



Ellen G. White

Research Center Newsnotes

A twice yearly newsletter published by the Ellen G. White Estate © for its
Research Centers

Editor: Theodore N. Levterov
Design & Layout: Michael W. Olivarez

Volume 42, Number 02 • Summer 2020
Loma Linda University, California USA

Image: Ellen G. White portrait c. 1875 (Dunham & Lathrop's), Oakland, CA. White Estate
photograph archive: <https://photo.egwwritings.org/>

From the Editor

Dear Colleagues in ministry, welcome to a new edition of the *EGW Research Center Newsnotes*. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way we interact, work, and do ministry. However, this is not a time to panic. Instead, this is an opportunity to be innovative and find new ways of doing ministry and doing it effectively. If you are like me, you may be tired of “zooming.” On the other hand, through “zoom,” I have been able to do seminars on Ellen White to virtually people from around the globe. God is good even when we are in the midst of such a major world crisis. Therefore, let us continue and keep the “vision alive.” We must.

In this edition, you will read our White Estate Director's last report. As you are probably aware, Elder Jim Nix is retiring in few short weeks. We have been abundantly blessed to work under his leadership. He has inspired me personally and I have seen what a God-led leadership is all about. His passion for Adventist history and Ellen White are beyond comparison. If you ever visit the General Conference, please, see the new “Visitor Center” and you will see the “signature” of Elder Nix. Thank you Jim for serving the church, the White Estate, and for being an example for all of us.

At the same time, we want to welcome Merlin Burt as our new White Estate director. I am sure that most of you know Dr. Burt and he needs no special introduction. Currently, he is the director of our Branch Office at Andrews University, Michigan. Dr. Burt will be moving to the General Conference with his wife Sarah to begin his new role in August. Knowing him personally, I am confident that the White Estate will continue to be a vibrant place for mission and service to the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist church.

At the end, let me encourage you to do your part and submit your reports to the *EGW Research Center Newsnotes*. As you are aware, we publish the *Newsnotes* twice a year – in January and in June. Put it on your calendar. It is this publication that keeps our White Estate community in touch with each other. Also, let me remind you that you can access all of the previous edition [HERE](#). Enter the user name “12345.” The password is “carnotes.”

Once again, thank you for all of your contributions. May God bless you abundantly. ♦

From the White Estate Director

As I sit here at home on this June evening in 2020, writing my final report for *Research Center News Notes* (yes, the original name of this publication had four words in it, not three) my mind goes back 41 years to June 1979, and the events that led up to the publication of that first issue. It resulted from what today we would call a White Estate Advisory (then it was called the “Curator's Workshop”). The meetings were held at the former General Conference building located in Takoma Park, Maryland, July 7 – 21, 1978, followed by an Adventist heritage tour, July 23-30, 1978 (the first such tour that I led).

During the tour, the directors discussed a suggestion I made regarding producing a small semi-annual newssheet so we could stay in communication with each other. (Back then, there were no cell phones or other means of easy communication.)

The tour ended and everyone returned home. Moreover, as is so often the case, the idea to start a paper soon became nothing but a faded memory.

Nearly a year later, in May 1979, Mrs. Hedy Jemison, founding director of the White Estate office at Andrews University, and I were invited to come to the main office of the White Estate at the General Conference for two weeks. Afterward, I drove her home to Berrien Springs, Michigan (I was staying at Andrews for a few weeks to do some research.) While driving from Takoma Park to Berrien



James Nix



Attendees at 1978 Curator's Workshop held in Takoma Park, Washington, DC. Left to right: H. R. Treiyr (River Plate, Argentina); Cruz Castro (Montemorelos, Mexico); Mrs. C. Castro (Mexico); J. R. Nix (Loma Linda, California); Hedy Jemison (Andrews, Michigan); Arthur Patrick (Avondale, Australia); K. F. Mueller (Newbold, England)

Springs, she and I discussed again about the possibility of starting a small newssheet. Out of that discussion was born the first issue of *RCNN*. It contained only two reports: one from the Andrews office that Hedy wrote, and the other one from me reporting on things then happening at the Loma Linda center. Included in that inaugural issue was an invitation to the directors of the other research centers to contribute to the next issue of the fledgling newsletter.

After getting back home, I came up with the name for the paper. You can see from the results that I did not spend a lot of time creating a fancy title for it! Initially, every center was called a Research Center because originally there was no distinction between Branch Offices and Research Centers. My recollection is that the "Branch Office" name came into usage at about the time the Research Center at Loma Linda was upgraded in 1985 to what was renamed the Loma Linda Branch Office. (The first use of the name Branch Office in *RCNN* was in 1985 in connection with the opening of the upgraded facility at Loma Linda. See Vol VI, No. II; Winter 1985.) We then had two offices newly named Branch Offices (Andrews and Loma Linda.) The distinction between a Research Center is that it is located at a non-General Conference institution; Branch Offices are located at General Conference institutions. Also, the General Conference covers the operating expenses for Branch Offices. Otherwise, the historic Adventist resources available are exactly the same in both type of facility.

By the time the Volume I, Number. 2 issue of *RCNN* came out in November 1979, it contained reports from five of the six research centers then in existence (Andrews, Avondale, Loma Linda, Montemorelos, and River Plate.) Having volunteered to serve as the first editor, I continued in that role through 1993 when I transferred from Loma Linda to the main White Estate office at the General Conference, by then relocated to Silver Spring, Maryland. Merlin Burt became the second editor of *RCNN*

As just mentioned, originally we did not use the term "Director." We all were "Curators." Apparently that term does not translate well in some languages, so the term "Director" was substituted.

RCNN continued to be typed on a typewriter through Volume 5, Number 2; January 1984. Volume 6, Number 1 (July 1984) was the first to be produced on a computer. It was not until Volume 8, Number 1, (November 1992) that the "EGW" initials was first used in the masthead. The first photograph included in an issue appeared in the Winter 1985 issue (Vol. VI, No 2), reporting on the opening of the upgraded Branch Office at Loma Linda. The most difficult issue personally that I produced while editor was reporting on the death and memorial service for Elder Arthur L. White (Vol. XI, No. 2; February 1991). He had served as secretary of the White Estate Board for 41 years (1937-1978). It was Elder White and Elder Robert H. Pierson, General Conference president at the time, who shared the dream of establishing Ellen G. White/Seventh-day Adventist Research Centers around the world. Even more than reporting a professional loss, Elder White was my mentor and friend. I was only 28 when he hired me to be the first half-time director of the new Ellen G. White Research Center at Loma Linda.

During my lifetime, I have been privileged to see, talk with, or work for six of our 12 White Estate Board chairs. As for our White Estate secretaries (now called directors), I have worked for all but the first two. Although I had no direct contact with the first one, Clarence C. Crisler, I did talk about him with Elder K. H. Wood. As the son of missionaries, young Kenneth Wood had learned to set type under the supervision of Clarence Crisler at our publishing house in China. And though W. C. White, our second secretary, died ten years before I was born, so obviously I did not meet him, I did have a nice visit with his widow, May. I also had the privilege of being acquainted with five of Ellen White's seven grandchildren, plus several other individuals who had personal memories of her. What a privilege and blessing has been mine!

While sharing some facts that have impacted my years working for the White Estate, let me mention a few



The most difficult issue personally that I produced while editor was reporting on the death and memorial service for Elder Arthur L. White—Jim Nix. Taken during the opening ceremony of the Ellen G. White Estate Research Center at Loma Linda University.

others things. It was my distinct privilege to help establish or upgrade thirteen of our Research Centers and Branch Offices, at first assisting Tim Poirier, though later he allowed me to wing it on my own! Through the years, I have also traveled extensively. One year, without intending to do so, I realized toward the end of the year that I had spoken on every continent except Antarctica that year. I also was honored to represent the White Estate during the evening meetings at the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, due to it being the 100th anniversary of Ellen White's death on July 16, 2015, about a week after the Session closed. These are just a few of the many undeserved public privileges and blessings that I have had while working for the White Estate. However, for me, by far the most special blessing has been getting to know and work with most of you (we have a couple of new Directors who I have not had an opportunity to meet.) You are a fantastically special group of committed individuals; what a blessing you have been to me, for which I will be eternally grateful. Moreover, I can say the same for our Division Spirit of Prophecy Coordinators, many of whom I have been privileged to travel with to appointments in their territory.

In relation to establishing New Research Centers, I found myself doing things for which I had no previous experience. One was to lead out in the formalities associated with the official opening. Just before it was time to open the Research Center in Jamaica, Pastor Israel Leito, at the time president of the Inter-American Division, mentioned that just prior to cutting the ribbon to open the new facility, I needed to say something to officially declare the facility open. I had not a clue what to say. Finally, the following came to mind; to the best of my memory this is what I said: "By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Ellen G. White Estate Board of Trustees, I hereby declare the Ellen G. White/Seventh-day Adventist Research Center located at Northern Caribbean Adventist University to be officially open. By so doing, I welcome it to the worldwide sisterhood of Research Centers." The statement seemed to work to people's satisfaction there in Jamaica so I used nearly identical wording to declare open additional Research Centers from then on.



Participating in the 1985 opening of the White Estate Branch Office in the Loma Linda University Library were (left to right): Francis W. Wernick, LLU Board chair and White Estate Board trustee; James Nix, Director of the new Branch Office; Norman Woods (partially hidden, LLU President); Robert W. Olson (White Estate Director); Kenneth H. Wood (White Estate Board Chair); Grace White-Jacques (granddaughter of Ellen White); H. Maynard Lowry (LLU Library Director).

Village. In 2015 the Ellen G. White Visitor Center opened at the main office, a project I championed. Almost none of these were done without the very capable assistance of others. In addition to these larger projects, there have been a number of smaller projects along the way, but I have taken up more space than I should have consumed.

