

Children's Story, Spirit of Prophecy Sabbath

The Embarrassing Outfit

By Chantal Klingbeil

Perhaps you have opened your closet and realized that you didn't have anything to wear. Sure, your closet was full of clothes but you felt that you didn't have the right thing to wear for going to a particular place or meeting certain people.

Sixteen-year old John Loughborough also had clothes trouble. He knew that he had been called to travel and preach about the soon coming of Jesus but he faced a big problem. He only had his old work clothes and nothing to wear that he could preach in. A kind neighbor heard about the 'nothing to wear problem' and gave John his old used suit pants. The neighbor was a big six-foot man and John was not a tall person so the pants were at least seven inches too long. The seven inches were cut off, but still the pants didn't fit very well. John's brother gave him a double-breasted overcoat, which had also been cut short.

With this strange outfit John went off to preach. At the first house he came to the family invited him in and offered to hang up his overcoat for him. Poor John, blushing and stammering had to explain that he couldn't take the overcoat off as he had no shirt. But even this embarrassing incident couldn't hold John back. He was so excited about Jesus coming that he was prepared to be embarrassed if it could help others. His first preaching tour with the too big outfit, cemented a life-long passion for preaching in John's heart. Three years later, after accepting the Sabbath truth, John became one of the most travelled Seventh-day Adventist preachers, breaking new mission territory, and introducing thousands to Jesus. Even as an old man he continued preaching. At the age of 76 he made a 16-month trip around the world preaching 352 times.

What a good thing it was that John didn't let his fear of embarrassment stop him from helping so many people.

*Based on James Nix's book *Passion, Purpose & Power*, pg. 166, and Arthur Spaldings' *Pioneer Stories*, pg. 148.