

A Bimonthly Publication of the Ellen G. White Seventh-day
Adventist Research Centre, Northern Caribbean University

Spirit of Prophecy Newsletter

Unity in Mission

Robert Wright

The Spirit of Prophecy Newsletter

The *Spirit of Prophecy Newsletter* is a publication dedicated to the promotion of the biblical truth concerning God's revelation through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit of Prophecy. This newsletter is published by the Ellen G. White SDA Research Centre, NCU to equip readers to participate in the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Editorial Staff:

Dr. Robert Wright, Acting Director; Manifa Riley, Secretary; Mrs. Sonia Lewis

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Christ's prayer for the church, as recorded in John 17, is that we may be one, even as He and the Father are one. The disciples were to be united as the general body of believers is to be united. This oneness is one element of the image of God that must be restored in His children. It is Satan's consistent purpose to create division among the people of God, for he knows that nothing worthwhile can be accomplished while we are at odds with each other.

The early church had a serious mission of world evangelism to pursue after the ascension of Jesus Christ. However, there was division and self-seeking among the disciples. Each had his own agenda for power and position. Each had his own need to be served, not to serve. The Bible says "there was also strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest." Luke 22:24. How could they minister the word of God while not fully aware of the nature of His Kingdom?

During the forty days He spent on the earth after His resurrection, Christ had occasion to instruct them more fully in the things concerning the Kingdom of God. "To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God..." Acts 1:3. It was for a clearer understanding of their mission that Jesus, having instructed them, then "...breathed on them and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost," John 20:22. Now that they are more enlightened as to their commission, they are also more aware of their inadequacy. The same Holy Ghost that Christ "breathed on them" was to bring them into unity of the faith, in preparation for a united onslaught against the kingdom of darkness.



Only when the disciples were united in faith, in purpose, and in selfless love were they ready for the Power that Jesus had promised. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance," Acts 2: 1-4. (continued on p. 2)

Unity in Mission cont'd from p. 1

As the church seeks to finish work of preaching the gospel to the entire world, our great need is for unity among its members. As we pray for Revival and Reformation we should be earnestly praying for unity as well, and we should make every effort to effect that unity as much as depends on us. *“Do not let division come in to destroy the spirit of unity. We want unity; and when we pray together, let faith lay hold upon the Mighty One. Christ is looking upon us in love. If we will walk in His footsteps, following on to know the Lord, we shall know that His going forth is prepared as the morning.”* (Miscellaneous Collections – Loma Linda Messages, 566).

Unprecedented Holy Ghost power is promised to the church today. The work to be done is greater now than in the days of the disciples. Unbelief,

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immorality and satanic activity are at an all-time high. The church needs Power. This Power is available, but we must unite and pray, even as the disciples prayed.

“The Spirit came upon the waiting, praying disciples with a fullness that reached every heart. The Infinite One revealed Himself in power to His church. It was as if for ages this influence had been held in restraint, and now Heaven rejoiced in being able to pour out upon the church the riches of the Spirit's grace. And under the influence of the Spirit, words of penitence and confession mingled with songs of praise for sins forgiven. Words of thanksgiving and of prophecy were heard. All heaven bent low to behold and to adore the wisdom of matchless, incomprehensible love. Lost in wonder, the apostles exclaimed, Herein is love.” They grasped the imparted gift. And what followed? The sword of the Spirit, newly edged with power and bathed in the lightning of heaven, cut its way through unbelief. Thousands were converted in a day. (Acts of the Apostles, 38).

The results that accompanied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost were phenomenal. Under the guiding influence of the Spirit of God, the united efforts of the members of the new church could not be withstood by the

forces of darkness. The Church went forward “conquering and to conquer.” *“The glad tidings of a risen Saviour were carried to the uttermost parts of the inhabited world. As the disciples proclaimed the message of redeeming grace, hearts yielded to the power of this message. The church beheld converts flocking to her from all directions. Backsliders were reconverted. Sinners united with believers in seeking the pearl of great price. Some who had been the bitterest opponents of the gospel became its champions. The prophecy was fulfilled, He that is feeble . . . shall be as David; and the house of David . . . as the angel of the Lord.”* Zechariah 12:8. *Every Christian saw in his brother a revelation of divine love and benevolence. One interest prevailed; one subject of emulation swallowed up all others. The ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ's character and to labor for the enlargement of His kingdom.* (Acts of the Apostles, 48).

