

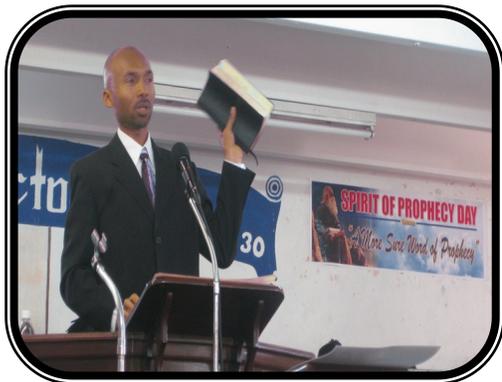


Spirit of Prophecy Newsletter

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

Volume 11, No. 9
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“The Testimony of Jesus: Its relevance for the End times”



FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR

It is a wonderful privilege for me to serve as the Acting Director of the Ellen G. White Research Centre

at this time. I must pay respectful homage to the directorship of the late Dr. Basil Reid with whom I have worked, in collaboration with Pastor Dudley Hosin, Spirit of Prophecy Director at Jamaica Union, in promoting the Spirit of Prophecy legacy among some of the SDA Churches in Jamaica.

By the grace of our merciful Saviour, Jesus Christ, it is my desire to extend and build upon the work begun by Dr. Martin Hanna, and continued by the late Dr. Basil Reid.

The Gathering Storm

Robert Wright

It is evident to all Bible-believing Christians that the turbulent events that characterize the time of the end are intensifying. The Church is to be severely tested by the fiery trials that are sure to occur. Miraculous events of a supernatural character will soon become widespread and commonplace; but they will not be from above. According to the Holy Scriptures and the Testimonies of Ellen White, they will be the work of the spirits of darkness. “Then shall the Wicked be revealed...Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonder ...”
2Thessalonians2: 8,9.

“Spiritualism is about to take the world captive. There are many who think that Spiritualism is upheld through trickery and imposture; but this is far from the truth. Superhuman power is working in a variety of ways, and few have any idea as to what will be the manifestations of Spiritualism in the future.” *Signs of the Times, May 28, 1894.*

How will we be able to discern whether or not these forces are of God? This will require us to know Christ and to understand the testimonies of Jesus about the times. Christ will not allow His Church to be deceived and destroyed by the enemy of all righteousness. He is jealous over her with ‘godly

jealousy,’ 2 Corinthians 11:2, and “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it,” [the church], Matthew 16:18. Both the Bible and the writings of Ellen White were given to the Remnant Church to prepare her for these times.

One of the silently advancing phenomena that will characterize the challenges for the Remnant Church in these last days is the movement for Sunday sacredness. “The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself.” **(Continued on p. 2)**

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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: Dr. Robert Wright, Director; Manifa Riley, Secretary; Mrs. Sonia Lewis

The Gathering Storm (cont'd)

He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain." *Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 141. To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law. . . On this battlefield comes the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error. *Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 450, 451.

Sunday Movement in the European Union

There is a current drive within the European Union (EU) to establish Sunday as a "work free" day. The EU since 1993 has been working under what is called the Working Time Directive where workers are required to work a maximum of 48 hours each week. An excerpt from the Directive is given here for perusal.

"Working time is one of the most important areas of employment where the EU has intervened through legislation to improve employment conditions and the health and safety of workers. The Directive lays down provisions for a maximum 48-hour working week (including overtime), rest periods and breaks, and a minimum of four weeks' paid leave per year, to protect workers from adverse health and safety risks. It applies to all sectors of activity, both public and private. A number of areas, such as air, rail, road, sea, inland waterway and lake transport, sea fishing, other work at sea and doctors in training, which were exempt from the original 1993 Directive, were brought within its scope in an amendment agreed in 2000. The main provisions of the working time Directive are:

- *a maximum average working week of 48 hours, including overtime (calculated over a four-month reference period);*
- *a limit of eight working hours, on average, per 24 hours for night workers – defined as*

a person who normally works at least three hours during night time;

- *a rest break after six consecutive hours' work;*

- *rest periods of at least 11 hours consecutive hours per 24-hour period and 35 consecutive hours per seven-day period;*

- *a minimum of four weeks' paid annual leave which needs to be taken during the leave year stipulated, and cannot be paid in lieu except where the worker's employment is terminated, or in the case of a short-term casual worker, where it may be translated into pay."*

"In November 2011, the EU-level social partners indicated that they would enter into talks to revise the Directive. Under the process provided for by Article 155 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), they have nine months in which to negotiate an agreement." www.eurofound.europa.eu. (accessed October 2, 2012).

