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P.O. BOX 7 BONNERDALE, AR 71933 888-278-7744

## **Student Handbook**

*“We thank God always on your behalf, when we hear, as we already have, that your and our late disappointment has produced in you, and we hope in us also, a deep humiliation and a careful inspection of our hearts. And though we are humbled, and in measure pained, by the jeers of a wicked and perverse generation, we are not terrified nor cast down. . . You can, all of you, when inquired of for the reasons of your hope, open your Bibles, and with meekness and fear show the inquirer why you hope in the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. You need not in a single instance refer the inquirer to your minister, for the reason of your faith. . . Your creed is the Scriptures; your spelling-book is the Bible; your grammar is the Word indited by the Spirit; your geography respects the promised inheritance of the Holy Land; your astronomy respects the bright starry crown of righteousness; your philosophy is the wisdom which cometh down from God; your bond of union is the love and fellowship of the saints; your teacher is the Holy Ghost; and your professor is the Lord Jesus Christ: your recitation room is your closet; your recitations are heard in your prayers, and your songs fill up your vacations. We speak not of rewards, diplomas, and degrees, for these are reserved in heaven for us, when the dusty walls of this tabernacle shall be dissolved, and we be called home into the new heavens and new earth, to a full fruition of that hope of which we are not ashamed.”*

- William Miller

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## ADMISSION & REGISTRATION

### How to Apply:

If you are a sincere Bible-believing Christian who supports the Spirit of Prophecy and works to serve the Lord, we invite you to apply to *School of the Prophets* (SOTP). To make your application procedure simple, we have put together a short list of things that you must do to apply. Please read the list carefully. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at (888)278-7744 for help.

1. Fill out the Application for Admission.
2. Fill out the Personal Health Assessment.
3. Fill out the top portion of each of the Christian Character Reference forms and ask three individuals (at least two of them non-family members) who have observed your character and/or spiritual development over a reasonable period of time to complete the form and return it directly to *School of the Prophets*.
4. Send your completed Application for Admission, Personal Health Assessment, and a non-refundable application fee of \$20 to the following address:

***Future for America***

**P.O. Box 7**

**Bonnerdale, Arkansas 71933**

5. When your Application for Admission, Personal Health Assessment, the \$20 application fee, and the three Christian Character Reference forms have arrived, we will consider your application.
6. Upon acceptance, you are required to send 10% of your total fees to hold your spot. (This 10% deposit amounts to \$300). Your spot will not be guaranteed until your 10% deposit is made.
7. The remaining of the total tuition amount for the entire trimester plus a refundable \$150 room deposit is due two weeks before the trimester starts. (These costs are covered in detail on page 12, under "**Financial Information.**")

### Returning Students & Late Registration:

*Returning Students:* Returning students are all expected to register during the scheduled registration periods designated in the school calendar. All students are required to participate in the orientation activities.

*Late Registration:* Permission to register late must be obtained from the application committee. No student may register after two weeks of the trimester have elapsed. Exceptions may be made for the intensive classes which have not begun prior to the late registration deadline.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM

"In a knowledge of God all true knowledge and real development have their source. Wherever we turn, in the **physical, the mental, or the spiritual** realm; in whatever we behold, apart from the blight of sin, this knowledge is revealed. Whatever line of investigation we pursue, with a sincere purpose to arrive at truth, we are brought in touch with the unseen, mighty intelligence that is working in and through all. The mind of man is brought into

communion with the mind of God, the finite with the Infinite. The effect of such communion on body and mind and soul is beyond estimate.

“In this communion is found the highest education. It is God’s own method of development. ‘Acquaint now thyself with Him’ (Job 22:21), is His message to mankind. The method outlined in these words was the method followed in the education of the father of our race. When in the glory of sinless manhood Adam stood in holy Eden, it was thus that God instructed him.” *Education*, 14.

