

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY EMPHASIS STORIES

VOLUME I

Prepared Jointly

By

Norma Youngberg,

The Ellen G. White Estate,

and

The General Conference

Department of Education

January, 1979

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PREFACE

In 1964 the White Estate launched a program for Seventh-day Adventist elementary schools known as "Spirit of Prophecy Emphasis Week." Stories, pictures and class aids were prepared for five days of worships or class sessions. The emphasis in each program was the role of Ellen White as the Lord spoke through her in dreams and visions. Eventually a six-year cycle of materials was produced on such topics as "Prophets and Visions," "The Human Interest Story," "A Worldwide Church," and "Ellen White and Her Friends."

After several years of revising and updating, it was suggested that the programs should (1) be put in more permanent form, and (2) be written for upper and lower grade levels. A committee composed of elementary teachers and supervisors met for three weeks in the summer of 1977. They combed through Emphasis Week materials, books, manuscripts and other White Estate sources, selecting what they considered to be the best stories available.

Norma Youngberg was then asked to adapt and write the stories for two grade levels, and Edna Mae Loveless prepared teacher discussion ideas for each story. Finally, the White Estate and the General Conference Department of Education cooperated in organizing and producing the books.

This book, then, is the first in a series of four books containing stories on two grade levels that will eventually be prepared. There will be four books and subject areas in each of the four cycles: (1) Human Interest,

(2) Prophets, Visions, and Insights, (3) Your House is the World, and (4) Experiences Related to the Spirit of Prophecy. Stories will be the central focus, with class ideas and eventually pictures and other supplementary teachers' aids.

The stories in these books are not in print in this form anywhere else. They are copyrighted by the White Estate and the General Conference Department of Education, and should not be reproduced without permission.

We do hope that you will find that these stories, prepared exclusively for Seventh-day Adventist elementary schools, inspire you as a teacher as well as provide a valuable tool to build the trust and confidence of your students in the prophetic gift as witnessed in God's remnant church.

Paul A. Gordon
Ellen G. White Estate
Washington, D.C.

January, 1979

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HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

Early Life: "Two Little Surprises"

Middle Life: "From a Little Girl to a Teenager"

Later Life: "When God Chooses Messengers"

TO THE TEACHER:

This first story is designed as a background on which to build understandings for the stories of Ellen White's life that will follow.

The names and ages of Ellen White's older brothers and sisters at the time of her birth are listed for the teacher's use as desired.

The month of each birth is not known.

Caroline G.	age 15	born 1812	Married a minister.
Harriet	age 13	born 1814	
John B.	age 12	born 1815	
Mary P.	age 7	born 1821	
Sarah B.	age 5	born 1822	Married F. E. Belden who wrote and composed many Adventist songs.
Robert Jr.	age 2	born 1826	Died in his early twenties.

TWO LITTLE SURPRISES

Mr. Harmon stood on the back steps of his farm house near the little village of Gorham in Maine. November snow covered the ground. He rang the old metal cowbell loud and long. Its clanking sound sent out the message to his three oldest children, "Come to breakfast! Breakfast's ready!"

In the barn, Caroline, who was 15 years old, and Harriet, who was 13, heard the bell. Caroline finished milking the cow while Harriet put more hay in the manger. In the chicken house, twelve-year-old John threw some wheat to the hens. Then the children dashed into the house. On the porch, they stamped snow from their boots then crowded into the kitchen.

"Whew!" exclaimed Caroline, handing her father the pail of fresh, foaming milk. "It's cold outside. I'm ready for something hot to eat!"

After they had washed, Mr. Harmon called the three younger children. "Mary! Sarah! Robert! Come and sit down." He tied a bib around little Robert's neck and lifted him into his highchair.

"No, Papa," Robert whined, "I want Mama do it."

"Where is Mama?" asked five-year-old Sarah looking around.

"Yes, where is she?" asked Mary who was seven.

The older children looked into the twinkling eyes of their father.

They knew.

"Papa! Papa! Did Mama have the baby last night? Did she?" asked Mary.

Mr. Harmon smiled and nodded his head. Everyone started talking at

once.

"Is it a boy or a girl?"

"I want a little brother."

"No, I want a baby sister."

"Is it a girl?"

"It's a boy, isn't it?"

"Tell us Papa! Please tell us!"

Mr. Harmon put up both hands for silence. "In a little while I will let you see for yourselves," he said. "Right now, children, your mother needs to rest. But as soon as we have eaten and all the chores are done, I will take you to your mother's room. I want her to have the fun of showing you what God gave us."

The children did their chores with unusual speed. The girls washed the dishes and put them away. They filled the kitchen pail with water from the well. They swept the floor and made the beds. John filled the box behind the big black stove with split wood, then he watered the chickens and put a big armful of hay in the stall where old Bossy stood munching her grain.

"Well done! Well done, indeed!" exclaimed Father Harmon. "Now, follow me."

On tiptoes they followed him up the stairs. Mr. Harmon opened the bedroom door and peeked inside.

"Are you ready, Eunice?" he whispered to his wife.

"Ready, Robert," she answered softly.

Father Harmon turned to his children and put his finger to his lips. He opened the door and they stepped inside. Quietly they gathered around the bed. What a surprise met their wide eyes! In their mother's right ar

was a tiny baby, but that was not all. Her left arm was around another
iny baby. The children looked from one baby to the other and then into
their mother's eyes.

Mother smiled. "You have two baby sisters," she said. "Aren't they
lovely! God gave us two precious little gifts to love and care for."

"Twins!" whispered Harriet. "Twin sisters! What are we going to name
them?"

"Well," said Mother, "Why don't you think of names today? Because our
babies are twins, perhaps it would be nice to choose names that begin with
the same letter. Write a list of names you think of. That will help your
papa and me decide what to call these little ones."

"Children," father announced, "No hat making this morning! You may
celebrate the babies' birthday by doing whatever you wish. This afternoon,
though, I'll need your help as usual. We are now a family of ten--Father,
mother, and eight children. We shall make and sell more hats, plant more
garden, and fill our home with more love."

"We'll all help," Caroline promised.

"Yes, we will!" chimed the others. "We will! We will!"

That evening, at the supper table, father collected the list of names
the children had thought of during the day. Then, while they were cleaning
up after supper, he took the names up to Mother's room and shut the door.

The supper dishes were washed. The children waited. They even set the
table for the next day's breakfast. Still they waited. Finally Father came
down the stairs.

"What names did you choose?" six eager voices asked.

"Come, gather around the table," Father invited. He put the big family
Bible on the table and opened it to a special page. "This is the page on

which are written the names of all the people in the Harmon family."

The children crowded around. At the top of this page were the words:

ROBERT HARMON AND EUNICE GOULD, MARRIED JULY 11, 1810

Right underneath were the names of all the children and the year each one had been born. They watched Father dip his pen into the ink and add the names of their little twin sisters.

ELLEN GOULD HARMON BORN NOVEMBER 26, 1827

ELIZABETH HARMON BORN NOVEMBER 26, 1827

"Ellen and Elizabeth," the children said. "Ellen and Elizabeth," they repeated. "What pretty names."

Ellen and Elizabeth grew like most little girls. They learned to walk and talk and sing. They learned to play with Robert, who was only two years older. They learned to help with the work.

Every morning, just before breakfast, Mr. Harmon had family worship. Every evening, just before Mother tucked the little ones into bed, he read from God's Word. Then the family knelt and Father prayed. Mother prayed. Then, beginning with the oldest, each child prayed.

Every Sunday they went to the Methodist Church for Sunday School. Ellen and Elizabeth grew up loving Jesus and talking to Him.

From their house, the garden and pasture land sloped gently down to a little creek. Trees grew on both sides of the stream. The children liked to play there.

One day in autumn, Ellen ran down the sloping hillside to watch the birds and little wild animals. The squirrels scurried up the trees and hopped from branch to branch. Their fluffy tails sparkled in the sunshine like silver. Meadow larks were singing their happiest songs.

Several neighbor children were playing by the creek. Ellen joined them in their fun. They kicked the fallen red and yellow leaves high in the air. They laughed to hear the leaves crackle and crunch under their feet.

"Oh, look what I've found!" one of the older boys called. Everyone came running.

"Hickory nuts!" they exclaimed. "Look at that pile of hickory nuts right there in that hole in the tree." Eager hands reached in to grab some nuts. Some of the boys began filling their pockets with the nuts.

"Please don't take the nuts," Ellen called. "Those are the squirrels' nuts. They don't belong to us."

"Oh, don't worry," the children laughed.

But Ellen did worry. "Please leave them there," she begged. "The squirrels worked hard to gather all those nuts. They need them to eat when winter comes."

Most of the children didn't listen. One girl who had cracked a nut and was eating it called out, "The squirrels can find some more. They have plenty of time."

When Ellen saw the nuts disappear, she ran home to the dried corn bin. She picked out several large ears of corn and carried them back to the tree. Her playmates had gone. Ellen's small fingers pressed hard to shell the corn from the cobs. She stuffed the corn kernels into the tree hole, then pushed leaves up against it.

"I'm sorry they took your nuts," she said, hoping the squirrels might understand when they discovered that their nuts were gone. "You won't like corn as much as what you had, but it's the best I can get for you."

Even as a young child, Ellen loved God and His special creatures;
and she knew that by being kind to them she was pleasing Jesus.

TWO LITTLE SURPRISES - Study Questions



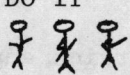

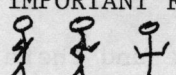
Objective: To understand Ellen's family setting.

To be aware of the human tenderness exhibited by Ellen.

For discussion:

1. What do you think would be fun about being a twin?
2. What do you think you might not like about being a twin?
3. What would you like about being part of a big family?
4. What would you dislike about being part of a big family?
5. Think about your responsibility to animals as you decide which of the following would be very important to you to do, which would you do if you had time, money, or know-how for it, which would you probably never do?
 - a. Feed a hungry animal.
 - b. Rescue a treed cat.
 - c. Get help for an orphaned animal.
 - d. Put out food for birds when the snow limits their food supply.
 - e. Feed a pet regularly.
 - f. Stop someone you know who is teasing an animal.
 - g. Stop someone you don't know who is teasing an animal.
 - h. Teach a pet to obey orders.

(For this exercise, you might arrange a continuum along the side of the room or on the chalkboard, and ask the students to stand under the words that describe their position as you read each item. Take their responses seriously.)

I'D NEVER DO IT	I'D DO IT IF TOLD TO	I MIGHT DO IT	I WOULD USUALLY DO IT	IT WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT FOR ME TO DO
				

6. What is really important to you in the care of animals?
7. Based on the story we have just heard, think of a word to describe Ellen. (Possible responses: kind, thoughtful, independent, twin.)

FROM A LITTLE GIRL TO A TEENAGER

"Wake up, little twins," Mother Harmon called. "Your father is almost ready to load your bed on the wagon." Ellen and Elizabeth stretched and opened their eyes. They saw an empty bedroom--no curtains, no chairs. Sarah and Harriet's bed was gone. Even the little braided rug beside their own bed was not there.

"Remember?" questioned Mother. "Remember? This is the day we leave the farm and move to Portland."

Of course they remembered! Only yesterday Father and John had taken a load of things the twelve miles into Portland. Of course they remembered! Like a flash, four feet landed on the board floor. They pushed their arms and legs into the clothes Mother had ready for them. The twins didn't want to miss one minute of the excitement. The family had eaten breakfast. Mother insisted that the girls each eat a bowl of hot porridge and drink a cup of warm milk. They swallowed the food at record speed. Soon they were running around trying to help, but getting in the way.

Finally the wagon was loaded. The chickens were in little screened boxes. The cow was tied to the wagon so that she could walk behind it. The children climbed up on the wagon. They squeezed into little places here and there. Father picked up the reins and started the horses on a slow walk.

Ellen was excited about doing something new, but she couldn't help

feeling sad as they started down the long hill. Their farm at the top of the hill was such a beautiful place to live. Every day they had been able to look down into the valley and then far away across the Connecticut River to the beautiful White Mountains.

Once more Ellen asked, "Do we have to leave our home?"

"I know how you feel, Ellen," Mother Harmon comforted her. "This is where you children were born. We have had both happy and difficult times here. We are a big family now. It isn't easy to make a living on the farm. In Portland, where more people live, Father can sell more hats. Besides, we want you to have a good education. Portland has a good school."

When Ellen was a little girl, Portland was not a big city as it is today. There were no streetcars or automobiles. Houses were farther apart. Many people had barns in which to keep their cow and horses and wagon. Near the town were pastures and meadows where cows and horses might graze during the spring and summer.

The Harmons were soon settled and busily caring for their animals, planting a garden, and making hats to sell. Everyone in the family helped.

One day, Mother handed Elizabeth and Ellen a sack lunch. It was to be their first day at school. The twins walked along the path beside the road to the Brackett Street School. John was with them, and probably Sarah, too.

The twins studied hard and were soon able to read and write. They made many friends. Mother never allowed them to stay and play after school, nor were they to linger on the way home. Chores waited for each one to do.

The school years and the summers slipped by quickly until the twins were nine years old and in the third grade.

One afternoon, Ellen and Elizabeth, and a classmate came out of school

and started for home. As they walked hand in hand across the park square, an angry thirteen-year-old girl followed them. We do not know why, but she shouted and threatened them. The girls hurried on as fast as they could. When they were nearly across the park, they heard angry shouts again, louder and meaner this time. Ellen turned her head to see how close the big girl was behind them. At that moment a large rock came hurtling through the air. It struck Ellen full in the face. The angry girl turned and ran. Ellen fell to the ground, unconscious. The rock had smashed the delicate bones in her nose and also injured her face.

For three weeks Ellen lay at home unconscious. The doctors came. "There is nothing we can do to help her," they whispered sadly. "She will die." And they went away.

Mother Harmon never gave up. She had a big cradle built for Ellen. Mrs. Harmon rocked her child and talked to her even though Ellen was unconscious. She rubbed the thin little legs and arms and kept them warm. The family and friends prayed for Ellen. They missed her sunny, happy ways. Finally Ellen began to awaken. She did not remember anything about the accident. She did not know why she was so weak and thin. Many more weeks passed before she could even sit up.

During this time Ellen often talked to Jesus. She told Him all her troubles. She asked Him to forgive her sins. She felt that He was her very dear Friend. She wished that all her playmates, and even the girl who threw the rock, knew that Jesus was their Friend, too.

After a long time, Ellen returned to school. How eager she was to make up the lessons that she had missed! Perspiration dropped from her forehead. When she tried to read, all the words seemed to run together. When she tried to write, her hand trembled so badly that she could not control it.

After a few weeks Ellen's teachers said she was too weak and sick to stay in school. They invited her to return when she was stronger. Several times after that Ellen tried to go on with her schooling, but each time she had to give up. This was the greatest disappointment in her young life.

When Ellen was twelve years old, William Miller came to Portland. He held meetings every day. There were meetings in the mornings, in the afternoons, and in the evenings. People brought their lunch baskets and stayed all day. They listened to the wonderful, yet most solemn news that Jesus was coming soon. At the close of one meeting, William Miller invited those who wanted to be ready to meet Jesus, to come to the front for special prayer. Ellen went forward.