The Agitators for Work-free Sunday

In the online newspaper *The Sofia Echo* of Wednesday, March 24, 2010 under the heading "**Guarantee that Sundays will be work-free, EU leaders urged**" is the following statement. "As a matter of principle, all citizens of the European Union should be entitled to a work-free Sunday, a group of more than 70 organizations including churches, trade unions and civil organizations is urging EU authorities. The call was made ahead of a meeting at the European Parliament for the first European Conference on a Work-Free Sunday, according to a statement issued by the Conference of European Churches.

Members of the Conference of European Churches include about 120 Orthodox Christian, Protestant, Anglican and Old Catholic Churches from all countries of Europe, plus 40 associated organizations.

"The protection of a work-free Sunday is of paramount importance for workers' health, for the reconciliation of work and family life as well as for the life of civil society as a whole," according to a statement addressed to EU heads of state and government, the European Parliament, European Commission and "all European citizens".

"This common weekly day of rest serves to strengthen social cohesion in our societies, a cohesion so severely undermined by the current economic crisis," the statement said. Rüdiger Noll, Director of the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches, told the March 24 2010 conference: "More than any other day of the week, a free Sunday offers the opportunity to be with one's family and friends. Common free time is an important precondition for a participatory society, which allows its members to engage in civil activities," Noll said.

The statement qualified its call by saying, "of course, this does not exclude exceptions necessary for the provision of essential services, nor does it prejudice the important role of social partners in the negotiation of collective agreements".

EU heads of state and government, who are to meet for their spring summit, were urged to "firmly resist the growing economic pressure to liberalise the laws providing for a work-free Sunday and to commit themselves to safeguard and promote a work-free Sunday as a pillar of the European Social Model within the laws of their respective nations". The statement concluded "we call upon all European citizens to sign a future Citizens' Initiative to be expressed in favour of the protection of a work-free Sunday".

www.sofiaecho.com/2010/03/24. (accessed October 2, 2012).

(To be continued in next issue.)

Did u know that...

Shortly after receiving the **Great Controversy vision**, Ellen White suffered a stroke of paralysis! She was later shown that Satan had intended to take her life, but angels of God were sent to her rescue.

Date of Vision: March 13, 1858



HEALTH CORNER:

Ingredients of the Otsego Health Vision of 1963 (Part 2)



17. Nature alone has curative powers.

18. Common medicines, such as strychnine, opium, calomel, mercury, and quinine, are poisons.

19. Parents transmit their weaknesses to their children; prenatal influences are enormous.

20. Obeying the laws of

health will prevent many illnesses.

21. God is too often blamed for deaths caused by violation of nature's laws.

22. Light and pure air are required, especially in the sleeping quarters.

23. Bathing, even a sponge bath, will be beneficial on rising in the morning.

24. God will not work healing miracles for those who continually violate the laws of health.

25. Many invalids have no physical cause for their illness; they have a diseased imagination.

26. Cheerful, physical labor will help to create a healthy, cheerful disposition.

27. Willpower has much to do with resisting disease and soothing nerves.

28. Outdoor exercise is very important to health of mind and body.

29. Overwork breaks down both mind and body; routine daily rest is necessary.

30. Many die of disease caused wholly by eating flesh food.

31. Caring for health is a spiritual matter, reflecting a person's commitment to God.

32. A healthy mind and body directly affects one's morals and one's ability to discern truth.

33. All God's promises are given on condition of obedience.

Source: Douglas, H. (1998). *Messenger of the Lord*. Ontario, Canada: Pacific Press.

GIFT OF PROPHECY QUESTIONS



WHY HASN'T CHRIST COME?

“It is the unbelief, the worldliness, unconsecration, and strife among the Lord's professed people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many years.”

“God's unwillingness to have people perish, has been the reason of so long delay.” *Evangelism* p. 696



HOW CAN WE KNOW THE END IS NEAR?

“When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with Spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and Republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan, and that the end is near.”--*Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 451.*

CAN WE HASTEN HIS COMING?