## THE PHYSICAL REALM

### **Agriculture:**

“As a relaxation from study, occupations pursued in the open air, and affording exercise for the whole body, are the most beneficial. No line of manual training is of more value than agriculture. A greater effort should be made to create and to encourage an interest in agricultural pursuits. Let the teacher call attention to what the Bible says about agriculture: that it was God’s plan for man to till the earth; that the first man, the ruler of the whole world, was given a garden to cultivate; and that many of the world’s greatest men, its real nobility, have been tillers of the soil. Show the opportunities in such a life. The wise man says, ‘The king himself is served by the field.’ Ecclesiastes 5:9. Of him who cultivates the soil the Bible declares, ‘His God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him.’ Isaiah 28:26. And again, ‘Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof.’ Proverbs 27:18. He who earns his livelihood by agriculture escapes many temptations and enjoys unnumbered privileges and blessings denied to those whose work lies in the great cities. And in these days of mammoth trusts and business competition, there are few who enjoy so real an independence and so great certainty of fair return for their labor as does the tiller of the soil.” *Education*, 219.

Agriculture is of the highest value. It is here that God teaches His students the ABC’s of true education. All students and staff will be required to participate in the agricultural program. At minimum, half of every school day will be dedicated to work on the school farm, orchard, or greenhouse. SOTP believes this work is indispensable to a well-rounded Christian education.

### **Manual Training:**

“A much larger number of young people need to have the advantages of our schools. They need the manual training course, which will teach them how to live an active, energetic life. Under wise, judicious, God-fearing directors, the students are to be taught different kinds of labor. Every branch of the work is to be conducted in the most thorough, systematic way that long experience and wisdom can enable us to plan and execute.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 315.

Included in the time set apart each day for agricultural learning and practice there will be manual training in the areas of building, equipment repair, grounds maintenance, community service projects, cleaning, and the development of industries designed to support the students and school. The wide variety of work available will offer the student many opportunities to learn, grow, and serve.

## THE MENTAL REALM

### Health:

“The gospel ministry is an organization for the proclamation of the truth to the sick and to the well. It combines the medical missionary work and the ministry of the word. By these combined agencies, opportunities are given to communicate light, and to present the gospel to all classes and all grades of society. God wants the ministers and the church-members to take a decided, active interest in the medical missionary work.

“To take people right where they are, whatever their position or condition, and help them in every way possible, this is gospel ministry. Those who are diseased in body are nearly always diseased in mind, and when the soul is sic, the body also is affected. Ministers should feel it a part of their work to minister to the sick and afflicted whenever opportunity presents itself. The minister of the gospel is to present the message, which must be received if the people are to become sanctified and made ready for the coming of the Lord. This work is to embrace all that was embraced in Christ’s ministry.

“Those who understand physiology and hygiene will, in their ministerial labor, find it a means whereby they may enlighten others in regard to the proper and intelligent treatment of the physical, mental, and moral powers. Therefore those who are preparing for the ministry should make a diligent study of the human organism, that they may know how to care for the body, not by means of drugs, but from nature’s own laboratory. The Lord will bless those who make every effort to keep themselves free from disease, and lead others to regard as sacred the health of the body as well as of the soul.

“The ambassadors of Christ, those to whom have been committed the living oracles of God, can be doubly useful if they know how to help the sick. A practical knowledge of health reform will better qualify men and women to proclaim the message of mercy and retribution to the world.” *The Review and Herald*, January 14, 1902.

### Health Emphasis:

- General healthful living practices
- Understanding, communicating, and applying the eight laws of health as outlined in *Ministry of Healing*, 127
- Simple, natural, and herbal remedies for treating disease
- Hydrotherapy
- Massage therapy
- Healthful plant-based cooking emphasizing bread baking, canning, and proper food preservation
- Biblical guidelines and principles for diet and health reform

## THE SPIRITUAL REALM

### Bible Prophecy:

“If the Bible student learns from the great Teacher who inspired the Bible history, he will know the truth. The word is light, and to those who search its pages diligently, it is illuminated by the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness.

