

267 West Main Street.

Battle Creek, Mich., U. S. A.

June 15, 1902.

Dr. E. J. Waggoner,
55 Mercers Road,
London, E., England.

Dear Brother Waggoner:--

I have received and read with much interest your letter of June 1, and have given the matter such thought as I was able to do with various other things pressing upon my mind. At first I thought I would go at once to Berrien Springs, and have a talk with the faculty there before answering your letter; but I see that you would like to hear from me at once, and it would be quite difficult for me to go there and return in time to reply ~~by~~ by the next mail. You perhaps understand something of how I am situated here, and how many things I have to think of besides the paper. I thought, however, that I would have a talk with Brother Sutherland before writing; so I called him up by telephone this morning and read to him that portion of your letter which deals most directly with your plans for the work, and asked him how he would feel about the suggestions. Of course it was rather short time to consider an important matter, as we were talking over the long distance telephone, at fifteen cents a minute; but he said at once that personally he would be in harmony with such a plan, although he thought that if we expected to make any very radical changes it might be necessary for us to have a meeting of the school board. I am sending him, at his request, a copy of the portion of the letter which I read to him, and I have written him to the effect that I thought there would be no trouble over the matter, unless we made it ourselves. While in a certain way the plan might seem to be a radical one, yet on the other hand, as I view it, it is simply putting into practical action what we have been theorizing about for some years, but have never done.

My own idea would be to go right ahead with the plan without advertising it to anybody, simply announcing that you would be there during such time as was decided upon, and making a special effort to bring in those persons who could receive the most benefit from Bible study. When we get together, we could quietly take up the work without any great flurry, on the plan that you suggest, and I believe the work itself would so completely justify itself that there would be no issue to be met afterward. I am sure that I should make an effort to join the class if you will take up the work on this basis.

As to the general question of the advisability of your coming over, I will say this: that I look at the matter somewhat as I did in my own case. You know it was not my personal choice to leave England to settle down here; but under all the circumstances, it seemed to me that I could do more for England by coming here just now than by remaining there and leaving the work here to go on in the same old rut. You know how we were hampered in every effort to do anything, and it seemed as though we needed a change here before the work could be carried on advantageously in England. I believe the results of the year's work and the present outlook justify the action then taken. While we may not be able to point to any very revolutionary result, ~~xxxx~~ yet when you come to look over the whole situation, I think the changes during the past year have been quite remarkable, and there is certainly a better prospect of accomplishing what we desire to accomplish during the next year than there was a year ago.

One result which is most helpful is that a spirit of confidence and co-operation seems to be coming in; while, as you know, at the time of the last General Conference every man's hand seemed to be against every other man. I believe that to quite a degree there has been a reviving of hope and courage among the rank and file of our people, and we are doing all we can to strengthen this. Now while we are doing what we can to secure workers for the outside fields, we are all the time painfully conscious of the fact that the workers here have not been properly trained for this work, and that we have no one available to give them the necessary training. If the work could so be arranged ~~that~~ for six months or a year in England that you could help us in this matter, it would, I believe, introduce a new element into the training of our workers, and make them much more valuable when they are sent to the other fields.

From our experiences in England with workers who have come over, you can fully appreciate how much this might mean.

The same mail which brought your letter brought one also from Brother Daniells, in which he referred quite fully to the general situation in the British Conference, and particularly to the plan for you to leave the field temporarily. From what he writes, ---and he seems to have good basis for his statements,---I should think that you would have good ground for the assurance that the paper would not be turned from its purpose during your absence. Of course if you had to put the paper in the hands of those who, though they might have the best of intentions, could not possibly carry forward its work, it would be a serious thing; but inasmuch as you can leave it in the hands of Sister Adams, with assurance that no opposition to your plan would be offered, it would seem as though the thing might be done with reasonable safety. You know that we have been talking for years that something must be done different from what has been so far in order to get our educational work upon a proper basis. There have been these efforts for reform for some time, and yet the work has not commanded confidence. And we still feel the need of getting it upon a different basis. This opportunity now offered seems to be just the opening to do what we have talked about for a long time.

The work at Berrien Springs is so completely a new work that it would be as near to the starting of a new institution as we are likely to have for some time. I think it must be evident to you that there have been marked changes in the plan of management over here, if you contrast the situation and outlook now with that it was one year ago. Some time ago I learned that just before the opening of the last General Conference the committee held a meeting at which a formal vote was taken to the effect that you and I should not have the same opportunity to take up time in the Conference as we had had heretofore. It was nothing less than a formal declaration of the determination that we should not present anything at the Conference. And you know how the matter turned at the very beginning of the Conference, and you know how matters stand at the present time. When I consider what was done a year ago, and then consider that I have been put into the office here with the paper, and that you are being urged to come over to conduct the Bible study in what we hope to make our leading training-school, I feel sure that progress has been made toward getting the gospel principles before the people. And this seems providential to me, and I am inclined to the opinion that you will be moving in harmony with the Lord's leading if you accept this invitation, and join us in our efforts here for a short time.

I should be more than glad to give up all official position if we can have the privilege of teaching the real gospel message to the people and to the workers. This seems possible in view of the present situation.

You did not say definitely, but I rather take it for granted, that you would be likely to come over about the first of December, and that you would probably remain until after the next General Conference, in the summer of 1903.

I do not know that I need to say more. The final decision must of course be left with you; but I have expressed ~~the~~ myself as the matter appears to me, and you will see that I incline to favor your coming, with the idea that in the end more may be accomplished in the very line in which you are working than by refusing this opportunity.

We are all in usual health, and the work goes forward much after the usual sort. We have had a peculiar season, with almost constant thunderstorms. Yesterday we had three during the day and one or two last night. To-day the weather is warm and muggy.

Brother Cornell has arrived safely with his family, and he is now at work for the Sanitarium. He has rented the house next to ours on Manchester Street, and will move in this week.

The summer assembly at Berrien Springs opened last Thursday. Brother Sutherland told me this morning that they had started off well. I hope to go out there to spend next Sabbath and Sunday.

Of course it is rather quiet here now, and since the organization of the Union Conferences much of the detail work which the General Conference Committee used to wrestle with is now managed by the Union Conference committees. This is a great relief, and just now, as they all know that Brother Daniells is in Europe, there are fewer matters than ~~have~~ ever to be considered by us. And yet I find my time very fully taken up. An occasional meeting of the General Conference Association, the Mission Board, the Review and Herald Board, the church-school board, and other committees fill in, to keep something on my hands nearly all the time. I hope later to arrange matters so that I shall be able to give more undivided attention to the paper. I am fully conscious that I am not doing justice to that work now.

I shall be glad to hear from you, and to know what decision you have made in the matter in question.

With kind regards to all, I remain,

Yours faithfully,



PS.--I will send your letter on to Brother Jones, as you suggest.

W.W.P.

R.