

Spirit of Prophecy Newsletter

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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.

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True and False Education

Infidel Authors

In order to obtain an education, many think it essential to study the writings of infidel authors, because these works contain many bright gems of thought. But who was the originator of these gems of thought? It was God, and God only. He is the source of all light. Why then should we wade through the mass of error contained in the works of infidels for the sake of a few intellectual truths, when all truth is at our command. {MH 440.2}

How is it that men who are at war with the government of God come into possession of the wisdom which they sometimes display? Satan himself was educated in the heavenly courts, and he has a knowledge of good as well as of evil. He mingles the precious with the vile, and this is what gives him power to deceive. But because Satan

has robed himself in garments of heavenly brightness, shall we receive him as an angel of light? The tempter has his agents, educated according to his methods, inspired by his spirit, and adapted to his work. Shall we co-operate with them? Shall we receive the works of his agents as essential to the acquirement of an education? {MH 440.3}

If the time and effort spent in seeking to grasp the bright ideas of infidels were given to studying the precious things of the word of God, thousands who now sit in darkness and in the shadow of death would be rejoicing in the glory of the Light of life.

{MH 440.4}

Historical and Theological Lore

As a preparation for Christian work, many think it essential to acquire an extensive knowledge of historical and theological

writings. They suppose that this knowledge will be an aid to them in teaching the gospel. But their laborious study of the opinions of men tends to the enfeebling of their ministry, rather than to its strengthening. As I see libraries filled with ponderous volumes of historical and theological lore, I think, Why spend money for that which is not bread? The sixth chapter of John tells us more than can be found in such works. Christ says: "I am the Bread of Life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst." "I am the living Bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this Bread, he shall live forever." "He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life." "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:35, 51, 47, 63. {MH 441.1}

Continued on p. 2

"I will instruct thee in the way which thou shalt go, I will guide thee with mine eyes." Psalm 32:8

True and False Education (cont'd from p. 1)

There is a study of history that is not to be condemned. Sacred history was one of the studies in the schools of the prophets. In the record of His dealings with the nations were traced the footsteps of Jehovah. So today we are to consider the dealings of God with the nations of the earth. We are to see in history the fulfillment of prophecy, to study the workings of Providence in the great reformatory movements, and to understand the progress of events in the marshaling of the nations for the final conflict of the great controversy. {MH 441.2}

Such study will give broad, comprehensive views of life. It will help us to understand something of its relations and dependencies, how wonderfully we are bound together in the great brotherhood of society and nations, and to how great an extent the oppression and degradation of one member means loss to all. {MH 442.1}

But history, as commonly studied, is concerned with man's achievements, his victories in battle, his success in attaining

power and greatness. God's agency in the affairs of men is lost sight of. Few study the working out of His purpose in the rise and fall of nations. {MH 442.2}

And, to a great degree, theology, as studied and taught, is but a record of human speculation, serving only to "darken counsel by words without knowledge." Too often the motive in accumulating these many books is not so much a desire to obtain food for mind and soul, as it is an ambition to become acquainted with philosophers and theologians, a desire to present Christianity to the people in learned terms and propositions. {MH 442.3}

Not all the books written can serve the purpose of a holy life. "Learn of Me," said the Great Teacher, "'take My yoke upon you,' learn My meekness and lowliness." Your intellectual pride will not aid you in communicating with souls that are perishing for want of the bread of life. In your study of these books you are allowing them to take the place of the practical lessons you should be

learning from Christ. With the results of this study the people are not fed. Very little of the research which is so wearying to the mind furnishes that which will help one to be a successful laborer for souls. {MH 442.4}

The Saviour came "to preach the gospel to the poor." Luke 4:18. In His teaching He used the simplest terms and the plainest symbols. And it is said that "the common people heard Him gladly." Mark 12:37. Those who are seeking to do His work for this time need a deeper insight into the lessons He has given. {MH 443.1}

The words of the living God are the highest of all education. Those who minister to the people need to eat of the bread of life. This will give them spiritual strength; then they will be prepared to minister to all classes of people. {*Ministry of Healing*, pp. 440-443}

"The words of the living God are the highest of all education."—
White

GROWING IN CHRIST

"To make our calling and election sure requires far greater diligence than many are giving to this important matter. "For if ye do these things" [according to 1 Peter 1:5-10] live on the plan of addition, growing in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ—ye shall mount up, step by step, the ladder Jacob saw, and "ye shall never fall." . . . {*Christ Triumphant*, p. 87.3}



Did you know that...