There really isn't very much to report this time. Since the middle of March, I, along with almost everyone else in the world, have been quarantined due to the Covid-19 virus. My intention was to visit our Research Centers at Newbold College and Oakwood University during those months, but with travel moratoriums in place, those plans had to be scuttled. I'm very sorry because I always enjoy being on site with our team members. In 2000 I stated to those at our Advisory that year that during the quinquennium I planned to visit each of our Centers around the world. Actually, not only did I accomplish that during that quinquennium, but except for Newbold and Oakwood this time I have also visited all of our Centers during each of the three succeeding quinquenniums. My special thanks to each director (and also often the Division Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator for always making me feel so welcome. Those visits stand out as very precious memories during the past twenty years.



James Nix making a presentation at Loma Linda University.

The Lord allowed me to be in the place where I could initiate a number of things, as well as support my colleagues with many of their ideas. As already mentioned, I was privileged to found Research Center News Notes (1979). I also was a co-founder of Adventist Heritage Ministries (1981); established the AHP Bulletin (now called the AHM Bulletin, 1985) for Adventist Heritage Ministries. I also helped solicit funds to purchase the William Miller Farm (1984), the Hiram Edson Farm (1989); and the Joseph Bates Boyhood Home (2005). In addition to helping develop Historic Adventist Village which officially opened in 2000, after consulting with several others, in 1999 I wrote the Master Plan for the Village. In 2015 the Ellen G. White Visitor Center opened at the main office, a project I championed. Almost none of these were done without the very capable assistance of others. In addition to these larger projects, there have been a number of smaller projects along the way, but I have taken up more space than I should have consumed.

Beginning March 1 my wife and I participated in the Newstart program at Weimar Institute in California. The night before, Sabbath evening,

Here is the first issue of News Notes that those of us who were on the 1978 Denominational History tour following the Curators' Workshop in Washington, D. C., decided would be fun to issue. It was supposed to have come out long ago, but I guess it is better late than never. I hope that two issues a year can be brought out—and they can be if I get your help!

Several of you were not on the tour, so let me tell you what we plan to do in News Notes. Our hope is that once every six months each of you can send to the editor a report of some of the activities of your Center. I will then compile them and send them to each of the Research Centers. The reports could include significant research being conducted, new acquisitions, changes in personnel, or anything else you feel would be of interest to the rest of us about your Center. All of us are very busy so the reports do not need to be long. Please keep them under one page, single spaced.

From the first issue of Research Center News Notes issued in June 1979, containing reports from two White Estate centers, until today, RCNN continues to report on the outreach ministry of the dedicated staff of the Estate through its Offices worldwide!

February 29, was a very special time for me. Mindi and I spent the evening at Elmshaven where I led a hymnsing of old songs associated with Ellen White. What made it extra special was that the gathering that evening was for nine descendants of Ellen White plus several volunteers and staff who operate Elmshaven, her last home in California. I was surprised at the end of the program to be given a plaque from the White family thanking me for my years of service for the White Estate and Elmshaven. The oldest descendant present that evening was 98-year old Gladys Kubrock, one of Ellen White's great granddaughters. While at Elmshaven, I found my signature in one of their old guest books written in my childish handwriting documenting my visit there, along with other members of my family, on June 2, 1956. About fifteen years later, I was privileged to serve on the Elmshaven Restoration Committee that was chaired by Dr. Floyd Rittenhouse; Elder Arthur White was the prime mover to restore the house while his older sister, Grace White-Jacques, was still living and could share her recollections regarding how things looked when Ellen White lived there.

Before I close, I want to correct a misstatement in my last report in RCNN. Because our deadline was so early last time, I mentioned going on a behind-the-scenes tour of the conservation lab at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History located downtown on the Mall. Unfortunately, the tour did not happen, which reminds me that I should have kept my report to sharing what I had already done in contrast to predicting what I was going to be doing!

But now the time has come to step aside and let a younger person receive the blessings that have been mine these past twenty years. I want to repeat what I have already said, among those blessing are each of you, including your predecessors. I believe that I am the only person currently living who has met each of our Research Center directors from the very first one (except one or two that have just joined our worldwide team.) Again, what a privilege; what a great group of dedicated individuals you all are!

As I was looking up dates for the opening paragraphs of this report, I found the following entry in my diary for July 7,

1978: "Seems strange to have Dr. Robert Olson rather than Elder A. L. White in charge (Elder White retired June 30th)." When he retired, Elder White had been in charge of the White Estate for 41 years—since his father's death in 1937.) I've already had several staff members tell me that it is going to seem strange when I retire, and Merlin Burt becomes director. I've known Merlin for nearly 30 years; he has all the qualifications necessary to be a great director, especially if you give him the same kind of support that you have given me! My thoughts and prayers are not only with him, but with all of you. Even as the times ahead become more challenging and difficult, God will continue to bless the White Estate and each of you who are part of this fabulous team.

**"Retirement is not the end of the road.
It is the beginning of the open highway."**

- Author Unknown

Once before I turned my responsibilities over to Merlin Burt's capable hands. In my last issue of RCNN before he took over as the new editor, I closed my final "From the Editor" introductory comments with the following: "May God continue to richly bless each of you as you promote Heaven's special messages to our church in your part of the world. I can think of no more thrilling or challenging work than ours. And may the day come quickly when, rather than having to send in your semi-annual reports to RCNN, we, with thousands more whose lives our Research Centers [and electronic media endeavors] have touched, will be gathered together on the Sea of Glass in the Earth made new.

"Then, after the initial shouting and praises to God have poured from our lips, I can picture several of us gathered around a short 5'2" (1.57 meters) lady, telling her about the outreach of her writings through our various Centers around the world. And won't she be surprised? But after we have talked a bit, I think she'll then remind us that these were not her messages, but they really are Jesus' messages to His Church. We'll assure her that is precisely the message that we tried to get across. And then, once again, our hearts and lips will join—this time with Sister White's—in praising our wonderful, loving Saviour for this special gift that He gave His people, just before the end of time. I can hardly wait! How about you?"—James R. Nix, "From the Editor," Research Center News Notes, Vol. XIII, No. 2, April 1993, 2, 3. ♦

From the White Estate Vice Director

Although I work every day with the writings of our prophet, I can give you certain proof that I can lay no claim to the gift. As I reviewed what I wrote in my last report I found that I had stated, “By the time of our next report the 2020 General Conference Session will be history.” Wrong! What a world of difference has happened in 2020!

I am thankful that we were able to hold a Zoom meeting with most of you (our second one) on April 23. We appreciate your efforts to meet with us, even though the hour of the meeting is inconvenient for several of you in order to accommodate our global team. I anticipate additional meetings to discuss certain issues and to share important information. With the reduced GC Session that is planned for next May, it is unlikely that we will see as many of you as we had been expecting. There will not be any exhibition booths or special guests. Plans for a future Advisory are just beginning to be discussed, but we have no assurances of being able to meet in person as a group when that happens.

As I write this report, the General Conference building is still closed due to governmental policies as our area continues to battle the virus. While many of our day-to-day projects have had to be postponed, the Internet is keeping our office busy between Zoom meetings, emails, website development, and social media.

Among other editing projects I have been continuing to work with Denis Kaiser on volume 2 of the annotated E. G. White letters and manuscripts. Denis has completed annotating all but one of the documents for this volume, which



Tim Poirier

covers 1860-1863. Additional work that needs to be done in order to complete this volume includes some introductory essays, several biographical sketches, and indexing.

A recent assignment our office received is a request for an Ellen White compilation on the three angels' messages. I have been working with Alberto Timm, Merlin Burt, and Michael Sokupa on its preparation. We hope to have a manuscript for review before the end of 2020.

I wish to thank John Skrzypaszek for the 15 years of outstanding leadership he has given to our Research Center at Avondale. I have enjoyed our interactions over the years, and his enthusiasm and professional scholarship will be greatly missed. I wish him and his wife God's abundant blessings as he transitions into retirement.

I also want to welcome Mark Pearce as he takes up his new responsibilities as John's successor. I look forward to reading about his activities and plans in future issues of the *Newsnotes*.

Speaking of *Newsnotes*, it is hard to imagine future issues without them carrying the name of James R. Nix, founding editor of this publication. It is even harder to imagine working in the White Estate office without my director and friend of what will be 40 years next Spring. Jim, your impact on the mission of the White Estate and Adventist heritage is unparalleled by anyone in the church. May God bless you in your continuing efforts to keep before us God's leading in our history and His messages to His remnant church—because I know you won't stop doing what you love to do, even in retirement. ♦

Associate Director's Reports

Once again it is a privilege to share some of the wonderful work that we have been doing at the Ellen G. White Estate. The past few weeks in the United States have been quite turbulent and we at the White Estate have been affected. We have been working from home and spending lots of time on Zoom calls, but the work of the White Estate has continued.

One of the newest and most exciting projects that I have been fortunate to work on this year has been the creation of short video devotionals for our social media pages. This project began out of a desire to simply encourage online visitors who frequent our websites and social media pages during this time of pandemic and civil unrest. Through the blessing of the Lord, I was able to complete 100 of these “Red Door Reads” devotionals in 100 days, posting one each day to the White Estate Facebook page. The project culminated on Sabbath, June 30, 2020 and many visitors were blessed by these timely messages of hope from God's Word and the writings of Ellen G. White.

We are nearing publication of the 2021 White Estate evening devotional titled *Jesus: Name Above All Names*. Over the past two years I have had the privilege of choosing 365 of the more than 840 names, titles, and

appellations by which Ellen White used referred to Jesus. These “names” and the readings from which they come are featured in this life-changing devotional. We believe that all who read it will not only be drawn closer to Jesus, but they will also catch a glimpse of Ellen White's great love for the Savior.

