

Spirit of Prophecy Newsletter

VOLUME 3, NO. 4

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2015

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, Director;
Miss Abigail Foster,
Secretary; Mrs. Sonia Lewis, NCU
Editor

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RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

by Dr. R. Wright

“On June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the landmark case of Obergefell V. Hodges, 576 U.S. (2015), holding that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by both the *Due Process Clause* and the *Equal Protection Clause* of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.”¹

Subsequent to the Supreme Court ruling, Kimberly Davis (Kim), county clerk of Rowan County, Kentucky, took the decision not to issue any marriage licences, neither same-sex nor opposite sex licences. The US District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky ordered Davis to issue marriage licences as required by law, but she refused. She continued to defy the court order stating that she was acting “under God’s authority.”² Davis was subsequently jailed for five days for contempt of court.

According to Kim Davis, “I never imagined a day like this would come, where I would be asked to violate a central teaching of Scripture and of Jesus Himself regarding marriage. To issue a marriage license which conflicts with God’s definition of marriage, with my name affixed to the certificate would violate my conscience.”

Is this a case of a threat to religious liberty in America? In 2004, eleven Christians were arrested in Philadelphia for preaching the gospel and denouncing homosexuality at a homosexual public event.³ Such incidents have become more and more widespread, not only in the USA, but in other parts of the world. It is interesting to note that while defending the so-called rights of gays, the Constitutional rights of non-gays are not so accentuated.

The current trend of threats to one’s religious rights is a phenomenon that the prophetic

voice of Ellen White articulated over one hundred years ago. However, according to White, the threat to religious liberty in America is laid squarely at the feet of the Roman Church: “The pacific tone of Rome in the United States does not imply a change of heart. She is tolerant where she is helpless. Says Bishop O’Connor: ‘Religious liberty is merely endured until the opposite can be carried into effect without peril to the Catholic world.’... The archbishop of St. Louis once said: ‘Heresy and unbelief are crimes; and in Christian countries, as in Italy and Spain, for instance, where all the people are Catholics, and where the Catholic religion is an essential part of the law of the land, they are punished as other crimes’...” (GC 565).

Continued on page 2

It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law.

Psalm 119: 126

Religious Liberty Cont'd

"The Protestant churches are in great darkness, or they would discern the signs of the times. The Roman Church is far-reaching in her plans and modes of operation. She is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done. Catholicism is gaining ground upon every side...The people need to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty." (GC 566).

Some would question the accuracy of Ellen White's assertion concerning the religious intent of the papacy. After all, did Pope Francis not speak in defence of religious liberty at the United Nations gathering in September of 2015? And did he not visit with Kim Davis and encourage her to be strong in her stance on liberty of conscience? According to the online news site *The Guardian*, "An online Catholic news site called *Inside The Vatican*, edited by Robert Moynihan, was the first to report the alleged meeting. It said that the pope thanked Davis for her courage and told her to stay strong."

⁴ How then should one view Rome's conciliatory mannerisms in the US, its alleged defence of religious liberty? As she gains greater influence in Protestant America can we expect a change in tone? It is the belief of this writer that there will be a seismic shift in position to the surprise of most. Many are not aware of Rome's plan for America: "Catholics are most responsible for the future of America because of sheer numbers. Immigration from Mexico and family sizes mean the old Protestant America is falling off a demographic cliff. Tomorrow's America will no longer be white and Protestant but browner and Catholic... Catholics already have a clear plan to follow to begin the task of re-Christianizing America. It's "The Plan" unveiled by Pope John Paul II in his 2001 apostolic letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (At the Beginning of the New Millennium)... He called for a creative, vigorous and wide-scale promotion of the fundamentals of Catholic life... Can we succeed? The Pope thinks so. We should accept and imitate the optimism he showed at the 2000 National Prayer Breakfast."⁵

These are interesting times. Will Ellen White be vindicated? Will the Bible again be proved true? Watch the developments in America and the world, and follow tomorrow's news in the book *The Great Controversy* by Ellen G. White.

SOURCES:

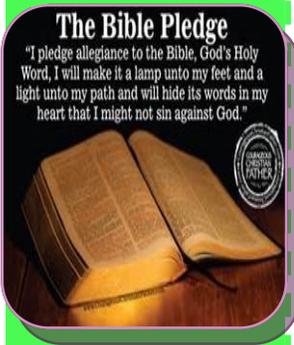
¹Mack, David (September 1, 2015). "Meet Kim Davis, the Woman Denying Same-Sex Couples Marriage Licenses in Kentucky". Buzz Feed.

²Ibid.