“History and prophecy testify that the God of the whole earth revealeth secrets through His chosen light-bearers to the world. A skeptical world, talking and writing of higher education, is prating of things which they do not understand. They do not see that true higher education comprehends a more perfect knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ, whom He has sent. There are few who understand that all true human science is from the God of science, and that God demonstrates to the world that He is king over all.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 3, 186.

### Bible Prophecy Emphasis:

- *Bible history*: The three angel’s messages
- *Millerite history*: The history of the Millerite movement from 1798 – 1844
- *Early Advent history*: The establishment of the Seventh-day Adventist church and its early history from 1844 – 1919
- *Modern SDA history*: The workings of the Seventh-day Adventist church from 1919 – present
- *How to study the Bible*: This course compares God’s plan of study as outlined in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy represented in William Miller’s Rules of Prophetic Interpretation versus the modern methods of study

## ACADEMIC PROCEDURE

### Course Length:

“There should be most careful consideration as the best manner of expending money in the education of students. While so much is spent to put a few through an expensive course of study, there are many who are thirsting for the knowledge they should get in a few months; one or two years would be considered a great blessing. If all the means is used in putting a few through several years of study, many young men and women just as worthy cannot be assisted at all.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 404.

“All are to be left perfectly free to follow the dictates of an enlightened conscience. There are those who with a few months’ instruction would be prepared to go out and do acceptable medical missionary work. Some cannot feel that it is their duty to give years to one line of study...” *Spalding and Magan*, 256.

SOTP does not have a set period of time for study. It is our desire that each student gains a practical knowledge in a variety of settings that will allow him to become a competent missionary for Christ. While some students may stay for only a few months, others may stay for a couple of years. However, this program does operate

under a set of trimesters within one year. (Please refer to page 12, under “**Financial Information**” for further details.)

### **Transfer Credits & Degrees:**

SOTP does not accept transfer credits, nor does it offer degrees or certificates of any kind. Our school is built upon the biblical model of the schools of the prophets. We are a manual training school emphasizing agriculture, health, and Bible prophecy with the goal of preparing our students to be proficient in the message of the hour and keep up with the advancing light of the third angel with the hope that they will be able to teach it to others. The students and teachers, if faithful, will receive from Christ the words of approval when He says, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant... Enter thou into the joy of the Lord.” Matthew 25:23.

“In view of all this, our schools should have little to say now of ‘degrees,’ and of long courses of study. The work of preparation for the service of God is to be done speedily. Let the work be carried forward in strictly Bible lines. Let every soul remember that the judgments of God are in the land. Let ‘degrees’ be little spoken of.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 11, 165.

### **Grades:**

“The system of grading is a hindrance to the pupil’s real progress. Some pupils are slow at first, and the teacher needs to exercise great patience. But these pupils may, after a short time, learn so rapidly as to astonish him. Others may appear to be very brilliant, but time may show that they have blossomed too suddenly. The system of confirming children rigidly to grades is not wise.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 2, 215.

A.T. Jones once said, “The sooner grades are done away with, so that the teacher can get close to the children, the better.” It is our intention to follow the standards of true education without using a letter or numerical based scoring system. We will strive to provide an environment where each student can reach his or her full potential under the watchful eye of a Christ centered instructor. Various means will be used to establish proficiency in the subject matter without violating the standard set forth in the Bible and in the Spirit of Prophecy.

## **STUDENT GUIDELINES**

SOTP is a family and as such, needs to uphold principles that promote harmony and order. Foremost of these principles is that which would bring honor to our Creator and Redeemer in all that we do. It is not the purpose of this handbook to spell out all of the details of that kind of life. However, a principle that is high on the list of such priorities is respect for others. Below are some guidelines along those lines mentioned above:

1. Weekend leaves from campus are granted only for specific needs and are not a general part of the educational program.
2. Televisions are not allowed.
3. Cellular phones are not allowed during class, work, or worship times.



