

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

Spirit of Prophecy Newsletter

THE ROLE OF MRS. WHITE'S WRITINGS IN THE START AND SPREAD OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISM IN THE ANGLO-CARIBBEAN

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The Spirit of Prophecy Newsletter

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

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Inside this issue:

For Christian Growth	2
Did you know?	3
Health Corner	3
Youth Issues	4
Revival and Reformation	5
Pioneer of the Month	7
Book of the Month	8

INTRODUCTION

As we bridge into a new year, perhaps an article of this kind is most germane in that we need to take cognizance of the pan-Caribbean mandate and mission of the Centre from which this Newsletter is being sent. The Centre is located not only here at Northern Caribbean University which is sponsored by both the Jamaica Union (JAMU) and the Atlantic Caribbean Union (ATCU) but, on a larger scale, within the Miami-based Inter-American Division (IAD), one of its principal sponsors as well.

In that regard, it should be pointed out that, historically, the inspired writings of Mrs. White have played a pivotal role in the start and spread of Seventh-day Adventism throughout the IAD as a whole—as they have done elsewhere in the world. This is so because of the key role which literature evangelists, colporteurs, canvassers or (in the words of Greenleaf) bookmen have always played in the whole church-planting and church-nurturing process.

The IAD was officially established in 1922 in the wake of the demise of one of its smaller precursors, namely, the West Indian Union (WIU). The WIU, given the rather imprecise cartographical borders and

boundaries characterizing our complex Caribbean Region and in an effort to enhance and advance the mission of the Church within the Region, underwent various organizational and even geographical permutations and combinations since its inception in 1906. The WIU was finally disbanded in 1919.

Being true of our multilingual (Dutch, English, French and Spanish) IAD—taking in, for example, the Dutch Antilles, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico—means that it is also true of the Anglo-Caribbean slice of the Region as well. The Anglo-Caribbean will be the main focus of this relatively brief article.

CANVASSERS AND THEIR ROLES IN THE ANGLO-CARIBBEAN

The regional reach of the canvassers or the bookmen with their bags and, sometimes, their bicycles, encompassed the more insular English-speaking Islands which are immersed in the Caribbean Sea, those countries hugging the American mainland as well as those which are located further out in the larger Atlantic Ocean. Reference is here being



made to islands and territories like Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos.

(Continued on p. 2)

THE ROLE OF MRS. WHITE'S WRITINGS IN THE START AND SPREAD OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISM IN THE ANGLO-CARIBBEAN (cont'd from p.1)

In the start and spread of the Church in these areas, we have to give retroactive recognition to our committed bookmen who facilitated the genesis and growth of the Church by selling, alongside items such as *Signs of the Times*, *The Youth Instructor* or *Bible Readings for the Home Circle*, books by Mrs. White like *Christ's Object Lessons*, *Desire of Ages*, *The Great Controversy* and *Patriarchs and Prophets*,

In three relatively brief excerpts drawn from his magisterial two-volume work on the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Latin America and the Caribbean, Floyd Greenleaf, for example, writes as follows:

1. "Among the better known [bookmen or colporteurs] were George King, the first Adventist colporteur, and William Arnold, who toured the islands selling books and magazines. In 1891, the *Daily Chronicle* [a Newspaper] of Georgetown, British Guiana, observed that Arnold had sold between 700 and 800 subscriptions to *The Great Controversy*" (page 13).
2. "King, Arnold, and Palmquist were not the only bookmen in the Caribbean. B.B. Newman in

Jamaica, and J.D. Kenwood and Willis Hackett in the Lesser Antilles fought poverty and tropical climates to place Adventist literature in the homes of islanders" (pages 13-14).

3. "Long after ordained ministers entered Latin America and the Caribbean, colporteurs continued to ply their trade with an eye turned toward "virgin territory". Such regions were scarce among the islands. Because insular territories were small, bookmen easily defined their market areas and covered them relatively quickly" (page 14).

Alvin Makapela, the Afro-South African Seventh-day Adventist scholar, puts it rather concisely but correctly in his two-volume doctoral dissertation. He states that: "Seventh-day Adventist messengers who first went to the Caribbean...were self-supporting colporteurs" (page 181).

Unfortunately, those who take the time to chronicle the important contributions made by our canvassers or bookmen of yesteryear to the start and spread of the Church in the Anglo-Caribbean and elsewhere in the world do

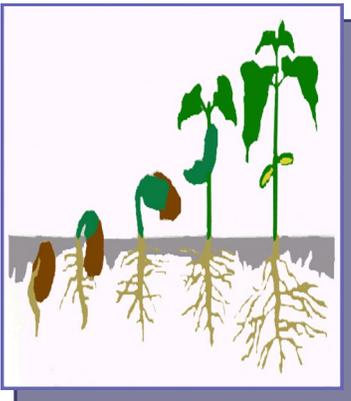
not always disclose to us what the full contents of the bags of the bookmen were. We are therefore left with no choice but to draw some defensible inferences—given the cardinal importance which Mrs. White's inspired books have always played in our whole end-time mission to the world.

