

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

## *Spirit of Prophecy Newsletter*

### Thank You, Professor Yorke

Manifa Riley

#### 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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**Mrs. Sonia Lewis, NCU**  
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#### Inside this issue:

Pictorial Highlights of SOP Emphasis Weekend	2
Thought for the Month	2
Did You Know?	3
Health Corner	3
Youth Issues	4
Revival and Reformation	5
Gift of Prophecy Question	6
Pioneer of the Month	7
Book of the Month	8

Professor Gosnell Yorke is a man of zeal and courage, who has been Director of the Ellen G. White Centre for approximately one year and four months. He will take his leave as Director on the 31st of December, 2014, due to family-related reasons. During his tenure, Prof. Yorke exhibited admirable levels of dedication to duty. He did his best to showcase the works and services of the Centre to many in our local environs and in wider fields, by God's help. He leaves a positive impression on persons who have worked closely with him.

Jason Campbell, a student worker at the Research Centre and a Theology student, said: "Prof. Yorke, you have inspired us; you have inspired me. You have set the tone for leadership, in calms and storms, and have done a wonderful job. I wish you all the best and pray that you will continue in the Lord's leading."

Another of his student workers and a Environmental Science student, Marshall Brissett, salutes Prof. Yorke as "one who always goes above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to representing the Ellen G. White SDA Research Centre and takes great pride in it. He always asks for the input of his workers and is kind-hearted."

On behalf of the SOP Student Club, Vice-President and a Theology student, Wayne Woolery expressed his sincere appreciation to Prof. Yorke for reviving and guiding the activities of the club. He stated: "We were truly honoured to have you attending our meetings. We regret to see you go. However, we pray God's blessings on you and your family. Remember us and we say thank you."

Mrs Sonia Lewis, who is the NCU Editor and who edits the *SOP Newsletter* as her little project on a bi-monthly basis, said:



Prof. Yorke (right) presenting to Dr Trevor Gardner (left), NCU President, the book, *Teaching all Nations: Interrogating the Matthean Great Commission* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2014) for which he (Prof. Yorke) wrote the Preface. The book was presented to NCU's Library during our SOP Supervisory Committee Meeting held on Friday, November 14, 2014.

"He is a gentleman and a scholar. Every encounter has been a learning experience for me. Such intoxicating eloquence and erudition in one so compact evokes in Jamaican parlance the expression, 'likkle but tallawah (small but great)!' As you leave, we take heart, Professor Yorke, because technology has overcome geography! I have no doubt that we will remain in touch."

Once again, we say many thanks to Prof. Yorke and pray that God will continue to guide him in all his endeavours and that we can, like the song writer, Charles H. Gabriel, say: "When all our labours and trials are o'er, we will meet on that beautiful shore."

# GIFT OF PROPHECY QUESTION

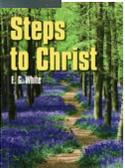
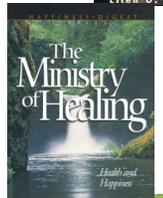
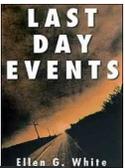
## What are the purposes for Mrs. White's writings?

"The word of God is sufficient to enlighten the most beclouded mind and may be understood by those who have any desire to understand it. But notwithstanding all this, some who profess to make the word of God their study are found living in direct opposition to its plainest teachings. Then, to leave men and women without excuse, God gives plain and pointed testimonies, bringing them back to the word that they have neglected to follow. Yet those who serve their own lusts turn from all this light. They will not cease their course of sin, but continue to take pleasure in unrighteousness in the face of the threatenings and vengeance of God against those who do such things." *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2, p. 454*

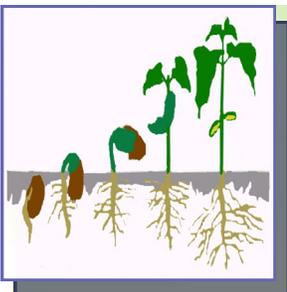
"The Testimonies are not to belittle the word of God, but to exalt it and attract minds to it, that the beautiful simplicity of truth may impress all." *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2, p. 605*

"As the end draws near and the work of giving the last warning to the world extends, it becomes more important for those who accept present truth to have a clear understanding of the nature and influence of the Testimonies, which God in His providence has linked with the work of the third angel's message from its very rise." *Testimonies for the Church vol. 5, p. 654*

"The Lord designs to warn you, to reprove, to counsel, through the testimonies given, and to impress your minds with the importance of the truth of His word. The written testimonies are not to give new light, but to impress vividly upon the heart the truths of inspiration already revealed. Man's duty to God and to his fellow man has been distinctly specified in God's word, yet but few of you are obedient to the light given. Additional truth is not brought out; but God has through the Testimonies simplified the great truths already given and in His own chosen way brought them before the people to awaken and impress the mind with them, that all may be left without excuse." *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 665.*



## GROWING IN CHRIST



You are just as dependent upon Christ, in order to live a holy life, as is the branch upon the parent stock for growth and fruitfulness. Apart from Him you have no life. You have no power to resist temptation or to grow in grace and holiness. Abiding in Him, you may flourish. Drawing your life from Him, you will not wither nor be fruitless. *Steps to Christ, p. 67*

## DID YOU KNOW?



Many early Adventist pioneers were happy to sacrifice for God's work, and even thought of it as a privilege. Annie Smith, a highly talented poet and writer, was offered a high paying teaching position in a new, exclusive academy in Mt. Vernon. She passed up the academy position to go and help with the fledgling publishing work, where she would board with the White family and work without a salary.