"Lord," Ellen prayed, "I can never be good enough to enter heaven." For weeks she was filled with great sadness because she felt that her sins were too great. Jesus could never save her. She did not tell anyone, not even her mother, how sad and lost she felt.

The following summer, Ellen went with her parents to the Methodist Camp-meeting. She was glad to have this special time to learn more about Jesus. The Holy Spirit helped her understand that the very first time she had asked God to forgive her, He had gladly done so.

Ellen's pastor told her, "All you have to do is to believe that God has forgiven your sins. Thank Him. Trust Him. Be happy and joyful in His loving care. He will save you."

When Ellen understood this, the peace of Jesus filled her life. She wrote: "The sun shone bright and clear. . . . The trees and grass were a fresher green, the sky a deeper blue. The earth seemed to smile under the peace of God. . . . The birds sang more sweetly than ever before."¹ Trusting her Saviour changed Ellen's sadness to gladness.

She saw the loveliness of the flowers which her mother had planted around their home. Ellen walked over and touched the delicate petals of a pink rose. She thought: "How perfectly God has made this beautiful flower. He takes care of the flowers and so I know He loves and guards us, His children." Then, in great happiness, Ellen exclaimed, "I am God's child. His loving care is around me. I will be obedient. I will praise His dear name. I will love Him always."²

One day Ellen told her pastor that she wanted to join the Methodist church. He wrote her name in the church book. Ellen looked forward to being baptized after she had proved that she truly wanted to follow Jesus.

On June 26, 1842, Ellen was baptized with twelve of her friends in the Casco bay near Portland, Maine. The wind was blowing, and the waves dashed upon the sandy beach but the peace of Jesus was in Ellen's heart.

"I belong to You, Jesus," she whispered as she walked back up on the beach where her mother wrapped a blanket around her.

God, who was watching and listening, knew the wonderful things that Ellen would do for Him, but no one else did. Only God knew.

* * *

¹ Life Sketches, page 24.

² Adapted from Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, page 19.

FROM A LITTLE GIRL TO A TEENAGER - Study Questions

Objective: To understand that God's providences are constant in spite of calamities and that they are designed to lead people to Him.

For discussion:

1. What advantages do you think Ellen had in her early childhood and teen years?

(Possible responses)

- a. She lived in the country some of that time.
- b. Her parents loved her.
- c. She had a twin sister.
- d. Her parents believed in God.
- e. She got to hear William Miller preach.
- f. She got to go to campmeeting.

2. What disadvantages were Ellen's?

(Possible responses)

- a. Lack of extensive education;
- b. Poor health;
- c. Damaged looks.

3. In what ways do you think Ellen's lack of advantages were used to glorify God?

(In spite of her limited schooling and poor health, God enabled her to deliver powerful messages beneficial to His work.)

4. If someone said to you, "I can never be good enough to please God," what would you like to tell him?

WHEN GOD CHOOSES MESSENGERS

God always has had special messengers. The first ones were in Bible times. Let me tell you about some of them.

One time, many of God's people were discouraged and sad because when they went to worship at the sanctuary, they saw their leaders doing wicked things. God wanted this wickedness stopped. He wanted to save His people. How could He talk to them? God knew that He could trust the young boy Samuel who was working in the sanctuary. The priests were doing evil things, but not Samuel. Everything he did or thought was pure and good and true.

"I will speak to My people through Samuel," God said.

One night God called "Samuel! Samuel!" When the boy knew it was the Lord calling, he listened to what God wanted him to say and do. God asked him to do a very hard thing, but he did it. All the rest of his life Samuel was God's messenger.¹

Hundreds of years later, God's people became too busy to think about Him. Many of them went to church, but in their thoughts they did not worship the Lord. They repeated prayers, but they were saying words only. They thought of God as being angry and far away.

God longed for them to know what He was really like. He asked a young man, named Isaiah,² to be His messenger. But Isaiah thought that he was too young to give God's messages to people.

While Isaiah was thinking about this, God gave him a vision. A vision is something like a dream. Suddenly Isaiah saw dazzling light all around him. He saw the eternal King of kings, the Lord God Himself, sitting on

high throne. Bright, glorious angels surrounded Him. They reverently covered their faces as they sang praises. "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord. . . . The whole earth is full of His glory."

Isaiah felt too sinful to stay in God's holy presence, but the Lord sent an angel to touch the young man's lips and say, "Isaiah, all your sins are taken away."

Then the Lord asked, "Whom shall I send as a messenger to My people? Who will go? Who will speak for Me?"

Isaiah humbly answered, "Here am I. Send me."

For sixty years Isaiah was the Lord's prophet. He taught and wrote about God. He helped people know how much God loves them. He helped them understand the visions God gave him. You can read about these visions in the book Isaiah wrote. You can also read the beautiful prophecies about Jesus who would come to earth and be born a baby.

Again after many years, God's people forgot Him. They did not obey His commandments. They were selfish and stubborn and rebellious. God chose a boy named Jeremiah to be His special messenger to these people. This messenger would need to be strong and brave. Jeremiah wrote his own story telling us how God called him to be a prophet. Let's read what he wrote. (Jeremiah 1:4-9 TEV)

"The Lord said to me, 'I chose you before I gave you life, and before you were born I selected you to be a prophet to the nations.'

"I Jeremiah answered, 'Sovereign Lord, I don't know how to speak; I am too young.'

"But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say that you are too young, but go to the people I send you to, and tell them everything I command you to say. Do not be afraid of them, for I will be with you to protect you. I, the Lord, have spoken!'

"Then the Lord reached out, touched my lips, and said to me, "Listen, I am giving you the words you must speak.'"

Many times the people did not want to hear what God said. They blamed Jeremiah for all their troubles. They put him in a dungeon. They beat him. But nothing could stop him from telling them what God had said. He warned them of what would happen if they insisted on being selfish and rebellious. He told them what wonderful things the Lord would do for them if they obeyed and loved Him.

No matter what Jeremiah did they refused to listen. But, oh, how they wished they had listened when they were kidnapped from their homeland and taken as slaves and captives to live in Babylon. And there in Babylon God chose another young man, Daniel, to be His prophet to these lonely captives. The Bible is full of stories about other faithful men and women who have been God's prophets. When we read about what they have written, we are really reading what God is telling us.

On October 22, 1844, God's people were disappointed and oh, so sad! All that day they had waited, expecting Jesus to come with His holy angels to take them to heaven. But He did not come. In Portland, Maine, sixteen-year-old Ellen Harmon and her family had waited. When the day was over they were so disappointed that they could hardly bear it. Ellen had expected Jesus to give her a new, healthy, beautiful body. Her sadness was great, but she with many other Adventists said, "God's words are true. We will keep on trusting Him. We will keep on praying. He will help us understand why He did not come."

God did not want His faithful people to be sad. He had great and wonderful plans for them. They were to study to better understand the Bible. They were to grow in numbers. They were to tell all people on earth the good n

of His love for everyone and that He is coming soon. Then, and only then, could He come. God needed a messenger--a messenger through whom He could guide His people and give them courage.

On a December day, a few weeks after Ellen's seventeenth birthday, she went to a friend's home to pray and study the Bible with four other young ladies. Ellen did not know the Lord had chosen her to be His messenger. She did not know that on that very day He would give her a vision.

While the young ladies were kneeling, praying, Ellen felt herself surrounded with bright beams of God's glory. She seemed to feel herself rising higher and higher from the earth. She turned to look for the other Adventist people, but she did not see them. Then a voice said, "Look again. Look a little higher."

Ellen looked up. She saw a long, narrow path high above the earth. The Adventist people were walking on this path. Jesus was leading them.

He was encouraging them and showing them the way to the Holy City. A bright light at the beginning of the path shone along the way.

Ellen heard some of the people say, "This path is too steep and narrow. It is too hard to climb. That is not Jesus leading us." Then Ellen saw the light shining on the path at their feet go out. They fell into the dark world below.

Other Adventists kept their eyes upon Jesus. "We are safe," they said. "Jesus is our leader." Ellen climbed up the steep path with them until they reached the Holy City. She felt her heart would burst with joy when Jesus smiled upon her and put a glittering crown upon her head!

Christ swung the great pearly gates wide open and said, "Your sins have been forgiven through My death on the cross. You have stood bravely for My truth. Enter in!"

Ellen went into the city with the others. She walked on streets of

gold. She saw beautiful homes Jesus had built for His people. She saw the dazzling throne of God with the eternal rainbow circling it. She saw the river of life and the tree of life with its fruit that looked like gold and silver mixed. She touched her golden harp and made delightful music.

Then God showed Ellen how beautiful this old earth will look when it is made all new. She walked through its green fields and forests. She picked the brightly colored flowers. She touched the soft fur of the lions and lambs as they played together and followed her. She saw God's glorious temple. She saw a silver table many miles long. Around this table God's people will sit and eat someday. On the table were all kinds of lovely fruits and nuts.

"May I eat some of the fruit?" Ellen asked Jesus.

"Not now," He answered softly. "Not now. But if you are faithful you shall eat fruit from the tree of life and drink water from the fountain near God's throne. Ellen," Jesus added, "You must go back to earth again and tell people what I have shown you." Then Ellen felt an angel gently carry her down, down, down to this earth.

During the time Ellen was in vision, she had not breathed. Her friends with whom she had been praying, thought she was dead. After a long time, they saw her take a little breath, then a big, deep breath as she filled her lungs with air.

"Thank You, thank You, Lord!" they exclaimed wiping tears from their cheeks.

Ellen had been in the brilliant light of heaven and so at first, when the vision ended, everything seemed very dark to her. Gradually she began to see her friends.

"Where am I?" she asked.

"You are right here in my house," said her hostess.

"What?" she asked, surprised. "Here? I am here? Don't you know" are I've been?"³ Her friends were happy when she told them she had been with Jesus and the holy angels. She told them about the beauties of heaven. Ellen told the Adventist believers in Portland what God had shown her. They felt comforted to know the Lord was leading them and caring for them.

A week later God gave Ellen another vision in which she knew He was asking her to be His messenger. "I have a message for you to bear." You must travel and talk to people everywhere, was the Lord's command. "You must write out for the people what I give you. Write! Write!"

"Lord, I cannot do it; I cannot do it," Ellen pleaded. Up until then her trembling hand had not been able to write a line. She was told to go, speak before the people, but she could hardly speak above a whisper, this timid, frail young girl of seventeen years.⁴

But Ellen wanted to obey the Lord. She talked with her father about God's will. Mr. Harmon put his arm around his daughter's small, thin body and said, "Don't be afraid, Ellen. If God asks you to travel, He will open the way. If He asks you to write, He will guide your hand. If He asks you to speak, He will strengthen your voice. Trust Him."⁵

Finally Ellen answered the Lord. "I will do whatever You ask. I will trust You to give me the wisdom and strength. I will trust You to keep me humble."

During the next 70 years the Lord gave Ellen about 2,000 visions. He used her to let people know of His love for them, and of His soon return to earth. He opened the way for her to travel from country to country. With her own hand, she wrote messages from God which are now printed in more than sixty different books. Her life was filled with exciting stories. She is one of the many messengers God has used to show us the way to heaven.

¹Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, Oakland: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1890, 1913, p. 581.

²Ellen G. White, Testimonies, Vol. 5, Oakland: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1948, p. 749.

³Arthur White, Messenger to the Remnant, Washington, D.C.: Ellen G. White Estate of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 1954, 1969, p. 6.

⁴Ellen G. White, Selected Messages, Vol. 1, Washington, D. C.: Review and Herald Publishing Co., 1958, p. 101.

See also Ellen G. White, Early Writings, Washington, D.C: Review and Herald Publishing Co., 1945, pp. 13-20.

⁵Ellen G. White, Life Sketches of Ellen G. White, Oakland: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1915, p. 70.

NOTE: According to the level and interest of the children, the teacher may wish to read Ellen White's own words describing her first vision as found in Early Writings, pages 13-20.

WHEN GOD CHOOSES MESSENGERS - Study Questions

Objectives: To understand that God's power to work through people is not limited by their age, health, education, or any other personal advantage.

To understand God's consistent provision to encourage His people in times of need, crises, and disappointments.

For discussion:

1. What evidence did God give to Ellen's friends that she was in His care during her vision?
(He gave her life without needing to breathe.)
2. How is following Jesus like climbing a mountain?
 - a. (You're getting higher all the time.
 - b. It demands effort.
 - c. One can see his progress when he reaches the top.
 - d. The reward waits at the top.)
3. Name one thing that Ellen saw in her vision that you will look for when you get to heaven.
 - a. (Streets of gold
 - b. Beautiful homes
 - c. God's throne
 - d. The eternal rainbow circling God's throne
 - e. River of life
 - f. Silver/gold fruit on the tree of life
 - g. Golden hay
 - h. Green fields and forests
 - i. Lions, other animals
 - j. God's temple
 - k. Miles-long silver table)

PROPHETS, VISIONS, AND INSIGHTS

The Big Bible

What is a Prophet?

What is a Vision?

The Ames, Iowa, Campmeeting

A Horse and Carriage

A Bridge of Ice

THE BIG BIBLE

Dennis lay on the living room floor with an open book in front of him. "Mother," he called, "here is a picture of a big Bible. It says that Ellen Harmon held it in her outstretched hand for half an hour!"

Mother came and looked at the picture. "Of course you know, Dennis, that she was in vision all the time she held that heavy book. God gave her strength to do it. She couldn't have held it otherwise."

Dennis had heard stories about Ellen White ever since he could remember. He knew that she was Ellen Harmon before she married Elder James White. He knew how she had held a heavy Bible above her head while in vision. She held it in her left hand for about thirty minutes. He wished he had been there to see it. He wished he could have seen Ellen White just once, but she had been dead for several years already.

Mother broke into his thoughts. "Dennis, remember; next month is our vacation and we are going to Washington, D.C. Maybe we can see that big Bible."

"Oh, Mother!" Dennis jumped up from the floor. "Do you really think we could? I'd like that so much!"

The following month found the family in Washington, D.C. enjoying a long-planned vacation trip. They visited museums, art galleries, cemeteries, the Capitol, even the White House. They attended concerts and outdoor programs. Every day they went back to their motel tired but eager to see more sights the next day. Every night Dennis asked, "When will

we see the big Bible?"

"Can we go tomorrow?" Dennis wanted to see that Bible more than any other sight in Washington.

Early the next morning Dennis wakened his daddy and mother. "Today we are going to see the big Bible."

"Yes, we surely are," Daddy told him.

Father drove to Takoma Park, a cozy town on the boundary between Washington, D.C., and Maryland. He stopped the car in front of two big buildings. Daddy pointed to one and said, "That's the GENERAL CONFERENCE building. Let's go there first."

Inside big glass doors they met a friendly lady who guided them through the building. Dennis saw a door with a name-plate on it, GENERAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT. "Can we see him?" he asked.