Such a role for her writings would also include the use of quotations from her books which appeared in some of the volumes which were written by Seventh-day Adventist authors and were being sold or those excerpts which undoubtedly appeared in our own Church publications like *Signs of the Times*. Undoubtedly, her writings were an integral part of the bookmen's arsenal and therefore contributed to the genesis and growth of the Church throughout the Caribbean Region and beyond.

Such an extrapolation is permissible, for example, in the case of Eric Murray's otherwise informative account. He writes: "One year after Elder [L.M.] Crowther died [on August 25, 1901], two colporteurs, William Porter and C.N. B. Dunmetz, pioneered the book work in Tobago, scattering the printed page in all parts of the island" (page 26).

(Continued on p. 6)

FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH



"All who are baptized are to give evidence that they have been converted. There is not a point that needs to be dwelt upon more earnestly, repeated more frequently, or established more firmly in the minds of all than the impossibility of fallen man meriting anything by his own best good works. Salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ alone." {Faith and Works p. 18.1}

Did you know?

Ellen G. White spoke about Jamaica in her writings!



"I spent three weeks at the Paradise Valley Sanitarium, but was sick all the time. I contracted a severe cold on my way down there. In order that the others in the building might not be exposed, I kept very closely to my own room. The day before I left, Brother and Sister Richardson insisted on seeing me, that they might tell me of the many advantages that Jamaica possesses for sanitarium work. I certainly hope that this field may be entered by earnest laborers. I shall not attempt to tell you what Brother and Sister Richardson told me; for I was sick at the time, and could not hear all they said." {Manuscript Releases Vol. 14 p. 248.2}

Health Principles to be Repeated Frequently

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- * Eat slowly
- * Eat only a limited variety at a time

"In all the restaurants in our cities, there is danger that the combination of many foods in the dishes served shall be carried too far. The stomach suffers when so many kinds of food are placed in it at one meal. Simplicity is a part of health reform. There is danger that our work shall cease to merit the name which it has borne. If we would work for the restoration of health, it is necessary to restrain the appetite, to eat slowly,

and only a limited variety at one time. This instruction needs to be repeated frequently. It is not in harmony with the principles of health reform to have so many different dishes at one meal. We must never forget that it is the religious part of the work, the work of providing food for the soul, that is more essential than anything else." {*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 275.5}



Youth Issues

Tips for the New Year



Can you look back upon your course through the past year with sweet satisfaction? Have you made progress in the way to heaven?—Have you been overcoming your pride of heart, your pride of dress, and are you becoming more humble, meek, like Jesus, the lovely Pattern? {*Youth Instructor*, January 1, 1856 par. 1}

The new year has commenced, and with the commencement of this new year, you should dedicate yourselves to God. Now give yourself to Him, soul, body, and spirit, to do His will. Let all selfishness, your disobedience to your parents, all your faults, and besetting sins die with the old year. Begin this new year to the glory of God. Pray to Him, morning, noon, and night, to give you a meek and humble spirit, a mild temper, an affectionate disposition. Live as you never lived before. Begin this new year with new feelings, fresh desires, and a strong determination to glorify God. {*Youth Instructor*, January 1, 1856 par. 2}

This year can be the happiest year of your life; you can do more good to others than you have ever yet done. You can be a comfort to your parents, and a blessing to all around you. Commence the year aright, by devoting yourself to God. Spend a portion of your time each day in praying to Him for strength, that you may resist evil, and every day overcome, until it will be easy praying, easy believing. {*Youth Instructor*, January 1, 1856 par. 3}



Let your thoughts dwell upon things of earth less, and upon heaven more. When you are with your associates, talk about Jesus instead of dress and appearance, Do you love Jesus? If you do you will love to talk about Him. Do you love His appearing? If you do, you will love to dwell upon it, Does heaven charm you? Does it attract you? If so, you cannot hold your peace. You will talk about it; for you will always have it uppermost in your mind, and be ready to converse, when you meet with your friends, upon that which most charms, and engrosses the mind, Talk about your hopes of heaven, your joys, your eternal prospects, and then when you part with your friends, you will be benefited by each others society, and there will be a sweet satisfaction when you meet and when you part, instead of barrenness of soul, and an empty feeling. {*Youth Instructor*, January 1, 1856 par. 4}

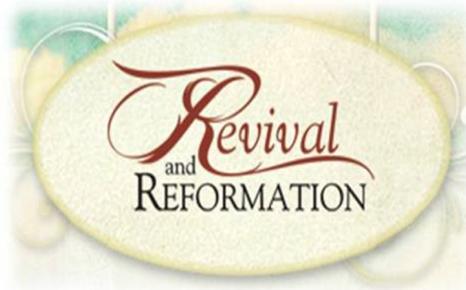
REVIVAL AND REFORMATION

The Mind Renewed

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:2.

