



Spirit of Prophecy Newsletter

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

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James White’s Financial Investment: A Close Call

Basil A. Reid

Recently, much have been in the media, and in late night and before daylight pillow talk on the National and International Financial melt down. It has affected individuals as well as institutions. There are many people, even members of the Seventh-day Adventist church who have not complained but it is often said that, “It is not lack of tongue why cow don’t talk.” That said, I turn to the church as an institution in a secular environment.

While the church is still in the world, it must and will participate in wise and permissible activities of the world. However, often the church is an automatic leadership when things go wrong. No one accepts responsibility.

Sometime before 1860, James White lodged a significant sum of money with two men in Battle Creek. It was for the building of the Review and Sabbath Herald Office. In those days no banks were in Battle Creek. However, two men in the city kept funds for members of the community until they were requested.

James White was away on missionary work shortly after the birth of his last son, John Herbert on

September 20, 1860. He had two dreams. One that the child was sick and in the other he saw the two men who had the money for the church selling “old shoes.” He received letters from Ellen confirming the health of the child. However, he soon got a telegram to return home as quickly as possible. On reaching home he discovered that John Herbert was fatally ill. He died within weeks on December 14, 1860.

Shortly after the funeral of the child, James White called the brethren, and told them of his two dreams. One had become a reality; he did not wait for the other to be fulfilled. The decision was taken to withdraw the money placed in keeping with the two men. It was used to buy material for the new building. Two weeks after this was done, the men declared bankruptcy. Many in Battle Creek lost their money but the church never lost “a cent.” That was a close call.

These days we speak of “visionary leadership.” But might it not be more important to have leaders who still receive visions from the Lord?

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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.

Editorial Staff: Basil A. Reid, Director; Manifa Riley, Secretary.

“But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for [it is] he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as [it is] this day.” Deuteronomy 8:18

Methods of Acquiring Wealth



“Christians are safe only in acquiring money as God directs, and using it in channels which He can bless. God permits us to use His goods with an eye single to His glory, to bless ourselves, that we may bless others. Those who have adopted the world's maxim, and discarded God's specifications, who grasp all they can obtain of wages or goods, are poor, poor indeed, because the frown of God is upon them. They walk in paths

of their own choosing, and do dishonor to God, to truth, to His goodness, to His mercy, His character. {CS 141.3}

Now, in probationary time, we are all on test and trial. Satan is working with his deceiving enchantments and bribes, and some will think that by their schemes they have made a wonderful speculation. But lo, as they thought they were rising securely, and were carrying themselves loftily in selfishness, they learned that God can scatter faster than they can gather.”¹-- {Counsels Stewardship p. 141.4}

¹ Emphasis ours

Questions and Answers

Q: Should I return my tithe to the church even if I am not in agreement with the Church's current management?

A: Ellen G. White writes that "some have been dissatisfied and have said: 'I will no longer pay my tithe, for I have no confidence in the way things are managed at the heart of the work.' But will you rob God because you think the management of the work is not right? Make your complaint, plainly, and openly, in the right spirit, to the proper ones. Send in your petitions for things to be adjusted and set in order, but do not withdraw from the work of God, and prove unfaithful, because others are not doing right." *Testimonies to the Church*, (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press, 1948), 9: 247-249.



Q: Was Ellen G. White Rich?

A: She answered the question thus: "Sometimes it has been reported that I am trying to get rich. Some have written to us inquiring, 'Is not Mrs. White worth millions of dollars? I am glad that I can say, 'No.'..Why?.. Because I see so much missionary work to be done. Under such circumstances, could I hoard money? No indeed. I receive royalties from the sale of my books; but nearly all is spent in missionary work." Manuscript No. 8, 1904. Years earlier, she wrote, "I do not profess to be the owner of any money that comes into my hands. I regard it as the Lord's money, for which I must render an account." *Letter 41*, 1895.

DID YOU KNOW that...

- ⇒ The fourth Adventist church built in Battle Creek, became known as the "Dime Tabernacle" because church members and the community were invited to give dimes in support of the building project?
- ⇒ Ellen G. White used her own money (\$2000) to assist in the purchase the Paradise Valley Sanitarium?
This she did after it was revealed to her in vision that she was to secure the property.



Dime Tabernacle , founded: April 20, 1879 –destroyed by fire: January 7, 1922

HEALTH CORNER

Sunlight and Health

“Fresh air and sunshine, cheerfulness within and without the institution, pleasant words and kindly acts --these are the remedies that the sick need, and God will crown with success your efforts to provide these remedies for the sick ones who come to the sanitarium. By happiness and cheerfulness and expressions of sympathy and hopefulness for others, your own soul will be filled with light and peace. And never forget that the sunshine of God's blessing is worth everything to us.” {*Selected Messages Bk.2 p. 298.3*}



“The sun is the main source of energy for our planet. Solar light is absolutely necessary for life and for maintenance of health. Its presence produces vitamin D in the skin. Ultra violet radiation in sunlight serves as a disinfectant capable of destroying numerous pathogenic germs. Furthermore it stimulates all the vital processes and serves as a tonic to organisms. Where sunshine enters there is life and health. It has been proven that in winter when whole days go by without sunshine, the frequency of nervous depression increases.” Source: Pamplona–Roger, George D. (1995). *Enjoy it!* Inter-American Division Publishing Association.