Will Pentecost be repeated in these last days? No! It will be surpassed. The church needs to experience the UNITY for which Jesus prayed. When that happens, the Power will come in answer to the prayer of faith.

Christian Growth

“The plant grows by receiving that which God has provided to sustain its life. So spiritual growth is



attained through co-operation with divine agencies. As the plant takes root in the soil, so we are to take root in Christ. As the plant receives the sunshine, the dew, and the rain, so are we to receive the Holy Spirit. If our hearts are stayed upon Christ, He will come unto us “as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.” As the Sun of Righteousness, He will arise upon us “with healing in His wings.” We shall “grow as the lily.” We “shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine.” Hosea 6:3; Malachi 4:2; Hosea 14:5, 7. {Education p. 106.1}

Did you know that....

The SDA church adopted its name in the 1860s, organized local conferences in 1861, and finally established the General Conference in 1863. Several of the leading brethren had opposed such a move, affirming that organization was "Babylon." Dederen, R. (2000). *Handbook of SDA Theology*, USA: Review and Herald.

GET PAIN RELIEF WITH TURMERIC

Tumeric, also known as jiang haung, is a herb widely used for medicinal purposes and also as a seasoning across the Caribbean and Asia. It is what gives its vibrant yellow colour, popular in many Indian, Chinese, Thai and West Indian dishes. ... As a medicinal herb, it has several benefits, namely for pain relief, easing joints, menstrual and abdominal pain.



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JOINT BENEFITS

Turmeric is a popular herb in herbal formulas for joint pain in the upper body, in particular joint pain which is made worse with cold weather. This is because of the herb's warming nature. It can be used in combination with other herbs or by itself in teas for swellings, stiffness, heaviness and pain in the neck, shoulders, elbows and fingers. This herb brings pain relief by working to promote the movement of blood in these areas while warming the joint.

MENSTRUAL BENEFITS

Turmeric is also used for menstrual problems such as long menstrual cycles and painful menses. Again because of the herb's warming nature, it is used in cases where pain is prolonged; significant because menstrual cycles are usually accompanied by a tendency toward getting cold easily.



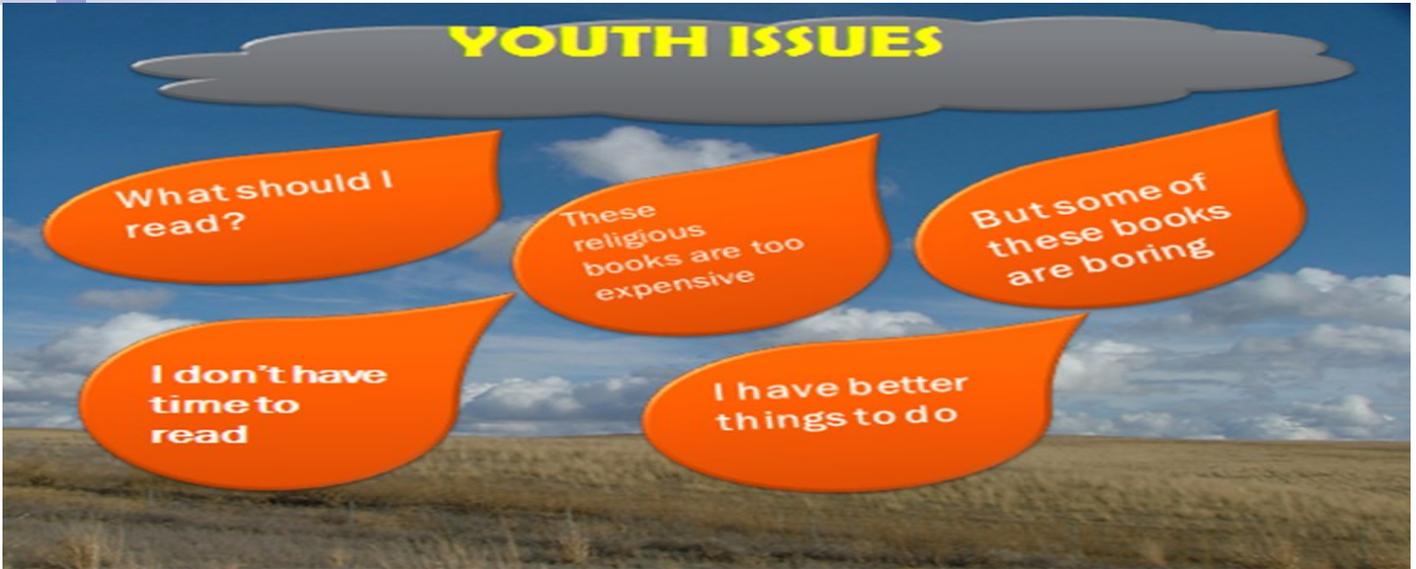
CAUTION: As with any food herb caution may be necessary for people with certain conditions. Persons who are very frail, weak or anaemic should avoid this herb in large amounts.