"I'm sorry; he's away on one of his long trips," the guide told him. "If he were here, you could see him."

Then, on the ground floor, Dennis saw a sign, WHITE PUBLICATIONS. The guide led them into a large room. Dennis wondered if the big Bible could be in this room. No, the lady was leading them down some steps into a vault. The vault had two rooms without windows. There were shelves of books lining two walls of the first room. The guide opened some of the books. A few were so old that their pages were yellow and spotted. She showed them a Review and Herald dated 1850, and the first Adventist youth paper -- The Youth's Instructor -- dated 1852. No Bible!

Then they went into the inner room where the walls were covered with cupboards of little drawers. The guide explained that over half of the drawers held Ellen White letters and the others held manuscripts for her articles, and sermons and diaries that Ellen White wrote. All the drawers were numbered and indexed so that any person could find the

material he wanted to see.

"What grade of school are you in?" the guide asked Dennis.

"I'll be in the fifth grade this coming September."

"You know that Ellen Harmon had to leave school after the third grade, but look at this letter that she wrote when she was nearly twenty. Can you write that well?" Dennis looked at the neat letters. No, he couldn't write that well yet.

"The Lord strengthened her hand because He knew she would spend her whole life writing," the guide explained as she showed them a letter that Ellen White wrote at the age of eighty-two. She also showed them birthday letters she had written to her boys, old diaries and old pictures. Dennis enjoyed seeing the letters but felt restless. "But where is the Bible?" he asked.

"We usually save that until the last." The guide smiled at his eagerness. "It's in that first room. We will see it on the way out and you can hold it in your hands."

Finally they saw it and it was indeed a big Bible. The guide told them that it weighed eighteen and a half pounds. Ellen White had weighed less than 100 pounds when she held this huge volume in her outstretched left hand for almost half an hour. "Remember that she was in vision and the angels were strengthening her."

The guide placed the big Book in Dennis's hands. "I want to hold it out in my left hand just like she did," Dennis said. But he found it hard to hold the big Bible in both hands for even a very short time. He almost dropped it. Then his father took it. He held it out in his left hand for almost two minutes. He was a strong man, but he couldn't hold it any longer. As he placed it on the table, the guide told the story

behind the vision in which Ellen Harmon held the Bible.

"Ellen Harmon's first vision showed her the path which God's faithful people must walk before reaching Heaven, and the glories they would find waiting them there. In her second vision she was told to 'make known to others' what the angel had revealed to her. Her heart was troubled. How could she, a frail girl of seventeen years, go about preaching to people and showing them the truths of God? She asked that the burden be removed from her.

"While in this troubled state of mind, Miss Harmon attended a meeting held at her family's home. Those gathered there prayed for her, and she consecrated herself again to God. She was willing to go where God wanted her to go. While praying, a bright light, 'like a ball of fire, came toward her, and as it fell upon her, her strength was taken away, and she seemed to be in the presence of Jesus and of angels.' Again she was told to 'make known to others what I have revealed to you.'

"In the room where the vision was given there was lying on the bureau a very large family Bible. The book measured eighteen by eleven inches and weighed a little over eighteen pounds. She arose while in vision, took the heavy Bible in her left hand and held it out to her side. She continued holding the Bible for about a half hour.

"One who was present exclaimed, 'Here, indeed, was a wonder! A delicate girl, weighing (less than 100 pounds), holding a heavy Bible for over half an hour in a position in which a strong man could not hold it for two minutes; . . . Those who saw it regarded it as most clearly a manifestation of the Spirit of Him who spake from the burning bush. Such manifestations as these . . . carried convincing proof' that the power of God was in the visions.'¹"

Dennis felt satisfied. He had seen the big Bible and he knew now for sure that Ellen Harmon, a frail, young girl, could never have held that Book by herself. The power of God must have been upon her. He felt sure that the same power had been upon her when she wrote the messages she had given in her books. Gently he touched the large Bible again and resolved to read every book Ellen White had written.

¹ Adapted from J. N. Loughborough, Rise and Progress of Seventh-day Adventists, General Conference Association of Battle Creek, Michigan, 1892, pp. 102-104.

THE BIG BIBLE - Study Questions

Objective: To recognize that God gives strength sufficient for any task we need to perform for Him.

For discussion:

1. Try holding an object that weighs $18\frac{1}{2}$ pounds at arm's length.
Time yourself. How long are you able to hold it?
2. Why do you think God provided this special demonstration of His power working through Ellen White on the occasion of her third vision?

WHAT IS A PROPHET?

One day not long after Dennis was in Washington and had seen the big Bible that Ellen Harmon held for half an hour in her outstretched hand, he straddled a chair in the kitchen where his mother was mixing a batch of cookies. "Mother," he began, "what is a prophet?"

Mother smiled and went on mixing nuts and chocolate bits into the cookie dough. "A prophet is a person that God talks to. He tells what'll happen in the future. He leads God's people. He gets messages from God and gives them to the people."

"Ellen White was a prophet, wasn't she?" Dennis asked.

"Yes, but she didn't speak of herself that way. She called herself 'the Lord's messenger.'"

"Did she always tell the people the bad things that would happen to them if they didn't obey God?"

"No she often told them of the good things that would happen if they did God's will. One time she told a lady named Nellie Druillard that if she would help the new Madison School, and give her money and her time to it, the Lord would lengthen her life."

"And did God do that for her?"

"Yes, He certainly did. Nellie was past sixty years old when God told her that and Nellie thought that her work was almost done, but she

joined the new Madison School and did what God asked her to do. She lived more than thirty years longer, and died in her nineties.

"Tell me more," coaxed Dennis.

"When Ellen Harmon first began to have visions, God's people were few and very poor. They did not feel able to have church schools and pay the teachers' salary. But God showed Ellen that the children in our churches needed to be trained for God's work. The public schools were training them for worldly things. She wrote to the church, "In every place where there is a church, large or small, there a school should be established.'"

"And did the people do what she told them God wanted?" Dennis wanted to be sure.

"Yes, the people established church schools. Do you know how many children are going to church schools right now, all over the world?"

"No, but I suppose there are a lot."

"In New Guinea alone 6,000 children are learning to become workers for Jesus. In Africa tens of thousands are in church schools. All over the world as many as 350,000 children are learning to love Jesus and to understand His Word."

"That's a lot of children." Dennis sat quietly for a moment thinking about it. He could smell the cookies baking. "Did Ellen White ever tell people that bad things would happen to them if they refused to obey God?"

"Yes, she did." Mother put the last of the cookie dough onto pans.

"One time she told the church members at Battle Creek that God would judge them for their disobedience to His will. The Review and Herald was publishing books that were not pleasing to God. Also too many of them had settled there in Battle Creek and they were refusing to scatter out and spread the light in other places, even though God had sent them warnings many times."

"And did a bad thing happen?"

"It surely did. Fire destroyed the Battle Creek Sanitarium, and just a few months later fire took the Review and Herald Publishing House."

"Did that make the people feel sorry?" Dennis felt surprised that God's people would be that stubborn. "Didn't the fire make them want to do God's will?"

"I'm sure that many of them did repent and turn to do God's will, but some hardened their hearts and refused." Mother checked her cookies and took the first ones from the oven. "I want to tell you about one time when Ellen White sent several letters to a wealthy family in South Africa telling them to turn to God and obey Him. They kept putting it off. Then she sent another letter telling them that they would lose their money and their most valuable possession would turn to ashes because they had neglected to do God's will.

Dennis paused in eating his warm cookie. "And what happened?"

"Those people went to Australia for a holiday and while they were there, word came that most of their money had been lost in a bank failure."

"I guess they changed then and did what God wanted."

"Well, not right away. They had left a valuable diamond necklace in a bank vault down in Johannesburg in South Africa. It was worth \$25,000. So they went to Johannesburg to get the necklace. They could sell it and have enough money to be comfortable for a long time. The necklace had been put in a tight case, laid carefully on velvet. When they opened the box, they saw that the diamond necklace had turned to ashes. The velvet had not been burned. No fire had touched anything around it, but there it lay. Each diamond had turned to a tiny spot of ashes." 1

"But I didn't think diamonds could turn to ashes. They are too hard." Dennis tried to see the scene in his mind.

"Well, these diamonds had turned to ashes. God had said they would and they did. The people they belonged to knew that God had done it; they repented and turned back to God and asked Him to forgive them. Most of that family were faithful to God all the rest of their lives."

Mother took the last of the cookies from the oven. Dennis thought about the stories Mother had just told him. "I'm glad God has given us a prophet," he finally said. "I want to read all the books Ellen White has written. If God loves us enough to send us those books, we ought to love Him enough to read them."

¹ For verification of the Wessel story, see Document file #506 in the Ellen G. White Estate vault in the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Washington, D. C.

WHAT IS A PROPHET? - Study Questions

Objectives: To understand that God's messages to us through the prophets have always been sent in love.

To recognize that a prophet's messages may be words of reproof, encouragement, or instruction.

For discussion:

1. What different kinds of messages does God send through His prophets?
2. If God had not sent instruction about establishing Adventist schools, how would the progress of the church be different?
How might your own life be different?
3. Why do you think God was so concerned that too many Adventist people were living in Battle Creek that He sent a warning?
4. What advantage do you think Adventist people seek when they live in an Adventist community?
5. What advantages do you think come when Adventist people spread out into areas where few other Adventists live?
6. What is one thing you can learn from God's warning to a family that they will suffer loss if they fail to do God's will?
7. What is a prophet? How does Ellen White qualify as a genuine prophet?

WHAT IS A VISION?

One day Dennis sat watching his mother make a new shirt for him. First she laid the pattern on some blue cloth and cut around the pieces. He liked to watch Mother sew because he could talk to her and she could answer his questions while she worked.

"Mother," he began, "What is a vision? We read in the Bible about the visions Daniel had, and John and Isaiah. Ellen White had visions, too. Were they all the same kind of visions?"

"Yes and no. You see, the Bible says visions come in many ways to prophets.¹ But the same God sent them all. They were sent for the same purpose--to comfort and teach God's people and to warn of coming events. The Bible tells us a lot about visions. God used both visions and dreams to send messages in Bible times." Mother snipped away with her scissors and laid the cut pieces of cloth in a neat pile. "Dreams are not the same as visions. When a prophet has a vision God takes that person's mind and all his thoughts right away from this world, and he doesn't know or see anything that is going on around him. We know that Daniel did not breathe in vision."²

"He didn't breathe! How could he go on living?" Dennis had learned in swimming class that people can go only a very short time without breathing.

"Mother," he said, "did Ellen White breathe while she was having a vision?"

"No, she didn't, and often her visions lasted quite a while. Once she

was in vision for almost four hours. When God took her mind away from earthly things, He took her breath away, too. Just like the prophet Daniel.

Dennis thought for a while. "I wish I could have seen her while she was in vision."

Mother uncovered the sewing machine and started sewing. "Maybe you would like to hear what her own son said about her visions. He saw her many times while God was speaking to her in vision."

"Oh, yes, I'd like to hear that." Dennis pulled his chair closer while Mother began to seam the pieces of blue cloth together.

"Willie White said that just before a vision came, Ellen White and other people in the room could feel the presence of angels hovering near."

"How does that feel, Mother? Have you ever felt angels near?"

"Yes, Dennis, I believe so. There was a feeling of great joy when Ellen White was in vision. The air seemed to quiver with angel excitement and the vibration of their wings. The next thing that happened, Ellen White would shout, 'Glory!' or 'Glory to God!' Sometimes she shouted the words two or three times. Then she became weak, for the mighty power of God rested on her. Then God would touch her and she received great strength, much more than her ordinary strength. That's the kind of strength she had when she held that big Bible that you saw when we were in Washington."

Mother continued sewing without interrupting her talk. "Although Ellen White's heart went on beating steadily and her cheeks remained rosy, she did not breathe. She talked sometimes in her natural voice about the things God was showing her."

Dennis listened with his full attention. "Oh, how I do wish I could have seen her in vision like that. What did the people who saw her think about her not breathing?"

"Sometimes when she was in 'open vision' and many people were present, some would be so frightened, they would leave the room in great distress. Of course all those who knew about her and about the Bible prophets understood that Ellen's visions were just like Daniel's or John's or Ezekiel's.

"Willie White said that his mother's eyes were always open during vision and she had a bright, eager look in them, as though she were watching something very interesting. She sometimes stood or walked around and moved her hands and arms in graceful gestures as she talked about what she was seeing."

"And all the time she didn't know anything that was going on in the room or the house or the church or wherever she was?" Dennis asked. "And she didn't bump into anything?"

"That's right, Dennis. When Ellen White was in vision she knew nothing of what happened around her. The Lord protected her, too. When she came out of vision she drew a deep breath and in about another minute she drew a second deep breath. Then in a short time she breathed naturally again."

"I wonder how the world looked to her after she had been with God and the angels." Dennis tried to think how it would be.

"She often remarked how dark and lonely the world seemed after she had been with Jesus in vision. She sometimes said that she felt lonesome for heaven," said Mother, quietly.

Mother smiled, "I think that will be a good thing to remember. One time Ellen White had a vision that lasted half a minute. Her son Willie described that short-short vision. It came during a Minnesota campmeeting when Willie was sixteen. He remembered that she spent about two weeks writing all the things that God had shown her in that short vision of a half minute."

Dennis knew that he had never before realized how close an acquaintance

Ellen White had with God. He remembered that the people in Washington had explained that Ellen White received visions from God over a period of seventy years, from the time she was seventeen until her death at the age of eighty-seven. How God must have loved her! Dennis began to feel a warm and tender love springing up in his heart for that frail and gentle messenger of Heaven who had lived among us and left so many precious writings.

Dennis looked at the blue shirt, now almost completed. "You know, Mother, whenever I wear that shirt you are sewing, I'm going to think about Ellen White's visions."

¹ Hebrews 1:1

² Daniel 10:17

WHAT IS A VISION? - Study Questions

Objective: To permit God's great accommodation to human need by communicating through people who will be His spokesmen.

For discussion:

1. What special manifestations did God provide of His presence when Ellen White was in vision?
2. How was Ellen White's behavior while in vision different from that of a person who is sleeping or in a coma?

THE AMES, IOWA, CAMPMEETING

Father threw open the door of the little white house in Des Moines, Iowa. He always came home from work whistling and opened the door with a shout of joy. His two little daughters flew into his arms and he held them close or swung them up in the air. Then he kissed Mother and Baby Brother.

Bert and Mary Rhoads were Seventh-day Adventist Christians and the time was nearly 80 years ago. On this evening in early spring Father had great news! "I think we should all go to campmeeting this year," he announced as he sat down to supper. "You know, Sister White has just come back from Australia a few months ago and we think she will come to our Iowa campmeeting at Ames."

"Where is Ames?" asked five-year-old Norma.

"Not too far from here," said Father as he filled the girls' bowls with potato soup. "I am so eager for you, Norma, to see Sister White. She is in her seventies now and she has been sickly and frail all her life. You may never have a chance to see and hear her again."

