

## Session 09 - Spiritual Leaders of History

### The Importance of Leadership

- Every great movement of history can be traced to a person—a leader.
- Throughout Scripture, whenever God wanted to make a change, he called a person.
- No doubt, there are changes we see the need for. Maybe God is calling us.

### Survey of Key Adventist Spiritual Leaders

- The apostles of Christ
  - Born outside the loop of power and influence.
  - Converted by being with Jesus for three and a half years.
  - Broke step with society when they saw Jesus crucified.
  - Changed the world by sacrificing their lives to preach Jesus.
  - Significant leadership traits were clear vision and boldness.
- Martin Luther
  - Born a farmer's son in 1483 and turned monk on a promise made when begging for his life.
  - Converted to salvation by grace through study of the New Testament.
  - Broke step with the church of Rome when his teachings on grace were condemned.
  - Changed the world by publicly standing for truth.
  - Significant leadership traits were resonance with the people and use of established power.
- William Miller
  - Born a farmer's son in 1782.
  - Converted from Deism when he saw God's hand in a military victory.
  - Broke step with the mainline church when they wouldn't hear his teachings.
  - Changed the world by preaching the Second Coming of Christ.
  - Significant leadership traits were moderation and persistence.
- Ellen White
  - Born a hatter's daughter in 1827.
  - Converted as fear of the end led her to understand grace through her pastor.
  - Broke step with the established church as a child, when the church rejected the Advent message.
  - Changed the world by guiding the formation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
  - Significant leadership traits were humility and communication.

### Common Traits of Spiritual Leaders

- They were God-changed.
- They lived out their spiritual vision.
- They were driven by dreams bigger than themselves.
- They changed the world.