

The life and ministry of A.B. Simpson

A.B. Simpson was born in 1843 on Prince Edward Island, in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence. His family was a well-to-do family and John Gettie baptized him in Canada. In 1847 his family went from Canada to Ontario near to Chatham, and they became a simple farmer family though his parents were wealthy in Edward Island. They were living in a cabin and Simpson was chopping down the trees, pulling out trunks, burning the trunks and leaving these all for a couple of seasons to work on them again after it become possible. With these struggles the Simpson's family had a high culture and educated background. A.B. Simpson read the missionary biography of John Williams in his early years of his life and then he decides to dedicate himself to God for mission. In 1859 he graduates from school when he was only 16 years old. Then he became a teacher in the school to have some money for his studies for the ministry and in the year 1861 he starts his college in Knox College. He then took the responsibility of the church Hamilton, Canada, west. Simpson married Margaret Henry. His children are Albert Henry, Melville Jennings, James Gordon and Margaret May.

From all aspects he was the most successful pastor that was much appreciated by his people. he starts some programs such as midweek services that were all dedicated to Bible studies and prayers. In 1871 he was sent to the Europe by his people with the idea of rest and relaxation. Because he had some breakdowns in this year due to very hard working. In 1873 he Traveled from Hamilton to New York for attending convention that was named Evangelical Alliance. The Evangelical Alliance was a very important interdenominational organization that was prominence in Britain, Canada, and united State in the late 19th century. In New York he starts preaching in the church Street Presbyterian that later he became pastor in the same church. In 1873 he became pastorate in Kentucky and resigned from Hamilton pastorate. During the years 1874-1879 he starts a different ministry that the main goal was "regular work of the ministry" that was included to meet people, preaching on Sunday, and doing other parish related activities. In this way he realized the aggressive outreach into the community that caused him to build the Broadway meeting place. The aim was to build a place to hold more people and be cheaper than other places. In other churches and places for meetings, the poor people had not that much money to buy the ticket and sit within the building, so he wants to build a place that all people both poor and rich can participate equally to hear the words of God. Also, in New York he gets involved with a missionary magazine. He published an illustrated missionary magazine that was called Gospel in all Land, for the first time in North American history. In October 1881 he baptized by immersion in a place that called evangelist acquaintance services in a schoolhouse that was in the poorest district of New York. During the years of 1881-1897 Simpson start his new ministry in New York with other seven committed people. The missionary was to win the New York for Jesus Christ. Simpson published his new publication by the name of The World, the Work and the World in 1881. Then these books were followed by his other books and pamphlets that extend his influence outside of the New York. In 1882, the Gospel Tabernacle officially start to work as a church. In this place there was taken missionary classes to prepare workers for home ministries and prepare them for missionary services. In 1883, the Missionary Training Institute was complete, and it was the first beginning of development of Nyack College, an Alliance Christian liberal arts institution.

In 1883, Simpson and the Gospel Tabernacle start to build and organization that was called the Missionary Union for the Evangelization of the World. This organization had services in Africa as a career missionary. In 1885, there were many rescue missions that was caused by the

Simpson's ministries. Then in 1886, an orphanage was opened that counted by a healing home named

Berachah that means blessing and there was also another organization for girls that named Door of Hope mission. In 1895 there were 300 Alliance missionaries overseas that all were inspired by the work of Simpson in 1891. During the years 1897-1906, the Berachah Healing Home and Missionary Training Institute moved from New York to Nyack.

Nyack College after A.B. Simpson

In 1919 Nyack become an honored school that had started from the grade 12th and two teachers. Then this school become more established and turned in to an academic center that had over 400 students and professors. During thirty-seven years Nyack came out from an abandoned theatre to a suburban campus.

After Dr. Simpson the founder of Nyack College, Robert Ekvall took the responsibilities of the Nyack college for the twenty years. This period was evaluated as; decisions were made very carefully; the adjustments were very clear and wise and there was minimum of sudden changes in the college. Dr. Paul Rader become the vice president of the C&MA after Dr. Simpson Died. In these years more women than men were applying for ministry. But after World War one the college faced with the lack of men to do pioneer missionary work, that is why between 1921-22 the school was only limited its services for young men. Beside the students at the Nyack college other student had to join this Nyack at their senior year for the goal of studying of their C&MA.

