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Professor Doug

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### The Life and Ministry of A.B. Simpson

The Nyack Heritage class was an interesting, inspiring, journey through the life and ministry and teaching of Albert Benjamin Simpson. Born December 15, 1843 to James and Janet (Clark) Simpson, in Prince Edward Island, Canada. Simpson's father was a highly respected deacon and pressed his son to become a Presbyterian minister. Young Simpson was not sure he was called to ministry because he was not strongly convicted to do so. Early in his teenage years, he had a total physical and emotional breakdown, due to the stress of self doubt, studying, and doubting his eternal life and relationship with Jesus. He read his father's book; John Williams' missionary and then dedicated himself to God for missions. The interesting story of the beginning of his journey starts with his getting permission from his parents to get his own education without expense to his parents. His family had expenses for the oldest son's study, but not the resources for both.

The family had decided Albert would stay home and work on the farm, so it was a great sacrifice to allow him to go and make his way. In 1859, he graduated high school and taught elementary to raise money to study for the ministry. He graduated from Knox College in 1864 and in Sept. of 1865, he was called to Knox Church in Hamilton, Ontario. Simpson was seen as a rising star in the Presbyterian Church, especially gifted as a pastor. The year 1871 he experienced many breakdowns, the tragic death of his 3 year old son. This to me seems where he goes through the refining and testing, he gains experience and acquaintance with death of beloved son. As a young pastor, he now can share his own personal sorrow with a "full heart", not so many words, but with just a touch that expressed "heartfelt sympathy.

December, 1879 Simpson continues to minister to the spiritual needs of those neglected by the churches New York City was the right place. Simpson believed the immigrants who arrived in Ellis Island were not served by the churches, not being responsible for the new immigrants, young men and women who sought economic and social opportunity were lost to the church. It was his commitment to active engage in the missions movement and aggressive evangelize the people who did not attend church. That drew him to New York against his wife Margaret's wise advice. He became pastor of the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Presbyterian church during the critical Post Civil War time. The churches were financially and spiritually burdened, and he recognized the spiritual needs of the unchurched. He was led to break from that church and form The Gospel Tabernacle, an open door mission, to rescue the lost, prison ministries, orphanages and started a missionary school., The Berachah Healing Home and the Missionary Training Institute.

The call for missions, and his deeply convicted answer and commitment stood out for me. How along his journey he was healed, strengthened, by Christ Our Savior, Christ our healer, Our Sanctifier, Our Coming Lord. Another point of interest in the Nyack Heritage class session, Prof.Doug's question based on the Book of Esther4:14, (paraphrased) who knows we have come to this time and position for these days?

In summary, the merging of the Christian Alliance for Higher Christian Life with The Evangelical Foreign Mission led to the founding of Nyack College . As Dr. A.B. Simpson once stated, ( paraphrasing), the world mission is to lift up Jesus, to incite God's people to the work of our time and place in this unbelieving world both here and abroad. Today Nyack College and Allied Seminary is continuing .its rank as first among Alliance schools,still producing missionaries, pastors, and educators. When I first started classes here in the Nyack New York City campus I had the doubting Thomas mentality concerning transformation, attaining higher education academically and especially

spiritual growth through a deeper study of God's word, equals transformation. I am pleased that the man's vision was fulfilled., Dr. Albert Benjamin Simpson. May God's blessings continue to be here

I pray that we all,come to realize the call on our lives and that we get the sense of Ester4:14 and also the Great Commission in Matt 9:24 , the spreading of the Gospel to all nations.....

Blessings.