When supper ended, Mother took three-year-old Ruth and Baby Jamie to bed. Norma followed her father into the living-room of the small house; and when he had settled himself into his comfortable chair, he lifted Norma onto his lap and they began their usual evening visit.

They talked about Ellen White. Father had seen her many times and had talked to her. She had even visited his home when he lay very sick with

inflammatory rheumatism and she had told Grandma Rhoads how to care for him so that he got well and strong.

Of course, Father loved Sister White. He believed everything she said or wrote. He knew that God spoke to her and sent her visions. "Isn't it wonderful how God has sent us a true prophet!" he said to Norma. "And now you will get to see her and hear her talk."

Norma looked at her father and realized how very important he regarded Ellen White and how dearly he loved her. His face shone with joy while he explained how they would go to Ames and camp with the other believers there. "We may have to camp in the open meadow," he said, "but the weather will be warm and we will take blankets and pillows, and we can look up at the stars and the moon. You will see, it will be fun."

"What will we eat?"

"Mama will fix raisin bread and we will take along potatoes and beans and other things to cook outside. We won't be hungry. All the other people will be doing the same thing," said Father.

Then Father told Norma about other campmeetings, like the first meeting at Wright, Michigan, where believers gathered on a farm in a maple grove, sat on plain plank seats or large logs, and listened to the speakers out in the open. Even the children were remembered at the first campmeeting. Though there were no special meetings for them, "James White gathered them together, taught them, talked to them, and gave each one a small book of stories" to take home.¹

The days passed much too slowly. Then one day Mother began making raisin bread. She made the crust like pie dough and pressed it into square or oblong baking pans. Then she put on it a layer of soaked raisins with some brown sugar. Norma watched her lay another layer of pie crust on to

and prick it all over with a fork. She baked it until the sweet, brown juice bubbled through the fork holes. Then she cooled the slabs of raisin bread and packed them away. When the family started for campmeeting, Mother had the lower half of her big trunk packed full of raisin bread.

At the campground some of the people had tents, but most of them camped in the meadow. Norma found it great fun. Father took her to all the meetings in the big tent.

"Where is Sister White?" Norma asked.

"The people say that she will be here tomorrow. She will stay just one day."

Sure enough, just before the eleven o'clock preaching service, Father pointed out a little grey-haired lady walking toward the big tent. "That's Sister White! Come, we will stand up and I will hold you on my shoulder so you can hear every word she says."

At eleven o'clock Norma sat high on Father's shoulder near the back of the tent. She could reach up and touch the rolled canvas of the tent's curtain. Then the little lady stood up to speak. She wore a dark blue dress with a very white collar. Her face was plain looking, but her smile shone so warm and pleasant that Norma forgot everything else and listened to the clear sweet voice. The big tent held a great crowd of people, and hundreds more thronged outside, but everyone could hear.

Words from God! Words from heaven! Precious words from God's prophet! She might never hear such words again, Father had said, and she drank them in and knew she would never forget. Now Norma knew why Father loved this gentle lady so very much. Norma felt her own heart fill with a great love for this little grandma who spoke so tenderly of Jesus, and who seemed to be filled with such great kindness for all people and all living things.

All too soon the service ended and Father lifted Norma down. Her world would never be the same again. She had seen God's messenger. She had heard her voice and felt a deep affection that would last the rest of her long life.*

* Norma Rhoades grew up and married Gustavus Benson Youngberg. She is the principal author of these stories.

¹ A. W. Spalding, Origin and History of Seventh-day Adventists, Vol. II, Review and Herald, 1962, p. 10.

THE AMES, IOWA, CAMPMEETING - Study Questions

Objective: To re-live in imagination the experience of a small child visiting campmeeting and hearing Ellen White speak.

For discussion:

1. Locate Ames, Iowa, on the map.
2. What do you think made Norma like Ellen White?
3. When you listen to a speaker in an adult meeting, what pleases you?
4. If you could have gone with Norma to campmeeting, what question would you have liked to ask Ellen White?
5. If you have ever been to a campmeeting or church retreat, tell how your experience was like Norma's. How was it different?
6. What do you think you would have liked about going to campmeeting at Ames, Iowa, when Norma attended there? What might you have disliked?

A HORSE AND CARRIAGE

During the early years of their marriage James and Ellen White experienced hard times. They had little money and Ellen was so frail. She often rose from her sick bed to go somewhere or carry a message to someone because God told her to go. For these journeys, He always strengthened her, but much of the traveling they did was difficult and tiring.

When they must travel long distances they went the best way they could with what money they had. Automobiles and airplanes were not known in those days. Sometimes they went in a carriage or sleigh loaned by friends. Often they traveled by second-class railway or on the lower decks of small ships where thick clouds of tobacco smoke choked Ellen and made her faint. At night they slept on the floor or on boxes or bags of grain. They used overcoats and shawls for blankets. When they closed their eyes and tried to sleep, swearing and obscene words from the other passengers rang in their ears and kept them awake; deck passengers often played cards and drank until very late in the night.

One day a request came for Ellen to speak to a group of believers at Sutton, Vermont. They would have to make the forty-mile trip in a stage-coach that ran over the rough, dusty roads through the hill country. The coach stopped for fresh horses every ten miles, giving the passengers a series of ten-minute stops. When they finally reached their destination, Ellen

looked so weak and tired that the friends who welcomed them at Sutton were alarmed and concerned at her condition. Even James, her husband, looked quite "used up."

These believers at Sutton were dedicated, warm-hearted people who wanted to see the message go quickly. Also they realized how important the Whites were to the growing work and valued their ministry. They decided to do something. They called a secret meeting. There they talked the matter over and decided to take up a collection and purchase a horse and carriage. "Then these dear people can drive wherever the Lord sends them in so much more comfort."

They did take up the collection and gave generously. When they counted the offering, they had \$175.00 which they felt sure would purchase both carriage and horse. They selected a well-built, comfortable buggy, but after discussing the horse, they decided to give the Whites a choice of several animals being offered for sale.

On that Sunday night before the Whites were to leave Sutton, and return to their home in Rochester, Ellen found herself in vision. She stood at a cross-roads where several men had gathered. They had three horses with them and they asked James White to look them over and choose one. One horse was a high-spirited sorrel. When the men stepped forward to examine this one, the angel in the vision turned to Ellen and said, "Not this one."

Then someone brought forward a large gray horse, clumsy-footed and awkward. Again the angel spoke, "Not this one."

The third horse was a big dappled chestnut with an intelligent face, and arched neck and sway-backed. "This is the one for you," the angel said. Ellen told her husband about the strange vision.

The following morning the Whites were taken to the crossroads where about

twenty men greeted them. Then they brought out the three horses. Ellen immediately recognized them as the same horses she had seen the night before in vision, the nervous sorrel, the clumsy gray and the big sway-backed chestnut named Charlie. Of course the Whites chose old Charlie. Then the men presented the Whites with the beautiful new buggy. They harnessed Charlie in a fine new harness and fastened him between the shafts of the shining buggy.

James and Ellen had never owned a carriage before. They had known which horse to choose because of the vision, but they knew nothing about the fine carriage. Such a surprise almost overwhelmed them. They might even have hesitated to accept so beautiful a conveyance had it not been for the vision. They knew that God understood all about this particular horse and this particular carriage. He approved of these humble and obedient servants of His having a nice, new buggy to travel to His appointments for Him. They thanked the good people of Sutton with all their hearts and especially they thank God who had shown them this great mercy.

Driving home to Rochester through the beautiful fields, groves and pastures in the sweet air of the open country was so much more enjoyable than the stuffy, smokey stage coach. They loved old Charlie and he loved them. They always took good care of him and although they took long trips in their carriage, they never drove their horse too far in one stretch, or failed to give him good care. That same autumn while traveling the five hundred miles between their home in Rochester, New York, to Bangor, Maine, they drove through miles of orchard land where apples hung ripe on the trees and fallen fruit lay on the ground. Charlie could never pass up a red apple without wanting to eat it. James White loosened the check rein so that Charlie could get his head down to the ground where he nuzzled the apples to his heart's content.

The long trip of one thousand miles lasted two months and faithful old Charlie brought the little family safely home in better health than when they started the long journey.

The Whites were always generous with their horse and carriage. When other workers needed to go on trips in God's service, James and Ellen allowed them to borrow old Charlie and the carriage.

Although old Charlie never knew it, he was a specially favored horse. God showed him to Ellen White in a vision and chose him to be her faithful servant.

A HORSE AND CARRIAGE - Study Questions

Objective: To recognize that God's care is evident in the decisions of life that affect our safety, comfort, and usefulness.

For discussion:

Choose all the answers that you consider correct for each item below.*

1. Why do you think the people of Sutton gave a horse and carriage to Ellen and James White?
 - a. They were generous people.
 - b. They saw the Whites' need.
 - c. They were motivated by the Spirit of God.
 - d. They wanted to see progress in God's work.
2. Why do you think God showed Ellen in a vision the three horses she would choose from?
 - a. To assure the Whites that God wanted them to accept the gift.
 - b. To help the Whites make the best choice in something they knew little about.
 - c. To show the Whites how interested God was in their affairs.
3. Why do you think Charlie was a good choice?
 - a. The high-spirited horse might not have been safe.
 - b. The awkward horse might have given poor service.
 - c. Charlie was good-natured and intelligent.
 - d. God chose him.
4. What advantages did Charlie have in belonging to the Whites?
 - a. The Whites loved Charlie.
 - b. They did not over-drive Charlie.
 - c. They allowed Charlie to eat apples, which he loved.

*Use the questions in this exercise as simple questions, or provide the possible answers. All answers may be considered correct. You may want to ask the students which answers they consider to be most significant.

A BRIDGE OF ICE

Winter had come and James and Ellen White went to Illinois to visit some of the believers who had moved west. They stayed in the homes of Josiah Hart and Elon Everetts in Round Grove. These two men had preached the message of Jesus' second coming for a while, but then they got some of the rich, new land and were spending their time farming. God used James and Ellen White's visit to show them that they ought to go back and work for the Lord again.

One evening, while at their home, Ellen had a vision. She saw the sad condition of some believers at Waukon, Iowa. She told her husband, 'We must all go up to Waukon and help the brethren there.'

Waukon lay on the other side of the great Mississippi River, about two hundred miles away. They would have to travel by wagon or sleigh. That was the only possible way.

Since winter had begun with heavy snowstorms, Josiah Hart and Elon Everetts decided to take the Whites to Waukon with their sleigh and team of horses.

The night before they planned to start, rain began to fall. It came down hard all day and the snow started to melt. "What about the trip to Waukon?" Josiah Hart asked Ellen White.

"We shall go," she spoke with firm determination.

"Yes, if the Lord works a miracle," Josiah Hart shook his head. Melting snow would make the journey dangerous and uncomfortable.

That night Ellen White rose from her bed several times to look out the window to see if the weather had changed. She knew how much the believers in Waukon needed their encouragement. Several of them had left the work of preaching Jesus' coming and had settled down to become farmers. She prayed that if God wanted them to go to Waukon, He would change the rain to snow.

About daylight the weather turned colder. Snow began to fall so sleighing could be enjoyable. They started their journey north about five o'clock that afternoon, in the sleigh behind a team of lively horses. Snow fell all the way to Greene Vale, where they stopped to hold some meetings with believers.

So much snow fell that they were snowed in for a week. "What about Waukon?" Elon Everetts asked Ellen White.

When they felt that their work for God in Greene Vale was finished, they started on their way. Again, the snow turned to rain. They came to the banks of the Mississippi River. No bridge crossed the river, but it had frozen during the cold weather and the men thought they could cross safely on the ice. People on the shore warned them, "Look, the rain had made the ice all mushy on top. Several teams of horses have already broken through the ice and barely escaped drowning."

Now Josiah Hart reined in the horses at the river's edge. On top of the ice lay water a foot deep. He stood up in the sleigh and pointed his whip handle at the broad river. "Is it forward to Iowa or back to Illinois? We have come to the Red Sea. Do we cross?"

Ellen White raised her voice. "Go forward, trusting in Israel's God!"

Josiah eased the horses and sleigh down onto the ice. The water came up almost to the sleigh box. The horses splashed slowly forward. They all

prayed. Any moment they might strike a weak spot and plunge into the icy waters.

Now people began to gather on the far bank to watch them cross. They had passed midstream now and approached the Iowa shore. The same God who had divided the Red Sea now froze the waters of the Mississippi in the path of the sleigh.

They reached the shore and were welcomed by glad shouts from the crowd who had been watching. They pressed on toward Waukon, but still had a long distance to go, as Friday evening darkened around them. They stopped at a hotel in Dubuque and spent the Sabbath there. In the hotel parlor they held meetings and sang gospel songs. The hotel keeper and all his guests delighted in such unusual entertainment. They begged them to stop on their way back.

On Sunday morning they started on. Sleet and snow driven by a fierce and chilling wind struck the riders in the open sleigh. They wrapped quilts and buffalo robes around them and watched one another's faces. "Sister, your nose is freezing! Brother, your ear is white," they called to each other.

For four days they rode on and finally on Wednesday evening, they reached Waukon, but found no warm welcome awaiting them. They received a chilly reception, but they were not discouraged. "We have come in the name and power of God," Ellen told her husband. "Let us pray for victory."

On Thursday evening they gathered to sing old Advent hymns, and the sweet melodies warmed their hearts. James White spoke. Brother Hart and Brother Everetts told of their experiences. The glow of their first love began to warm those cold hearts in Waukon.

They knelt to pray and God gave Ellen a vision. He showed her just why these believers had backslidden. When she came out of vision she spoke to them. "If you will open the doors of your hearts now, Jesus will come in and walk in our midst with power."

John Loughborough's wife stood up. She spoke to James and Ellen White. "I am so glad you have come. I have been wrong. I have sinned. I influenced my husband to leave God's work. God forgive me! Lord Jesus come into my heart. It is all Yours!"

Many confessed their sins, and the love of Jesus came in. The meetings held over Friday into Sabbath. Those who had been cold were brought back. John Loughborough stood up. "I have laid up my hammer. I have driven my last nail. From this day I hold only the Sword of the Spirit, and I will never give it up, so help me God."

When James and Ellen White left Waukon, John Loughborough went with them. He took up active work for God, never to lay it down for the remaining seventy years of his noble life. His uncle and aunt were converted. So was the family of Cyprian Stevens. One of the Stevens girls, Angeline, married John Andrews the following spring. Their children and grandchildren have been faithful to God's truth and have given many years of service in many fields.

Ezra Butler who had done such dedicated work in the eastern states rekindled the fire of his' devotion and stood firmly for God again. His son, George, had also wandered, but he, too, came back and became a mighty worker for the Lord, standing like a rock before the rising tide of wrong.

At that Waukon meeting the believers were strengthened to meet the trials that God knew would come. The work in Iowa went forward with great strength and as a result, many workers for Christ trace the beginning of

their strength and dedication back to Iowa.

So the bridge of ice that God laid under the sleigh of his servants
that wintry day so long ago carried the fire of heaven to Waukon and
kindled a flame that shall burn even to eternity.