Work continues on the *Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator Handbook*. We hope to have it completed before the end of the year, though we have had some delays due to disruptions caused by the pandemic. This handbook will be a huge help to SOP Coordinators at all levels of the church. It will offer clear job descriptions, guidance on where to find resources, sample programs and planning information, and much more.

In addition to work on the handbook, editing continues on a compilation of Ellen White's writings regarding religious liberty. Given the recent protests in the United States and around the world concerning race and justice issues, Elder Jim Nix felt that we needed to share a representative sample of Ellen White's statements on race, including statements which some view as problematic when read out of context. I am working on this project as well, in tandem with other writing projects.



Dwain N. Esmond

Finally, I must say a word of appreciation about Elder James R. Nix, the person most responsible for my being at the Ellen G. White Estate. It was Elder Nix who first reached out to me to inquire whether I would have an interest in joining the White Estate as an associate director. I was going through some challenges at the time, but I had the good sense to say yes to his kind inquiry. It was among the best decisions that I have ever made. Jim Nix is a person of integrity whose commitment to the mission and ministry of the White Estate is second to none. His gifts as a historian, researcher, and story-teller have added much to what we know about Ellen White and pioneer history. He so much more than a boss to me. He has been a counselor, mentor, encourager, and the best supervisor that I have ever had in more than 25 years of denominational employment. I will miss Jim dearly, but I wish he and Mindi God's richest blessings in retirement. They have certainly earned it! ♦

“Every step in Life may bring us closer to Jesus, may
give us a deeper experience of his love, and may
bring us one step nearer to the blessed home of
peace.” - *Steps to Christ*, p. 125

The first half of 2020 has been marked by a radical rearrangement of plans and appointments for our children and youth as we were at ‘stay-at-home’ and unable to travel because of COVID19. Of course, somethings could continue as normal. Our partnerships with *KidsView* and *Guide* magazine to provide our children and teens with monthly faith inspiring stories of our Adventist Pioneers continued but we had to find more digital ways of connecting. In collaboration with GC Children’s Ministries and ARtv we hope to soon have the South American division cartoon series titled Nick available in English. This well illustrated 12-part series introduces preschool age children to Ellen White and her ministry.



Chantal Klingbeil

Door series (short devotional nuggets) that Dwain Esmond prepared and posted each day for over three months. We are also delighted to see that several of our Research Centers and Branch Offices are now running their own FB pages. We hope to soon have all of these sites’ information on our new website. Our [Instagram](#) account has also shown remarkable grown during this time and we now have 22,900 followers.

We continue to promote the [EGW Adventist Heritage Education Box](#) as an easy to use resource for teaching Adventist heritage and history to elementary aged children from home. The laminated old-fashioned chest shaped box contains materials that are reusable for elementary schools. Each box includes a 300 pieces Christ of the Narrow Way puzzle, a 60-card memory game, a short story booklet entitled *The Tall Stranger*, and a reprint of the Arthur White’s *Campfires Stories* book with a fresh design. We have included re-printable coloring pictures for each story, two posters as well as a Steps to Christ coloring book. We also have a thumb drive in each box, which contains a printable play on the life of Ellen White, a presentation with work booklets, and a PowerPoint on the life, visions and ministry of Ellen White for the 8-12 age group, several short video clips and an elementary Week of Prayer video prepared by NAD.

We are currently working on a website titled Pioneer Adventures that will feature materials for children of all ages. These include games (Pitcairn, Memory game, Ellen White Says game, puzzles and word searches), coloring pages and activities (that can also be printed), audio stories, short videos, books and curriculum.

An 8-part short (2-4 minute) video series on the prophetic gift is nearing completion. This series is designed for easy social media sharing and introduces college age young adults and new Advents to the biblical concept of prophecy.

Our [Facebook](#) account showed a tremendous spike in the months of March and April having a historic reach of 60,000. Of particular interest and encouragement was the Red

We hope and pray that these materials will help our parents, and educators in their task of introducing our rich heritage to our children even in challenging times. ♦



These books and more can be purchased by clicking [here](#).

What a joy and honor to work for the Ellen G. White Estate, Inc! In addition to this, I feel so blessed to be called to serve as the Executive director for Adventist Heritage Ministries and to be responsible for four important historic sites of our Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Since 2016 I have had the privilege of realizing a huge restoration project in Fairhaven, MA. We completely restored the structure of the Joseph Bates Boyhood home, as much as possible to its appearance as it was when he lived there in his childhood and later with his young family. Now we are working on the interior presentation, a museum that will tell the life story of Joseph Bates with interactive displays and original artifacts. Since this building is recognized as the oldest one in town (1742), Fairhaven citizens are interested in the building itself as well as the life of Joseph Bates. We hope that the site will become a center of influence, and pray that many people will come and learn not only about the life of Joseph Bates but also about his love for the soon-coming Lord Jesus Christ and the importance of the seventh-day Sabbath.

The historical rooms of the house exude the flair of the old days. As visitors enter, they will be drawn into the life story of seaman Joseph Bates in a replicated ship's hull with video presentations on huge screens. His seafaring experience will come alive for them. After they learn about who Bates was, they will learn about his life after he retired from the sea and will be introduced to how he became a Millerite. Finally, they will discover him as one of the important founders of the SDA Church. We are eager to finish this project!



Markus Kutzschbach
Associate Director

Last year we experienced the 175th anniversary of October 22, 1844, at the William Miller Farm. More than 1000 people listened intently to speakers such as Ted Wilson, Dan Jackson, Bill Knott, Jim Nix, Merlin Burt, Jud Lake, Chantal and Gerald Klingbeil, as well as Dwain Esmond who answered the question as to why we are still here. Many left these meetings encouraged to intensify their efforts of finishing our mission to this world.

In July of last year in Battle Creek, we welcomed thousands of young people headed to or returning from Oshkosh. They came to listen to the stories of our pioneers and to experience original places and exhibits. It was a joy to see the smiles on their faces and realize how much they were impressed by what they learned and saw, especially in the home of James and Ellen White. May these impressions remain with them for life!

Unfortunately, the Corona pandemic stopped our work for about three months. But we just reopened the village in Battle Creek and the William Miller Farm. We are looking forward to reopening all sites and to serving our young people, our church members, and many non-Adventist visitors who learn about our hope of the soon-coming Savior for the first time in their lives.

I am so thankful for all that I have experienced with Jesus in these last four years and I look forward to continuing to work with Adventist Heritage Ministries and the White Estate to win souls for Jesus Christ. ♦



Joseph Bates Boyhood Home.



Over 1000 people attended the 175th anniversary of The Great Disappointment.



Alberto Timm
Associate Director

Greetings from our home in Beltsville, Maryland, where my wife and I have been confined since March 16, when the General Conference Headquarters went into lockdown. I hope each of you and all your beloved ones are doing well, despite the current pandemic challenges.

My agenda for 2020 was full of important events and projects. My first overseas trip was to Kenya with the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) visiting team that evaluated the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton (January 13-16). There we used for the first time the new

“EGW-SDA Research Center Evaluation” form (prepared by Tim Poirier), helping us to leave specific commendations and recommendations to the University administration in regard to the local Research Center and its activities. James Matua and his staff were very cooperative in the evaluation process.

In Tokyo, I lectured at the International Bible and Mission Conference (IBMC) for the pastors of the Japan Union Conference (January 27-29). My four presentations were



Trimm at the International Bible and Mission Conference in Tokyo, Japan

entitled, “Prophetic Identity of the SDA Church,” “Current Theological Issues,” “The Writings of Ellen G. White: A Personal Testimony,” and “Modern Adventist Antitrinitarianism: Hermeneutical Reflections.” I was much impressed with the positive responses of the pastors to the conference in general and also to Ellen G. White!

During the two weeks I spent at River Plate University, Argentina (February 2-15), I taught an intensive “Doctrine of the Sanctuary Seminar” for their Doctor of Theology program. Meanwhile, I attended the 19th Postgraduate Research Conference, where I presented a paper on “The Sanctuary in the Framework of the Great Cosmic-Historical Controversy.” It was a delight to visit with Daniel Plenc and his secretary Liliana Velazquez.

My last overseas trip was to Europe, with my son William, who coordinates the Digital Bible School of Novo Tempo (Brazil). In Portugal (March 5-8), we had a useful meeting at the Portugal Publishing House, and we spoke at the Spirit of Prophecy Symposium, but already with some COVID-19 restrictions. Our travel itinerary included some historical



Timm working from home

places in Germany and Poland, followed by meetings in Kołobrzeg, north Poland, and the meetings of the Biblical Research Committee of the Inter-European Division in Collonges, France. But due to the COVID-19, we had to cancel these two appointments and depart from Berlin on March 14, just on time to avoid flight cancellations.

Unable to travel, I had to cancel also the much-expected Gift of Prophecy Symposiums at UNASP-EC and FADBA, Brazil (March 25-30), and Newbold College, England (May 1-3), as well as other important appointments. This pandemic changed radically the way we work. Hoping to do much writing, many Zoom and other lives began to take over my time. To make the story short,

between April 12 and June 30, I lectures/preached at more than 50 different live events, without counting several other business lives. Many of them dealt with Ellen White and the final events. It is a completely new paradigm, in which we can easily lose control of our agendas! ♦

The past six months has been an interesting learning experience for me. Working remotely was both rewarding and challenging. I learned a number of new skills that would have taken me much longer to acquire. One of the skills I had to learn very quickly was to master hosting a zoom meeting. My first experience was almost a disaster, but thanks to the technical support that I received.

