



SABBATH 33—AUGUST 17, 2024

## My Best For God's Service

**Philippians 2:16—“Holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.”**

**O**n a Sabbath in May 1863, in Battle Creek, Michigan, USA, as Ellen G. White was in a tent where meetings were being held, a family shyly entered the place. A few weeks earlier, she had a vision about that particular family. In the vision, she saw their intense search for the truth. She also saw that some of them would be brave servants in the cause of God. Maud Sisley Boyd was one of the siblings of that family. By age of 16, she was already working in the Composition Department at the church publishing house. After getting acquainted with other pioneers, she felt a strong desire to fully serve the cause of God. Then, one afternoon, as she was praying, she distinctly heard a voice asking, “Are you willing to do anything the Lord desires?”

That thought came with the deep impression that God would ask her to do something she didn't want to do. As she knelt, she immediately felt that she hadn't completely surrendered as she first supposed. It seemed to her that she could not utter the words: “Yes, Lord, I will do whatever You ask of me.”

Maude prayed and wept, but she found no relief from the certainty of doom. Finally, around midnight, she confessed, “Oh, Lord Jesus, I love You, yes, I do. But I cannot make a complete surrender by myself. Dear Jesus, I want You to do that for me.”

Immediately, she was in peace. That morning she got a letter from the General Conference inviting her to travel to Switzerland to assist Elder J. N. Andrews in his publishing work in Basel. She was certain that she would not have accepted that invitation if the angel of the Lord had not visited her the night before. In 1887, she was part of the first group of missionaries sent by the church to Africa and then to several other places, such as England and Australia.

**Appeal:** Perhaps God is trying to call you right now to a full surrender. How about responding like Maud? Remember: “There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God” (Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 159).