Isaiah 58

The whole of the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah is to be regarded as a message for this time, to be given over and over again.-- *Special Testimonies, Series B, no. 2, p. 5.*

I have been instructed to refer our people to the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. Read this chapter carefully and understand the kind of ministry that will bring life into the churches. *Welfare Ministry, p. 29*

Olive oil—Good Remedy for Constipation

HEALTH CORNER

Ellen White's

Writings— “Olives may be so prepared as to be eaten with good results at every meal. The advantages sought by the use of butter may be obtained by the eating of properly prepared olives. The oil in the olives relieves constipation, and for consumptives, and for those who have inflamed, irritated stomachs, it is better than any drug. As a food it is better than any oil coming secondhand from animals.” *Counsels on Diets and Foods, p. 341*

Science Supports—

Constipation is a severe risk to the colon. Research has shown that olive oil has a protective effect on the mucosa of the colon. Therefore it provides a stimulus for the smooth movement of the stool.

Olive oil also stimulates the gall bladder to produce more bile. The bile helps to digest fats and keeps the stool moister.

SOURCE: Olive oil for Constipation Safe and Nutritive (Unlike Mineral Oil). Retrieved on March 12, 2015 from: <http://www.constipation-remedies-for-all.com/olive-oil-for-constipation.html>



Youth Issues

What shall we play?



Substitute the innocent for the sinful.—Youth cannot be made as sedate and grave as old age, the child as sober as the sire. While sinful amusements are condemned, as they should be, let parents, teachers, and guardians of youth provide in their stead innocent pleasures which will not taint or corrupt the morals. Do not bind down the young to rigid rules and restraints that will lead them to feel themselves oppressed and to break over and rush into paths of folly and destruction. With a firm, kind, considerate hand hold the lines of government, guiding and controlling their minds and purposes, yet so gently, so wisely, so lovingly, that they will still know that you have their best good in view.

There are amusements, such as dancing, card playing, chess, checkers, etc., which we cannot approve because Heaven condemns them. These amusements open the door for great evil. They are not beneficial in their tendency, but have an exciting influence, producing in some minds a passion for those plays which lead to gambling and dissipation. All such plays should be condemned by Christians, and something perfectly harmless should be substituted in their place. {*Adventist Home*, p. 498}

Some
amusements
“open the door
for great evil.”

Find Happiness in the Charms of Nature.

Do not think that God wishes us to yield up everything which it is for our happiness here to retain. All He requires us to give up is that which would not be for our good and happiness to retain.

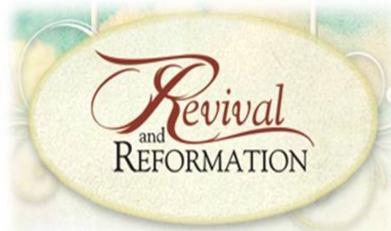
That God who has planted the noble trees and clothed them with their rich foliage, and given us the brilliant and beautiful shades of the flowers, and whose handy and lovely work we see in all the realm of nature, does not design to make us unhappy; He does not design that we shall have no taste and take no pleasure in these things. It is His design that we shall enjoy them. It is His design that we shall be happy in the charms of nature, which are of His own creating.

{*Adventist Home*, p. 502.3}

Counterfeit revivals--what's the difference?