I had zoom meetings with several divisions. I converted my itinerary for the year into zoom meetings. I was scheduled to visit Romania in October this year for a pastor's meeting. I had planned to do a week of prayer at a church where I had preached during the TMI evangelistic program in 2017 during my visit this year. With the Covid-19 pandemic situation we ended up having a number of zoom sessions where I presented a devotion, surveyed the needs of the new members, and presented a seminar. I was excited to discover that the church had just concluded a series of studies on interpreting Scriptures. The survey I have done will help me in my presentations to the pastors as we look at the needs of the territory. Romania is a predominantly Orthodox country, I was excited to work with members who had come out of that background, who shared their experiences. In line with the topic that they were studying we looked at principles of interpreting the Bible from Ellen White's writings. I have been invited to do some zoom meetings at the Adventist high school and university in Bucharest. All these zoom events are a build up to the pastors meeting for October.

I had some exciting zoom meetings with SID. The division already had prophetic guidance lessons that were prepared by Dr David Birkenstock. These lessons were printed and made available to members. According to Dr Super Moesi, current SOP coordinator also a director elect for the White Estate Branch Office in Nairobi Kenya, one of the unions had enrolled



Michael Sokpua
Associate Director

7000 members who finished the course. We had several zoom facilitator's meetings with Dr. Passmore Hachalinga and Grant Lottering as well as SOP coordinators of three unions that have the largest membership in SID. The lessons were divided among the seven facilitators and every Monday a presentation is given to the pastors, elders and members who are able to come onto the zoom platform. After the seven lessons are given the unions will manage the completion of the rest of the lessons. There are certificates of completion that have been designed. This will hopefully revive the local church to have these training sessions as needed. There is a need for prophetic guidance lessons that will be accessible to all members. The White Estate is working on this, watch the space!

The last zoom interaction was with WAD. Two years ago, we set out on visiting unions for identifying the heritage sites in each union of the division. I had a zoom meeting to follow up with Dr John Enang and Dr Felix Adetunji. They had visited all the unions of the division except for a small and more recently established union. Artefacts have been collected; stories of the pioneers are archived at the Ellen G. White research center. The division has set aside funds for developing these heritage sites. This was an exciting report to receive. The collected items will also feed into the AUA museum, which will largely get the digitized materials. We look forward to the opening of these heritage site for visitors. The stories of how God led in the development of the church excited me. I hope this will impact both young and mature membership of the church.

I spent some time writing articles, and on regular projects. We have the office of the GC AMR preparing the book The Great Controversy for Muslim audiences. This with the help of GC publishing ministries will be distributed to Muslim communities. ♦

Branch Offices Reports



Reuel Almocera
Director
Adventist International
Institute of Advanced
Studies (AIAS)
Philippines

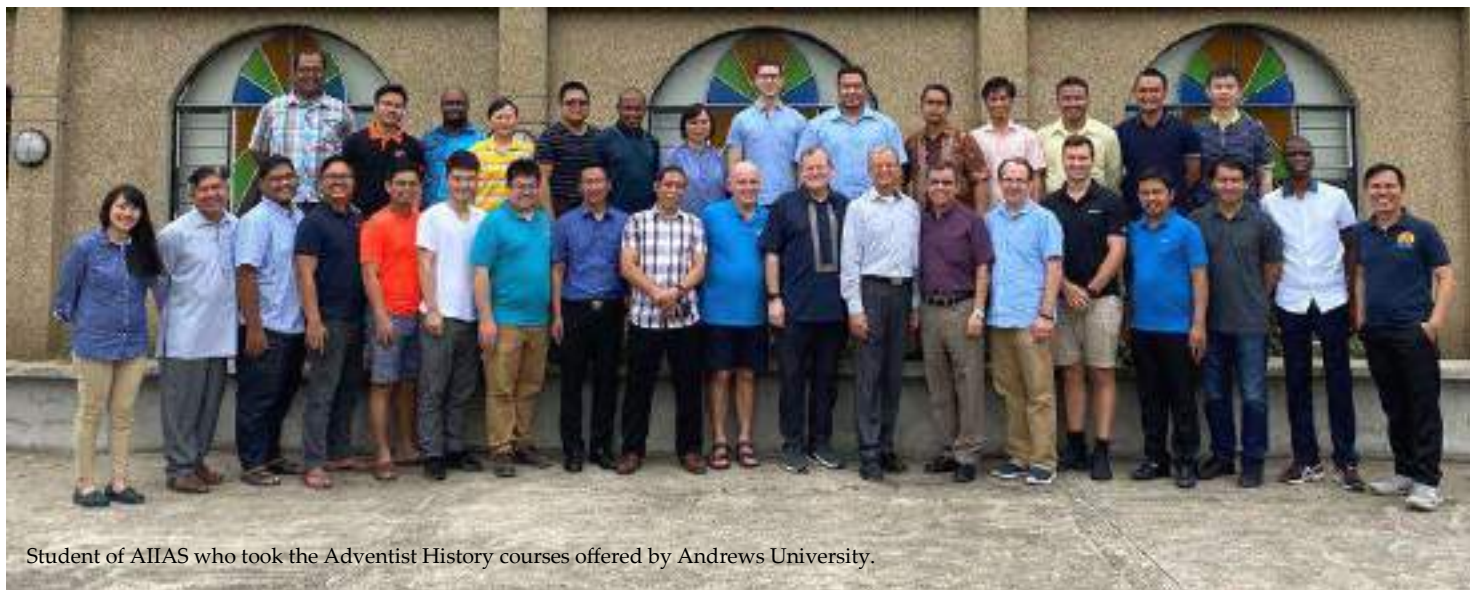
The first half of the year 2020 has been one of the most challenging times for our White Estate Branch here in the Philippines. In January when a near volcano named Mt. Taal erupted, classes were suspended and the work hampered. Just before the region is about to recover, another threat to health has crept from China to the Philippines and even to the rest of the world, the COVID 19 pandemic. Right after the volcano eruption and just before the lockdown, the Ellen White and Adventist Study Certification program by Andrews University finished its first set of classes. Dr. Merlin Burt and Dennis Kaiser taught two classes, History of Seventh-day Adventist Church and Development of Adventist Theology for students from 3 Divisions of the world church.

The pandemic has not been anticipated and was beyond expectation but the work cannot be hindered. This has even opened new opportunities to expand our work here. The White Estate was quick to adapt to the new normal by harnessing the power of the social media platform.

Before the pandemic, Pastor Bryan, the assistant to the director was recordings in the Hope Channel Philippines program called "Sharing the Vision" which was quickly uploaded to the social media platform and this time with a series called, "Christ Our Righteousness" has blessed many individuals who are watching it on both television and social media. Among those who viewed them have responded by inviting him to speak online (New Jersey, New York, Los Angeles,

Between classes with Merlin Burt, Bryan Tolentino and Dennis Kaiser at AIAS.





Student of AIIAS who took the Adventist History courses offered by Andrews University.

Melbourne Australia, Japan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Milan, Thailand, Toronto Canada, Timor Leste and in many parts of the Philippines).

Another media ministry called Pag-ralan Natin (Let Us Study) who has numerous followers produced an online program regarding Ellen White's ministry. Also discussed in the series are the correct interpretations of her works. There was also a weekly program hosted by our Filipino brethren in Japan to promote the balance interpretations of EGW writings. Thailand has also hosted a revival in which Pastor Bryan records his presentations to be posted on their media ministry live. For the most part of the lockdown or quarantine times here in the Philippines. The most effective method of reaching the people and the millennials were done through the medium of zoom and social media. Pastor Bryan at times speaks an average of three presentations a day. This he did while also working on his Doctor of Ministry. Some of the latest EGW Materials for children were also produced by a conference who are about the Adventist pioneer which was all reposted in our EGW Facebook Page. Some content also on Adventist History especially on Music.

The White Estate Branch has future plans to host a weekly presentation inviting different speakers across the globe which will be prerecorded and will be posted live on our page. A daily Christ-centered 15 minutes devotional is also coming up from the writings of Ellen White. Since all these content were produced in a bedroom devoted as a studio for recordings and other media purposes to promote a Christ-centered understanding of Ellen White's writings. Pastor Bryan also produced another social media FB page called "Lifting Christ" which aims to reach out also to non-Adventist viewers with the help of his nephew who was cutting his sermons and posting some clips which aim to Lift Christ up without the mention of Ellen White's writings but actually are all taken from her most Christ-centered works. Some of the video clips posted has already gained 40k views with 1.5k shares and other 20k views with 1k shares in a period of only two weeks. As a result, he received several invitations to speak in person to different countries because they love the explanation that Ellen White is a very Christ-centered woman. We are planning to put a website which will feature all the video presentations. Surely the whole world has changed so much and the use of the online platforms has proved to be the fast and far-reaching. ♦



Merlin Burt
Director
Andrews University
Michigan, USA

What an unprecedented time the last six months has been! For me, the first part of the year was spent immersed in teaching. I taught two "Development of Seventh-day Adventist History," Masters in Pastoral Ministry classes. The first was local in the Lake Union, January 12-16. I had an excellent group of pastors—mostly from the Michigan conference. There were a few other from different conferences as well. Personally, it is a class I will never forget. My son-in-law and daughter, Zack and Celesta Babb, who are pastors together in the Alaska Conference, took their first graduate-level class, toward their

M.Div. degree, with this group. The second class was taught at the North Pacific Union office, March 1-5. Again, it was an excellent group of pastors from various conferences, mostly from the local union.

