son, who graduated from the College of Medical Evangelists, is one of the Master's dedicated physicians in Arizona and a leader in the spiritual life of his church; the daughter is an enthusiastic religious and welfare worker in the State of Washington.

In the third generation, one granddaughter is the faithful helpmeet of one of our junior academy principals, while another is rounding out her tenth year as a consecrated missionary wife in Indonesia.

With true admiration we record the courageous decision made by those four young people more than a half

century ago in the State of Nebraska. All honor to them for their valiant stand for Christ, and their undeviating allegiance to the Word of God. In the morning of youth they cast in their lot with the remnant people of God, and they, together with their children and children's children, have been writing many new chapters in the twentieth-century Book of Acts.

Today some twenty others, mostly of the fourth generation on this family tree, are attending Christian schools and preparing to take places of trust in the world's greatest enterprise. Oh, what joy it will be when all these, together with the fruits of their labors, join the redeemed family of God in our Father's homeland!

Lives of dedication and devotion inspire us to undying loyalty to Christ. "There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God."—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 250, 251.

SINCE THE ABOVE WAS WRITTEN A MEMBER OF THE 3RD GENERATION SERVED IN CONGRESS FROM 1977 TO 2003 & WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE VETERANS COMMITTEE 1995-2001 & CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE 2001-2003.

I'M 4TH GENERATION & THERE ARE STILL SOME FAITHFUL IN THE 5TH & 6TH GENERATION. IN FACT A MEMBER OF MY GENERATION WAS THE WIFE OF A GENERAL VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. ANOTHER WAS CHAIR OF THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT AT ANDREWS UNIVERSITY. OTHERS ARE DOCTORS, NURSES, SCHOOL TEACHERS & MANY HAVE GONE ON SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS. MY GRAND-FATHER WAS HEAD OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION YOUTH & EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS & LATER WAS OFFERED HIS CHOICE TO CHOOSE ONE OF TWO COLLEGES IN AMERICA TO BE PRESIDENT. UPON RETIRING & VACATIONING WITH US THEY WOULD LAY WITNESSING CARDS IN INTERSTATE BATHROOMS & OTHER PLACES.

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