Many of the revivals of modern times have presented a marked contrast to those manifestations of divine grace which in earlier days followed the labors of God's servants. It is true that a widespread interest is kindled, many profess conversion, and there are large accessions to the churches; nevertheless the results are not such as to warrant the belief that there has been a corresponding increase of real spiritual life. The light which flames up for a time soon dies out, leaving the darkness more dense than before. {NL 9.1}

Popular revivals are too often carried by appeals to the imagination, by exciting the emotions, by gratifying the love for what is new and startling. Converts thus gained have little desire to listen to Bible truth, little interest in the testimony of prophets and apostles. Unless a religious service has something of a sensational character, it has no attractions for them. A message which



appeals to unimpassioned reason awakens no response. The plain warnings of God's word, relating directly to their eternal interests, are unheeded. {NL 9.2}

With every truly converted soul the relation to God and to eternal things will be the great topic of life. . . . Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His Word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming. {NL 9.3}

The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it

appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest.

Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of

another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world. {*New Life [Revival and Beyond]* pp. 9-10}

Popular revivals are too often carried by appeals to the imagination, by exciting the emotions, by gratifying the love for what is new and startling.— White

GIFT OF PROPHECY QUESTIONS



What is the counsel regarding cooking on the Sabbath?

* The Sabbath is not to be given to the repairing of garments, to the cooking of food, to pleasure seeking, or to any other worldly employment. Before the setting of the sun, let all secular work be laid aside, and all secular papers be put out of sight. Parents, explain your work and its purpose to your children, and let them share in your preparation to keep the Sabbath according to the commandment. {*Child Guidance*, p. 528.2}



- * Cooking on the Sabbath should be avoided; but it is not therefore necessary to eat cold food. In cold weather the food prepared the day before should be heated. And let the meals, however simple, be palatable and attractive. Especially in families where there are children, it is well, on the Sabbath, to provide something that will be regarded as a treat, something the family do not have every day. {*Ministry of Healing*, pp. 307-8}

Who is “the Greater light” and “the lesser light”?

Many more of our larger books might have been sold if church members had been awake to the importance of the truths these books contain, and had realized their responsibility to circulate them. My brethren and sisters, will you not now make an effort to circulate these books? and will you not bring into this effort the enthusiasm that you brought into the effort to sell "Christ's Object Lessons"? In selling this book many have learned how to handle the larger books. They have obtained an experience that has prepared them to enter the canvassing field. {RH, January 20, 1903 par. 7}

Sister White is not the originator of these books. They contain the instruction that during her life-work God has been giving her. They contain the precious, comforting light that God has graciously given his servant to be given to the world. From their pages this light [lesser light] is to shine into the hearts of men and women, **leading them to the Saviour [Greater light]**. The Lord has declared that these books are to be scattered throughout the world. There is in them truth which to the receiver is a savor of life unto life. They are silent witnesses for God. In the past they have been the means in his hands of convicting and converting many souls. Many have read them with eager expectation, and, by reading them, have been led to see the efficacy of Christ's atonement, and to trust in its power. They have been led to commit the keeping of their souls to their Creator, waiting and hoping for the coming of the Saviour to take his loved ones to their eternal home. In the future, these books are to make the gospel plain to many others, revealing to them the way of salvation. {RH, January 20, 1903 par. 8}

The Lord has sent his people much instruction, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little. Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light. O, how much good would be accomplished if the books containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain! There would be a thousandfold greater vigilance, a thousandfold more self-denial and resolute effort. And many more would now be rejoicing in the light of present truth. {*Review and Herald*, January 20, 1903 par. 9}

The above passage rightly understood lets us know that the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy lead men and women to the Saviour (as highlighted in bold). Likewise, in Desire of Ages (below), the prophet John is referred to as the lesser light who was to be followed by a greater (Jesus). Indeed, John the Baptist testified of Jesus so does the Bible (John 5: 39) and the Sprit of Prophecy (Revelation 19: 10)

The prophet John was the connecting link between the two dispensations. As God's representative he stood forth to show the relation of the law and the prophets to the Christian dispensation. He was the **lesser light**, which was to be followed by a **greater**. The mind of John was illuminated by the Holy Spirit, that he might shed light upon his people; but no other light ever has shone or ever will shine so clearly upon fallen man as that which emanated from the teaching and example of Jesus. Christ and His mission had been but dimly understood as typified in the shadowy sacrifices. Even John had not fully comprehended the future, immortal life through the Saviour. {*Desire of Ages*, p. 220.2}