I might add another personal note. As I was preparing to teach the NPUC class in Washington state, USA, my sister called and informed me that my father was in the hospital with a recurring and serious pneumonia. He was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a type of bone cancer in December 2019. I wondered what I should do. My students prayed for my father and our family often during the intense five days of classes—that went nine hours a day. It was very touching to sense their concern and ministry to me. On Thursday evening, March 5, I went directly from the final examination of the class intensive to Bend, Oregon, and was with my father, mother, and sisters until my father passed away in the hospital on Wednesday, March 11. I am grateful that I was able to spend many meaningful hours with him before he fell asleep in Jesus.

My most unique academic (and administrative) experience in a number of years was beginning the Ellen G. White and Adventist Studies Certificate program with the first cohort at AIIAS, in the Philippines—February 3-21. The administration of the university and the seminary were very gracious hosts. We faced remarkable challenges that almost aborted the three-week intensive. The Taal Volcano, about 10 miles or so from the campus, erupted dramatically on January 12, just three weeks before our classes were to begin. Dr. Lisa Beardsley-Hardy (GC Education director) and I had worked hard with the division education directors to gather our group of students from our schools all over Asia and the South Pacific and then the challenge of a complicated admission and registration process. I sent a letter to each student asking if they were planning to come for the intensive in light of the circumstances. The teachers from South Korea were recommended not to come by their government and therefore could not come. Still, we prayerfully decided to move forward, while also making backup plans to move to a new location, for our intensive, if the volcano erupted again.

A week before we began, the COVID-19 virus was ravaging China and people were fearful. We thought our China teachers might not be able to come, but three of the four arrived. The Philippines closed the country to those travelling from China, the day before our intensive was to begin! It seems, in retrospect, that Satan was trying very hard to disrupt this important program. The two teachers for this first intensive were Denis Kaiser and myself. We taught jointly and we each served as professor of record for one of the two three-hour classes. We had 27, mostly newer teachers from most of the colleges and universities in SSD, NSD, SPD, and CHUM. We also had one White Estate Branch Office director, Super Moesi (SID) who is appointed to serve at AUA. The class included another emerging leader at the AIIAS Branch office and a soon to be appointed Research Center director—Bryan Tolentino at AIIAS and Mark Pierce now going to Avondale College.

The Lord blessed the intensive in a wonderful way. The growth in understanding and confidence in how best to teach classes on Ellen White and Adventist history was inspiring. Many times, Dr. Kaiser and I sensed the Spirit of God moving in our midst and helping us with this unique and important teaching opportunity. The volcano got quieter and we even took tours to visit it! None of our students had or acquired COVID-19, though, our students from China did wear masks for the first 14 days, just to be on the safe side. By the time we had ended the intensive on February 21, COVID-19 was spreading around the world. Still, we were all able to get safely back home. We give thanks to our loving heavenly Father!

After returning home on March 12 following the passing of my father, the COVID-19 pandemic quickly progressed. Soon in-person classes at Andrews University transitioned to online classes and the campus was closed. Remote education continued and the semester was able to end in May with a remarkably effective educational result despite the circumstances. We have all learned about the value of Zoom classrooms and meetings. There has been a steep learning curve for many professors.

One interesting ministry event during my long weeks working from home was an invitation to speak for a webinar conference for the Jamaica Union on April 20, titled “The Role of the Spirit of Prophecy in Guiding the Church in Crisis.” Many of the local Spirit of Prophecy coordinators

joined the meeting and it was expanded to include (with Spanish translation) other parts of the Inter-American Division. It was my first experience speaking and ministering through this type of an event. It seems that the Lord worked in a wonderful way and I am amazed by how much was done with so little expense and with almost everyone in their homes or local churches. I believe God will continue to work in the future through these types of Internet-based events.

Before I close, I should say a few words about the personal changes that are coming for my wife and I. As I’m sure Elder Nix and maybe others will mention, I was asked by the White Estate Board of Trustees, at their January 29, 2020, meeting to serve as the director of the Ellen G. White Estate, following Elder Nix’s retirement on September 17. I learned about this decision after boarding my flight in Denver, Colorado, USA, as I was travelling toward the Philippines. Both Sarah and I had prayerfully felt the conviction that if God were to lead this way, we would follow. We have always tried to follow the Master, irrespective of our own convenience. I keenly feel a great need for divine enabling through the Holy Spirit. It is encouraging to know that all of God’s biddings are enablings. “I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, ‘Fear not, I am the one who helps you’” Is. 41:13.

While the COVID-19 confinement has been challenging in many ways, it has provided time for us to pack our belongings in Berrien Springs, Michigan, USA. We have put our home on the market here and await God’s leading regarding when it will sell. We also have found a home in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, and expect to actually move into the home on August 26, 2020. I have been asked to begin at the General Conference office at the beginning of August. This allows for overlap in time before Elder Nix retires so that I can gain some orientation.

I have been friends with Jim Nix for many years even while he has been my boss for much of that time. I have deeply appreciated his leadership as director of the White Estate over the last 20 years. But even before that, he has been a blessing in my life, going back to the days when I was a student at Loma Linda University in the early 1980s. He was then director of the Branch Office and facilitated my early formative interest in Adventist history and studying Ellen White’s writings in their historical or “story” context. He also got me interested in collecting Adventist history. That interest continues to this day. From 1993 until this year, it has been my privilege to collect historical resources for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to support the education of health-care professionals, pastors, teachers, administrators, and others. Thank you, Jim, for letting God use you and doing so much to advance an appreciation of the gift of prophecy as manifested in the life of Ellen White and an understanding God’s leading in Adventist history.

One last thought before I close. I appreciate the work of Ted Levterov and his team (particularly Michael Olivarez) at the Loma Linda Branch Office in editing and publishing *Newsnotes* over the last number of years. I had the privilege of serving as the editor of this paper for 20 years and it was a great joy to pass the responsibility into capable hands of Dr. Levterov. Ted has served as the third editor. Jim Nix was the founding editor. There is great value in sharing our various experiences and mutual ministry. ♦



Theodore Levterov
Director
Loma Linda
University
Loma Linda, USA

Greetings from Loma Linda University Branch office. Yes, Covid-19 has changed the way we work, but here is a report of some of the main activities that have occupied my time during the first six months of 2020. My time, as usual, was divided between teaching, various seminar presentations, research, and writing.

During the winter quarter, I thought two classes: “Adventist Heritage of Health” and the “Loma Linda Perspectives,” both classes for the School of Nursing. As usual, I had a great time interacting with students from various faith traditions. I had an opportunity to share the Adventist understandings and beliefs on variety of health issues. I am fully convinced that we can be every effective using health as a “mission tool” to introduce Adventism to those outside of the denomination.

During the Spring, I taught an on-line version of the “Adventist Heritage of Health.” Again, I was able to meet more than 20 students from various schools and talk about Adventist contribution to health.

I was also able to do several seminar although COVID-19 changed the relation of things later on. On January 29 and 30th, I spoke at the Lake Union Conference Retreat -- to all of their Conference Educational Directors. The theme was Ellen White’s contributions to Adventist education. My presentations dealt with the “past” – what Ellen White contributed; and the “present” – how to make her council effective in the reality of the 21 C. Advent education and its challenges. We had a good time discussing and elaborating upon these important topics.

Then on February 21-22, I had my annual training event for the Master-Guide leaders of the South-East-California Conference. The topic was the “History of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.” More than 80 people attending the seminar.

On March 5, I did a devotional talk for the office of “finances” at Loma Linda University. Then on March 11, I preached to students at their weekly “chapel.” Both meetings gave me the opportunity to share Ellen White’s contribution to health and the story of Loma Linda University.

Because of COVID, I was not able to travel to Brazil, England, and Wala Walla University for various meetings and symposiums. Nevertheless, I was able to do a couple of seminars via “zoom.” On April 17 and 25, I did two-parts “Spirit of Prophecy Symposium” for the Richmond Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, Toronto, Canada. Then I participated in the BRICOM Spring meetings from April 20 to 22 via zoom. Again, I gave a one day seminar on Ellen White via zoom on June 20th. Although this event was organized by our church in Barcelona, people joined from Austria, England, Switzerland, Australia and others. It was really an international seminar.

I also used part of my time to write. I major chunk of my time was spent writing a chapter for a Textbook on Ellen G. White – a joint BRI and White Estate project for college level textbook. My chapter, entitled “Ellen G. White’s Life and Personality” dealt with a description of the more human side of Ellen White. I found my research very rewarding since we often forget that particular side of Ellen White – her life-experiences, her family, her commitment to mission and the church. I really enjoyed my research. It reminded me of the “real” Ellen White that we often miss.

I have also began to work on a book related to the development of the Adventist health message. This will be vastly based on the lecture materials that I’ve used for my “Adventist Heritage of Health” class. I think, that such a project will be helpful not only to my students but also to the general public that have heard about Seventh-day Adventism but has not been aware of Adventist health traditions. I hope to complete this project fairly quickly. We will see.

