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Final Response Paper

This course about Nyack heritage and history is motivational and quite important for Nyack College students to take and learn from because it provides and delineates Albert Benjamin Simpson's history, ministry, spirituality, motivation, calling, and vision that led him to create such an amazing and blessed community where God's love and grace can be felt and experienced in different but unique ways. Also, having the opportunity to belong to this inclusive and growing community allows members to learn more about God as well as work on the development and strengthening of their spiritual life. With that being said, some of the most significant facts and aspects learned about Nyack's and Simpson's history will be summarized and discussed.

To begin with, Simpson referred to Matthew 24 to answer when the second coming of our Lord is happening and what is expected for the world to do before and during Jesus's descending. One of the most relevant messages to keep in mind regarding this Bible passage is that proclaiming and spreading the Gospel of the kingdom as a testimony to all nations will be the step for the end of the world to come. On the other hand, the historical context Simpson was living in involved critical social, political, and economic settings and events that were of great influence and impact to the world. Some of them include the post-civil war, industrial revolution, social justice issues, and the mission's movement of the 19th century. However, all these were not limitations for Simpson to follow his mission by being innovative, developing urban evangelism,

creating a Biblically based healing ministry, focusing on the Holy Spirit, and striving to improve and provide higher education to everyone. Another important aspect of Simpson's early years concerns the family's social, religious, and cultural context in which he grew up and helped to develop his spiritual formation. Of great impact is the fact that he suffered a mental, physical, and spiritual breakdown during his teenage years, and later on in life he also went through a terrible loss, but these were not limitations or reasons for him to stop listening and obeying God as he never hesitated what God had planned for his life and how he would impact other people's lives for good by preaching and pastoring.

Moving forward to Nyack College establishment and heritage, Simpson first established the *Gospel Tabernacle*, a church and center for evangelism where foreign missionaries were being prepared for a widespread ministry led by Simpson. A while after the *Gospel Tabernacle* started to grow, the *Christian Alliance* was established and was mainly based on the Fourfold Gospel. Then, the *Evangelical Missionary Alliance* was founded with the purpose of taking the message of the Gospel to all nations, and these two Alliances joined to form the *Christian and Missionary Alliance* (C&MA). In 1897, the *Missionary Training Institute* (MTI) was established in Nyack, New York to educate foreign and local missionaries. Now, it is important to remark some of the most relevant figures to Nyack's establishment (including A.B. Simpson). In 1956, the name was changed to *Nyack Missionary College* by Dr. Moseley, and the school started to offer different programs including bachelor's degrees in theology, Religious Education, and Music. Next, the school was named *Nyack College* in 1972 by Dr. Boon as well as its *Alliance Theological Seminary* was renamed by Dr. Bailey in 1977, which also brought a variety of new programs, bachelor's, and master's degrees to offer. Finally, in 1995 the Manhattan campus was established by Dr. Schroeder and relocated in lower Manhattan after sixteen years by Dr. Scales.

In addition to all these key figures, several educators and administrators were essential for the establishment and growth of Nyack College, including Miss Harriet Waterbury (student and instructor in Bible Doctrine and Church History), Sarah Lindenberger (teacher and author of books on Divine Health), Miss Carrie E. Merriweather (mission work in Africa), A.R. Bernard (Christian Cultural Center founder, senior Pastor, and CEO), and many others who have been of great impact and influence for Nyack College's growth as a Christian, diverse, and leader-formers community.

Having listed and summarized the most important facts, events, and stages of A.B. Simpson's life as well as Nyack College's formation, it would be appropriate to reflect on how I am sensing God is leading me to join in the heritage of the college by analyzing and answering the following questions:

Who is God calling me to be?

I am still in the process of learning to listen to God's voice carefully as my faith and spirituality formation are in the process of growing and strengthening since I first enrolled and joined Nyack College last year. Consequently, so far I can affirm that God is calling me to be His servant in this world, and my main focus will be helping people with situations, lack of resources, and in need of new opportunities to change their lives. As a former social worker, I identify myself as a caring professional because most of the career values, mission, and practices are quite related to my principles, values, mission, and the way I currently live my life. Foremost, being God's servant involves and requires me to become more compassionate (something I have been working on) and the willingness to serve others in as many ways as possible for them to know God's love, grace, and mercy and, at the same time, to attain and know their life's purpose according to what God has prepared for them.

What is He calling me to do?

As I mentioned before, being called to be God's servant involves many tasks and things I need to learn during this process in order to do what He has designed me for adequately. Firstly, I will try to encourage them to work hard for a better life and future by turning to God and receiving His message of love and salvation. Secondly, I will work and prepare to help a more specific but diverse group of individuals, which regards the most innocent and vulnerable, by attending and working for social and global organizations such as the UNICEF. Finally, my long-term goal is to learn and be instructed to establish and create a non-profit organization that receives, educates, loves, helps, and instructs spiritual formation on abandoned, abused, and violented children.

What is my mission?

After all, I would say my mission includes both who God is calling me to be and what He is calling me to do. As a result, my mission is to help and serve the community with any social issues and life-threatening situations to promote and enhance their well-being by providing them with the most important and needed services, resources, and support to have a better life quality. Also, I wish to inspire and encourage individuals to get to know God and enjoy the opportunity and gift of living a life with Him. Serving the community by developing Jesus's compassion and love for others will be essential to fulfill this mission accurately.