4. Computers are allowed, but they must not interfere with the lives of others or the classroom experience. They are to be used in a manner consistent with high Christian standards.
5. Eating in the dorm rooms is not permitted.
6. Morning worship and evening worship will be organized in a common area. Attendance is required.
7. Formal class/work schedule terminates at the appointed time in the evening, followed by evening worship. Afterwards, quiet study time/personal time will last until “lights out” at 9:30 PM. (A quiet environment is to be consistently maintained in the living accommodations.)
8. Pets are not permitted.
9. Damage to living space will be charged to the students by the withholding of the room deposit. The rooms must be inspected by an appropriate staff person upon departure.
10. Guests are not allowed in the living quarters.

### **Music:**

The only music appropriate at SOTP is that which exonerates the Lord. We are admonished that, “Music was made to serve a holy purpose...it forms a part of God’s worship in the courts above, and we should endeavor...to approach as nearly as possible to the harmony of the heavenly choirs....” This will be our standard in all music that is composed, performed, or listened to while at *School of the Prophets*. Please refer to *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 594.

### **Social Relationships:**

Dating and courtship while a student at SOTP is not appropriate; therefore, it is not permitted. We take seriously the counsel stating:

“While at school, students should not allow their minds to become confused by thoughts of courtship. They are there to gain a fitness to work for God, and this thought it ever to be uppermost.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 100.

### **Dress:**

While a student at *School of the Prophets*, clothing will be neat, clean, modest, and appropriate for the occasion. Some of the references for review when preparing a clothing wardrobe for school should include:

“The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment: for all that do so are a abomination unto the Lord thy God.” Deuteronomy 22:5.

“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” 1 Peter 3:3, 4.

“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But which becometh women professing godliness with good works.” 1 Timothy 2:9, 10.

“Let them...show their faith by their righteous works, and make the distinction great between the Christian and the world. I saw the words, the dress, and actions should tell for God.” *Testimonies*, volume 1, 132.

“God claims the undivided affections; and anything which tends to absorb the mind and divert it from God assumes the form of an idol.” *Testimonies*, volume 4, 632.

Students will be expected to comply with Godly principles in applying the bountiful counsel that God has given to His people. Problem areas will be addressed individually by a staff member of the appropriate gender.

### **Personal Health & Fitness:**

Realizing that our bodies are the temple of God, and that we are His by creation and by redemption, students are encouraged/expected to maintain a personal fitness program that includes all of the natural laws of health. Students are responsible for their own health/accident insurance and health care.

### **Entertainment & Recreation:**

Recreation is entirely different than amusement. Consequently, students at SOTP will seek opportunities for recreation other than amusement during unstructured time. For some guidelines relating to this subject, please refer to the following counsel:

“There is a distinction between recreation and amusement. Recreation, when true to its name, recreation, tends to strengthen and build up. Calling us aside from our ordinary cares and occupations, it affords refreshment for the mind and body, and thus enables us to return with new vigor to the earnest work of life. Amusement, on the other hand, is sought for the sake of pleasure and is often carried to excess; it absorbs the energies that are required for useful work and thus proves a hindrance to life’s true success.” *Education*, 207.

“...We are not to live in this world merely for our own amusement, merely to please ourselves. We are here to benefit humanity and to be a blessing to society; and if we let our minds run in that low channel that many who are seeking only vanity and folly permit their minds to run in, how can we be a benefit to our race and generation? How can we be a blessing to society around us? We cannot innocently indulge in any amusement which will unfit us for the more faithful discharge of ordinary duties.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 336.

In harmony with Inspiration, the playing of competitive team sports is not allowed. Media, DVDs, books, and all forms of entertainment will be of the highest Christian content. Any material in these categories that are present on the school property must not reflect or teach a worldly lifestyle, or have a corrupting influence.

**Personal Devotions:**

A personal connection with God demands a close, active communication with Him. Each student is expected to establish/maintain a regular personal devotional time. Open communication with staff and fellow students of the same gender regarding this aspect of a student's life is encouraged.

