Reading Centre opens in West Jamaica Conference

On May 27, 2006, the first Ellen G. White—SDA Reading Centre, West Indies Union, was opened in the West Jamaica Conference (WJC). The event was part of a Spirit of Prophecy Symposium conducted in that field. Presentations at the Symposium were done by Pastors Omri Davis on “The Last Days Deceptions”, Thomas Bryan on “The Time of Trouble”, Basil A. Reid on “The Latter Rain”, Rohan Sewell on “The Coming Apostasy” and Carl Sterling on “Another Prophet.”

The opening of the Reading Centre came as a result of a healthy attitude towards the writings of Ellen White that have aroused an increased demand for her books. The Centre will help satisfy this demand. It contains the Complete Writings of Ellen White CD-Rom and the Legacy of Light CD-Rom. There are copies of some of her books, documents and other books that will facilitate theological research. Records will be kept of the beginnings of the SDA Church in the Conference, which will supply an urgent need.

The Reading Centre was set up with the financial assistance from the Ministerial Fraternity of the WJC. It is opened to workers, church members, and students of both Harrison Memorial High School and Northern Caribbean University Extension School which are located on the same compound.

Guest speaker at the opening was Pastor Basil A. Reid, director of the Ellen G. White—SDA Research Centre at NCU. The Reading Centre was formally opened by Pastor Glen O. Samuels, president of WJC. Pastor Thomas Bryan, Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator for the Central Jamaica Conference was also present. The event was planned and executed by Pastor A. Bowers, Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator of the Conference. The Reading Centre is highly welcomed by the over six hundred members present at its inauguration.
**PIONEER OF THE MONTH:**

**Arthur G. Daniells**

(1858-1935)

He was born in Iowa, USA. At the age of ten he was converted to the SDA faith, and in 1875 entered Battle Creek College, remaining only one year because of ill-health. After he and his wife taught in public schools for one year, he received a call to the ministry. At first he felt timid and unprepared, but he began his ministry in 1878 with Robert M. Kilgore in Texas. He was then secretary to James and Ellen White for one year, and later an evangelist in Iowa.

In 1886 he worked as pioneer SDA missionary to New Zealand. He was president of the New Zealand, Australian Conferences, and the Australasian Union Conference. When Ellen G. White when to Australia in 1891 he became closely associated with her.

He assumed the presidency of the General Conference in 1901 at a difficult period of the history of the church, but he met with ability financial and organizational problems and the task of moving the headquarters of the denomination to Washington, D.C. he traveled extensively on all continents, convinced of the necessity of getting his information firsthand.

The reforms and reorganization that took place during his period of office led to great expansion of the church throughout the world.

Daniells was concerned with the development of a spiritual ministry, and led in the formation of the Ministerial Association and of *The Ministry Magazine*. His books include: *Christ Our Righteousness* and *The Abiding Gift of Prophecy*.

“...It is the faithfulness, the loyalty to God, the loving service, that wins the divine approval. Every impulse of the Holy Spirit leading men to goodness and to God is noted in the books of heaven, and in the day of God the workers through whom He has wrought will be commenced” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, 361).

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**THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS**

*Studies in the Spirit of Prophecy and the Life and Work of Ellen G. White*  
Written and Compiled by E. L. Carney

**Hazen Foss**

Who was Hazen Foss, and what vision had been presented to him?

Hazen Foss, a young Adventist talent, was given the first vision that Ellen Harmon had in December, 1844. This vision was given shortly after October 22 had passed. He was bidden to relate to others what he had seen. This he refused to do. He had believed firmly in the coming of the Lord in 1844 and when He did not come Foss became utterly discouraged. The Lord again told him to relate what he had seen, warning him that he would give the vision to another if he still refused to obey. He still refused. Then a voice said to him, “You have grieved away the Spirit of the Lord.” Now, horrified at his stubbornness and rebellion, he attempted to relate what he had been shown. He appointed a meeting and the people crowded in to hear. “Now,” he said, “I will relate the vision…” it was too late. He could not remember a word of it. God had taken it from him. In great distress he cried out, “I am a lost man.” those who described that meeting said it was one of the most terrible they had ever attended. In despair Hazen Foss died in 1893.