GIFT OF PROPHECY:

Ten Reasons Ellen G. White gave for her writings



Ellen G. White SDA
Research Centre,
Northern Caribbean
University

1. To bring the minds of God's people to His words (*Testimonies Vol. 5, p.663*)
2. To simplify the "great truths already given that they may be left without excuse." (*Testimonies Vol. 2, p.605 & Vol. 5 p.655*)
3. To call attention to Bible principle for the foundation of correct habits of living." (*Testimonies Vol. 5 p. 633, 664*)
4. To "correct those who err from Bible truth." (*Early Writings, p. 78*)
5. "To specify what is truth" (*Ellen G. White Letter, 127, 1910*)
6. To instruct concerning God's will. (*Testimonies, Vol. 5, p.661*)
7. To specify "man's duty to God and his fellow man." (*Testimonies Vol. 5, p. 655*)
8. "For the comfort of His people." (*Early writings, p. 78*)
9. "To encourage the desponding." (*Review and Herald, Jan 10, 1856*)
10. To instruct concerning "the course that He would have them pursue" (*Testimonies Vol. 5, p. 661*).

Source: Bailey, Phyllis. *Fascinating facts about the Spirit of Prophecy*, Review and Herald Publishing Assoc, 1983.

Comments from our visitors

"Did not know this place was actually all that interesting. It is quiet and ideal , comfortable for study. For a Research Centre that is so young, it really has attained a lot and looks very promising." Student, NCU



"The E.G White Centre is the best department on NCU campus. It is quiet and conducive to learning. The service is the best on campus truly." Student, NCU

"(The attendant) acted like a patient and [serviceful] tour guide. Praise God for the ministry of the Ellen G. White Centre!" Professor, NCU

"I would like to take my church to visit the Centre." Visitor, St. James

Pioneer of the Month – JAMES WHITE (1821-1881)



James White was co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church along with his wife Ellen and Joseph Bates.

He was the fifth of nine children, and in early years had such poor eyesight that he could not attend school. At age 19, with his eyes improved, he went to school, studying 18 hours a day, and in 12 weeks had a certificate to teach. He later attended school another 17 weeks, making his total school time, 29 weeks.

He was ordained as a minister in the Christian Church in 1843. James remembered

meeting Ellen Harmon before the 1844 disappointment, but their association did not begin until early 1845. James and Ellen were married by a justice of the peace on August 30, 1846.

For the first six years of their marriage the Whites did not have a home of their own, living at times with her parents or with friends. In November 1848, Ellen White was shown in vision that James should begin to print a paper, and that it would grow until its light would shine around the world. Beginning in 1849 James published *The Present Truth*. It became *The Review and Herald* in 1850. For three years publishing was done through

public printers, in several locations. The Whites finally had their own home in Rochester, New York, in 1852. With borrowed and inexpensive furniture they set up housekeeping, sharing the home with several who helped in the printery. In 1855 the publishing work moved into more permanent quarters in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Together, James and Ellen gave strong leadership to the church for 35 years. He died at age 60 in 1881, leaving Ellen White to continue her work alone for another 35 years.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

“Church-members are to contribute cheerfully toward the support of the ministry. They should practice self-denial and economy, that they may come behind in no good gift.” {[Gospel Workers](#) , p. 454.1}

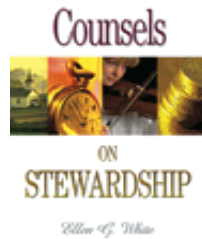




Ellen G. White Seventh—Day Adventist Research
Centre
Northern Caribbean University
Mandeville, Manchester, Jamaica, W.I

We're on the web:
[http://egw-
edaresearch.ncu.edu.jm](http://egw-edaresearch.ncu.edu.jm)

BOOK OF THE MONTH:
COUNSELS ON STEWARDSHIP by E. G. White



Stewardship is properly managing the resources that God has committed to our care. This volume gathers together all of Ellen White's published statements on the subject.

Topics discussed include tithing, indebtedness, charity, making a will and soliciting funds from outside sources. What about speculating in the markets? Does God require us to dispose of our property? How can children be taught economy? What is the divine antidote for covetousness?

God promises those who use the talent of wealth to bless others: "Give and it shall be given unto you." (Luke 6:38).The inspired principles of sound economy in this volume will repay rich dividends.

Sabbath Programmes at the Research Centre

The Centre opens its doors to one church per month to come and 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.

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

Email: breid@ncu.edu.jm or egwresource@ncu.edu.jm