The part man has to act in the salvation of the soul is to believe on Jesus Christ as a perfect Redeemer, not for some other man, but for his own self. He is to trust, to love, to fear the God of heaven. There is a certain work to be accomplished. Man must be delivered from the power of sin. He must be made perfect in every good work. In doing the words of Christ is his only assurance that his house is built upon the solid foundation. To hear, to say, to preach, and not to do the words of Christ is building upon the sand.

Those who do the words of Christ will perfect a Christian character, because Christ's will is their will. Thus is Christ formed



within, the hope of glory. They are beholding, as in a glass, the glory of God. By our making Christ the subject of meditation, He will become the subject of conversation; and by beholding, we will actually be changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even by the Spirit of the Lord. Man, fallen man, may be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that he can "prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." How does he prove this? By the Holy Spirit taking possession of his mind, spirit, heart, and character. Where does the proving come in? "We are made a spectacle to the world, and to angels, and to men" (1 Corinthians 4:9). A real work is wrought by the Holy Spirit upon the human character, and its fruits are seen; just as a good tree will bear good fruit, so will the tree that is actually

planted in the Lord's garden produce good fruit unto eternal life.

Besetting sins are overcome; evil thoughts are not allowed in the mind; evil habits are purged from the soul temple. The tendencies, which have been biased in a wrong direction, are turned in a right direction. Wrong dispositions and feelings are rooted out. Holy tempers and sanctified

emotions are now the fruit borne upon the Christian tree. An entire transformation has taken place. This is

"those who do the words of Christ will perfect Christian character..."

the work to be wrought.--Elder E. P. Daniels and the Fresno Church, pp. 8, 9. {*Ye Shall Receive Power* p. 50.4}

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Or, from Greenleaf, we read again: “In addition to the books and papers sold by self-supporting colporteurs, other less formal distribution took place. When L.C. Chadwick put in at Belize in 1892, he discovered that a leader in the Wesleyan church had purchased books from the Adventist International Tract Society to sell publicly. As a result, several readers began observing Saturday as Sabbath” (page 14).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, perhaps I should point out that another area of relative weakness in telling the whole story regarding the indispensable role which canvassers or bookmen have played in the start and spread of the Seventh-day Adventist Church throughout the Anglo-Caribbean Region, it seems to me, is the key role which nationals

themselves have also played in God’s Kingdom-building business—as opposed to those numerous self-sacrificing missionaries from abroad (mainly North America) who, at times, risked both life and limb in the sharing of the Gospel through the medium of the printed page.

As Director of the Centre, I would invite readers from throughout our Region to submit, be it in print, pictures or whatever else, information about such nationals, canvassers or whoever might have made a substantial contribution to the start and spread of the church in their area. One such outstanding example of an overlooked Caribbean bookman, for example, is Francis Read (sometimes spelled, Reid), the Afro-Bermudan, who traveled to Battle Creek in the late 19th century where he not only encountered Seventh-day Adventism for the first time while there but also became a Seventh-day Adventist himself. He then returned

home to Bermuda, with fire in his bones, as it were, and started the work there by distributing literature—including, we are told, *The Great Controversy*.

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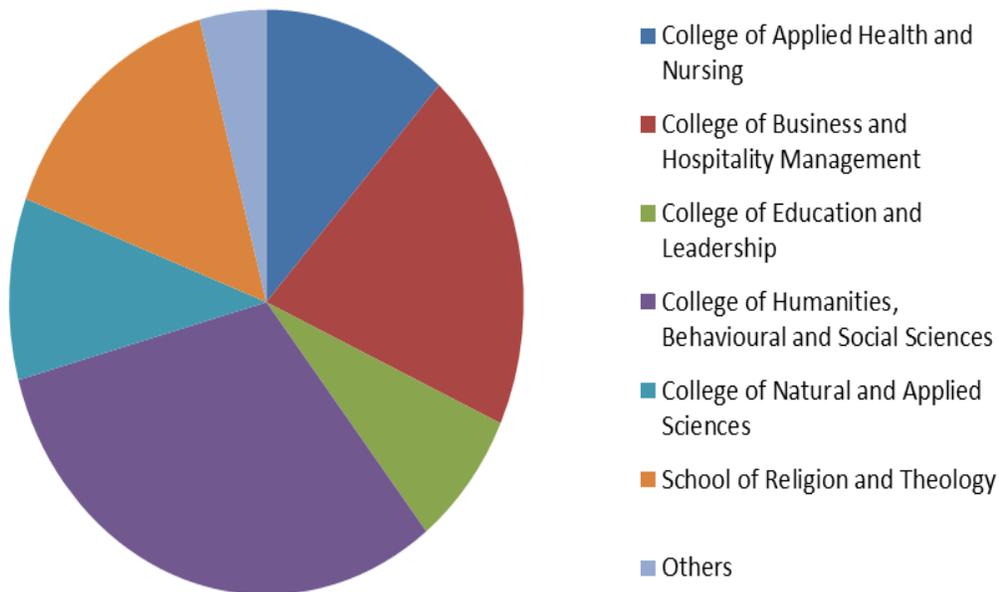
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Pattern of Student Attendance to the Centre for November, 2013