“By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten the Lord's return.” *The Desire of Ages* p. 633

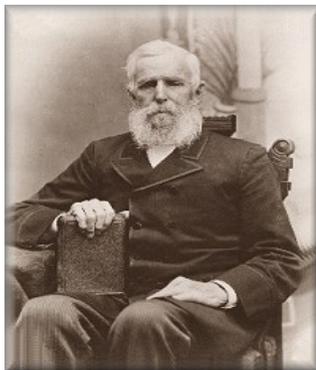


Comments from our Visitors



- “*Very informative.*” Visitor from Mocha SDA in Guyana
- “*Very inviting.*” staff, NCU
- “*The workers are friendly and pleasant. They work as professionals; and students always feel welcome once they enter through the doors of the Ellen G. White Centre.*”- Student, NCU

PIONEER OF THE MONTH – Fredrick Wheeler (1811– 1910)



Frederick Wheeler is known as the first Sabbath-keeping Adventist minister. About 1840 he

was ordained as a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and became a "circuit rider" preacher near Washington, New Hampshire, living at Hillsboro, New Hampshire. In 1842 he accepted the Millerite preaching of the advent, and became active in preaching the second coming of Christ.

While presiding at a communion service at the Washington, New Hampshire, church early in 1844, he stated that only those who kept all of God's commandments should participate. Rachel Oaks (later Preston) was present. She was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, and was living with her daughter, Delight, who was teaching school there.

After the service, Rachel reminded Wheeler that he was not keeping all of God's commandments. She then introduced him to the seventh-day Sabbath. After this discussion, Wheeler went to his Bible to study the subject, and

became convinced of the truth of the Sabbath.

On March 16, 1844, he preached his first sermon on the subject. Several members of the Washington, New Hampshire, congregation also later became Sabbath keepers, including several Farnsworth families. In 1845 Wheeler was instrumental in establishing Captain Joseph Bates in the Sabbath truth. Bates travelled to Washington after reading material about the Sabbath written by T. M. Preble. Preble had no doubt heard of the Sabbath either through Wheeler or Rachel Oaks. Bates met with Wheeler and Cyrus Farnsworth under the large maple trees in front of the Farnsworth home to study the Sabbath.

Bates went back to his home in Fair Haven, Massachusetts, from this meeting to write his own tract on the Sabbath. The brick Cyrus Farnsworth home still stands on the edge of Millen Pond, near the Washington, New Hampshire, church. Elder Wheeler preached and farmed in the neighbourhood of his home until 1851, when he met James White. James White wrote of him: "We have been with him in a number of meetings, and are satisfied that he, with God's blessing,

will exert a good influence and accomplish much in bringing out the hidden jewels of the Lord."--*Review, November 25, 1851.*

In 1857 he moved to New York, and continued his ministry and farming near West Monroe. He was a charter member of the New York Conference, where he served as a minister for several years. In 1861, when James White was strongly advocating organization, Wheeler was present at the meeting. When James called for the congregation to stand in approval of organization, Wheeler remained seated, much to White's concern. He later accepted organization, and was a faithful worker to the end of his days. He wrote, late in life, "The gospel armour I will not put off, the contest I will not yield, until with all the ransomed host I shout the final victory." He died in 1910 just before his 100th birthday.



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We're on the web!

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

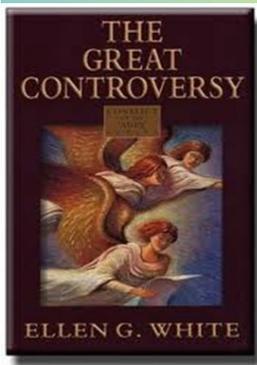
Sabbath Programmes at the Research Centre

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.



BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Great Controversy



The Great Controversy is Volume 5 of the Conflict of the Ages Series which carries the story of the controversy between God and Satan to its ultimate and glorious conclusion. Beginning with the destruction of Jerusalem and continuing through the persecutions of Christians in the Roman Empire, the apostasy of the Dark Ages, the shining light of the Reformation, and the worldwide religious awakening of the nineteenth century, this volume traces the

conflict into the future, the Second coming of Jesus and the glories of the earth made new. As the earth draws ever closer, the vital issue of loyalty to God will become decisive. In this concluding volume, the author powerfully points out the principles involved in the impending conflict and how each person can stand firmly for God and His truth.

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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