It was shortly after this that the same vision was given to Ellen G. Harmon. Miss Harmon was invited by Mrs. Hazen Foss to speak at McGuire’s Hill, Maine. There Mr. Foss heard her relate what God had shown to her. He said to her, “The Lord gave me a message to bear to His people, and I refused after being told the consequences. I was proud; I was unrecognized to the disappointment. I murmured against God, and wished myself dead. Then I felt a strange feeling come over me. I shall be henceforth as one dead to spiritual things. I heard you talk last night. I believe the visions are taken from me and given to you. Do not refuse to obey God…You are chosen of God; be faithful in doing your work, and the crown I might have had, you will receive” (*Letter 37, 1890*).
The second Sabbath Service at the Research Centre was held June 10, 2006. Twenty-two members of the Spirit of Prophecy Association (SOPA) from the parish of Hanover attended. The group was led by Elders Fitzroy Williams and Earl Green, President and Vice President of the Association respectively. Members of the SOPA represented various districts and churches in the parish of Hanover.

Among them were Lucea, Hopewell, Sandy Bay, Sheffield, Orange Bay, Mountain Castle, March Town, Silver Spring, Maryland, Axe & Adz, and Blenheim.

The third group visiting the Centre on a Sabbath consisted of 35 members from the Ephesus SDA Church in Kingston on June 17, 2006. The group was led by Cedric Palmer, Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator. The Sabbath School programme consisted of a mission story taken from the life and experiences of Ellen White and a seminar “Who was Ellen G. White,” presented by Mrs. Kerry-Ann Chambers, Secretary of the Research Centre.

Pastor Reid, for the Divine Hour, presented a full sermon by Ellen White entitled “Called to the Wedding Feast.” It was an appeal to God’s people to make ready for the coming of our Lord. After an enjoyable lunch and tour of the campus, guests returned to the Centre to be acquainted with its operations and have their questions answered. The comment from everyone confirmed that more church members should come to the Centre to be inspired and blessed. There is growing interest in this new concept to visit the Centre.

Words from the Pioneers Regarding the Spirit of Prophecy
F. M. Wilcox on The Testimony of Jesus
“Did Mrs. E. G. White recognize her call to holy office? She came with no high-sounding titles, with no vain-glorious pretensions, with no ostentatious show. She was instructed that she was the Lord’s messenger. She recognized this call and proved true to her divine commission.” The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, June 9, 1946.
Questions and Answers

Did Ellen White make references regarding the use of cosmetics?

As to cosmetics, Ellen White mentioned these by name only once. This is in an article in the Health Reformer at a time when cosmetics contained poisonous ingredients and often led to the death of the user. The condemnation of Ellen White in this particular setting is on that of the peril of health. There is an E. G. White statement with very strong inference along this line in Child Guidance, p. 424. She says, “the pure religion of Jesus requires of its followers the simplicity of natural beauty and the polish of natural refinement and elevated purity, rather than artificial and false.”

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.

Visit our Website

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

Comments from our visitors

“Very Good presentation and information!”
Adrene Todd, Lucea SDA Church, Hanover.

“Very interesting. [Staff] presented our history in a simple and attractive way.”
Avian Reid, Sandy Bay SDA Church, Hanover.

“I found a lot of things that I didn’t know,”
Marlon Young, Ephesus SDA Church, Kingston.

“Very Interesting. A very good project!”
Alric Russell, Ephesus SDA Church, Kingston.

“I think the customer service is excellent. Keep up the good work as you continue to assist us to achieve true education,”
Melissa Anderson, Meadowvale SDA Church, Kingston.

“The books are interesting and customer service is good,”
Andrea Francis, NCU Student.

Did you Know?

“Ellen White not only enjoyed telling a story that others would enjoy, but she could be quick of wit. Her encounter with the dentist who removed her last remaining eight teeth in 1893...illustrates her quick wit. Knowing she would be having extractions without the benefit of a pain killer...she had spent the previous night passing through ‘the process of having my teeth extracted during my dreams.’ When the dentist woman arrived, she asked, ‘Are you sorry to see me?’ Mrs. White quipped back, ‘I am very glad to meet you as Sister Caro; but I am not so pleased to meet you as my dentist.’”

(George Knight. Walking with Ellen White, 23.)