Nyack underlined its strategies that was important for the Alliance in 1926 by the direct control of the Board of Managers. Dr. Harry M. Shuman was the last president of the C&MA after Dr. Senft in 1925. Dr. Shuman gave a proposal to the Board of Managers to include four separate courses to the Nyack. Four years Pastoral course, Four years Foreign Missionary course, three years Christian Education Course and three years Standard Bible course. Dr. Walter A. Turnbull was the dean of the school from 1915-1922. Rev. A. E. Thompson was teacher, Rev. Kenneth MacKenzi, D.D. the teacher, Dr. C. I. Scofield, Dr. Gregory Mantle, Dr. Charles A. Blanchard, and Dr. Robert A. Jaffray the teachers of Nyack. The women teachers who served Nyack, Cora Rudy Turnbull, Miss Marie Bell Coles, Miss Fannie L. Hess, and Miss Emily M. Schluenzen.

The presidents of Nyack were, Dr. A. B. Simpson, Paul Radar, Dr. Senft, Dr. Shuman, Dr. Thomas Moseley, Dr. Harold Boon, Dr. Thomas Bailey, Dr. Rambo, Dr. Boda, Dr. David Schroeder, and Dr. Michael Scales.

The second part

If I write about myself and how to choose Nyack, it may be a different story than others. But I'm sure that it was not me that I choose Nyack, or it was not any other person except God. He guides me to be in this school because I have been chosen from a list of 350 musicians who needed help, but it was me and my sister who received the help. In the time that I felt myself the most hopeless person, Nyack reached to me and helped me. I have come from Afghanistan here, when the situation got worse in my country and radical group (Taliban) took my country one of my sister professors from the Mexico decide to help musician and get them out of Afghanistan, because the new regime was against music. Nyack with the direct help of Dr. Marta helped us to get out of Afghanistan and to be here through a long and risky process. When I see back how I could make it here it is all like a miracle. That is why I know that He choose me to be here, to study and to know about a different religion and new culture. Still when I arrived here, I needed

help. It looked like a burden to me going to new places, talking with people, even starting a new education life, but all these become a bit easier with Nyack and respected professors. Maybe that is why I'm here. He knows who I am, who I was and who I should be. So, I fully trust Him that He has brought me here and He has plans for me in this college. In the past years of my life, I have noticed that I was only busy for my personal life, job, university, and my personal life. But now I see that I was supposed to do the things that I didn't do in the past years. Like I should see how is my relation with God, though I'm praying, fasting and I am trying to do goods for human beings or I can say in these years I have been trying to be a good person according to the religion, but still in here (after coming to New York and attending Nyack College) I have noticed that people are more kind, people love each other and the most important that they referring their every day's life and duties to God. Maybe God has call me for some changes and some consideration of making my relationship with Him. Maybe He is calling on me to adopt some changes and bring some changes as well. Maybe He is calling me to suffer more and more to purify my heart by suffering.

He is calling all of us to love others, in my case I saw that how a human love another human being. In Nyack I learned that how to love others. Dr. Marta the professor of Nyack with her kindness showed me that we are humans, and we should love each other that it is His calling. He is calling me to surrender myself to Him no matter what. As it was in the last chapter that God has promised to us: I will keep you wherever you are, whatever you are doing, no matter what the situation is I would protect you and will keep you. maybe it would be a calling that I'm here to see and to understand how he would keep me safe. Maybe I'm calling by Him that I should trust Him, and I should want His will in every day of my life. Before I thought I have family, a place to stay, a degree of education and a job... but, now He is showing me that even if you want anything doesn't matter to me the things that is according to my will would happen to you. He is calling me to pursue His decisions about me and I should trust Him fully. Before coming here, I was chosen for IT major in Nyack college, but when I arrived here, I changed it to Social work.. I'm sure there is God who decide this Major for me because there will be more opportunities to help the people who need me. And I would serve others and will help them in a proper way. My mission generally is to live with a full trust to God, specifically it would be to study hard and serve people of God. my mission would be to serve and provide services to the servants of God. My mission would not be only for my own people it can be for myself as well. I would help myself to bring joy for whom I'm talking to or wherever I'm going, and it is the most important aspect of every human being. When we are happy, when we are joyful, we can spread happiness and joy that can cause someone else feel better as well. My mission would be to bring others comfort and hope. And it is a very big help for the servants of God to give them hope and bring them joy. As I mentioned before when Dr. Marta the professor at Nyack college gave me a hope, I see it as a light in the middle of darkness and hopelessness, so I know how important is when you be the reason of hope and happiness for others. I know how it is when you affect someone life's positively, I know how it is to be with someone spiritually and emotionally right in the time that they feel trapped. So, by improving the quality of my life and others life I would fulfill my mission with my major as Social Work.