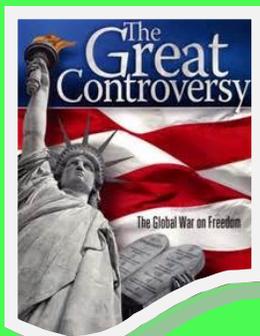
³Conservapedia. (2012, August 27). *Homosexuality and Religious Liberty*. Retrieved October 1, 2015, from http://www.conservapedia.com/Homosexuality_and_Religious_Liberty.

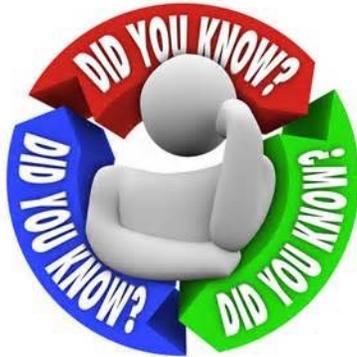
⁴*Pope Francis met 'anti-gay' Kentucky clerk Kim Davis*. (2015, September 30). Retrieved October 1, 2015, from *The Guardian*: <http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/sep/30/all>.

⁵Catholic.Net. (n.d.). *American's Future Depends on Catholics*. Retrieved 2015, from <http://www.catholic.net/index.php?dedestaca&id=1610&canal=News>.



"The people need to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious"





Mrs. White had a good sense of humor and enjoyed the happy things of life. She was understanding and had the ability to put people at ease. One time Sara McEnterfer,

Ellen’s travelling companion and nurse,

offered her some greens, saying, “Mother, here is your



horse feed.” Ellen glanced over the

table and quickly retorted, “I don’t

know that my horse feed is any worse than your cowpeas!” - Notes and Papers

Concerning Ellen G. White and The Spirit of Prophecy, p. 387.



Avocado – Lowers ‘bad’ Cholesterol

HEALTH CORNER

Ellen White’s Writing -

Nature will want some assistance to bring things to their proper condition, which may be found in the simplest remedies, especially in the use of nature's own furnished remedies. It is not a denial of faith to use such remedies as God has provided to alleviate pain and to aid nature in her work of restoration. We should employ every facility for the restoration of health, taking every advantage possible, working in harmony with natural laws. {2SM 286.1}

--Ministry of Healing, pp. 231, 232

Science Supports -

A study published by the *Journal of the American Heart Association* has shown that eating avocado daily can help keep “bad” cholesterol levels under control. Consuming just one avocado per day, with other healthy fats like coconut oil, can help regulate LDL cholesterol in overweight people. Just one avocado has more potassium than a banana which can naturally help to lower blood pressure. Avocados strengthen the immune system due to being loaded with glutathione, a powerful antioxidant that detoxifies the blood and blocks cancer-causing free radicals.

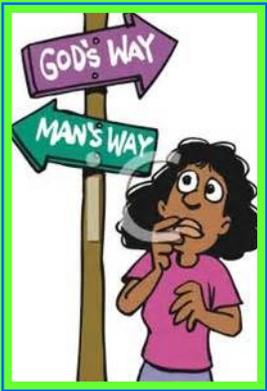
Source:

Schmidt, D. (2015, February 15). *The Powerful Health Benefits of Avocados*. Retrieved September 24, 2015, from Natural Health 365: <http://www.naturalhealth365.com/avocados-cardiovascular-disease-bad-cholesterol-1317.html>



Youth Issues

What is the aim and purpose of my life?



“God’s purpose
opens
opportunities
for every heart
Jesus has
touched”

The **highest purpose** for your life is to give the gospel to the world in this generation. That purpose opens opportunities for everyone whose heart Jesus has touched. God's purpose for you is wider, deeper, higher than your limited vision has ever imagined! God often picks reliable persons from unlikely places to witness for Him in the world's highest places.

—*A Call to Stand Apart* pg. 100

Got purpose!

As young people, the enemy wants us to believe that there is no purpose or reason for our existence, he hopes that we will believe his lie, and live a reckless life, which would confirm his ideas about us. God knew he would seek to infiltrate our minds with this fabrication, and so, He reminds us in Jeremiah 1:5, “before I formed you in the womb I knew you; and before you came forth out of the womb, I sanctified you, and I ordained you a prophet unto the nations.” My dear young friend, be assured that before your father, dreamt of meeting your mother, the God of heaven has ordained a special purpose for your life. When the enemy would seek to rob you of your purpose, remind him that according to Jeremiah 29:11, God has a plan for you.

by A. Foster

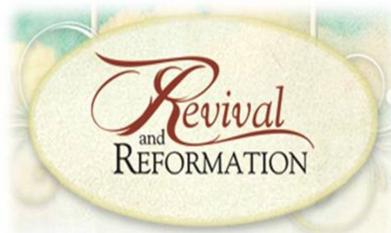


REVIVED THROUGH MISSIONARY SERVICE

¹There has been but little of the missionary spirit among Sabbath-keeping Adventists. If ministers and people were sufficiently aroused, they would not rest thus indifferently, while God has honoured them by making them the depositaries of His law, by printing it in their minds and writing it upon their hearts.