Vistors for November, 2013



The majority of students who visited the Centre were from the **College of Humanities, Behavioural and Social Sciences**, followed by the **College of Business and Hospitality Management** and then the **School of Religion and Theology**.

PIONEER OF THE MONTH

William W. Prescott (1855–1944)



W. W. Prescott was an influential administrator, educator, and scholar. His parents had been Millerites in New England, where he took his schooling, graduating in 1877 from Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire. He taught Latin and Greek while still in his last year in academy and was Principal of two Vermont high schools from 1877 to 1880. Later, he owned and edited the Montpelier, Vermont, *State Republican*.

Prescott was President of Battle Creek College from

1885 to 1894. While still President there, he helped form Union College, becoming its first President in 1891. Then, late in 1892, he also became President of Walla Walla College (now University), thus simultaneously being President of three Adventist Colleges in that year.

In 1917, Prescott, on his way back to the US from South America, visited the famous Hydropathic Sanitarium at its newly acquired facilities in Hastings, Barbados. He was delighted at what he saw. This Sanitarium was founded by Dr. Charles Cave, a Barbadian, who earned his medical degree at Battle Creek's American Medical Missionary College in 1907. That same year, Dr. Cave returned to Barbados with two nurses, namely, Eudora, his wife, and her sister, Mabel Skerret, of Antigua. He met

them both while at Battle Creek. With the help of these two nurses, Dr. Cave offered, at his Sanitarium, services in hydrotherapy, massage and electric treatments instead of drugs. Starting at a time when Adventist medical institutions in the Caribbean were non-existent, it is Greenleaf's opinion that Dr. Cave's near-epic career rates among the highest and finest in Adventist missionary traditions anywhere in the world.

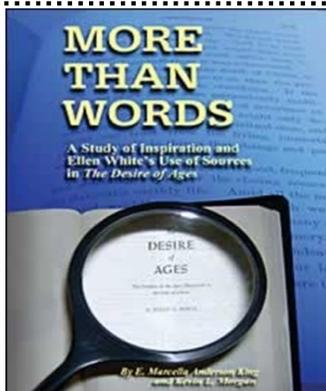


Prescott visited Cave's Sanitarium in Hastings, Barbados in 1917

Greenleaf, Floyd. 1992. *The Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Latin America and the Caribbean*. 2 Volumes. Berrien Springs, Michigan: Andrews University Press, pp.152& 182

Phillips, Glen. 1978. "Barbados' Battle Creek Doctor," *Adventist Heritage*, pp. 22-32

We Recommend



This book recounts the fascinating story behind the writing of one of the most loved and best selling of her works—the devotional classic on the life of Christ, *The Desire of Ages*.

All the major issues regarding the plagiarism charge attributed to Mrs. White are covered in this book.



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Sabbath Programmes at the Research Centre



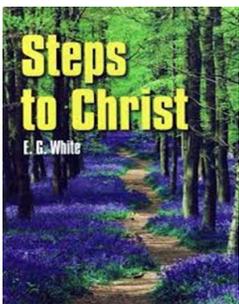
The Centre opens its doors to one church per month to worship on a Sabbath at our facilities. We also conduct seminars and AY programmes at local churches. For appointments call or e-mail us at the address on this page



We are on the Web:
[http://egw-
sdaresearch.ncu.edu.jm/](http://egw-sdaresearch.ncu.edu.jm/)

Book of the Month

Steps to Christ



The title of the book tells its mission. It points the reader to Jesus Christ as the only One who is able to meet the needs of the soul. It directs the feet of the doubting and halting to the pathway of peace. It leads the seeker after righteousness

and wholeness of character, step by step, along the way of Christian living, to that experience where he can know the fullness of blessing which is found in the complete surrender of self. It reveals to him the secret of victory as it unfolds in simplicity the saving grace and the keeping power of the great Friend of all mankind.

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

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

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