WORLD CHURCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

February 9-10, 2021

7:00am – 10:00am

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Theme: “LEADERS COMMITTED TO ‘I WILL GO – REACH THE WORLD’ WITH THE ENABLING POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

Ted N C Wilson

Keynote Address--Adapted

February 9, 2021

What a blessing it has been to see leaders and members around the world enthusiastically accept the 2020-2025 Seventh-day Adventist World Church Strategic Plans with the title of “Reach the World----I Will Go.” With the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises around the world, people have turned to Bible prophecy seeking some type of explanation for what has befallen society and culture. Seventh-day Adventists have been entrusted with the last warning message for the world based on the marvelous prophecy of Revelation 12:17 which describes God’s last-day remnant people as those “….who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Seventh-day Adventists proclaim and uplift all the ten commandments including the precious fourth commandment about the seventh-day Sabbath. Seventh-day Adventists have been blessed with the testimony of Jesus Christ which is the Spirit of Prophecy according to Revelation 19:10 which indicates that God’s people are those “…..who have the testimony of Jesus, Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Seventh-day Adventists accept the special work of Ellen G White as the direct result of God providing the testimony of Jesus Christ which is the spirit of prophecy.

As we view the events that have transpired just within the last 12 months since we met in Cape Town, we can see the fulfillment of prophetic instruction given by God and that the coming of Christ is imminent. Because of this we are called to preach the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14 and the fourth angel of Revelation 18----messages of hope and warning. These messages call people back to the true worship of God focusing on the righteousness of Christ----both His justifying and His sanctifying righteousness. We are to warn others away from the soon-to-appear three-fold deceptions which are described in “Last Day Events,” page 131, “When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this three-fold union, our country (United States) shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.”

This is the setting in which we now find ourselves…….living at the end of time with prophecy unfolding before us. What a tremendous opportunity, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to lift up Christ and His amazing last-day message to a dying world. The prophets of old would have loved to live in our time in the tips of the toes of the statue of Daniel 2. God is calling all of us to respond in a wonderful affirmative chorus saying, “Yes, Lord, I Will Go.” Please, Holy Spirit, guide us as we Reach the World with the pure truth of the Bible.

God calls for us to plead with Him for the latter rain of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the promises of Joel 2 and Acts 2. Joel 2:23 says, “Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you---the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.” Let us plead with the Lord for the latter rain and encourage our church members to earnestly ask for the latter rain of the Holy Spirit. We are told in Last Day Events, page 183, “The latter rain, ripening earth’s harvest represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection.” Page 186, says, “Near the close of earth’s harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain.”

This is why God has called all of us as leaders and church members to be part of Total Member Involvement and respond to the Lord by saying, “I Will Go.” Since Seventh-day Adventists are God’s unique people with a unique message on a unique mission, He will do mighty things for His people as they humble themselves before Him. What a privilege to be part of God’s Advent movement in these last days of earth’s history.

Recently, we have seen how quickly changes can take place in the world. Economies, businesses, work life, family life, and community activities have been restricted in many ways. Even our World Church Leadership Council is being conducted over Zoom instead of meeting in a lovely location like we did a year ago in South Africa hosted by the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. However, in spite of the restrictions, God’s church is alive and well around the globe with each of you representing our precious church members who are witnessing and testifying for the Lord and His Bible truth. God is leading His church and we must encourage our members to commit themselves to the missionary focus of “I Will God” demonstrating to the world that Seventh-day Adventists are anchors of stability and pillars of hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We thank our Lord for the amazing advances in mission to the cities, in comprehensive health ministry, in public and personal evangelism, in entering new regions of this earth, and in reaching new people groups. We see thousands of church members excitedly involved in Total Member Involvement with a strong commitment to Revival and Reformation. Church members are uniting with a laser-beam focus on mission recognizing that Jesus is coming soon! Let us move forward in humility as we lean on the everlasting arms of God and reliance on the Holy Spirit.

In Ministry of Healing, page 182, Ellen White indicates, “By prayer, by the study of His word, by faith in His abiding presence, the weakest of human beings may live in contact with the living Christ, and He will hold them by a hand that will never let go.”

As individuals and as families, being discipled into spirit-filled lives involves several dimensions of commitment. It involves being engaged in service and mission. It involves spending time in prayer and Bible study—listening to and talking to God, worshiping Him. Steps to Christ, page 93, says that prayer is like the “opening of the heart to God as to a friend.”

As we grow in Christ, our Rock, He empowers us to be great witnesses for Him in whatever situation we find ourselves as we lean on this Rock. Let us inspire our church members to be part of the greatest final proclamation under the direction of the Holy Spirit. All our outreach and activities must be anchored strongly to Jesus, the Rock.

The Desire of Ages, page 414, indicates that, “The church is built upon Christ as its foundation.” In Christ’s Object Lessons, page 49, we read, “Love must be the principle of action. Love is the underlying principle of God’s government in heaven and earth . . .”— COL 49.

Christ explained this in John 13:35 saying, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” 2 Corinthians 5:14 simply says, “The love of God compels us.”

In the unique setting of these final days of earth’s history, we can praise God that He has led us in our past and will lead us into the future. Let us keep our relationship with the Lord strong so that His love will work through us as we point people to Christ the solid Rock preparing them for His soon second coming.

As we approach Christ’s return, let us encourage our church members and join with them in responding to God’s call by saying, “I Will Go” to proclaim the three angels’ messages, to make disciples, to be His witness, to share His Word, to reach the world, to proclaim Christ’s soon return…….all under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Let us say, “I Will Go” because of my love for Christ, for His Word, for His righteousness, for His death on the cross, for His sanctuary message, for His current investigative judgment ministry in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, for His three angels’ messages, and His soon return. We long for Jesus to come!

May each of us be: “LEADERS COMMITTED TO ‘I WILL GO ‘ – REACH THE WORLD’ WITH THE ENABLING POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!” Maranatha!