Source: Brown, T. (2012, Sept. 19) *The Gleaner*.

ELLEN G. WHITE VIEWS: "It would have been better if, from the first, all drugs had been kept out of our sanitariums, and use had been made of such simple remedies as are found in pure water, pure air, sunlight, and some of the simple herbs growing in the field. These would be just as efficacious as the drugs used under mysterious names, and concocted by human science. And they would leave no injurious effects in the system." *Selected Messages Bk. 2*, p. 291.

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Wise Choice of Books

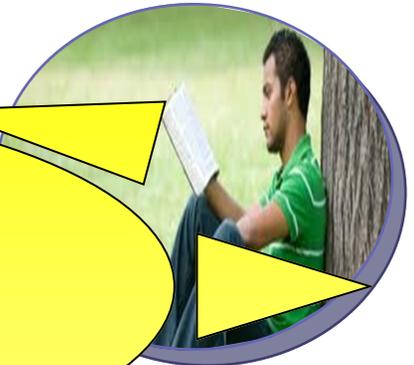
Mrs. White received her *last known vision* on March 3, 1915, a little more than four months before her death. It concerned the welfare of the youth in the church.

"There are books," she said, "that are of vital importance that are not looked at by our young people.

Mrs. White's last known vision concerned the welfare of the youth in the church.

They are neglected because they are not so interesting to them as some lighter reading." *Review and Herald, April 15, 1915*

"Novels should not find a place in the homes of those who believe in Christ. Do not keep before the youth that which is represented as wood, hay, and stubble, for it will poison the appetite for that which is represented as gold, silver, and precious stones. The inclination for light, trashy reading is to be strictly denied." *My Life Today, p. 89*

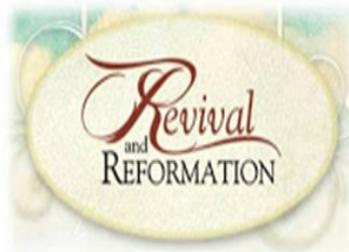


"In the night season I was selecting and laying aside books that have no advantage to the young. We should select for them books that will encourage them to sincerity of life, a lead them to opening of the Word." *Review & Herald, April 15, 1915.*

REVIVAL AND REFORMATION

“The old standard bearers knew what it was to wrestle with God in prayer, and to enjoy the outpouring of His Spirit. But these are passing off from the stage of action; and who are coming up to fill their places? How is it with the rising generation? Are they converted to God? Are we awake to the work that is going on in the heavenly sanctuary, or are we waiting for some compelling power to come upon the church before we shall arouse? Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? That time will never come.

There are persons in the church who are not converted, and who will not unite in earnest, prevailing



prayer. We must enter upon the work individually. We must pray more, and talk less. Iniquity abounds, and the people must be taught not to be satisfied with a form of godliness without the spirit and power. If we are intent upon searching our own hearts, putting away our sins, and correcting our evil tendencies, our souls will not be lifted up unto vanity; we shall be distrustful of ourselves, having an abiding sense that our sufficiency is of God.

We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength

and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world. Unbelievers have a right to expect that those who profess to be keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will do more than any other class to promote and honor, by their consistent lives, by their godly example and their active influence, the cause which they represent. But how often have the professed advocates of the truth proved the greatest obstacle to its advancement! The unbelief indulged, the doubts expressed, the darkness cherished, encourage the presence of evil angels, and open the way for the accomplishment of Satan's devices.” *Selected Messages* p.122



We must pray more, and talk less.



GIFT OF PROPHECY QUESTION

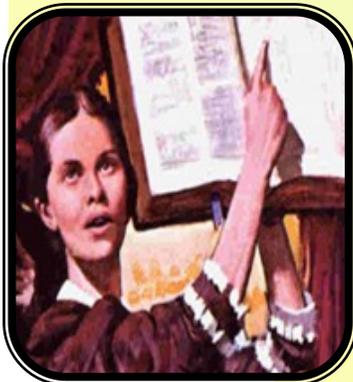
Question: Do the writings of Mrs. E. G. White constitute for the church of Christ a new Bible?