A BRIDGE OF ICE - Study Questions

Objective: To understand that the Lord brings surprising success to His people who dare to do His will against odds.

For discussion:

1. What reasons for not going to Waukon do you suppose Satan suggested to Ellen White?

(Weather; danger in crossing the Mississippi River; the indifference of the believers in Waukon.)

2. Complete the sentence:

"Instead of complaining about being snowed in at Green Vale, Ellen White . . ."

3. Complete the sentence:

"Instead of bemoaning the delay at the hotel at the river, Ellen White . . ."

4. Complete the sentence:

"Instead of accusing the believers at Waukon of losing interest, Ellen White . . ."

5. Complete the sentence:

"After Ellen White's visit, instead of farming in Waukon the believers . . ."

YOUR HOUSE IS THE WORLD

Africa: The Bushman's Dream, Part I

The Bushman's Dream, Part II

Europe: New Light Shines in Europe, Part I

New Light Shines in Europe, Part II

South America: From Italy to Uruguay

Far East: Kondima Named Her Dolly Ellen

Australia: Ellen in Australia

Inter-America: Juan Wanted to be Rich

THE BUSHMAN'S DREAM, Part I

In the great Kalahari desert of southern Africa lives a tribe of small brown people called Bushmen. A grown man stands about five feet tall and the women are even smaller. These little people live in small family groups that wander over the desert gathering roots, fruits and nuts for their food.

The Bushmen's only neighbors are the Bantu people, the chief race in that part of Africa. The Bantus are not related to the Bushmen, have little to do with them and do not trust them. Although the white men regard the Bushmen as ignorant savages, these little people have great intelligence and knowledge. They are rich in desert lore and know the secrets of the vast sandy lands. They know how to live in a world where other men would die of thirst and hunger.

Sekuba is a Bushman. One cold night in 1953 he crawled into the family hut of grass and twigs. All day the family had hunted for food. Now Sekuba pulled his bow and his quiver of poisoned arrows close to him. Even in his sleep, he must be prepared for the enemies that prowled the desert.

That night Sekuba dreamed a strange dream. He saw a shining being speak to him out of a fire that hid him by its great brightness. The voice out of the flame told the Bushman to find "the people of the

Book." Then the shining being mentioned other books these people would have: "Four brown books that are really nine."

When Sekuba tried to tell his family about the Shining One they did not understand, but they realized that his dream was very important, so urgent that he must begin that very day to search for the people of the Book. His decision troubled his family. He would have to journey across the great desert that held so many dangers. "How will you talk to the people of the Book?" his wife asked him while he gathered a few things to take along.

He told the dream over again. "The Book talks," he told her. "The Shining One taught me the language of the Book. I will understand the words it speaks."

The little family did not try to hinder him. They went along with him and hunted food as they walked toward the eastern border of Bechuana-land. In a few days they left the desert wasteland behind them, and came to a more populated region where they met a few Bushmen who lived near some of the Bantu tribe. Sekuba decided to leave his family near these Bushmen. He told his wife that he must push on and find "the people of the Book" but he would return when he found them. Carrying only his blanket made from the hide of an antelope, a handful of dried meat and his bow and arrows, he journeyed on alone.

He had now come about 150 miles from his grass hut home where he had first seen the shining visitor. With a lift of his heart, he saw before him in the distance a Bantu farming village. It belonged to the Bamangwato tribe. Suddenly all his natural fear of strangers sprang up in his mind. Had he not been so convinced of the importance of his journey, he would have turned back.

He came near the village and one of the Bantu men looked up. Se-

kuba saw the Bantu's face fill with surprise and fear to see this one little brown man coming across the dusty plain. Sekuba came on slowly trying to look as peaceable and harmless as possible. The Bantu seemed to lose his fear and waited until Sekuba stood before him.

"I see you." the Bantu said according to his accustomed greeting and the usual African manner.

Sekuba returned the greeting with courtesy. "Where will I find the people with the Book?"

The other man stood amazed and silent for a moment.

Sekuba spoke again. "I have come to find the people who worship God."

"You speak our language! You speak Tswana!" the Bantu farmer at last blurted out his astonishment. "Few Bushmen can speak Tswana."

"The Shining One taught me," Sekuba said and then seeing the puzzlement on the Bantu's face he quickly told him about his dream.

"Can you take me to someone who will teach me about the Book?"

"This is a marvelous thing!" The Bantu continued to stare at the little brown man. "I will take you to our pastor."

The Bantu farmer went into his hut and told his family about the strange little man who had come out of the desert looking for a minister and they all trooped outside to see the Bushman who said that a Shining One had taught him to speak Tswana.

Then the Bantu led Sekuba along a dusty path toward some other scattered huts. Village people began to follow them, excited and curious about the little man's strange story. They went with Sekuba and his Bantu guide to the pastor's house where they all tried to tell the story at the same time.

The Bantu minister raised his hand for silence. "These seek to

Speak for you" he said to the little brown man, "But I want you to tell me your story yourself."

The minister took a chair from his house and went out to sit in front of the people. His black coat and his clerical collar gave him great dignity in their eyes. Now Sekuba stood before him and Tswana told of the Shining One who had come to him in a fiery dream and told him to find "the people of the Book." The villagers listened in solemn awe. "Have I found the people who worship God--the people of the Book?"

The pastor went into his little house and came back carrying a Bible. Sekuba recognized it at once. "That's it!" He bowed his head and clapped his hands softly. "That's the Book!"

"Your journey has ended," the Bantu pastor told him. "You must stay with me tonight." After the pastor had led the group in prayer the people, still talking about Sekuba's strange story, scattered to their huts.

The pastor loaned the Bushman a sleeping mat and allowed him to sleep in his cookhouse. He ordered his servant to prepare a meal for Sekuba. So with a full stomach and a glad feeling because he had found what he hoped for, he fell asleep.

During the night the Shining One appeared to Sekuba again. "This is not the true church," he said, "You must seek farther. You must find the Sabbath-keeping church and ask for Pastor Moyo. He will have the Book. He will also have the four brown books that are really nine."

Then Sekuba remembered that he had forgotten to ask the Bantu pastor about those brown books.

THE BUSHMAN'S DREAM, Part II

Sekuba, the Bushman, had journeyed many days alone across the desert in search of "the people of the Book" which a shining being had revealed to him in a dream. His search led him to a Protestant minister in a Bantu village. But during the night the Shining One again appeared and told him to search farther for a people who kept the Sabbath.

The next morning the Bushman arose early, left the pastor's cook-hut and waited until the Bantu pastor came out of his hut. "I must leave you." Sekuba said politely. "I cannot stay here. The Shining One came in the night to your cook-hut and he told me that I must go on further and find the people who keep the seventh-day holy."

The startled pastor finally recovered from his shock enough to say, "But this is the chief's church! Would the chief of the Bantus be wrong? You must not have understood the Shining One. He did not tell you to seek another church."

"Sir, I understand the Shining One perfectly. He showed me what I must do. There are people who worship God on the seventh-day. Please tell me where I may find them."

The Bantu pastor became quite angry and raised his voice. Now he began to threaten the tiny Bushman. The people streamed out of their

huts to see what caused the noise. The Bantu pastor told them that the Bushman had insulted their chief. They began to abuse Sekuba and to ridicule him, but Sekuba still insisted on finding "the Sabbath Church." They threw him into a truck and took him 40 miles to their capital and dragged him before their chief.

The chief knew the Sabbath-keeping church very well, for his own wife belonged to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but he didn't want this story spread around for it would bring favorable attention to the Sabbath-keepers. He told Sekuba to keep still, but the little brown man said, "No, I will tell everyone about the Shining One and the church he has told me to find."

Then the chief took the Bushman to the District Commissioner, a European employed by the colonial government. The Commissioner listened with patience to all the details of Sekuba's story. He seemed to respect the little Bushman who had the rare ability to speak fluent Tswana and who had journeyed so far to find the Sabbath-keeping church.

The crowd, still in an ugly mood, waited for the Commissioner to pronounce judgment. He spoke to Sekuba, "You have committed no crime. You are free to tell anyone of your faith." The Commissioner sent the crowd away and Sekuba took up his search again.

He walked out into the desert, but he saw that the sun would soon be down. He found a sheltered spot under a clump of thorn-bushes and sat down to think. He had no idea which way to go, but he knew that the Shining One would not leave him to wander aimlessly. He prayed earnestly that some kind of sign would be given him. Then he lay down and dropped off into contented sleep.

In the light of early dawn, he saw on the horizon, a small cloud. Such a cloud is a rare sight in that semi-desert country and he took it

for the sign he had asked and followed it. Each day the cloud hovered in the northeast and each day he walked toward it. He journeyed for seven days - a distance of 115 miles - using the cloud as his guide. Then he saw buildings in the distance. They belonged to a little settlement on the railroad running from the Congo down to Capetown. Then the cloud disappeared, and Sekuba knew that he would find the Sabbath-keeping church in that town.

Day had begun to darken into night and again he decided to stay outside the town among the desert shrubs as he had for the last week. He knew that the Shining One had led him aright and tomorrow he would find the church that worshiped God on the seventh-day Sabbath and they would have the Book and also the four brown books that were really nine books.

He wakened early and started walking toward Tsessebe, for that was the town's name. As he approached the settlement he met a Bantu. He asked if the man knew pastor Moyo, and the Bantu was able to direct him to the right house.

When Pastor Moyo, a Banto, came to the door and found the little Bushman he looked very surprised, but spoke a courteous "Good Morning." Then Sekuba's skin blanket slipped off his shoulder and revealed his quiver of poisoned arrows which startled the Adventist pastor again, but still he invited the Bushman inside.

Again, in fluent Tswana, Sekuba told his dream and explained what the Shining One had taught him. "He told me to find the people with the Book, who worship on the seventh-day Sabbath."

Pastor Moyo went to a crude shelf hanging on the wall and took down his own Bible. "That's it! That's it!" Sekuba clapped his hands softly. "And where are the four brown books that are really nine?"

The pastor reached for the four brown volumes, his set of Testimonies For the Church. Joy thrilled the Bushman's heart. "Yes," he said, "you are one of the people the Shining One told me to find."

All day they talked. Pastor Moyo explained the precious teachings of the Bible. He helped the little Bushman to understand a little about the great God who had sent His shining angel to teach Sekuba to speak, to read, and to write the Tswana language, and had guided him to the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Pastor Moyo taught him about Jesus, God's Son, who came to our world as a baby and lived among us for 33 years, then took Him back to heaven. He taught him that Jesus is soon coming again to take us all to be with Him.

Although the miracle of the Bushman impressed the pastor, he still could not shake off the distrust all Bantus have of the desert people. So God sent Pastor Moyo a dream. In it he saw a text with light shining all around it. He rose from his mat, lit a candle and read the verses in Ezekiel 36: 8,9:

But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth
your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of
Israel; for they are at hand to come. For, behold I
am for you and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be
tilled and sown.

Then Pastor Moyo knew that the Bushmen in the desert were ready to receive the Bible and its truths.

Sekuba spent two weeks with Pastor Moyo. He knew that he must return to his family. He stood before the pastor to say "Goodbye." He looked into the kind eyes of his new friend. "You will come to us? You will teach my people?"

"Yes, my brother, someone will come to teach your people."

And someone did come. A year after Sekuba's first dream Pastor

Daniel Mogegeh baptized Sekuba and his wife. Pastor Mogegeh taught and preached to Sekuba's people. The next year his brother and sister were baptized. The Bushmen, accustomed to passing stories from generation to generation were able to learn long passages of Scripture and retain them in their mind.

Sekuba never lost his heaven-sent ability to read, write and speak Tswana. He was ordained a Seventh-day Adventist evangelist, and pastor of the first Bushman church. Sekuba lived only four years after his visit from the Shining One. He saw ten of his tribe baptized into the church he learned to love so much. Today, more than fifty of these little brown Bushmen have joined the remnant church.

And the Shining One who came to Sekuba's little grass hut is still among them, watching over the precious gospel seed sown to God's glory and praise by angel hands.

THE BUSHMAN'S DREAM - Study Questions

Objective: To recognize that God is limited by no circumstances in reaching people with good news about what He wants to do for them.

To discover the lengths to which God will go to lead people who will respond to Him.

For discussion:

"Four brown books that are really nine" (p.59): This refers to Testimonies for the Church, which includes nine volumes, but frequently is bound into four books, two to each except for volumes 7, 8, and 9-- which are together.

1. Do you suppose other people in remote areas have had dreams similar to Sekuba's but they have chosen not to respond?
(See Matthew 22:14 for some ideas on this.)
2. How is Sekuba's story similar to an event recorded in Acts 2:5-8?
3. How is Sekuba's story similar to an event recorded in Matthew 2:2, 3?
4. What are God's surprises in the story of Sekuba?
(He sends Sekuba a dream about things that exist but Sekuba has never seen.
He gives Sekuba ability to speak a strange language.
He sends Sekuba a second dream to direct him further.
He sends a cloud of smoke, an unusual sight, for Sekuba to follow.)

NEW LIGHT SHINES IN EUROPE

PART ONE

God often begins to prepare His wonderful plans a long time before people can see them coming to pass. He had chosen the town of Tramelan, Switzerland, to be the first place in Europe for the Seventh-day Adventist light to blossom and spread.

First a former Catholic priest from Poland, who had become a Seventh-day Adventist, came to Tramelan and taught some of the people Bible truth. On New Year's day of 1867, he organized these believers into a company. They honored the Sabbath day and looked forward with joy to Jesus' coming back to His earth again. But the former priest did not tell them that other people across the ocean in America believed the same things they did.

After two years the converted priest left Switzerland and while some of the Adventist believers were looking through his papers they found some old copies of the Review and Herald. At once they wrote letters of inquiry and soon made contact with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in America.

The Roth family belonged to that company in Tramelan. They were merchants. Father Roth, (Oscar,) and his eldest son owned a tailoring business. The second son managed a large bakery. Father Roth and his sons also owned and managed a large department store. During the 1770's the citizens of Tramelan could buy their hats, clothing, shoes, groceries,

or bakery goods from the Roth family and be sure of good merchandise and courteous treatment. The town's people valued the whole family as honest people and good citizens, but they often remarked about the peculiar religious customs of the Roths. These people did not attend church on Sunday, but every Saturday morning they met in their own large parlor for a worship service where they sang and prayed and the father, Oscar Roth, taught them from the Bible. He gave interesting talks that his own children would enjoy and so would any neighbors or friends who chose to gather with them.

Now May of 1886 had come and wonderful news reached Tramelan. Ellen White had come to Europe a few months earlier and now, this coming Sabbath, she would be at the Roth home and she would speak to them.

On that Friday the two younger boys, Jean and Andre, prepared the parlor. They polished the furniture and then polished it over again. "Do you suppose Ellen White will say anything to us boys?" Jean asked his younger brother.

"I don't care whether she talks to us or not." Andre smoothed and rubbed a table top where a Bible would rest tomorrow. "I can hardly wait to see a lady that Jesus and the angels have talked to."