²The true missionary spirit has deserted the churches that make so exalted a profession; their hearts are no longer aglow with love for souls, and a desire to lead them into the fold of Christ. We want earnest workers. Are there none to respond to the cry that goes up from every quarter, "Come over and help us?"

³I was shown that as a people we are deficient. Our works are not in accordance with our faith. Our faith testifies that we are living under the proclamation of the most solemn and important message that was ever given to mortals. Yet in full view of this fact, our efforts, our zeal, our spirit of self-sacrifice, do not compare with the character of the



work. We should awake from the dead, and Christ will give us life.

⁴My heart is pained when I think how little our churches sense their solemn accountabilities to God. It is not ministers alone who are soldiers, but every man and woman who has enlisted in Christ's army; and are they willing to receive a soldier's fare, just as Christ has given them an example in His life of self-denial and sacrifice? What self-denial have our churches as a whole manifested? They may have given donations in money, but have withheld themselves.

⁵ Many of the professed followers of Christ feel no more burdens for souls than do the world. The lusts of the eye, and the pride of life, the love of display, the love of ease, separate the professed Christians from God, and the missionary spirit in reality exists in but few. What can be done to open the eyes of these sinners in Zion, and make hypocrites tremble?

⁶There is a class that are represented by Meroz. The missionary spirit has never taken hold of their souls. The calls for foreign missions have not

stirred them to action. What account will those render to God, who are doing nothing in His cause, nothing to win souls to Christ? Such will receive the denunciation,

"Thou wicked and slothful servant."

⁷As an illustration of the failure on your part to come up to the work of God, as was your privilege, I was referred to these words: "Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

“Many of the professed followers of Christ feel no more burdens for souls than do the world.”

¹ Testimonies, vol. 3, p. 202.

² Testimonies, vol. 4, p. 156.

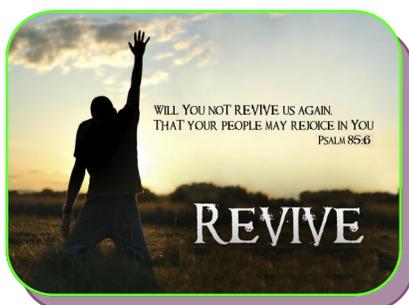
³ Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 114.

⁴ General Conference Bulletin, 1893, p. 131.

⁵ General Conference Bulletin, 1893, p. 132.

⁶ Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 247.

⁷ Historical Sketches, p. 290.



A PRAYER (for the times)



David prayed, "It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law." This prayer is no less pertinent at the present time. The world has gone astray from God, and its lawless state should strike terror to the heart, and lead all who are loyal to the great King to work for a reformation. The papal power has thought to change the law of God by substituting a spurious Sabbath for that of Jehovah; and all through the religious world the false sabbath is revered, while the true one is trampled beneath unholy feet. . . {ChS 155.1}. We cannot labor to please men who will use their influence to repress religious liberty, and to set in operation oppressive measures to lead or compel their fellow men to keep Sunday as the Sabbath. {FE 475.2}

Satan is still working through every means which he can control to destroy religious liberty. {GC88 205.1}

GROWING IN CHRIST

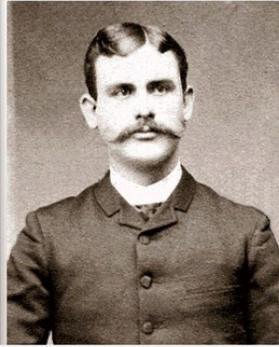
*Tell your children about the miracle-working power of God. As they study the great lesson book of nature, God will impress their minds. The farmer plows his land and sows his seed, but he cannot make the seed grow. He must depend on God to do that which no human power can do. The Lord puts His vital power into the seed, causing it to spring forth into life. Under His care the germ of life breaks through the hard crust encasing it, and springs up to bear fruit. First appears the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear. As the children are told of the work that God does for the seed, they learn the secret of **growth in grace**.*

{CG 57.3}



Pioneer of the Month

Albion Fox Ballenger (1861-1927)



A. F. Ballenger

A.F. Ballenger was a Seventh-day Adventist minister who later apostatized. He was a fluent preacher and writer. In 1890 he served as secretary of the National Religious Liberty Association, and three years later was elected editor of the *American Sentinel*, the church's religious liberty paper.

