



# Spirit of Prophecy Newsletter



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

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## Excerpts from Ellen G. White's views on Christmas

The celebration of Christmas in many Seventh-day Adventist churches and in some Adventist homes, usually generates much discussion. For this festal celebration we share with you some statements on "Christmas Celebration by Ellen G. White." We hope these statements can make this season one of happiness and great blessing for the church and those who share in its true purpose.

The Ellen G. White -SDA Research Centre at Northern Caribbean University wishes for you a true understanding of the season and a Happy New Year. Please consider the following statements:

### Children and Christmas Day

"As the twenty-fifth day of December is observed to commemorate the birth of Christ, as the children have been instructed by precept and example that this is indeed a day of gladness and rejoicing, you will find it a difficult matter to pass over this period without giving it some attention. It can

be made to serve a very good purpose."

"The youth should be treated very carefully. They should not be left on Christmas to find their own amusement in vanity and pleasure-seeking, in amusements which will be detrimental to their spirituality. Parents can control this matter by turning the minds and offerings of their children to God and His cause and the salvation of souls...."

### Substitute Innocent Pleasures for sinful Amusements

"While sinful amusements are condemned, as they should be, let parents, teachers and guardians of youth provide in their stead innocent pleasure which shall 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, kindly, considerate hand hold the lines of government, guiding and controlling their minds and purposes, yet so gently, so wisely, so lovingly that they still will know that you have their best good in view...." *Review and Herald, December 9, 1884*



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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 to equip readers to participate in the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38

## Excerpts from Ellen G. White's views on Christmas cont'd



### Make Christmas, a Precious Season

“On Christmas, so soon to come, let not the parents take the position that an ever-green placed in the church for the amusement of the Sabbath school scholars is a sin, for it may be made a great blessing. Keep before their mind benevolent objects. In no case should mere amusement be the object of these gatherings. While there may be some who turn these occasions into careless levity, and whose mind will not receive the divine impress, to other minds and characters these seasons will be highly beneficial. I am fully satisfied that innocent substitutes can be devised for many gatherings that demoralize....”<sup>1</sup> *Review and Herald, December 9, 1884*

### Holiday Gifts

“The holiday season is fast approaching with its interchange of gifts, and old and young are intently studying what they can bestow upon their friends as a token of affectionate remembrance. It is pleasant to receive a gift, however small, from those we love. It is an assurance that we are not forgotten, and seems to bind us to them a little closer.”

“Brethren and sisters, while you are devising gifts for one another, I would remind you of our heavenly Friend, lest you should be unmindful of His claims. Will He not be pleased if we show that we have not forgotten Him? Jesus, the Prince of Life, gave all to bring salvation within our reach .... He suffered even unto death, that he might give us eternal life.”

“It is through Christ we receive every blessing....Shall not our heavenly benefactor

share in the token of our gratitude and love? Come, brethren and sisters, come with your children, even babes in your arms, and bring your offerings to God according to your ability....”

*Review and Herald, December 26, 1882*

### A Christmas Tree

“We are now nearing the close of another year, and shall we not make these festal days opportunities in which to bring to God our offerings? I cannot say sacrifices, for we shall only be rendering to God that which is His already, and which He has only entrusted to us till He shall call for it. God would be well pleased if on Christmas each church would have a Christmas tree on which shall be hung offerings, great and small, for these houses of worship. Letters of inquiry have come to us asking, Shall we have a Christmas tree? will it not be like the world? We answer, You can make it like the world if you have a disposition to do so, or you can make it as unlike the world as possible. There is no particular sin in selecting a fragrant evergreen, and placing it in our churches; but the sin lies in the motive which prompts to action and the use which is made of the gifts placed upon the tree.”<sup>2</sup>

“The tree may be as tall and its branches as wide as shall best suit the occasion; but let its boughs be laden with the golden and silver fruit of your beneficence, and present this to Him as your Christmas gift. Let your donations be sanctified by prayer, and let the fruit upon this consecrated tree be applied toward removing the debts from our houses of worship at Battle Creek, Mich., and Oakland, Cal.” {*Review and Herald, December 11, 1879 par. 16*}

A word to the wise is sufficient.

*1, 2. Emphasis ours*

## THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

**“A kind, courteous Christian is the most powerful argument that can be produced in favor of Christianity.” *Gospel Workers, p. 122***

## Did you know that....

**Ellen White enjoyed group picnics?** She would leave her writings behind and join wholeheartedly in activities. On one such occasion she joined a group on a sail boat trip out through the Golden Gate to the open ocean, Ellen loved the water. As the waves ran high, many became sea sick, but not she. Later she wrote her husband concerning the outing saying, "The wind was blowing strong and I never enjoyed anything so much in my life." - Ellen G. White Letter 5, 1876 (Bailey, Phyllis: *"Fascinating Facts About Spirit of Prophecy, Review and Herald, 1983, p. 8)*



## A New Year's Tree

"At the close of my long journey East, I reached my home in time to spend New Year's eve in Healdsburg. The college hall had been fitted up for a Sabbath school reunion. Cypress wreaths, Autumn leaves, evergreen and flowers were tastefully arranged, and a large bell of evergreens hung from the arched doorway at the entrance of the room. The tree was well loaded

with donations, which were to be used for the benefit of the poor and to help purchase a bell. Except in a few instances, the names of the donors were not given, but appropriate Bible texts and mottos were read as the gifts were taken down from the tree. On this occasion nothing was said or done that need burden the consciences of anyone...." *Review and Herald, January 29, 1884*



