

## Acres of Diamonds

In 1843 a man was born who was to have a profound affect on the lives of many people-his name was Russell Herman Conwell. He became a lawyer, a newspaper editor and finally a clergyman. It was during his church career that an incident occurred that would change his life and the lives of countless others. One day a group of young people came to Dr. Conwell and asked him if he could instruct them in college courses. They all wanted a college education, but lacked the money to pay for it. He told them to let him think about it and to come back in a few days. After they left an idea began to form in Dr. Conwell's mind. Why couldn't there be a fine college for young, deserving poor people?

Before long, the project consumed him. Why not? The project was worthy of **100% dedication**. A **complete commitment**. Almost single handedly Dr Conwell raised several million dollars with which he founded Temple University. He raised the money by giving over 6,000 lectures all over the country and in each one of them; he told a story-**Acres of Diamonds**. It was a true story that had affected him very deeply and had the same affect on his audiences. The money he needed to build the college came pouring in.

The story was the account of an African farmer who had heard about other farmers who had made millions by discovering diamond minds. This excited the farmer so much that he could hardly wait to sell his farm, and go prospecting for diamonds himself. So he sold the farm; spending the rest of his life searching the African continent unsuccessfully for the gleaming gems that had brought such high prices on the market for the world.

Finally, as the story goes, the farmer, worn out, and in a fit of despondency, he threw himself into a river and drown. Meanwhile back at the ranch or farm in this case the man who had bought his farm happened to be crossing a small stream on the property when suddenly there was a bright flash of blue and red lights on the bottom of the stream. He bent down,

picked up the stone it was a good size stone and later after admiring it, he put it on his fireplace mantel as an interesting curiosity.

Several weeks later a visitor picked up the stone, looked at it closely and held it in his hand and nearly fainted. He asked the farmer if he knew what he had found; he said no, he thought it was a piece of Crystal. The visitor told him he had found one of the largest diamonds ever discovered. The farmer had trouble believing that, he told the man that his creek was full of such stones. Not as large, perhaps as the one of the mantel, but they were sprinkled generously throughout the creek bottom. Needless to say, the first farm that the farmer sold so he could go find a diamond mine turned out to be the most productive mine on the African continent. The first farmer had owned FREE AND CLEAR, acres of diamonds, but he sold them for practically nothing in order to look for them elsewhere.

The moral is clear, if the first farmer had only taken the time to STUDY AND PREPARE himself to learn what diamonds look like in their rough state-since he had already owned a piece of the African continent and to thoroughly explore the property he already had before looking elsewhere, all of his wildest dreams would of come true.

The thing that so profoundly continues to affect people is that at this very moment, they are standing in the middle of his/her own acre of diamonds, if we only have the wisdom and patience to intelligently and effectively explore the work in which we are now engaged, to explore ourselves, we'll usually find the riches we seek. Whether they are financial, intangible or both. Before we go running off into what we think are greener pastures, lets make sure that our own is not just as green, perhaps even greener. It's been said that if the other guys pasture appears to be greener than ours, it's possible that it is getting better care. Besides, while we are looking at other pastures, other people are looking at ours!

Implement, execute and take action 😊