Jean looked the parlor over and decided that it looked neat enough even for a lady that Jesus had talked to. "Come, Andre, let's get our clothes ready for Sabbath. We won't have time later."

Early in the afternoon Ellen White and her friends came and when the boys looked into her kind, grey eyes, they knew that she was their friend already.

That same evening the Roth family gathered in their parlor to hear Ellen White speak. Eleven visitors came from the town. The boys could

see that she was tired, but her words were so precious to all of them and she could be with them such a short time that they listened with eager attention, thankful for every moment of time they might spend in her presence.

The next morning all the people came back to Sabbath School and Ellen White spoke during the church service. In the afternoon they gathered again to have a testimony meeting where almost everyone got up and thanked the Lord for all His blessings and especially for sending Ellen White to be with them for a little while.

On Sunday morning, Father Roth said, "Now, boys, we are going to drive over to see the old convent. The ride goes through such beautiful mountain scenery that I know our guests will enjoy it. Do you boys want to go along?"

They certainly did.

They had not driven far when clouds gathered, lightning flashed, and thunder rolled. Then hailstones, some as big as hickory nuts, pelted down. Cattle, sheep, horses, and barnyard fowls ran about in wild panic.

Father drove the carriage into the barnyard of a farmhouse. The farmer saw him coming and threw open the big barn doors so the horses could run right in, drawing the carriage behind them. Jean and Andre felt glad and thankful to be sheltered from the wild mountain storm. They could hear the hail beating on the barn roof and they could look out and see the white drifts of hail across the new green grass. Then Jean looked at Ellen White. Her face beamed with joy, her eyes sparkled with delight. She had no fear at all, only pleasure in the boisterous weather.

The people who lived on the farm came out. "Do come into our house,"

they urged. "And take a cup of coffee or some cake and wine."

Ellen turned her laughing face toward them. "Oh no, thank you. I do not want to miss this beautiful sight for anything!" Then with Jean and Andre, she got down from the carriage and rushed out into the fresh-fallen hail. They gathered up handfuls of the shining balls of ice and ran back to the carriage where they sat eating the delicacy the stormy skies had provided.

Then the farmer came and unharnessed their horse, put him in a stall, and fed him with grain, then put him back in the shafts again. The storm had passed and they went on their way. Jean knew that he had never enjoyed a storm so much.

He saw that Ellen White enjoyed the old convent, but the trip home through the pine forest pleased her more. They drove through high mountain country, freshly washed with the storm. Their guest exclaimed again and again over the shades of living green displayed on every side. The glistening evergreen pines with the lighter shades of maple and ash mingled together in a tapestry of green on green that no artist could copy, no weaver could imitate.

Such a happy day! Jean could not remember ever having enjoyed a ride so much, and he knew why. Jesus had been with them. He knew now that angels went everywhere with Ellen White and made a special kind of happiness. That's why the mountains had been so lovely today.

NEW LIGHT SHINES IN EUROPE

PART TWO

After Ellen White visited the Roth family, they decided that they wanted to follow Jesus in a new way that would let their light shine out to their neighbors. "We have decided to build a little church right here on our property," Father told them one evening at worship.

"Yes, and if we get it done soon," Mother clapped her hands with joy, "we can have Ellen White come back here to Tramelan and dedicate it for us."

The whole family rejoiced together over this good news, especially Jean and Andre. How beautiful it would be to have their own church!

Father called carpenters and stone masons, and the family helped, especially Jean and Andre. Before the end of the year a neat little chapel stood ready for worshippers, but first Ellen White must come and dedicate it. She came from Basel where they had just had a heavy snow-storm and some of her friends came with her. They took the mountain train on December 24th. Winter winds blew off the Alps and snow piled high in the mountain passes. Ellen White looked out the window at whole mountainsides covered with snow-laden trees. "I never saw anything so

beautiful!" she exclaimed.

Christmas in Switzerland! Mountains covered with evergreens all frosted with feathery snow! And in Tramelan, a new little chapel waited to be dedicated on Christmas Day. The Roth family welcomed their guests and took them at once to see the new meetinghouse, the first Seventh-day Adventist Church to be built in all of Europe.

Jean and Andre sat that Sabbath afternoon in the front pew of the new chapel and listened to Ellen White. She told them of other little churches. "The first one built in Battle Creek was only a little larger than this, . . . but in two years it had to be given up for a larger one. Then, before long a third one had to be built, and now we have the present one which will seat three thousand persons."

Then in Oakland, California, the church had been poor, but they decided to build. In San Francisco the congregation felt that they could not afford to build, but they started anyway. When they realized their lack of resources they asked Elder James White, "Can you help us?"

"Yes I can, but I will have to sell everything I have to do it." So he kept his word and the two churches were completed.

"Now," Ellen White told them, "the one in Oakland has proved to be too small and has been sold. A larger one must take its place."

Then she looked around on all the people and said, "We hope and pray that the Lord will so bless your work that this house will prove too small for you." Jean looked at the beautiful little chapel and already, in his imagination, he saw it crowded with eager worshippers.

Ellen White told them that they should reverence this place. "In entering the house of worship you should remember that it is the house of God. . . . You should teach the children reverence. . . . neither the house of God nor His day, the Sabbath, should be used for visiting, but

thoughts should be upon heaven and heavenly things. . . . God will meet you in this house (Ms. 49, 1886).

Many townspeople from Tramelan had come to the dedication and many more wanted to come and see Ellen White and hear her speak. So Father Roth arranged with the trustees of the big Baptist Church for her to speak there on Sunday afternoon. Then, on Saturday night, he went to ask the Baptist minister to announce Ellen White's meeting at his morning service on Sunday.

"Oh, no. I will not announce it!" he said with a frown. "Your Ellen White will tell my people to keep Saturday for the Sabbath. Besides, my people have heard that she has visions, therefore she must be a sorcerer!"

In spite of his refusal to make a public announcement, Ellen White spoke in that Baptist Church to more than three hundred people on Sunday afternoon. She did not preach about Saturday. Through her interpreter she spoke about the love of God and the gift of His Son to our world.

After the service, the Baptist people reproached their pastor. "You should have announced that meeting," they told him. "We would all have been there. Mrs. White is a good woman who loves the Lord."

Two months later Ellen White visited Tramelan again and that same Baptist minister hurried to the Roth home and asked to speak with her. "Mrs. White," he said, "I want to apologize for my rudeness to you at Christmas time. I am president of the Temperance Organization here in Tramelan. Would you be willing to speak to my church on that subject? Many people have urged me to make this request. I, too, am eager to hear you."

She accepted with gracious assurance and spoke for nearly two hours in the National Chapel on one of her favorite subjects--temperance. The

people listened with eager attention. No one slept, yawned or appeared uneasy.

The following morning Ellen White and her friends prepared to leave. They rode in a sleigh to the station and took the train back to Basel. None of them would ever forget the dear Roth family and their little new church, the first Seventh-day Adventist Church in Europe.

To the Roth family and the believers in Tramelan her visits had brought great blessing. Differences had been settled, young people had dedicated themselves to God's service. God had come very near. Mother Roth expressed the feelings of the Tramelan people when she embraced Ellen White and bade her good bye. "Peace has come to my house!"

NEW LIGHT SHINES IN EUROPE - Study Questions

Objectives: To recognize that God's love and providence stretch across the sea and His plan is that His followers show similar concern for world need.

To understand that it is God's will that church structures be erected to His glory.

To understand that joyful interaction with the environment enhances one's own witness of his trust in God.

For discussion:

1. Some people spend a lot of time and energy complaining about the environment and circumstances. Follow Ellen White's example by doing this: Make some joyful observations about --
 - a. A snowfall
 - b. A rainfall
 - c. A thunderstorm
 - d. Daylight saving time
 - e. School
 - f. Sermons
 - g. Rules
 - h. Lunch
 - i. Chores
 - j. Music lessons
2. Why do you think Ellen White chose not to preach about the Sabbath in the Baptist Church?

(See her words in Evangelism, p. 302: "Dwell not on the negative points of questions that arise, but gather to your minds affirmative truths.")
3. Because of her judicious choice of subject matter at the Baptist Church, what invitation came to Ellen White?
4. If Ellen White visited your home, what do you think you would show her? What would you talk about?
5. What advice might Ellen White give us about our church building?

FROM ITALY TO URUGUAY

Vacation time had come and Dennis and Mother had more time to spend together. They worked in the flower beds and dug dandelions out of the lawn. They did all the spring house-cleaning and even went for long walks and carried a picnic lunch. Often their conversation turned to Ellen White and her work, her books, the events of her life and travels. This particular morning they rested for a few minutes under the elm tree, for the sun shown hot and bright. They took off their hats and enjoyed the light breeze.

"Mother, in school we learned about South America. Did Ellen White ever go to South America?" Dennis watched his mother fan herself with her sun hat. She didn't answer him for quite a while. At last she spoke.

"Ellen White never visited South America. She spent two years in Europe and nine years in Australia, but she did not go south of the border."

"So we don't have any stories from South America?"

"Not about her experiences there, but her influence went there, too, of course." Mother laid her hat on the grass and looked earnestly into Dennis's face. "I am thinking of one quite remarkable story which I will tell you. While Ellen White lived in Europe she took a great interest in the mountain people of Northern Italy. You see, they were descendants of the Waldenses."

"You mean that the children of those people the Catholic church persecuted still live there?"

"Yes, and Ellen White went to their mountain valleys. She saw the refuges God provided for them and the secret hiding places. Even the spots where angels had walked and talked with them and delivered them from the armies of the Pope. She held meetings for them and spoke to them about God's truth and His wonderful plans for their future."

"Did lots of those people come out to her meetings?"

"No, I don't think any big crowds came to hear her, but little companies of those mountain people came to listen; among them, the Cayrus family, who had a 12-year-old son named Elias. They listened to the little lady with the beautiful clear voice and the heavenly message, but they did not obey it. The years went by and Elias grew to be a man. He married and had a family. Then he and a number of other Waldenses crossed the Atlantic Ocean to South America and settled in the fertile country of Southeastern Uruguay."

"Then, I suppose he remembered the words Ellen White had spoken back in his mountain home."

"I don't think he had ever forgotten them, Dennis. The Holy Spirit kept bringing those memories back to his mind, and of course, he had his Bible which he studied with reverent devotion."

"Then, somehow, God put him in touch with Seventh-day Adventists again." Dennis felt sure that he knew how the story would turn out.

"One day he went to visit one of his friends and saw a religious magazine on his table. He borrowed it and read it through with great care. He knew that the magazine taught the same truth that he had heard in his mountain home from Ellen White so many years ago. He subscribed to the magazine. Then one day a missionary came to his door, a missionary of the Seventh-day Adventist church. He talked with Elias Cayrus and found

him well instructed in Bible truth, almost ready for baptism."

"What magazine was it?" Dennis was curious.

"It may have been El Centinela, the Spanish Signs of the Times, or it may have been an Italian magazine, because I suppose those Waldenses who came from Europe still held onto their own language, and the neighbor who had the magazine may have been a fellow Waldensian. The Signs of the Times has been published for more than a hundred years, you know."

"Are any of the Cayrus family workers for God now?" asked Dennis.

"Yes, all of Elias's nine children were baptized through the years. His wife resisted until after Elias died, but she, too, finally surrendered to the compelling truth of the Advent message.

"One day a church school teacher in Uruguay Academy spoke to his class about the life and work of Ellen White. A young girl named Sofita raised her hand and said, 'My grandfather knew Ellen White.'

"The teacher looked at her. 'How can that be? Ellen White never came to South America and you have never been outside Uruguay.'

"My grandfather knew her in Northern Italy when she visited his mountain village and taught the truth there. He was a boy 12 years old, but he always remembered and he told us about it many times.'

"This young academy student was Sofita Cayrus, a granddaughter of Elias. Many of that family are workers and members of the Seventh-day Adventist church in South America. All are the fruits of Ellen White's visit to the Waldensian mountains and valleys in Northern Italy."

Dennis thought for a minute. "The Bible says that none of Christ's words fell to the ground. I guess that is true of Ellen White's words, too."

Mother said, "Maybe if we look in the Yearbook we will find several workers in South America by the name of Cayrus."

And, sure enough, they did!

FROM ITALY TO URUGUAY - Study Questions

Objective: To understand the way God continues to work with people who have heard but not responded to the truth about Him.

For discussion:

Look in a current SDA Yearbook for workers by the name of Cayrus.

Locate Uruguay and North Italy on a globe or map. Place a string representing a stream of light from North Italy to Uruguay. Where did the "stream of light" begin? (Place a string from Connecticut to North Italy to represent the beginning of the publishing work and its spread to Europe.)

1. What story might Elias Cayrus tell Ellen White when they meet in heaven?
2. Read the story of the sower (Matthew 13:4-9; 18-23). Elias Cayrus was like which kind of soil?
3. Tell what you know about the Waldenses. (See The Great Controversy, pp. 61-78, for information.)

KONDIMA NAMED HER DOLLY, ELLEN

Kondima lived in the mountains of North Borneo. She had never been outside her little village. She had never seen the ocean. High, jungle-covered mountains shut in the ridge where the bamboo huts clung like fuzzy caterpillars to the steep slope. She loved the smell of the wet jungle and the thick foliage which came right down to the village. Tough, thorny vines formed a tangled wall where monkeys played and chattered and birds built their nests. The village children often played in the edge of the forest where they could swing on the giant vines and sometimes they found fresh mushrooms deep under the damp green moss.

One day while she hunted mushrooms with her friends, Kondima found a strong vine that promised a wonderful ride. She clung to it and swung herself far out over the hillside. When the vine swung back, it threw her into a clump of thorns. She struggled to free herself and a needle-sharp thorn pierced her eye. It stabbed deep, clear through her eyeball and the terrible pain made her twist and lash in such a way that the thorn broke off right where it had entered her eye. She screamed with fright and pain and her little friends came running. They dragged her into the village where her frantic shrieks soon drew a crowd of sympathizing women. Her mother carried her to the spot where a giant bamboo poured a stream of cold water into a wide pool. She washed the hurt eye and bathed Kondima's head, but none of the women could think how to take the thorn out. Even

when Father came home, he could do nothing but hold his little girl in his arms and speak comforting words in her ear.

Thus began days and weeks of pain for little Kondima. She had once been a bright-eyed, happy little girl; now she hid herself in dark corners and spent hours crying. After many days the terrible pain went away, but the wounded eye could see nothing and Kondima knew from a glance in the pool how terrible the eye looked. Everyone who saw her seemed shocked and frightened by the sight. So, more and more, she kept to herself. After many weeks, the thorn finally came out by itself, but the eye had now become a horrible gray mass that stuck out of the eye socket so she could not close her eyelid. Now the good eye began to be red and painful.