This is my work in short for the past six months. Let’s pray for each other and explore ways of continuing being effective in promoting Ellen White to those around us and beyond during these challenging times. ♦

Research Centers and Spirit of Prophecy Coordinators Reports



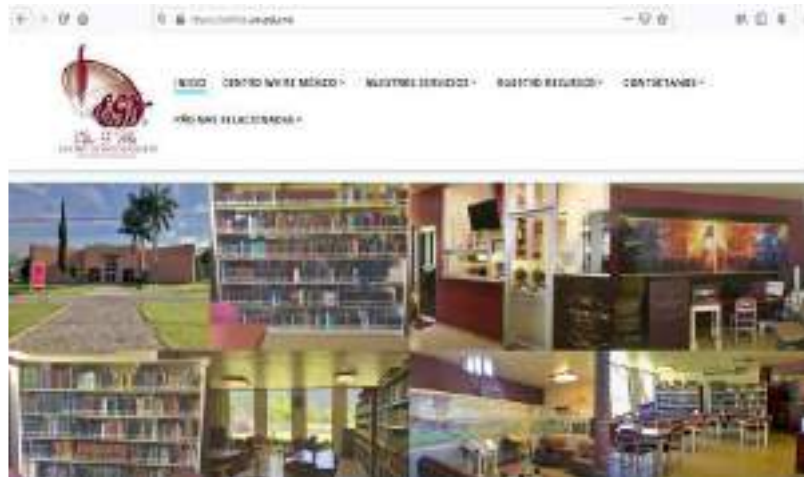
Juan José Andrade
Director
Montemorelos University
• Mexico • Inter-American
Division



This semester, as we all know, we have had to adapt to a new reality that the pandemic that overwhelms the world has imposed on us. Fortunately, in the midst of this contingency, we continue to share the resources of our White Center by:

1. Messages, seminars, answers to questions and resources though the [Montemorelos White Center](#) webpage

The Montemorelos White Center Web page has been sharing different materials with our users who constantly request to our Research Center. For example: Sermons, articles, photos, timelines, pioneer biographies, gems and chosen thoughts, views of White Center spaces, videos and materials for sale.



2. During this semester from January to June 2020, our White Center (México - Montemorelos) has been very active sharing materials and thoughts by Facebook. We have noticed that this platform is highly visited by our users. Sometimes more than 3,000 people visit our Facebook page a day.



We frequently post information, quotes, and chosen thoughts from the Ellen G. white pen and answer questions or concerns from our users.

3. Sermons through virtual messages by Zoom, google meet, Facebook and YouTube. Delivery of seminars, talks and round tables regarding the writings of Ellen G. White. In this way we have been able to reach many more people than we traditionally do in person.

Participation in the week of prayer with The theme: The reason for the referring Prophecies at the end of time. Presentation of topics for the Chihuahua Conference with an emphasis on the Gift of Prophecy In the end of the time. Seminar for the youth of two Unions in Mexico with the subject referring to the prophecies of the end of time and what the writings of Ellen G. White say. ♦



Juan José during the Week of Prayer.

“Every act, every word, is a seed that will
bear fruit. Every deed of thoughtful
kindness, of obedience, or of self-denial,
will reproduce itself in others, and through
them in still others.”

- Christ's object Lessons, p. 85





Howard Weems
Director
Oakwood University •
Alabama, USA • North
American Division

Social Engagement: Ellen G. White as An Advocate of Equality, Education, & Evangelism

Civil rights protests in the U.S. have recently stirred Americans to collectively exhibit their belief that human beings, regardless of their color or creed, should not be denied their inherent, natural, and unalienable rights to live freely and justly in any of the 50 States. This God-given privilege is one that the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) denomination also upholds. Since 1863 SDA leaders and civil rights activists in the Adventist movement have fought to achieve fairness in all areas of the church work. They along with modern day advocates for justice have, through painstaking effort, learned that equality, education, and evangelism through the mode of social engagement is a viable force for effectuating change in the church and in the world.

During the early years of the SDA church, there was much debate about race. Ellen G. White, one of the cofounders of the Adventist denomination, spoke vehemently about the plight of Blacks. She, with her husband and many of the SDA pioneers, were true abolitionists -urging others in the denomination to help those who were treated less than human due to slavery and the color of their skin. Evidence of White and her supporters' untiring efforts to guarantee equal rights and opportunities for the Black race are well-documented in her writings. The SDA organization lauds the early leaders for their deliberations and activation of a plan to achieve equality, education, and evangelism among Blacks in the United States. Oakwood University (OU), its graduates, and the OU Ellen G. White Research Center (EGWRC) are proof-positive of what social engagement for a great cause can do to bring about change.

Increased efforts to socially engage others in discussions about race have occurred on OU's campus, thus building upon White's early writings regarding race relations in the church. On June 16th, 2020, a webinar entitled *Ellen White, Race, Social Engagement, and the Spirit of Slavery* was conducted at OU's EGWRC. This technology-centered meeting was held in conjunction with the Pastoral Evangelism Leadership Council (PELC). During the one-hour session, participants listened to some of the historical aspects of race relations and the soteriological premise of social engagement, which embraces one of the Adventist's religious doctrines of salvation. This laid the groundwork for future webinars regarding race and the church. Some of the questions to be addressed in the next webinar include:

1. What are Adventists leaders doing to bring about equal justice under the law?
2. What are Adventist church members doing in response to Civil Rights violators and the murdering of African American men and women?
3. Are there really Adventists who believe that we should stand by, doing nothing as these atrocities occur right in front of us?



In his book entitled *A Nation in God's Hands*, Dr. Jud Lake (2017) documented Ellen G. White's four visions about the American Civil War and God's judgements upon America because of its enslavement of Blacks. As a professor of preaching and Adventist studies in the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University, Lake iterated about aspects of his book before OU's faculty during their annual EGWRC's Academic Dialogue in February of this year. Lake also reflected on Mrs. White's boldness in speaking out about social issues during a time when the ideologies of women were not particularly valued. His presentation occurred approximately three months before protests in the U.S. broke out over the cruel death of George Floyd. Both events, (Lake's presentation and the Floyd protests), while arousing an excessive amount of social engagement, helped audiences to visualize the realistic impact that slavery and its resulting microaggressions have had on Blacks over a prolonged period of time.

This article would not be complete without reminding readers of the contributions Dr. Calvin Rock has made to the Adventist denomination. His written works help us to understand the connectedness of social engagement to equality, education, and evangelism. As a former President of OU and a prominent leader in the SDA church, Rock chronicled candid accounts of the church's approach to the exclusion and the eventual inclusion of Black SDA leaders in his book *Protest and Progress* (2018). Having lived through some of these difficult but eventful times in the SDA church's history, he clearly addressed the reason for the inception of Regional conferences, "the most significant structural change for which Black leadership appealed" (2018, p. xiii).

Dr. Rock's maternal grandmother, Etta Littlejohn Bradford, was one of sixteen students who began their education on the Morning Star and then transitioned to the Oakwood Industrial Training School on November 16, 1896 (Rock, 2018). His grandmother's story will comprise a compilation of written accounts about the beginnings of the Adventist church and the founding of OU at the EGWRC located on OU's campus. This and the contributions of other early Adventists will be on display at the EGWRC in the near future. Patrons and visitors of the Center are welcome to visit and inquire about the exhibit.

All types of social engagement should result in a change of thought, word, or action regarding a specific issue. When Jesus commissioned believers to "Go and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15), His desire was and is still to effect change of the heart, where sinners turn from their sinful ways after learning about the sacrifice of Christ. In an era where the COVID19 pandemic and elevated racial tensions are changing how people think and experience life, it is most important for the SDA church to focus on social engagement as a means for promoting soul winning. Plans made under the auspices of the EGWRC to conduct an evangelistic meeting in Pune, India were halted in March because of the COVID19 pandemic. However, opportunities to spread the gospel through technology are currently being pursued. The EGWRC will continue to keep its patrons and OU students abreast of outreach efforts; for, it is through this ministry that those who are hurting and in need of healing can find Christ. ♦

I send you an affectionate greeting! As it is known, we have worked in an exceptional year due to a global coronavirus pandemic. The Argentine government decreed "Social, Preventive and Mandatory Isolation" since March 20, 2020, forcing us to close the offices, and cancel public activities, trips and face-to-face conferences. Until June 7, the "quarantine" had been extended five times and the same situation continues indefinitely.



Daniel Oscar Plenc
Director
Universidad
Adventista del
Plata •
Argentina •
South American
Division

In the summer of the Southern Hemisphere (January to March) we were able to do some work at the offices of the White Research Center and the Adventist Historical Center (AHC). We made a digital distribution of the Study Guide for the Book of the Year, "The Christian Home", by Ellen G. White. I sent to the South American Division (SAD) a book of my authorship, entitled "Adoration, a priority of the Church", for the Theological Series proposed by the SAD. I preached two public sermons, in Córdoba and Buenos Aires. We received a pleasant visit from Dr. Alberto R. Timm, from the White Estate. We make guided visits to the Adventist Historical Circuit. We organize two historic conferences at the White Center.

During the isolation stage, the following actions were carried out: I directed a weekly micro-program, on the FM 104.3 Student Radio of the River Plate Adventist University, entitled "Strengthening identities". I started preparing a book requested by the South American Division, entitled: "George Riffel, Apostle of Hope". I sent five articles on the history of the church in South America to the digital *Adventist Review* (Spanish). I sent three articles to the website of the River Plate University. I participated in two videoconferences organized by the White Estate. We responded to dozens of questions and

requests for materials by pastors and laity from Argentina and abroad. We participated in the training of the new director of the White Study Center in Chile, Pastor Pablo Millanao, organized by Pastor Hélio Carnassale of the SAD. I presented six video conferences on topics related to the writings of Ellen G. White and the history of South American Adventism. I presented two conferences at the National Meeting on the Gift of Prophecy of the Argentine Union.

Final comment: I must report that during the first semester of the year I had to accept an inadequate burden in theology teaching. I taught 15 hours a week, in six different subjects, both undergraduate and graduate level. This institutional reality impedes the normal activities of the White Research Center, and imposes an excessive workload on the director. We must also remember that the classes had to be carried out in a non-face-to-face mode, which made this work extremely difficult.