**Sabbath Worship:**

On Sabbath, the *School of the Prophets* family attends and worships at the *Lambert Community Fellowship* in Bismark, Arkansas. Each student will participate in the church program and will become involved in and support the various activities of the local church. This participation includes the Sabbath School program, various department lesson studies, church music, preaching, outreach, and elder, deacon, and deaconess responsibilities. A necessary component of a sound educational experience is regular worship with like-minded believers. (Hebrews 10:24, 25.) The Lambert church provides this opportunity, and they welcome student participation in the program.

**Self-Government:**

Discipline at SOTP is based upon the principles of self-government.

"The first moral lesson given to Adam was that of self-denial. The reins of self-government were placed in his hands. Judgment, reason, and conscience were to bear sway." *Confrontation*, 12.

"The object of discipline is the training of the child [student] for self-government." *Education*, 287.

A selected group of representatives from the student body with one staff member will constitute the self-government mentioning body. This group may vary in composition, depending upon the given need.

"The Lord placed man upon probation, that he might form a character of steadfast integrity for his own happiness and for the glory of his Creator." *Confrontation*, 12.

As such, all students are to understand that they enter the school on a probationary status.

**Disciplinary Procedure:**

SOTP students need to remember that they are representatives of God and of the final generation. With this thought in mind, students will seek to demonstrate the highest Christian principles in their conduct at all times.

It is our intention to appropriately use the scriptural advice found in the Bible and in the Spirit of Prophecy as a tool for personal growth. All disciplinary procedures will be enacted in the context of Matthew 18. If there is an issue with a student, the appropriate staff member will approach the student and speak with them one-on-one. If this discussion does not bring the required results, the staff member will then approach the student with another member of the staff in an attempt to resolve the issue. If this second attempt is also not successful, the student will be brought before the general committee to determine the outcome of the situation. If deemed

necessary at the general committee, the student will be referred to the admissions committee for the final step in regard to their stay at *School of the Prophets*.

The decision made by the admissions committee is final. If the student is asked to leave, these arrangements are to be made immediately. The student will be refunded the remaining tuition fees, less thirty days, from the date of the decision by the admissions committee. The refund will be sent in the form of a check to the address listed on the Application for Admission. The room deposit is fully refundable on the condition that the living quarters are left in their original condition.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

“It is not desirable to place the tuition too low. It should be sufficient to meet the expenses, even if the college is not so largely patronized. Those who really prize the advantages to be obtained there will make extra exertions to secure them. The larger part of those who would be induced to come because of the low tuition would be of no benefit to other students or to the church. The larger the number, the more tact, skill, and vigilance is required in their management.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 555.

“Our brethren say the plea comes from ministers and parents that there are scores of young people in our ranks who need the advantages of our training schools, but they cannot attend unless tuitions are lower.

“Those who plead for low tuition should carefully weigh matters on all sides. If students cannot of themselves command sufficient means to pay the actual expense of good and faithful work in their education, is it not better that their parents, their friends, or the churches to which they belong, or largehearted, benevolent brethren in their conference, should assist them, than that a burden of debt should be brought upon the school? It would be far better to let the many patrons of the institution share the expense, than for the school to run in debt.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 69.

*School of the Prophets* agrees to provide room and board for each student that is accepted. The program is divided into three trimesters: **(1)** January – April, **(2)** May – July, **(3)** September – November. The cost for each trimester is \$3000. This cost covers a dormitory style room, and two meals per day. The total does not cover books, study materials, personal items, or travel-related costs. When you have been notified of your acceptance to SOTP, you will need to send in a non-refundable \$300 to hold your spot. Your space will not be held until this deposit arrives. Two weeks before the trimester begins, the remaining \$2700 is due.

Also, a \$150 deposit is due two weeks before the trimester begins. This deposit covers the living quarters you will be assigned to, and is fully refundable at the end of the trimester if your living quarters are left in their original condition.