Then one day the Tuan (missionary) came to the village. Kondima had always looked forward to the Tuan's visits. Now, remembering her terrible eye, she hid herself, but Mother dragged her out of her dark corner and took her to the teacher's house and thrust her into the room where the Tuan sat. He had been asking for her. Now he took one look at her ruined face, gathered her into his arms and snuggled her close. Kondima's sad little heart glowed with comfort and happiness. The horrible eye made no different to the Tuan, he loved her just as he always had, maybe more. She could feel the tenderness in the warm arms that held her.

After most of the villagers had gone from the teacher's house, the Tuan spoke to Father. "Little Kondima has had a bad accident and something should be done about her bad eye."

Father spoke in a sad voice. "What can be done? Two moons have passed since the thorn pierced her eye and she will never see again out of that eye. What can be done?"

The Tuan, still holding Kondima close, said, "What you say is true. She will never be able to see out of that eye again, but if we don't get help for her other eye, she will lose it, too, and be completely blind. Let me take her home to my house and we can have her eye taken care of."

Father thought for a moment. "I don't think her mother will allow her to go but I will ask her." He took Kondima from the Tuan and carried her home.

After she had lain down to sleep, she heard Father speak to Mother. "The Tuan wants to take Kondima to the city where a doctor can look at her eye...."

"No, no, my little girl was born here and she will stay here. I will never let her go."

Father tried to persuade her but she would not listen. Kondima cried herself to sleep as she had done so often these last months.

Next day the Tuan found her under a coconut tree playing with the teacher's puppy. He sat down beside her and told her a story:

"Once a pretty little girl lived in a beautiful village--a little girl about as big as you are right now. The little girl went about singing merry songs all day long making everyone happy with her cheerful ways.

"Then, one day a terrible thing happened. This little girl walked beside her sister on her way home from school. A naughty girl picked up a stone and threw it hard. Just at that instant the little girl turned her head. The stone hit her right in the face. Oh how that cruel stone hurt the little girl! It broke her nice straight little nose and made her sick for a long time.

"The little girl could never be proud after that. She looked into her mirror and saw how terrible her poor smashed face looked. It would never be right again. She cried herself to sleep every night for months."

Kondima spoke, "Tuan, did people ever like the little girl anymore?"

"Oh yes. You see, the little girl felt so lonely that she learned to talk with Jesus and He loved her and comforted her. She became so sweet and gentle in all her ways that people loved her more than ever before in spite of her broken and scarred nose. God let her live to be an old, old lady and she did a great deal of good."

"What did they call the little girl. Did she have a nice name?"

"They called her Ellen." Tuan smiled at Kondima, then went to pack his belongings for he must leave the village that day.

Kondima did not forget the story about Ellen. It comforted her and she didn't cry herself to sleep any more, she talked to Jesus, "Dear Jesus, make me a good girl, make me sweet and kind to everyone. Make me like little Ellen."

After the Tuan had gone and the days went by, Kondima's Mother and her Father saw that her good eye got worse every day and when the Tuan came back a couple weeks later, they decided to let her go to Singapore. She was gone from the village for four months and had many wonderful adventures. The doctors took out her ruined eye and fitted her with a glass eye that looked just like the one the thorn spoiled. They made her all well and all the nurses and the doctors loved her and gave her many lovely gifts. Kondima's most treasured present was a beautiful dolly with black hair, rosy cheeks and brown eyes. She named her Ellen and kept her beside her all the time while she stayed in the hospital.

When Kondima returned to her village, everyone came out to look at her hurt eye. It looked new, all healed and well, but Kondima flipped her glass eye out and held it in her hand to show them that it was a false eye, but she wore it all the time because it made her face look good again.

Kondima kept her dolly Ellen as long as she lived and she never forgot the story that had comforted her so much. And she did not forget Jesus, who loved and comforted her just as He had loved and comforted little Ellen.

KONDIMA NAMED HER DOLLY ELLEN - Study Questions

Objective: To understand that comfort can be derived from discovering that another person has suffered yet achieved ultimate goals.

For discussion:

1. Locate Borneo on a map.
2. Why do you think the missionary chose to tell Kondima about Ellen's accident?
3. How might Ellen's story comfort Kondima?
4. Name two ways that Kondima is like you.
 - a. (She has loving parents.
 - b. She is concerned about looking presentable.
 - c. She likes to hear stories.)
5. Name two ways that Kondima, aside from her eye problems, is unlike you.
 - a. (She lives in Borneo.
 - b. She speaks a different language.
 - c. She is not close to medical care.)
6. Arrange the following events in order of happening.
 - a. The missionary told Kondima's father about a doctor who might help her.
 - b. The missionary told Kondima the story of Ellen White's accident.
 - c. The missionary held Kondima in his arms.
8. Try to imagine what the missionary was trying to make clear to Kondima in each of the events above. Match the words below that best fit the missionary's action described above.
 - d. "You're a valuable person even with your ruined face."
 - e. "I'd like to see you feel better and see better."
 - f. "You can be useful, loving, and loved, even if you have a miserable eye."

ELLEN IN AUSTRALIA

One rainy Sunday morning in April, Mother told Dennis to bring out the big atlas. "I want to tell you a story about Ellen White in Australia."

Dennis ran to get the atlas. More than anything else he enjoyed hearing stories about Ellen White. "I didn't know that she went to Australia. What did she do there?"

"She went to Australia in 1891 and expected to stay there for only a few months, but she stayed for nine years." Mother opened the atlas and found a big map of Australia.

Dennis looked at it with new interest. He had studied about it in geography class. "It is called the 'Island Continent,' isn't it? It looks like a big island."

"Yes, and it is a big country, as large as the United States without Alaska and Hawaii." Dennis ran his finger over the map wondering where Ellen had lived during those nine years.

"Here in New South Wales." Mother pointed to a district on the southern side of the great island. "This is where Ellen White spent most of her time, because God showed her that He wanted a school started here."

"Did He show her that in a vision?"

"Yes, He showed her the exact place. A plow had just made a short, deep furrow across it. She saw the furrow in her vision and later when

she went to look at that piece of property, she saw the strange furrow and knew that this must be the place." Mother took her pencil and marked the little town of Cooranbong. "It's about seventy-five miles north of Sidney and thirty miles south of New Castle. Today it is called Avondale College and is known all around the world."

"The furrow isn't still there, is it?"

"No, but a monument stands there. That furrow was God's marker and sign. No one wants to forget the exact spot where Ellen White first saw it."

"Was the land good?"

"Yes, it must have been. God promised Ellen White that it would be a beautiful school property, would produce delicious fruits, vegetables, and flowers and grain." Mother looked at Dennis and smiled, "But that piece of land contained 1500 acres and the men who looked at it said it was no good. One of them said that a bandicoot would have to carry his own lunch if he came there."

"What's a bandicoot?" Dennis laughed.

"A bandicoot is a small animal of the kangaroo family. It may be as small as a rat or as big as a cat, but it eats very little, just a few seeds and roots."

"And they went ahead and bought the land anyway?"

"Yes, even though some of the men insisted on sending a sample of the soil to an expert and he reported that the land was worthless; they bought the whole fifteen hundred acres because God had showed Ellen that

furrow plowed across the land and He had told her that it would produce an abundance of good fruit and vegetables--so much food that it would supply the students and workers who would come to live at the new school."

Dennis thought for a moment. "What God said came true, didn't it? And what the men said proved to be false."

"Yes, Dennis. Every promise God made about that school has been fulfilled. Even in its first year when it was being conducted in Melbourne with fewer than thirty students, God revealed through Ellen White that students from that school would carry the Advent message to the great mission fields north and west of Australia and to the eastern island. They would build schools, hospitals, publishing houses and churches." ¹

"Has that all happened?" Dennis could hardly believe it.

"Yes indeed." Mother closed the atlas and set it on the shelf. "One more great work began at that time, too. God had shown Ellen White that health foods should be made at our school in Avondale for two reasons: to teach people to eat good, wholesome food and to provide work for students who otherwise wouldn't have money enough to get an education."

"I suppose the health food business turned out to be a big success, too."

"Well, not at first. God had said it should be carried on at the school, and instead it was started in the city of Melbourne. It didn't do well until they did exactly what God had told them to do. They joined it to Avondale College and it began to prosper. Now it is a huge business employing almost 2,000 persons and selling more than \$25 million worth of health foods every year all over the Far East."

Dennis thought for a moment about the story he had just heard, how God was interested in even the smallest detail--like the plowed furrow and the location of a food factory--and how God had guided the work in

Australia to include a world-famous college, a sanitarium and a very important food company. Then he wondered just how God would guide in his own life as well.

¹ See Ellen G. White, Fundamentals of Christian Education, Nashville, Tennessee: Southern Publishing Association, pp. 201-211, for more information on Avondale College's establishment.

ELLEN IN AUSTRALIA - Study Questions

Objective: To understand that God's Word is dependable.

For discussion:

Provide a map of Australia and locate New South Wales, Sidney, Cooranborg, New Castle, Avondale College, Melbourne.

1. When God said, "This land will produce fruits and vegetables bountifully," and the soil experts said, "It won't," here's what happened: . . .
2. When God said, "Make health foods at our school," He was hoping to benefit which two groups of people?
3. Suppose someone had said, "God told us to make health foods; we're making them, but the business isn't flourishing. We need another vision." What could you say to that person?

JUAN WANTED TO BE RICH

In a city in Guyana (on the northeastern coast of South America) lived a young man who wanted to be a Spiritualist. Juan thought it would be wonderful to have the spirits come to talk with him and give him information about his neighbors and friends. The more he thought about it, the more attractive the life of a Spiritualist seemed. He felt sure that he could soon be a rich man. After all, wouldn't the spirits give him information about business deals and land values? He could get inside information about lots of things from the spirits.

Juan thought about it for several weeks. Then one day he visited his uncle. He talked to him about his desire to become a Spiritualist.

"Don't you think it would be a fine idea?" Juan questioned. "The spirits could tell me about prices, land, and business deals. I could become very wealthy in a short time!"

His uncle thought for a moment. Then he said, "Yes, it does seem like a good idea. I know some Spiritualists who get inside information from the devil, because that is what Spiritualism is, and he tells them how to make money." The uncle gave Juan a searching look. "If you want to be rich more than anything else in the world, maybe that's a quick way to do it."

Juan thought about what his uncle had said. Did the devil really speak through Spiritualism? He hadn't thought about that before; maybe it was so, and he hesitated to turn his future life over to the devil.

The next time he went to visit his uncle he saw a new book lying on

the table. He read the title on the cover, The Great Controversy, by Ellen White. "Where did you get this book?" Juan asked.

His uncle replied, "I just bought that book from a traveling book-seller and I paid a lot of money for it."

Meanwhile Juan had opened the book to a chapter entitled, "Spiritism." At once a great wish sprang up in his heart. He wanted that book! He wanted to read what the book said about Spiritualism. He wanted to know if the devil really had anything to do with it, as his uncle had said. He did not dare ask his uncle to lend him the book, and he did not know where to buy one. Besides, he did not have the money. Right then he planned to get that book. He would come back in the middle of the night and steal it. He felt sure his uncle would leave it on the table because it looked so beautiful there.

So Juan waited for a dark night when heavy rain beat down. Sure enough, he found the book on the table and took it to his own house. So eager was he to know what the book said about Spiritualism that he didn't go to bed that night. He sat up and read the book.

First of all, he read the chapter that had caught his attention. He read it twice. Then he began reading the chapter entitled, "The Origin of Evil." He read almost the whole night and the more he read the clearer he saw the error of Spiritualism.

Why, it was a tremendous hoax the devil was playing on human beings, this Spiritualism! He realized that God had something far better for him to do with his life than to become a Spiritualist.

Juan did think about what his uncle would say if he knew he had stolen the new book. But the truth had captured his heart and he decided

to read the whole book before he would give it to anyone.

He decided to become a Seventh-day Adventist and sought out the Seventh-day Adventist people and attended their church. He told them how the truth of God's word had come to him through the stolen book and he asked them what he should do about the book. The Adventists advised Juan to return the book to his uncle and confess his wrongdoing. He took the book back to his uncle's house and laid it on the table. He told his uncle that he felt very sorry for taking the book without asking, but he was so happy that he had found the truth of God. He told his uncle that the book and its message had saved him from the snare of the devil. "You were right, uncle, Spiritualism is of the devil," Juan confessed.

From that time forward, Juan devoted himself to a study of God's Word. The church people helped him get a copy of Great Controversy for himself. They also showed him how to study his Bible and mark the texts that spoke to his heart. They taught him how to pray to God, and he learned to communicate with his Saviour and to know Him as an intimate Friend and Guide. Before long Juan was baptized and joined the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Many times Juan said to his family, his neighbors, and his church, "I once wanted to be a Spiritualist because the spirits could reveal the future to me and make me rich. Instead, God has shown me His truth and now I am truly rich! The God of heaven walks and talks with me and guides my life."

JUAN WANTED TO BE RICH - Study Questions

Objective: To understand the power of the Word of God to convince of truth.

For discussion:

1. Do you want to be rich more than anything else in this world?
If not, what other desires come first for you?
2. What can you expect from the devil when you seek his help in gaining wealth, knowledge, friends, or any other desirable goal?
(The devil also assumes cruel, destructive control.)
3. Look at some of the pages in The Great Controversy, pp. 492-504, and 551-562. Find a sentence that you think helped Juan discover the dangers of Spiritualism.
4. Instead of talking at length on the evils of Spiritualism, Juan's uncle followed this counsel:
"We are not to dwell on the great power of Satan to overcome us. Often we give ourselves into his hands by talking of his power. Let us talk instead of the great power of God to bind up all our interests with His own."--The Ministry of Healing, p. 253.
 - a. What did Juan's uncle actually do when Juan showed an interest in Spiritualism?
 - b. Name something that is better to talk about than Satan's power.
5. What made Juan "rich"?

EXPERIENCES RELATED TO SPIRIT OF PROPHECY WRITINGS

The Girl Who Giggled

Ellen and the Sabbath Day

Ellen's Gold Watch

THE GIRL WHO GIGGLED

Mother called her children in. "Jean, please come wash up and get dressed; then you can help me get the other children ready. We are going out this afternoon."

"Where are we going, Mother?" asked ten-year-old Jean.

"Remember those tents we saw the other day near Hamilton Park? I have learned that it is a religious meeting. People come and camp in the small tents and attend meetings in the big tent. They have meetings for children, too. It is called campmeeting."

"What church is it, Mother?" asked Jean as she slipped into her new dress.

"I believe the people are Seventh-day Adventists. I really do not know what they believe and teach, but we will listen and find out. I have been told that anyone who wants to come is welcome."

Soon Mrs. Coleman and five of her children walked under the large welcome banner and onto the campground in Hamilton, Australia (near Newcastle). The younger children hurried to find the meetings for their age group, and Jean went with her mother to the big tent. They had come late, and the only empty seats were on the front row. Jean and her mother walked down the long aisle and slipped onto the bench. Jean was surprised to see a woman preaching. The lady was short, grey-haired and elderly. She wore a black dress

with a neat, white collar. A friendly person sitting next to them saw their surprise and whispered, "That lady is Mrs. Ellen G. White, a well-known teacher and writer."