Answer: emphatically no.

Mrs. White's Estimate of the Bible

The estimate in which Mrs. White held the word of God and the manner in which she commended its study to others are well expressed in the following words:

“The Bible is our rule of faith and doctrine. There is nothing more calculated to energize the mind and strengthen the intellect than the study of the word of God. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts or give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose that are rarely seen in these times. *Gospel Workers* p. 249



“What book can compare with the Bible? An understanding of its teachings is essential for every child and youth, and for those of mature age; for it is the word of God, given to guide the human family to heaven. In the world today there are gods many and doctrines many. Without an understanding of the Scriptures it is impossible for the youth to understand what is truth, or to discern between the sacred and the common.”

“The word of God should stand as the highest educating book in our world and should be treated with reverential awe. It should be placed in the hands of the children and youth as the great lesson book, that they may know Him whom to know aright is life eternal.” *Counsel to Parents Teachers and Students*, p.427

“Press Together”

“Again and again the angel has said to me, “Press together, press together, be of one mind, of one judgment.” Christ is the Leader, and you are brethren; follow Him. Walk in the light as He is in the light.”

Christian Leadership p.11

PIONEER OF THE MONTH

Anna Knight (1874-1972)



Anna Knight was an educator, nurse, missionary, Bible and departmental worker, and author. When she was a child in Mississippi, educational opportunities for African American children were almost nonexistent. She learnt basic reading skills by listening, on Sundays, to white children read and spell. Having no pencil or paper, she practiced her writing by scratching the earth with a stick.

One Sunday morning Anna found a column in a magazine inviting readers to send their names for correspond-

ence. She sent her name in, and received 40 offers of books, magazines, and correspondence. Two of these were from Seventh-day Adventist. Bundles of Adventist papers soon arrived. Finally, because she could not afford so many stamps, she settled on one correspondent, Edith Embree, a clerk in the Seventh-day Adventist track society at Oakland, California. Edith first gift book to her was Ellen White's *Step to Christ*. In two nights she read it through. The weekly mail came from Edith with some lessons on the heavenly sanctuary, and Anna devoured these lessons. She studied long hours, and gave her heart to the lord. She finally determined to keep the Sabbath.

Anna attend Mount

Vernon Academy, and in 1898, graduated from Battle Creek College as a missionary Nurse. She served as the first missionary of African descent to be sent to India by any Christian denomination. In later years she practiced nursing, taught, and did Bible work in the South. She also served in the Southern Union education department for a time. At 98 years of age Anna was president of the National Colored Teachers' Association.

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Sabbath Programmes at the Research Centre



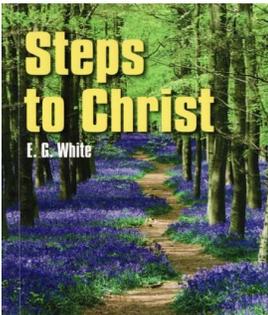
The Centre opens its doors to one church per month to worship on a Sabbath at our facilities.

We also conduct seminars and AY programmes at local churches. For appointments call or e-mail us at the addresses on this page.

We are on the web:
<http://egw-sdaresearch.ncu.edu.jm/>



BOOK OF THE MONTH Steps to Christ



Do you know Jesus, or do you only know about Him? This popular little book was written by one who knew Jesus as perhaps few have known Him in the history of mankind. She knew the meaning of the words: "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." John 17:3. She

personally accepted the promise of John 1:12, "As many received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

As you read this volume you may well be drawn into Christ's presence, as have countless others. You may find Jesus standing before you with hands outstretched, saying: "I can answer your deepest personal and spiritual needs.:

STEPS TO CHRIST, published in more than 135 languages, has sold more than 50 million copies. This edition represents perhaps the largest single printing of any religious book in history. The continued demand attests to its timeless and universality of its clear, direct, and simple message.

Do you have any questions or comments on Spirit of Prophecy matters?

If you do, please call us or send your questions to:

*Ellen G. White SDA Research Centre
Northern Caribbean University,
Mandeville, Manchester, Jamaica, W.I.*

Tel: (876) 963-7768-9

E-mail:

rwright@ncu.edu.jm

manifa.riley@ncu.edu.jm

egwresource@ncu.edu.jm