The Adventist Historic Center (AHC)

The coordinator, Dr. Silvia Scholtus Roscher, presented eight academic papers. She published four popular articles and she wrote four academic articles. She worked on 23 articles for the *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*. In press, she has three books and a book's prologue. Silvia made three presentations on video and website and participated in seventh radio program. The AHC planned the creation of a semi-scholarly digital magazine called "Adventist Culture and History". Dr. Roscher sent to the River Plate University Press a book of her authorship entitled "The poetic art of the pioneers". Dr. Silvia Scholtus Roscher, coordinator-founder of AHC, retirement in late May. ♦

Greetings from Brazil to all at the many EGW Research Centers around the world. We're thankful for the countless blessing that our Lord has poured upon us. As usual, it has been a very challenging semester, especially because this pandemic we are in, but we are also sure that God is in control of everything!

The first semester of 2020 has been full of blessings for our Brazilian Center. The blessings began with the publication of the book "Ellen White and her critics" translated from English to Portuguese by our Center in Brazil and published by the Brazil Publishing House. The book contains 568 pages and it answers questions about the main attacks on Ellen White, her gift and prophetic work. We have the assurance it will be a blessing for its readers

On the 25th to 28th of March it was planned the I International Symposium, that would face the topic "The Gift of Prophecy and God's Remnant". But due to the Covid-19 virus, unfortunately our event was cancelled two weeks before it's beginning. Thanks God we already have a new date, and the I International Symposium will happen on the 17th to



Renato Stencel
Director
Centro
Universitário
Adventista de
São Paulo
• Brazil •
South American
Division

launched our Bible Plan App. We are motivated that it'll be a powerful tool to approach people closer to God. In the app people will be able to read the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy following a guide each day. Bible Plan app is available in Portuguese and Spanish. We are looking forward to seeing all the blessings that this tool will bring.

This semester we are also extremely delighted, because after 5 years of solid engagement we concluded our part in the General Conference Project of the Seventh Day Adventist Encyclopedia (ESDA). Our department provided a special contribution to the development of this project, writing and translating 248 biographical articles in Portuguese to English. We expect that this Encyclopedia will be a blessing to all the Adventist Community in our field as well as around the world!

Finally, we thank God for being so generous with us, multiplying blessings over our efforts. We hope that He will continue to help us in the mission of proclaiming the message of the soon coming of Jesus Christ. God bless us all. ♦



Portuguese edition of
*Ellen White and her
Critics* by Francis D.
Nichol



21st of March 2021.

At the 09th of July, we



Gerson Rodrigues
Director
Faculdade
Adventista da
Bahia • Brazil •
South American
Division

During the semester I lectured on “History of the Christian Church” to sophomores and seniors and “History of SDA Church” to junior undergraduate theology students.

In these last years I served as the adviser for a master student, and his defense was on March 3rd. The theme of his thesis was the mission and role of ministers and members of the SDA Church according to Ellen G. White. The day before our school closed, I spoke to our theology students, at their morning and afternoon chapel, about the importance of prophets in calling God’s people to obey His Law.

Since March 18, classes were suspended and lectures were transferred to online mode. Our Spirit of Prophecy Symposium had to be postponed for next year, which made students unhappy, especially seniors, who will not be around next year.

Several appointments and trips were canceled, but the Research Center was represented in several activities online:

Feb 27 – meeting with White Estate and Research Centers’ directors.

April 23 – meeting with White Estate and Research Centers’ directors.

April 28 – João Pessoa, Paraíba (Hermeneutics and Ellen G. White’s Writings)

April 29 – Salvador, Bahia (Spirit of prophecy and the SDA Church)

May 1 – Salvador, Bahia (Last Day Events)

May 2 – youth English group, Northeast Brazil College (Ellen G. White and Sola Scriptura)

May 13 – Salvador, Bahia (Last Day Events)

May 15 – Touros, Rio Grande do Norte (The role of the spirit of prophecy before the Second Coming)

May 17 – Brasília, Planalto Central Conference (6 hour/lecture on SDA History)

May 20 – Salvador, Bahia (Last Day Events)

May 21 – Salvador, Bahia (Last Day Events)

May 22 – group from several places in Brazil (The role of the spirit of prophecy before the Second Coming)

May 23 – Pathfinder leaders (The distinctive doctrines of the SDA Church)

June 06 – Minas Gerais, Missão Mineira Oeste/Associação Mineira Leste (Important points from Ellen G. White to the last days)

June 12 – Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul (Prophecy, prophets, and the Bible)

June 13 – Northeast Brazil College (Prophecy, prophets, and the Bible)

June 13 – Portuguese SDA church, Toronto, Canada (Prophecy, prophets, and the Bible)

June 19 – Feira de Santana, Bahia (The gift of prophecy)

June 20 – Salvador, Bahia (Revelation 12)

June 26 – Saúde, Bahia (Ellen G. White and the gift of prophecy)

June 27 – Rio de Janeiro, Rio Sul Conference/Rio Fluminense Conference/Rio de Janeiro Conference (Important points from Ellen G. White to the last days)

June 28 – Northeast Brazil College (Ellen G. White and her writings)

I end this report with a word of appreciation for the great work done by Jim Nix as the director of the White State. He visited our Research Center at its inauguration in 2011, and again in the Symposium on April 2016. The few moments I had working or traveling with him were a blessing. Thank you very much for everything. And I welcome my professor, Merlin Burt, to this new challenging experience. May God abundantly bless them. May God bless you all. ♦



Cristian Gonzalez
Director
Universidad Peruana
Union • Peru •
South American Division

I am happy to greet all the leaders who are part of this network worldwide. In our center we started the year with various proposals and initiatives, however, God had better plans. The quarantine in Peru began the second week of March due to Covid-19, which forced many of our proposals to be postponed or carried out virtually. At the beginning, the confinement would only be for 15 days, but it took more than 110 days to leave the house again. Although the number of infections in Peru continues to increase. This brought some complications but also great blessings for our center. I am going to summarize my work in four aspects.

First, quarantine caused all distance barriers to be broken. So we have received invitations from all over Peru and a few from abroad to answer questions about the final events. Until now I had not worked in an intense way, the invitations came every day. I remember that two weeks in April that were very intense, it seemed that I could not handle it, but thank God, we were able to attend to everyone.

Second, we received invitations to hold seminars about the final events. These invitations came from all over Peru.

Among the topics we had most to attend to was the theme of the city to the fields, evangelism in the big cities, how to interpret the writings of Ellen G. White, the organization in the end time, The great conflict in the writings of Ellen G. White, the final events, criticisms of the prophetic gift, among others.

Third, we clarify various dubious interpretations of the prophetic gift. Pr. Alberto Timm helped us in this regard, because a quote began to circulate in Spanish that was creating a lot of controversy. These attentions were by almost all digital media, such as WhatsApp, Facebook, email and phone calls.

Fourth, The Ministerial Secretary of the South American Division has requested me that collaborate with two articles since Ellen G. White's writings on: a). Revival and Reformation, and b). How to shepherd in the end time. Both were already shipped a few days ago.

These days have been very intense at work. I thank Pr. Alberto Timm because he accompanied us several times to clarify, teach and advise on the theological understanding and writings of Ellen G. White. I consider quarantine a blessing because our church had time to read the Bible and the writings of Ellen G. White. Our church again had a well-marked priority of study, prayer, and helping others. It seems to me that God has allowed this quarantine to help the church have a deeper experience with Him. ♦

Parting Reflections



John Skrzypaszek
Director
Avondale College • Australia •
South Pacific Division

In writing this report, I am somewhat emotional and nostalgic as this is my last official report. In February, I informed Avondale University College, South Pacific Division and White Estate administration that from July 31, 2020, I will retire from the position of the Director of Ellen G. White Research Centre and move to a quieter life and space. During the past fifteen years, I was blessed with the most enjoyable responsibility, namely to focus on the role and purpose of the prophetic voice of Ellen G. White and her

contribution to the Seventh-day Adventist movement. It became clear that God used her as an inspired and inspirational voice to prepare the progressively growing movement for the ongoing journey of faith in the changing world and more importantly, for the mission. Growing in her understanding of God's unconditional love, Ellen White's view of mission moved beyond the boundaries of the proclamation of truth. Her creative and inspirational God-shaped vision challenged the church to step out from the fortress-mentality by becoming Christ's extended hands in the communities and the world at large. In this context, she extended the challenge to pastors, medical doctors, nurses, teachers, students and people from every profession and walk of life to an all-inclusive engagement in mission not only through preaching but "the deeds of loving ministry" (Ms 7, 1908; Ms 97, 1907). From the depth of her understanding of God's love, she called the church "to reveal the tenderness shown by the Great Shepherd as He gathers the lambs in His arms and carefully guards His flock from harm, leading it in safe paths" (Lt, 97, 1902).

The main focus of my responsibilities in the Research Centre aimed to provide an integrated visionary purpose in the three essential areas, relevant research, quality teaching and a need-oriented response to education in the South Pacific Division field at large. Besides, I engaged with research at the International Heritage and Culture Conferences in Portugal. Participation in the research studies outside of my faith tradition challenged me to sway from the protectively apologetic defence of Ellen White's prophetic gift. It helped me to refocus on its creative and inspirational purpose then apply the named qualities in my research and teaching both on the campus and the field at large. In this framework, I was

privileged to share the story of our heritage at many conferences, professional development workshops, seminars, churches in the South Pacific and other parts of the world.

Now, the unexpected invasion of the Covid-19 challenged our plans and the way we've functioned. From the middle of March, our classes, tutorial and work-oriented meetings were delivered from home on Zoom. No doubt, the sudden change unsettled our routines and created additional work, but I must admit I enjoyed teaching from the comfort of my home office. The students were engaged in the online discussions, and the classes I taught this semester were successful. Besides, I was asked to share online presentations for several church groups. Early in March, I was privileged to share a series of topics in Adelaide at church family camp. ("The Time of Crisis and Prophetic Visioning"; "The Purpose of the Prophetic Voice for Today"; Understanding Inspiration and How it Works.") In December and January, I completed several articles for the SDA Encyclopedia. However, due to all the travel and isolation restrictions, we were forced to cancel a number of speaking appointments. Now I reached a time of preparation for my exit on July 31. From this point, I will take my long service leave and then a time of retirement. Really, no, I do not plan to vanish into a space of seclusion. I will continue to research, publish and assist with research programs but from a more relaxed space.