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## THE DANGER OF GRANTING LIQUOR LICENSE

"By the licensing of the liquor traffic, temptation is kept constantly before those who are trying to reform. Institutions have been established where the victims of intemperance may be helped to overcome their appe-

tite. This is a noble work; but so long as the sale of liquor is sanctioned by law, the intemperate receive but little benefit from inebriate asylums. They cannot remain there always. They must again take their place in

society. The appetite of intoxicating drink, though subdued is not wholly destroyed, and when temptation assails them, as it does on every, they too often fall as a prey." *Ministry of Healing p. 242-243*

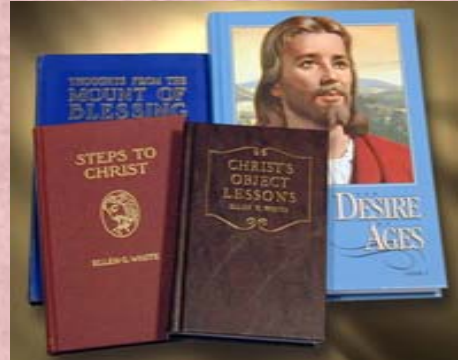




## GIFT OF PROPHECY QUESTION

What are some major contributions that have been made to the church by the work of Ellen G. White?

- a. Assisting in developing doctrines
- b. Saving from false teachings and fanaticism
- c. Developing organization
- d. Guiding in current problems
- e. Guiding in plans for the future
- f. Revealing future events
- g. Encouraging and aiding Bible study
- h. Guiding in Christian Living



Source: Jemison. T. Housel, [A Prophet Among You](#); Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1955 p. 391

## New Year's Celebration in Battle Creek By Uriah Smith, Editor— *Review and Herald*, 1879

“Our Christmas tree was kept standing till the evening of New Year’s, when another meeting was held in the Tabernacle. The object of the occasion was to bring in gifts, in money, in clothing or provision , for the poor. The exercise consisted of prayer and address by Sister White, choice selection of vocal music and the gathering of the fruit of the tree. And this is what the tree bore: cash, \$67.83; orders on groceries and provision stores to the amount of \$14:50; and articles of clothing, including 25 coats, 2 overcoats, 21 pairs of pants, 22 vests,

30 shirts, 27 pairs of ladies’ and children hose, 12 ladies sacks, 17 dresses, besides boots, shoes, hats, caps, mufflers, (scarves), sacks, items of provision, etc. etc., too numerous to mention, amounting the value to \$169:92. The total contributions amounted to \$252.25. some of the citizens of the place ; not connected with our denomination, added their offerings to the general store. It was left with the committee of the Maternal Association and the deacons of the church to see that the articles were judiciously distributed among the needy.”

### At the RESEARCH CENTRE: Comments from our visitors



*“I must say, I came with the expectation to find out a few (little) information on Ellen. G. White, but what I received was more than what I expected, thank you.”*

*“The tour guides were very good, they helped (me) to understand what the center is all about.”*

*“The secretary is very much knowledgeable of the Centre and is very helpful.”*

*“The help was greatly appreciated and the research as easier to do, also spiritual enlightenment was possible..”*



## Pioneer of the Month– Uriah Smith (1832– 1903)



Uriah Smith was a gifted church leader—a teacher, writer, editor, poet, hymn writer, inventor, and engraver.



He is probably best known today as author of *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*. (See 1897th edition in this Research Centre)

His family members were Millerite Adventists. So at age 12 he experienced the 1844 disappointment. Around that time, his infected left leg had to be amputated above the knee.

Early the next year he joined James and Ellen White in Rochester, New York, in publishing work.

As Review editor, for more than 50 years, Smith became “pastor” to many isolated Adventists who could not regularly attend church services. His wit and his scholarship graced hundreds of articles and editorials.

In later life he invented an artificial leg with flexible knee and ankle joints. Late in 1852 he became a Sabbath-keeping Adventist.

Smith was elected the first secretary of the General Conference when it organized in 1863. He also was treasurer of the General Conference for one year, and he taught Bible for several years at Battle Creek.

His public speaking also blessed many thousands. At age 71, Smith died of a stroke on his way to the Review office.

Comments from our visitors

### PUZZLE: Always remember....

Instructions: Cross out the letters that appear five(5) times. The remaining letters spell words which can be combined in a phrase presented horizontally.



W	I	X	F	T	Q		P	Z	I	F
S	J		M	K	Y	W	O	R	U	E
	P	X	B	Q	L	E	F	J	S	W
S	Y	E	D		F	T	X	U	O	
X	G	J	I	P	V	K	E	J		T
Z	H	A	Q	N		P	Z	T	O	Y
	W	R	X	F	E	K	Y	U	C	Q
E	U	Y	I	Z	K	W	V	P	K	Z
J	E	Q	U							

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”  
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## Book of the Month



**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)



Adventist homes can be a bit of heaven on earth, if certain basic principles are followed. Like a chart to a sailor, this volume offers a reliable guide to those sailing on the challenging sea of matrimony.

Counsel is offered on many facets of home life: choosing a mate, child discipline, grandparents, holidays, hospitality, moral standards, divorce, and living with an unbelieving spouse.

The author points out pitfalls to be avoided and shows how to have a happy marriage by injecting the grace of God and the principles of Christian courtesy into every aspect of family life.

## Sabbath Programs 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 programs 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 at:**

**Ellen G. White SDA Research Centre**

**Northern Caribbean University, Mandeville, Manchester**

**Jamaica, W.I.**

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