

Nyack Heritage. Final Paper.

Albert Benjamin Simpson was born in Canada in 1843 to a family of Scottish immigrants. That was a very difficult historical time when the Civil war just ended, and the Industrial Revolution was gaining strength. 15-year-old Simpson experienced an emotional, physical, and spiritual collapse that led him to the understanding of the necessity of receiving Jesus Christ as savior. Simpson committed his life to Christ and this new sense of peace filled him. On January 19, 1861, he wrote "A SOLEMN COVENANT: The Dedication of Myself to God" fully committing himself to the service of God. Simpson spent all his life reaching out to people and spreading the word of gospel through the world. When later, a New York journalist asked him the question when Christ was coming back to earth, Simpson cited Matthew 24:14 saying "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto the nations and then shall the end come." Thus, A.B. Simpson greatest motivation was spreading the word of God among all people because when this happens Jesus will come back to us again. What a great goal! When I was listening to this part of the lecture, I kept thinking how different our goals are and how insignificant mine seems to be compared to A. B. Simpson's motivation. Going through with this idea I got to a comforting conclusion for myself that regardless of how small and seemingly irrelevant goals we pursue in our lives, as long as they lay within this greater one, we are all working together on achieving the result we all wish for. How we live every single day of our lives is a step and a great responsibility because when we face Jesus, we will be kept accountable for all these days. It's never late for any of us to make changes in life and maybe use the words of A. B. Simpson in our prayers "Pardon the past strengthen us for future".

In 1879 Simpson was called to New York City to pastor the Thirteenth Street Presbyterian Church. He had strong desires to publish a missionary magazine, help all classes of people, reach out to the immigrants, and send missionaries. New York with its' diverse population of people was a perfect place for Simpson to follow his goals. He was seeking ways to reach the hurting and unsaved. Simpson established a home for fallen women, an orphanage, Berachah Homes and several rescue missions that helped all classes of people. Simpson strongly believed in divine healing which was viewed with suspicion by many. He became the founder of the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA). It's amazing how one man's dedication could result in so much good. In 1882 Simpson established the first Bible training school in North America that later became Nyack College where I'm so proud to study right now.

The way A. B. Simpson lived his life shows us that we should never give up! Failures happen but gives us a great opportunity to get up and become stronger. If we make a list of all things A.B. Simpson achieved and people he helped to find their ways in life, it's hard to believe that one single person could be that powerful. Anything is possible if we follow God's calling!

How is God leading me to join the heritage of Nyack? What an interesting question. I have to say that if it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be here. The school I was studying before was bought by Nyack college and that's how my journey here began. I was originally pursuing AA, but I was offered to change my educational plan. Since my first time in college that happened long time ago, I always had interest in psychology but was either lazy or scared to go for it. When I was talking to my adviser, the first option that he gave me based on the credits I had was psychology. I got goosebumps then thinking that it's happening for a reason... It felt like God was telling me "I'm tired of giving you hints and here is a straight up direction! This is what I

want you to do!" I understood it instantly. One of the first courses I took in Nyack was the Integration of Psychology and Theology and that's when everything became clear. God wants me to learn how to help people and this is the way to do it. Psychology is one of many academic disciplines that attempts to understand and explain human behavior, in combination with Christian theology it provides us with different useful perspectives through which we can study and understand humans. We receive a more detailed, complete and accurate picture of human nature and functioning. Being Christian shapes our understanding of people, their relationships with God and others, it helps us to find ways to relieve human suffering. Psychology for a Christian is inseparable from our beliefs about our place in God's world. Some people see psychology as a profession and Christianity only as a belief with little connection between. For me, willing to become a psychologist is a calling and doing so I will serve God and others. If I'm given the abilities, I must follow my path the way I believe God wants me to. I will use my abilities towards humane and good deeds and avoid the misuse of my powers towards sins. The main purpose of human life is to love and serve others. This is how I see my dream profession because whatever we do (psychology included) should be done honestly, humbly and to the best of our ability. This is a way to serve God.

I hope my dream comes true and several years from now I will get my Masters. I haven't decided what sphere of psychology I will choose yet and keep looking for signs. I can feel that God is guiding me through my life, and I trust him. I've never been this sure of anything in my life. I feel that my relationships with God now are stronger than they have ever been and what I'm doing now has his approval. He wants me to study and become somebody who can help people. I believe this is my mission...