She wrote about her motivation for this decision: "Earth has entirely lost its attractions. My hopes, joys, affections, are now all centered in things above and divine. I want no other place than to

sit at the feet of Jesus, and learn of him,—no other occupation than to be in the service of my Heavenly Father,—no other delight than the peace of God which passeth all understanding" (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 67).

## THE LAWS OF NATURE

"Let it ever be kept before the mind that the great object of hygienic reform is to secure the highest possible development of mind and soul and body. All the laws of nature--which are the laws of God--are designed for our good. Obedience to them will promote our happiness in this life and will aid us in a preparation for the life to come." *Christian Temperance*, p. 120 (1890).

**Instructions:** To find out examples of the Laws of nature, cross out the letters that appear eight (8) times in the box. The remaining letters will spell words.

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 vnuvftzritllizoy•  
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# Youth Issues



## An Encouragement to Study Agriculture

In the study of agriculture, let pupils be given not only theory, but practice. While they learn what science can teach in regard to the nature and preparation of the soil, the value of different crops, and the best methods of production, let them put their knowledge to use. Let teachers share the work with the students, and show what results can be achieved through skillful, intelligent effort. Thus may be awakened a genuine interest, an ambition to do the work in the best possible manner. Such an ambition, together with the invigorating effect of exercise, sunshine, and pure air, will create a love for agricultural labor that with many youth will determine their choice of an occupation. Thus might be set on foot influences that would go far in turning the tide of migration which now sets so strongly toward the great cities.

Thus, also, our schools could aid effectively in the disposition of the unemployed masses. Thousands of helpless and starving beings, whose numbers are daily swelling the ranks of the criminal classes, might achieve self-support in a happy, healthy, independent life if they could be directed in skillful, diligent labor in the tilling of the soil.

{*Education* pp. 219-220}



# The Shaking

## Church Membership No Guarantee of Salvation

It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner.--*Christian Service* p. 41 (1893).

Those who have had opportunities to hear and receive of the truth and who have united with the Seventh-day Adventist church, calling themselves the command-keeping people of God, and yet possess no more vitality and consecration to God than do the nominal churches, will receive the plagues of God just as verily as the churches who oppose the law of God.--*19 Manuscript Releases*, 176 (1898).

## The Chaff Separated From the Wheat

There will be a shaking of the sieve. The chaff must in time be separated from the wheat. Because iniquity abounds, the love of many waxes cold. It is the very time when the genuine will be the strongest.--Letter 46, 1887.

The history of the rebellion of Dathan and Abiram is being repeated, and will be repeated till the close of time. Who will be on the Lord's side? Who will be deceived, and in their turn become deceivers?--Letter 15, 1892.

The Lord is soon to come. There must be a refining, winnowing process in every church, for there



are among us wicked men who do not love the truth or honor God.--*Review and Herald*, March 19, 1895.

Divisions will come in the church. Two parties will be developed. The wheat and tares grow up together for the harvest.--*Selected Messages Bk. 2*, p. 114 (1896).

We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. The Lord will not excuse those who know the truth if they do not in word and deed obey His commands.--*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6*, p. 332 (1900).

## Persecution Cleanses the Church

Prosperity multiplies a mass of professors. Adversity purges them out of the church.--*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 4*, p. 89 (1876).

The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. In this

time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church.--*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 81 (1882).

In the absence of the persecution there have drifted into our ranks men who appear sound and their Christianity unquestionable, but who, if persecution should arise, would go out from us.--*Evangelism*, p. 360 (1890).

When the law of God is made void the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and a larger proportion than we now anticipate will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.--*Selected Messages Bk. 2*, p. 368 (1891).

## God's Faithful Will Be Revealed

The Lord has faithful servants who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal. They have not had the light which has been shining in a concentrated blaze upon you. But it may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed. In the daytime we look toward heaven but do not see the stars. They are there, fixed in the firmament, but the eye cannot distinguish them. In the night we behold their genuine luster.--*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5* 80, 81 (1882).

*Last Day Events*, pp. 171- 181.