At this stage, I like to introduce my successor, the newly appointed incoming Director, Pr. Mark Pearce. Mark will contribute to the work in the Ellen G. White Research Centre with his keen interest and research and teaching. I wish him God's blessings for the next stage of his ministry. I also express my sincere gratitude to the South Pacific Division for support and encouragement over the past years. More so importantly, I express my appreciation to Elder Jim Nix for his assistance, advice, guidance and his collegial sense of humor. I cannot miss Dr. Tim Porier, who was always so efficient in responding to my emails. I never had to wait as his responses were immediate.

In conclusion, allow me to express the impact of Ellen White's ministry in my life. She helped me to recapture a vision that the thrust of God's final call to the world includes much more than sharing of information about specific fear-oriented events. Instead, her life and inspired ministry draw attention to the authenticity of God's presence in human life, calling for an implicit trust and confidence in His unfailing promises. It calls me to respect what God cares about, namely the uniqueness and potential of human life, the life Jesus came to redeem and restore. ♦



Passmore Hachalinga
Director
Helderberg College •
South Africa •
Southern Africa-Indian Division

The year 2020 began like every other ordinary year. Then in February – March the COVID-19 pandemic reached South Africa, and threw life out of balance. The pandemic made almost the whole world to close down by the middle of March. A few words suddenly became buzzy words: "lockdown!", "social distancing", "regular washing of hands with soap", "sanitizing and "wearing a face mask."

Suddenly, to us, James 4: 13-16 became like present truth: "Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city,

spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil." (NIV).

Ellen G. White also counsels: "Each morning consecrate yourselves and your children to God for that day. Make no calculation for months or years; these are not yours. One brief day is given you. As if it were your last on earth, work during its hours for the Master. Lay all your plans before God, to be carried out or given up, as His providence shall indicate. Accept His plans instead of your own, even though their acceptance requires the abandonment of cherished projects." (Counsels for the Church, p. 152).

Early this year we ordered 500 copies of the Spirit of Prophecy, book-sets entitled *Growing Together*, to supply to our regular customers. We ordered a few other book titles as well, but soon we had to close and vacate our office in March. By God's grace, however, we have continued to communicate far and near through our new Facebook page, Instagram and our Research Centre Newsletter. These new communication mediums are being managed by our new Research Assistant, Pastor Grant Lottering who joined us in February 2020.

A visit to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, from January 16 – 20, 2020 for the promotion of the Encyclopedia of SDA project took me to Solusi University, the first Seventh-day Adventist mission station among none Christian people. There, we visited a Study Centre. Attempts to visit the Study Centre in Beira, Mozambique, had to be cancelled in March because of the COVID-19 travel restrictions. Meanwhile, at Helderberg College of Higher Education, 26 Theology students completed studying the Life and Teachings of Ellen G. White module.

Lastly, in the report from the Indian Ocean Union Conference Study Centre at Adventist University Zurcher, in Madagascar, we learned of the successful transfer of the Archives from the Union Conference headquarters in Antananarivo to the Study Centre. The Centre is also expecting to receive a container full of Ellen G. White books in French. Elsewhere in Lusaka, Zambia, we received a testimony from Mrs Gertrude Maambo, an elderly colporteur who introduced her husband Mr Emerson Maambo to Adventism during the



Passmore during a visit to the Ellen G. White Study Center at Solusi University.

COVID-19 lockdown, after he read the book *When God Said Remember*, by Mark Finley. Gertrude later introduced her husband to the Conflict Series by Ellen G. White. After reading *Desire of Ages*, Mr Maambo stopped drinking alcohol and is now preparing for baptism when the locked is lifted. ♦



Radisa Antic
Director and Spirit of
Prophecy Coordinator
Newbold College •
England •
Trans-European
Division

The last six months have, in many ways, been out of the ordinary in my own life as well as in the life of the human race in its totality. Almost out of nowhere sudden calamity came on all of us and we all felt abruptly equal, vulnerable, fragile and utterly mortal. The strongest among us felt a total loss of power and control. When the pastures are green in our lives, the waters are still, the paths are peaceful, when God restores our souls on a daily basis, it seems to us that God is there, around us, beside us, behind us or above us. But when we go through the valley of darkness, we need God to come closer to us, to comfort us, and to touch us with his divine rod. While God whispers to us in good times, he uses the valley of death as his megaphone. He calls us to reconsider our way of life and our perceptions of reality as a whole. I hope that humans

will be courageous enough after this pestilence to take time and reconsider again the place, the role and the very existence of God as the foundation of all the meaning of life and of the universe as a whole. In this sense, the role of the Adventist Church in today's world is more important than ever because we know the biblical answers to the huge challenges of meaninglessness and disorientation.

Last semester I taught full time at Newbold College instead of fifty percent of my time because some of my colleagues have had health issues and we had to teach additional classes. I was also asked by the Department of Theological Studies to take part in teaching some other classes and was also involved in some research projects, 'The Relevance of Ellen White

Writings for Our Time' and 'The Source or Sources of Authority for Adventist Theology.'

It seemed at the beginning of this year that everything was going to be peaceful. I was invited on January 4 to speak to the Adventist community in Belgrade. On January 18 I travelled to the Hope Community Adventist Church in Beckenham and was asked to speak on the sanctuary doctrine and on the role of Ellen White in the Adventist movement after the great disappointment. One week later I spoke twice, at nine and eleven o'clock at Newbold College family church worship service and the following week I presented the topic of 'the Creation of the Universe and the Creation of Life' at the contemporary worship service. This is not an easy topic and after the presentation I had some solid discussions with those who did not agree with my position.

On February 15 I was invited to Leicester West Seventh-day Adventist church to address the issue of lessons we can learn from how God led his church after the great disappointment in 1844. On February 24 I travelled to Vejle fjordskolen in Denmark to speak at the ministers' meeting. I was asked to address the following issues, "Be Perfect, Therefore, as Your Heavenly Father is Perfect," "The Concept of Sin in Pentateuch and in the First Epistle of John" and "Jesus Going Behind the Veil in Hebrews 6: 18 and 19." In the Scandinavian Unions there is a strong last generation perfection movement among our members, and we tried to address this complex issue.

On February 29 I presented several topics on the sanctuary issue in the Wallington Adventist church in London. On March 12 I was on my way to Thessaloniki, Greece, where I was supposed to have a series of presentations in a public hall to a non-Adventist audience. Everything was well planned, the

posters were printed, the invitation leaflets ready and social media was engaged. I had to change planes in Belgrade, Serbia and just half an hour before I boarded my plane to Thessaloniki, I received a phone call from Greece telling me that the Greek government had forbidden all public meetings because of the coronavirus. In two days' time the Serbian government cancelled all flights from Belgrade and I have been stranded in Serbia up to this day. I continued teaching all my classes via zoom and fortunately we have successfully finished this semester.

On April 11 I was asked to address Adventists in the South-East European Union in the middle of the coronavirus outbreak and it was a delicate mission because emotions and anxiety were running high among our people. Since that day I have spoken to many churches around the world, Brisbane, Toronto, Skopje, Oxford, North Wembley and Peterborough.

I spoke to the Adventist church members in Oxford on Friday evening, Saturday morning and afternoon. The afternoon meeting lasted for almost three hours because of the many questions asked by the church members. It would have been a good exchange of theological ideas had there not been a long speech by one church member on the issue of the trinity. This member is a strong proponent of the antitrinitarians' position and his comments were rather poisonous. I tried to address some of the issues he raised but not very successfully because he kept interrupting me and accusing me of all kinds of inconsistencies. The question and answer session with the North Wembley church members was very polite but not less challenging because some church members reject Ellen White's prophetic role in our church. The question was raised, is acceptance of Ellen White as a prophet a test of fellowship in the Seventh-day Adventist church? When I presented the position of our church some church members were not happy because they still ask the candidates for baptism if they accept Ellen White as a prophet. I did my best to clarify our position and I do not know whether it was successful or not. ♦

Adventist Digital Library



The Adventist Digital Library exists to help spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world through direct and unlimited access to Adventist historical materials, as well as current resources available within copyright boundaries. By providing scholars and researchers the tools they need to publish new insights on Adventist theology and history, and by enriching the ministry of teachers, pastors, and parents, we strive to serve as a resource to guide the minds and hearts of the next generation of Christians. By making materials

digitally available, we also are preserving historical items to ensure that they will be accessible for future generations.

The Adventist Digital Library is a project funded by the [General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists](#), [Andrews University](#), the [Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians](#), and the [North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists](#). It is governed by an executive board and has a current staff of two full time employees and university student workers.

Our goal is to accept contributions of digitized and born digital materials from archives, libraries, and individuals across the world. Currently, we are proud to have contributions from the following: [General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research \(Silver Spring, Maryland, USA\)](#) • [Edith Fitch Department of Archives, Burman University \(Lacombe, Alberta, Canada\)](#) • [Center for Adventist Research, Andrews University \(Berrien Springs, Michigan, USA\)](#) • [Department of Archives and Special Collections, Loma Linda University \(Loma Linda, California, USA\)](#) • [Southwestern Adventist University \(Keene, Texas, USA\)](#) • [Union College Heritage Collections, Union College \(Lincoln, Nebraska, USA\)](#) © [Ellen G. White Estate \(Silver Spring, Maryland, USA\)](#)

[Click here to visit the Adventist Digital Library.](#)