

THEY THAT BE WITH US ARE MORE...BLESSED ASSURANCE

“They that be with us are more than they that be with them”. (2 Kings 6:16).

Have you ever gotten to a point in your experience when you felt surrounded and besieged by a number of options in the light of present circumstance and you wondered what direction you should take? You have run out of known resources, but there is a need to act. Enrollment is declining finances uncertain, and you feel the support for Adventist education is dwindling. Alas, you’ve rolled out the toolkit of marketing strategies, encompassed the latest technology and cutting edge research, yet nothing seems to be working.

It is only then it strikes you that there is great controversy raging for the minds and souls of leaders when apparent attractions and solutions can become distractions. The things that you think you need and desire, as others may have, become your end focus, whether it is equipment or technology or building improvements to meet the minimum standards required by accreditation. You’ve got to weigh mission versus reality for that which is real and present can be separate from the mission.

I am reminded that it was the same with Elisha and his servant in Dothan. Israel had been in constant struggle with Syria until the king of Syria decided to surprise Elisha with the overwhelming force of numbers, better equipment, better chariots, better intelligence, and a better fighting reputation. So is it with us sometimes—we are in the numbers game and thus like Elisha’s servant, our mission becomes limited by what we cannot see, for what we cannot see, we do not strive. Yet very often, the solution lies in that which we cannot see or do not imagine, for our eyes are not opened to the impossible, but only the earthly possible.

It is time to pray for a vision that stretches beyond mere human endeavor and rationality; it is time to pray that our eyes may be opened so that we can see the forces of God surrounding and guiding us. Like Solomon, we must pray for wisdom rather than riches, and with the wisdom will come the desired wealth. God is our refuge, a very present help in the time of trouble; the angel of the Lord surrounds those that love Him; when we pass through the waters, God is with us; the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. No weapon formed against me shall prosper. If it were possible, the very elect would be deceived. Ultimately, we remember that they with us are more than they be with them, for we serve a “God of the Impossible”. May our eyes be opened to see the armies of God surrounding us.