## Some Pictorial Highlights of our Recent SOP Emphasis Weekend (Nov.14-15, 2014)

Theme: "Mrs. Ellen G. White, the Inspired Messenger: Keeping Alive the Message"

Guest Speakers: Pastor Jim Nix, Director of the Ellen G. White Estate, GC

Pastor Leon Wellington, Vice-President and SOP Coordinator, IAD

Pastor Lynden Williams, SOP Coordinator for the South Bahamas Conference, ATCU



*Prof. Yorke standing with Pastors Wellington, Nix and Williams.*



*SOP Supervisory Committee Meeting held in the President's Board Room.*



*A talk-back session between our guests, some students from the School of Religion and Theology and some SOP Student Club members.*



*A dramatic musical presentation on the Great Disappointment (October 22, 1844) conducted by the School of Religion and Theology.*



*Manifa Riley and SOP Student Club rep, Fred Robertson conducted Sabbath School under the theme: "Keeping Alive Mrs. White's Writings in the 21st Century."*



*Pastor Lynden Williams conducted Lesson Study on the topic, "Taming the Tongue."*



*Pastor Wellington conducted the Faith Building Study. He shared the value of studying the SOP.*



*Pastor Nix delivered the divine service sermon focusing on stories in Mrs. White's life.*



*Sabbath afternoon programme conducted at Mandeville SDA Church..*

## PIONEER OF THE MONTH

### Ellen Gould White (1827-1915)



#### Called by God

In December, 1844, God gave Mrs. White the first of an estimated 2,000 visions and dreams. In August, 1846, she married James White, a 25-year-old Adventist minister who shared her conviction that God had called her to do the work of a prophet. Soon after their marriage James and Ellen began to keep the seventh-day Sabbath according to the fourth commandment.

#### Family

The mother of four boys, Ellen White experienced the pain of losing by death two of her sons. Herbert died when he was an infant of a few weeks, and Henry died when he was 16. Her other two sons, Edson and William, both become Adventist ministers.

#### Her Writings

Ellen White was a prolific writer. Beginning in 1851 when she published her first book, she sent

forth a steady stream of articles, books, and pamphlets. Of her scores of books some are devotional in nature while others are selections from the many personal letters of counsel she wrote over the years. Still others are historical and trace the ongoing struggle between Christ and Satan for control of individuals and nations. She also published books on education, health, and other topics of special significance to the church. She also authored several thousand articles that were published over the years in the *Review and Herald*, *Signs of the Times*, and other Seventh-day Adventist periodicals.

#### Compassionate Helper

Ellen White was a generous person and set a good example of practical Christianity. For years she kept bolts of cloth on hand so that if she saw a woman who needed a new dress, she would be able to provide assistance. In Battle Creek she attended auctions and bought pieces of used furniture, which she stored; then if someone's home burned or some other calamity befell a family, she was prepared to help. In the days before the church started its retirement plan, if she heard of an older minister who was

in financial straits, she would send a little money to help him meet his emergency needs.

#### Lifetime Contributions

Ellen White died July 16, 1915. For 70 years she faithfully delivered the messages God gave her for His people. She never was elected to an office in the church, yet her advice was constantly sought by denominational leaders. Her messages set in motion the forces that produced present world-wide Adventist education system—from day-care centers to universities. Though she had no medical training, the fruitage of her ministry can be seen in the network of Adventist hospitals, clinics, and medical facilities that circle the earth. And though she was not ordained as a gospel minister, she has made an almost unparalleled spiritual impact on the lives of millions, from one end of the earth to the other.

#### Lasting Impact

To this day Ellen G. White's books continue to help people find their Savior, accept His pardon for their sins, share this blessing with others and live expectantly in hope of His soon return.



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## Sabbath Programmes at the Research Centre



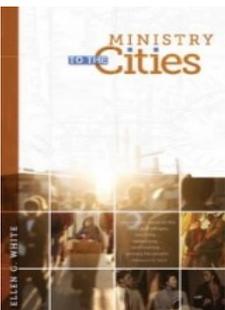
The Centre opens its doors to one church per month to worship on a Sabbath at our facilities. We also conduct seminars and AY programmes at local churches. For appointments, contact us at the address on this page and then work through the official channels of the Church.



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

## Book of the Month

### Ministry to the Cities



"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching. . . preaching. . . and healing every sickness and every disease among the people" (Matthew 9:35). Today most of the world's population lives in cities. Does Jesus care for them any less than He did for those in the cities 2,000 years ago? It is no wonder that Ellen G. White was given so much counsel on the city to equip the church for comprehensive urban evangelism and ministry. Yet her instruction on city work is less known than her appeals for locating in more rural settings.

*Ministry to the Cities* is one of the newest compilations done by the Ellen G. White Estate at the General Conference of SDAs. It presents a call to action and a plea for believers to work for their Saviour by bringing the gospel to the millions of people in the cities of the world. Topics include the challenges of ministering in the city, evangelism strategies and methods, selecting and training of workers, and lessons from Scripture.

*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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