Pioneer of the Month

William Fransworth (1807-1888)



William Fransworth was one of the first Sabbath keeping Adventists. The story begins in Washington, New Hampshire where, in 1842, a church was built by the Christian Connection. William Fransworth participated in the project. Almost from its construction, so many of the members became believers in the preaching of the second advent by William

Miller, that by 1844 it was a Millerite Adventist church. Although the Sabbath was introduced by 1844, it did not become a Seventh-day Adventist church until 1862.

Rachel Oaks and her 18 year old daughter, Delight, moved to Washington in 1843. Delight was the school teacher. Early the next year Rachel (a Seventh Day Baptist), introduced the Sabbath to the Washington church. The circuit-riding Methodist preacher, Frederick Wheeler, was among the first to accept it, along with the Fransworth brothers early in 1845. they all went through the disappointment on October 22, 1844. at the time, William was 37 years of age and Cyrus was 21. Cyrus married Delight Oaks in 1847, and William eventually fathered 22 children, eleven by his first wife, and, after her death, eleven by his second wife.

In the spring of 1845 Cyrus met with Frederick Wheeler and Joseph Bates in the front yard of his home when Bates came to Washington to examine the Sabbath doctrine. Bates returned home to Fairhaven, Massachusetts, a believer in the Sabbath. He became an active advocate of it through pamphlets and personal witness. Bates's 1846 pamphlet came to James and Ellen White's attention shortly after their marriage in August to that year, and they, too, accepted the seventh-day Sabbath.

William's connection with Ellen White is most often remembered in connection with a December 1867 revival at Washington, New Hampshire, involving his son, Eugene. One of William's daughters, Loretta, was among the first female Bible instructors. Three sons, Eugene, Orvil, and Elmer, became ministers.

Legacy of Light 2008

Puzzle

Read **Isaiah 58** then unscramble the letters below to find out the main emphasis of the passage:

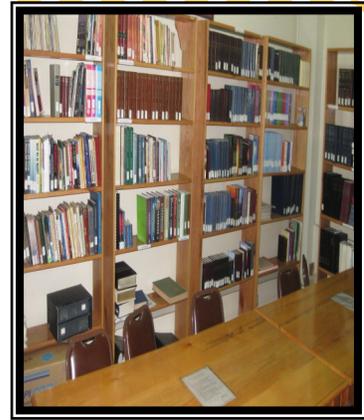
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Sabbath Programmes at the Research Centre



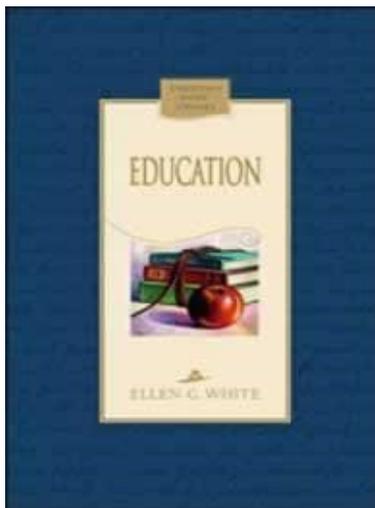
The Centre opens its doors to one church per month to worship on a Sabbath at our facilities. We also conduct seminars and AY programmes at local churches. For appointments call or e-mail us at the addresses on this page.

We are on the Web:

<http://egw-sdaresearch.ncu.edu.jm/>

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Education



This classic work on education sets forth the unique and challenging idea that “the work of education and the work of redemption are one.” The ultimate goal of all learning should be to understand more about our Creator - Redeemer and to reflect that understanding in our personal lives. In her writings on this subject, Ellen White was concerned, not with the details of curriculum or educational system, but with great, guiding principles. The result is a penetrating look at factors that make up true education in its broadest sense. The reader will find in these pages insights to guide not only parents, students, and teachers, but all who seek true education in the great school of life.