

## Theme: "He Lives!"

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*The Resurrection and  
the Second Coming*

1

*Service of Thanksgiving  
for Dr. H. Bennett*

2

*Donations*

3

*The Health Corner*

4

*Did You Know?*

4

*Pioneer of the Month*

4

*Comments from  
Our Visitors*

4

*Spirit of Prophecy  
Association*

4

## THE RESURRECTION AND THE SECOND COMING

**BASIL A. REID**

As the first Advent of Jesus Christ is inextricably linked with His death and resurrection, so is His resurrection linked with His Second Advent. Without deliberate consideration, we focus on the birth and crucifixion of Jesus Christ as the most celebratory events of His life. It is around these two great mysteries that the Christian world rotates. These religious celebrations take us in a circle instead of on a line, should enable us to see the true meaning of those great events—the Second Advent.

The resurrection of Jesus makes it possible for Him to fulfill all the precious promises made to His disciples and the human family. Historians speak of the Jesus of history and present date of His birth, which has affected even the way the of the month written ever since. There are incidents in the life of Jesus Christ, which occurred simultaneously with secular events. In Luke 2:1-3 is recorded of a "decree" which no secular historian of those days mention. "More recently, however, papyri and inscriptions have brought support for Luke's narrative..." that Caesar Augustus, Emperor of Rome 27 BC to AD 14 made such a decree. It is interesting to observe that neither pagan or Jewish critics like Celsus and Porphyry challenged Luke on this date. That there was a Jesus Christ is undeniable history.

Since the person called Jesus Christ was born it is not difficult to say he lived and then died. There are many views on these aspects of His life with some giving voice to areas of His life where the Bible is silent. This covers a great portion of His life. These hidden years, or the silent years, are spoken of as the time He spent with His parents. *<continued page 2>*

Would you like to send us your questions or comments on Spirit of Prophecy matters? Please, contact us:

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## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

**"If Christ be not risen, then  
is our preaching vain, and  
your faith is also vain."**

*(1 Corinthians 15:14, KJV).*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR (CONTINUED)

Ellen White writing about these years says, "From Jerusalem He returned home with them, and aided them in their life of toil. He did in His own heart the mystery of His mission....For eighteen years after He had recognized that He was the Son of God, He acknowledged the tie that bound Him to the home at Nazareth, and performed the duties of a son, a brother, a friend, and a citizen" (Desire of Ages, p. 82).

The public ministry of Jesus began after His baptism and ended three and a half years with His crucifixion. This was the fulfillment of prophecies and sanctuary services, but unlike the paschal lamb on the day of atonement, the Lamb of God would be raised on the third day. There are different versions of the resurrection presented by the gospel writers. They all, however, present an empty tomb but a living Lord.

Among those who shared the first gleams of that precious moment was Mary Magdalene. Driven by the intensity of her adoring love and abounding grief she went to the sepulcher while it was still dark. It is evident that it should be three of them but she got there before the other two women and saw the tomb open. She ran to tell Peter that the body of Christ has been stolen. When the other two women arrived they saw an angel sitting on the stone. He told them that Jesus Christ is risen, a fact confirmed by the soldiers who were guarding the tomb and saw the spectacular event. They too went to tell the priests. Peter and John on their arrival, confirmed that the tomb was empty and they went back home. But Mary Magdalene who would returned them, lingered, and so was the first to see Jesus and to hear the voice of the resurrected Lord. He said to her with such melody and pathos another message, "...go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend to my Father, and your Father, and to my God and your God" (John 20:17). Blending fear with great joy, Mary Magdalene went again but this time with better news. Excited beyond all parallel with the strange wonder that she has seen the Lord.

There was holy excitement mixed with fear of the Jews among the disciples because before one message could be fully appreciated another was delivered. The other two women, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, might have already brought the news that they too have seen Jesus, and He asked the disciples meet Him in

Galilee. Such news could be easily set aside as wild enthusiasm and excited imaginations, but parts of the puzzle were coming together. Jesus Christ is alive. Forty days after this unheard of day, Jesus Christ would lead the eleven disciples to the Mount of Olives and from these ascended to heaven. As angels confirmed His birth and resurrection, so angels reassured the again saddened disciples, that Jesus will come again.

That promise gave boldness to them. They went out preaching the certainty of the resurrection which gives assurance that the Second Coming is sure. The promise of Jesus to come gain was made based on the statement "If I go." Now that He went all who look for Him will see Him whenever He fulfills that promise. As the birth and the crucifixion of our Lord are inseparable, so too is His crucifixion and the Second Advent.

### **Service of Thanksgiving for Dr. Harold Bennett**

**West Indies Union**

Thanksgiving Service for Dr. Harold Bennett was held on Sunday, March 20, 2005 at the Northern Caribbean University Church beginning at 10:00 am.

Dr. Bennett who hailed from the parish of St. Mary gained his education at the former West Indies College. He commenced ministerial work in 1953 and during this time he met Merle Lawrence. They got married the following year.

Pastor Bennett was ordained as a Minister in 1956 and his contribution to the church was a sterling one which spanned over 49 years. He served as District Pastor from 1954 to 1971 in West and Central Jamaica Conferences and Dean of Students at West Indies College (now Northern Caribbean University) from 1971 to 1978. His tenure at the University also included lecturing in the Religion Department and the Department of English, Modern Languages and Communication. In 2003, Dr. Bennett received a well deserved <continues page 3>

## Service of Thanksgiving for Dr. Harold Bennett (Continued)

award from the University as an outstanding teacher.

