

Lewis Thomas

Faithful Steward and Friend of God

by Betty Eaton

“Jesus is my only hope, my only hope, my only hope,” was the dying man’s testimony. “Every day of my life I have felt His blessings and seen His answers to prayer. He blessed me beyond anything I could have expected. I love Him. I love Him. Amen. Amen. Amen. I can hardly wait to see Jesus face to face in the New Earth.” These words of faith were some of the last expressed by Lewis Thomas, beloved member of the Knox Seventh-day Adventist church.

Lewis grew up on a farm in Winamac, Indiana. Raised by his grandparents, Lewie, as he was affectionately called, devoted himself to God at an early age. Though he yearned to study for the ministry, he stayed on the farm because his help was greatly needed. It was a ministry Lewis pursued with diligence and fortitude. Disking, planting and harvesting crops was a partnership affair with the Lord. Every day he thanked the Lord for strength to accomplish a job well done.

His early morning hours were often taken up by long walks in the woods as he communed with his heavenly Father. God was the center of all he did in his life. He was a hard worker and never shirked his duty. Nearly every Sabbath, even in his later years, he would bring mashed potatoes and corn

to church for potluck even though he usually ate at home with his invalid wife and brother-in-law.

The church was like his family and he cared deeply about the welfare of each member. “If we didn’t get to church for some reason, Lewis and his wife Francis would come to our house to see how we were doing,” said one church member. For years Lewis led the Knox church as first elder and kept everything running smoothly even as pastors came and went. He regularly taught the adult Sabbath school class and even occasionally gave the sermon when a pastor could not be present. “He wasn’t the most polished speaker but the members respected his deep spirituality and listened to him,” said Ruth Ludwig, a lifelong friend and fellow church member.

Lewis was a faithful steward. He was frugal with his money but not stingy. When he saw others in need, he helped them without asking for recognition or repayment. “One time somebody gave us some coal,” said one member. “I always suspected that it was he. At another time of need he gave us some money.”

Throughout his life, Lewis supported many gospel ministries and gave to many charities.



He continued this same giving pattern in settling his estate. His wife of 42 years predeceased him and because he married later in life he had no children. In his last will and testament, Lewis directed

that his farm, which was worth millions, be sold and the proceeds be given to various ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist church. In this manner, Lewis laid up his last treasure in heaven. When Jesus returns he will call Lewis forth with the words:

“Well done! Thou good and faithful servant.”

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