At the 1891 General Conference Ellen White related a remarkable vision concerning the efforts of certain individuals to keep distinctive Adventist beliefs out of the *Sentinel*. She described a meeting that she had seen in vision several weeks before, in which someone held up a copy of the paper and said "This must come out," referring to certain articles dealing with our unique message. Ellen White did not know that the meeting she thought had occurred at the time she had the vision had actually taken place only the night

before. After she related her vision, A. F. Ballenger, one of the men in the meeting arose and said, "I was in that counsel meeting which was held last night until a late hour, and Sister White has described it accurately. The very words she says she heard spoken were spoken last night. I was on the wrong side of the question, and now take my position on the right side." This incident is recorded in *Life Sketches*, page 309-318.

At about the turn of the century Ballenger was called to Great Britain, where he worked in England, and in the Welsh and Irish Missions. Sadly, while he was there, he began to advocate erroneous views on the work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary. The climax of the controversy came at the 1905 General Conference session in Washington, D. C. where he submitted a manuscript on his views to a General Conference-appointed examining committee. Among other points, he maintained that the holy place ministry in the sanctuary was an Old Testament experience. He summed up his position on the sanctuary in nine theses, and concluded: "When you allow the first apartment work to represent the plan of salvation from creation to the cross, everything is a perfect fit, and all seems beautiful and harmonious.--Partial transcript of meeting before a committee of 25.

Ballenger held that Christ ascended to heaven after His resurrection, He went to the most holy Place and began

His ministry there as our High Priest. Such conclusions obviously did not harmonize with the Bible-based position of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, that Jesus's most holy place ministry did not begin until October 22, 1844, when the investigative judgement began. The committee of twenty-five rejected Ballenger's views, and counseled him not to promote them. He did not accept their decision, but continued to propagate them.

Ellen White disagreed with both Ballenger's methods and his message. She wrote to those at the meetings: "In clear, plain language I am to say to those in attendance at this conference that Brother Ballenger has been allowing his mind to receive and believe specious error... I am bidden to say to you in the name of the Lord that Elder Ballenger is following a false light. The Lord has not given him the message that he is bearing regarding the sanctuary service." She said that the Lord had instructed her to speak these words to Ballenger. "You are bringing in confusion and perplexity by your interpretation of the Scripture."--Ms 62, 1905 (Quoted in "The Integrity of the Sanctuary Truth," available from the Ellen G. White Estate.)

The next year, writing again of Ballenger's teaching she said: "Brother Ballenger's position is not according to the word of God... he misapplies scriptures. Theories of the kind that he has been presenting, we have had to meet again and again."--Letter 50, 1906 (Ibid.)



Ellen G. White Seventh-day Adventist
Research Centre
Northern Caribbean University
Mandeville, Manchester, Jamaica, W.I.

You may contact us:

Phone: 963-7768-9

E-mail: egwresource@ncu.edu.jm
rwright@ncu.edu.jm
abigail.foster@ncu.edu.jm

Sabbath Programmes at the Research Centre

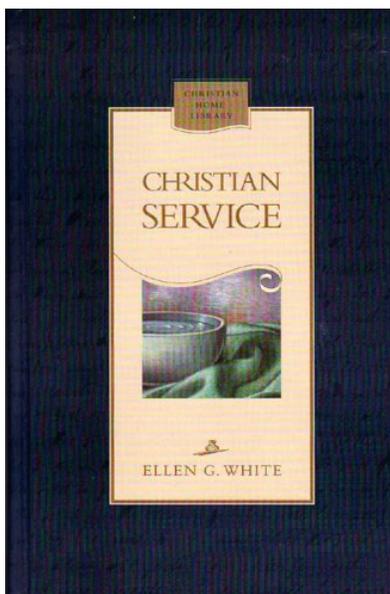
The Centre opens its doors to one church per month to worship on a Sabbath at our facilities. We also conduct seminars and AY programmes at local churches. For appointments call or e-mail us at the addresses on this page.



We are on the Web:

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

Book of the Month



God could have chosen unfallen angels as His representatives on earth. Instead He chose us. "Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life". This volume is a call to consecrated service in the science of soul winning. Invaluable to ministers, teachers, and church leaders, it will be appreciated by all who, in fellowship with Christ, seek to fulfil the gospel commission. Every child of God reflects the light of the world to others. These pages explain how to polish the human mirror so that it may reveal truth more clearly, and thus attract others by its beauty.