In 1979 he was called to West Indies Union and served as Sabbath School, Lay Activities and Church Ministries Director until 1993 when he went on Sabbatical. Dr. Bennett is also a graduate of Andrews University where he completed graduate studies, and he later read for the Ph.D. at Michigan State University.

The West Indies Union family is saddened by the passing of this great stalwart and extends deepest condolence to his family.

### The Resurrection teaches us that we have hope

"Because He lives, we shall live also (John 14:19). In the depths of our grief, before unimaginable disasters, lacking all human consolation, we have hope (1 Thess. 4:13). There is the resurrection of life.

"We have this hope that has sustained us through past crises, that shines on our way today, that flings bright beams of light unto darkness of the future, that ever burns within our hearts, and never dies. We have this hope, born of resurrection power, hope in the coming of the Lord. He who rules over death...has gone to prepare us a place, that where He is we all may also be (Rev. 1:17, 18; John 14:1-3)" (Lael Caesar, What If Never Happened, *Adventist Review*, April 24, 2003).

## THE HEALTH CORNER: The Blessings of Water

Shigechiyo Izume, a 115-year-old man living on an island off Japan was asked how a person his age could be so healthy. "Simple," the old man replied. "I've drunk water all my life." He ended up living to the ripe old age of 120 years, 237 days.

Of all the vital nutrients you need to survive, water is the one you simple can't do without and the benefits gained from the intake or external use of water are numerous. Water feeds and clean your cells, improves your digestion, keeps your body temperature even, helps the body heal itself, lubricates and cushions your joints, moisturizes your skin, and rinses away germs.

However, most people tend to drink water only when they are thirsty. Big mistake! Our bodies need continuous supply of water in order to avoid dehydration, which may lead to tiredness, headaches, and cramps.

Ellen White wrote, "In health and in sickness, pure water is one of heaven's choicest blessings. Its proper use promotes health. It is the beverage which God provided to quench...thirst. Drunk freely, it helps to supply the necessities of the system and assists nature to resist disease. The external application of water is one of the easiest and most satisfactory ways of regulating the circulation of the blood" (Ministry of Healing, p. 237). "Pure water to drink...invigorate the vital organs.... Water is the best liquid possible to cleanse the tissues. If those who are afflicted would assist nature in her efforts by the use of pure, soft water, much suffering would be prevented" (My Life Today, p. 139).

## DONATIONS

The Research Centre is thankful for the donation of the Book Vers Jesus (French--*Steps to Christ*) by Ellen G. White, and a collection of the magazines *Adventist Review*, *Revue d'Éducation Adventiste*, *Diologue*, and *Éducation Adventiste* donated by Dr. and Mrs. Lucien Isaac.

## COMMENTS FROM OUR VISITORS

“Surprisingly, I did not know so much about Ellen White and her writings. The tour was very good!” **Deby Johnson**, Buff Bay SDA Church, Portland, Jamaica.

“[This] it’s a very interesting centre, one that is filled with historical information about Ellen G. White and her contribution to the growth and development of the Church...I would recommend anyone who wish to do a research on the life of Ellen G. White to visit the Research Centre,” **Everton Stephenson**, Student, NCU.

“A very inspirational visit. God bless!!,” **Marjorie E. Bravo-Lee**, Visitor.

## The Spirit of Prophecy Association

### Did you Know?

The Ellen G. White—Seventh-day Adventist Research Centre at Northern Caribbean University has launched a **Spirit of Prophecy Association**. Members of the Association support and benefit from the activities of the Centre.

**Activities at the Centre** include collecting and preserving Ellen White’s writings as well as other materials (supportive and critical) that are relevant to SDA theology and history. We also produce research, present seminars, and answer questions about Ellen White and SDA history and theology.

## PIONEER OF THE MONTH: J. N. Loughborough (1832-1924)



John Norton Loughborough was ordained in 1854. He became the first missionary within the United States (1868), and in 1878 he was sent to Europe. He was the denomination’s first historian, writing the book, The Rise and Progress of Seventh-day Adventists, which was followed by The Great Second Advent Movement. Loughborough was the first pastor to receive ordination in the SDA Church. He was only 22 years old.

Among other milestones, Loughborough was president of the Illinois Conference. For six years he was superintendent of General Conference districts, and showed great interest in evangelistic literature work. Loughborough was truly a great pioneer, lending his many talents to the development of the work wherever there was a need.

**NEW MEMBERS!** We would like to welcome to our Spirit of Prophecy Association **Enid McClymont**, Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator, Old England SDA Church, Manchester, Jamaica.

Please fill out and send this coupon to the

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## Did you Know?

Before Ellen White’s death in 1915, SDA membership had grown to 140,000, the total number of ministers was 2,500, there were 40 publishing houses, 80 medical institutions, and Adventist missions in every continent (Roger Coon, A Gift of Light, 1998).

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Spirit of Prophecy Association News Letter  
Ellen G. White—Seventh-day Adventist (EGW-SDA) Research Centre, Northern Caribbean University.

*Spirit of Prophecy* is a news letter dedicated to the promotion of the biblical truth concerning God’s revelation through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit of Prophecy. This news letter is published by the EGW-SDA Research Centre to equip the members of the Spirit of Prophecy Association to participate in the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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