They began listening, and Jean wondered, "Where can this lady be from? She sounds so different." Jean had never heard an American speak before and the more she listened, the funnier she thought Mrs. White's accent was. She began to giggle to herself.

At first she covered her mouth with her hands, but she couldn't control the shaking of the bench on which she sat. Her mother nudged Jean, put her finger to her lips and warned her to be quiet. Jean tried not to laugh, and for a few minutes she almost succeeded. But before long she started giggling again, and couldn't stop, even though she knew she might be punished. Her embarrassed mother tried in vain to make Jean stop laughing.

Ellen White couldn't help noticing the commotion in the front row, but she continued speaking. Everyone else in the tent seemed to be listening carefully to her words.

After the meeting Jean's mother gathered her family and started for home. Ashamed now of her misbehaviour, Jean kept wondering, "What will Mother do? I know she intends to punish me for laughing at that American lady's accent."

She did not have to wonder for long. When they entered the house her mother said, "Sit down, Jean. I feel very disturbed because your giggling must have made the American woman, a guest in our country, very uncomfortable. She is an honored servant of the Lord. I fear she thought you very rude, especially since you were sitting on the front row where everyone could see you."

"It was her American accent," Jean said. "It was so funny it made me laugh."

"I'm concerned that the giggling brought discomfort to the American lady. It is very important to be concerned about the feelings of other people. It helps to restrain yourself."

"I know, Mother. I am really sorry that I giggled."

"It is important, too, that the American lady understand that you are sorry. Let's plan to go tomorrow to see her."

"Oh, Mother, how could I face her?" cried Jean.

"In the morning we can pick a basket of grapes and a beautiful bouquet of rosebuds. You can take them to the American lady and apologize."

The next day Jean and her mother took a street car which stopped near the house where Ellen White was staying. At the gate Jean hesitated, trying to pick up enough courage to go in. A kind looking gentleman came out and asked, "Did you wish to see someone?"

"I want to talk to Mrs. White," said Jean, clutching the flowers and the basket of fruit in her trembling hands.

The man took her inside the house and showed her up the stairs to Mrs. White's room. At every step Jean wished the floor would open and swallow her up. Fright almost overcame her, but finally she stood before the American lady.

Mrs. White admired the fragrant rosebuds which Jean handed to her, and she thanked Jean for the lovely grapes. Then she invited the girl to sit down and rest for a while.

After a little more friendly conversation, Mrs. White asked, "Jean, do you love Jesus?"

"Yes, I do love Jesus," Jean answered, surprised. She had never heard anyone talk about Jesus as though He were a personal friend.

Jean enjoyed her visit and would have liked to stay longer, but she

remembered her mother was waiting downstairs, and she quickly said, "I
at tell you why I came."

The American lady must have seen the troubled look on Jean's face.
She pulled the young girl onto her lap, hugged her close and encouraged her
to go ahead. Jean blurted out her apology, then began to cry.*

Mrs. White kissed her and told her to forget all about it. "And I
won't think of it any more, either," she said. And she gave Jean a pretty
Bible verse card and sent her back downstairs.

Of course, Jean felt very happy after the ordeal was over, although
it was such a struggle for her to yield and apologize.

Ellen White's kindness to a scared little girl was the first step that
led Jean to examine the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Soon
after that she made her decision to be baptized and join the church. She
really loved Ellen White after her visit and always honored and respected her.

*Stop reading the story here. Ask the children to guess what Mrs. White
said and did, based on what they know about her. Be accepting rather than
judgmental about responses. Then continue reading the story with this
statement: "Let's find out what actually happened after Jean apologized."

THE GIRL WHO GIGGLED - Study Questions

Objective: To become acquainted with the human, approachable manner of God's messenger Ellen White.

For discussion:

Find Newcastle, Australia on the map.

1. Name someone who has helped you learn that Jesus is Someone you want to know.
2. Read Ecclesiastes 3:4. Describe a good time to laugh.
3. At which times in the story should Jean have followed the instruction in Ecclesiastes 3:7?

(She should have kept silent at the meeting. She should have spoken--and she did--when she went to apologize to Mrs. White.)

4. Read the following excerpts from Testimonies, Vol. 6, pp. 106, 107, and Life Sketches, pp. 346, 347, for a description of early camp-meetings in Australia. What do you think made Jean's mother decide to go to such a meeting?

("Far and near the sound went out concerning this city of tents, and a most wonderful interest was awakened. Every afternoon and evening the tent was filled to its utmost capacity, . . . Thousands visited the encampment, and expressed their delight and astonishment at the order of the grounds, and the nicety of arrangements in the clean, white tents."--Life Sketches, 346.)

"The same spirit of earnestness, attention, and order that characterized the services among the older ones, marked the children's meetings. Both in the class-work and in the general review exercises the work was so arranged that the children had a part in doing as well as listening, and in this way they soon felt at home, and their eagerness to hear some part of the work testified to their interest."--Testimonies, Vol. 6, p. 106.)

ELLEN AND THE SABBATH DAY

One day after school Dennis came into the kitchen where Mother was setting supper on the table, "Oh Mother, we're studying the Sabbath in our Bible class at school. I wish we could keep on Sabbath just like Ellen White and her family kept it when Elder White was still living and the boys were home."

Mother looked up in surprise. "That's a wonderful idea, Dennis. I'm sure we can find out just how they got ready for the Sabbath and the interesting things they did." She looked at the wall calender. "All Sabbath-keeping begins early. Since today is Monday, we will begin to get ready for the Sabbath right away."

Dennis felt a little surprised himself. "What can we do on Monday that will get us ready for the Sabbath?"

"We will make our marketing list for one thing. Do we have the things you need to wash and polish the car and get it ready for going to church?" Mother handed him a note pad, and Dennis wrote down soap and car wax. "We can plan now what we will have for Sabbath breakfast and dinner. Ellen White had special treats for her family at both those meals."

"Let's have fresh strawberries for breakfast; they are just coming on the market."

"Good! Write down strawberries."

"Could we have a pie for Sabbath dinner?" Dennis waited for a hint

that his favorite dessert would be on the menu.

"Surely we can have a pie." A big smile spread over Mother's face.
"What kind do you think would be best?"

"Would lemon be all right?" Dennis began to feel glad that he had suggested his plan for the Sabbath.

"That sounds good. Write down lemons and cornstarch on your list. I think we are out of both those things."

Then Mother and Dennis planned the other food they would need for Sabbath meals. "And we won't pick our lilacs until Friday afternoon, so they will be fresh for Sabbath," mother added.

Father came in and as they sat down to supper they talked about the kind of Sabbath the White family used to have a hundred years ago. "Do you remember," Father asked, "that James White called God's holy day, 'our dear friend, the blessed Sabbath'? The entire family rejoiced when this 'dear friend' made weekly visits to the White home."

"Did Sabbath angels come, too?" Dennis liked to think of angels hovering around.

"I think that God is pleased when we ask Him to send special angels to our homes on the Sabbath day. They always bring special gifts. Can you think of some gifts angels might bring, Dennis?"

After thinking a moment he replied, "they bring peace and joy. They bring singing, and sometimes they bring people that we like to see."

"One thing the Bible and Ellen White's teaching emphasizes is the gladness and delight we should have on the Sabbath Day." Father pushed back his chair. "You have planned what we will eat next Sabbath and what we will wear. Maybe we should plan what we are going to do."

"We'll go to church and Sabbath School," Dennis said.

"Yes, Sabbath morning will be spent in church and Sabbath School.

Then in the afternoon, after dinner, what shall we do?"

"If it is raining we can read our Sabbath papers and Sabbath books." Dennis loved stories. "If the sun shines, Daddy, you can take us out to that place where we start the hike into the hills. The flowers are blooming now. Maybe we will see some deer or we can hunt for rocks. We might even see a new bird!" Dennis had a book where he wrote down on a separate page a description of every new bird that he saw. Then when he found out more about that bird, he added the information to that page. He had already listed over fifty birds. This summer he wanted to start a book on butterflies.

"You can think of a lot of things to do out in the hills, Dennis, but don't forget our singing," Father added. "In Ellen White's home they sang lots of songs and listened to a lot of music." Mother began to gather up the dishes.

"They always sang at worship and at the beginning and the end of the Sabbath hours." Dennis thought the Sabbath plans were shaping up well.

Mother spoke up again. "We ought to leave some place in our planning for visiting sick people, and shut-ins. We can carry some of our flowers to Grandma Elliot. She loves flowers so much and now she's all crippled up and cannot take care of her garden any more. Mrs. White did that, too."

"We should go to see the Fredericks' too," Father added. "They seldom get out to church services anymore and they miss the services a lot."

When Sabbath morning dawned, Dennis' first thought reminded him that it was God's holy day. "Let us be glad and rejoice in it." The words rang in his mind.

Down in the dining room Mother had set the breakfast table with her pretty yellow dishes. A huge vase of lilacs perfumed the whole room, and a big bowl of fresh strawberries waited at each place. What a lovely Sabbath day! Dennis knew the angels had come. He and his parents had morning worship and sang a song before they ate.

How smoothly and quietly everything went. His clothes were all laid out where he had put them the day before. His polished shoes and a pair of clean socks lay beside them. In no time at all he stood at the front door ready to leave for church. Mother wore her beautiful green dress and Father looked young and handsome in his light brown suit.

The Sabbath School and church service gave him special pleasure, and the thought of the lovely afternoon they had planned added to his good feeling.

Then at the door of the church, Mother stopped to talk to a tall man who held a small boy by the hand. He heard her invite the man for Sabbath dinner. Then Dennis knew that in all their planning they had forgotten this one thing that Ellen White always did. But Mother had not forgotten. Ellen White always shared her home, her food, her table, anything God had given her, with visiting strangers.

When Dennis saw how much their visitors enjoyed the delicious meal, and when he saw the eager joy on the little boy's face when they took their nature hike back into the hills, he felt that this had been one of the best Sabbaths he had ever enjoyed.

At sundown when they bade farewell to their "dear friend, the blessed Sabbath," he resolved that in the future he would help his parents plan every Sabbath Day like the ones Ellen and James White used to enjoy.

ELLEN AND THE SABBATH DAY - Study Questions

Objectives: To understand that Sabbathkeeping involves preparation.

To become acquainted with appropriate Sabbath activities.

For discussion:

1. What preparation did Dennis's family make for the Sabbath?
2. Which of the preparations made by Dennis's family sound like the ones your family makes?
3. What other preparations does your family make for the Sabbath?
4. Recall a Sabbath day that was especially a happy day for you.
Tell what made it so.
5. List appropriate activities to do on the Sabbath. (Dennis engaged in several of these. Can you think of others?)

ELLEN'S GOLD WATCH

Through the seventy years that Ellen White fulfilled her ministry on this earth, her work required writing many letters and articles, and much traveling. She did not desire this work, nor ask for it. God laid it upon her and in His strength and with His Spirit she wrote the letters of warning and encouragement.

Although these letters, sermons and articles were all given in love and gentleness, with never a trace of personal repugnance or anger toward even the worst offenders, still her work aroused anger among those who had drifted away from God and from those who had never known Him. Years after she had died, her youngest granddaughter said of her, "She never accused with her eyes."

Most people take some satisfaction in seeing, or making people who do not agree with them suffer; but Ellen White had none of the persecutor in her. Not even "with her eyes" did she accuse them.

Ellen White attended campmeetings almost every year. These were times of earnest work for the young people. Many of them came only because their parents brought them. They had no wish to sit through long meetings or to listen to words of tender pleading that made them uncomfortable in pursuing their own perverse ways. These unsaved youth always wakened Ellen White's

most prayerful interest. She longed to see them turn their eyes on Jesus and surrender to Him, who had such great treasures to share with them.

At the campmeetings Ellen White usually had a tent right on the grounds where people could come and talk with her. Often the nights were hot, because campmeetings were usually held in summer. Often she would toss on her bed trying to sleep when a knock would come on her tentpole and a voice would speak softly in the darkness, "Mrs White, we have a problem. We need help. Can you talk and pray with us?"

She never refused such a plea. Her tiredness would vanish and she got up and welcomed the young people into her tent. Often they talked and prayed for hours and those young people never forgot the words she spoke to them.

At one particular campmeeting a large number had come to get a special blessing and Ellen thanked God for these noble youth who craved the mercy of God and opened their hearts to His Holy Spirit. Some of them became leaders in God's work.

At the same meeting another group of young people set about to cause as much trouble as possible. They became Satan's army of resistance by being noisy, rude and scornful. They mocked the youth who had come to campmeeting to get a blessing, or tried to lure them into mischief. They made fun of Ellen White.

One day one of these young men, Jack, asked his friend, Eddie, "Did you hear Mrs. White's sermon this morning?"

"Yes, I toughed it out." He held his head and yawned. "She talked about how Adventists should live simply, dress plainly and give most of their money to the church."

"That's the main point of all her sermons," Jack sneered. "But did you notice what she had pinned onto her dress for everyone to see!" An ugly grin twisted Jack's handsome face. "A gold watch, that's what? She preaches one thing and practices another."

"Let's ask her about it." Eddie pointed to the people just coming from the prayer tent. "There she is! And we've got a real complaint."

So looking innocent, the boys walked up to Ellen White. She and the others in that tent had just been praying for these unconverted youth and her heart went out to these two boys in tender yearning. Jack spoke, "May we ask you a question?"

"Certainly," she smiled at them.

"We've been listening to your sermons and many people come to hear you, but some of them wonder why you don't practice what you preach."

Ellen White looked at them in surprise. "What do you mean? I don't understand."

Eddie spoke up. "Well, this watch," he pointed to the small, open-faced time-piece pinned to her dress. "You tell us that we shouldn't wear gold, and the Bible says that, too. But you wear it yourself. Why shouldn't people wonder whether you believe your own preaching?"

Amazed, Ellen looked down at the watch. Then she looked at the two boys and recognized them. "I will take care of the problem," she told them and hurried on her way to the next appointment. Her mind flashed back to the day, a short time ago, when some kind person had given her the little old watch. No one would ever wear it out of pride. It looked old and

battered, but it did keep excellent time. She unpinned it and held it in her hand. Getting to meetings on time had been so much easier since she had worn the little watch. Now, she would never wear it again. Not by the least thing would she give cause of offense to anyone.

Jack and Eddie went to find their young friends. "We really caught her this time."

"What did she say?"

"Not much," Eddie laughed, "but she looked like a baseball had just hit her on the head." Both boys held their sides with glee.

Prayers continued for the unconverted young people on the campground and the victory came. Seventy-five persons were baptized before the meetings closed. Perhaps Jack and Eddie were among them.

A short time after this experience, Daniel Bordeau in Geneva, Switzerland, sent Ellen White a gift watch as "a memorial of my kind regards to one whom I love as a mother."

This watch came as a Christmas gift in the year 1885 and Ellen cherished it and used it with no criticism from anyone. No doubt she carried it in her purse.

ELLEN'S GOLD WATCH - Study Questions

Objective: To understand the Christian grace that makes another person's concern more important than my own.

For discussion:

1. What argument or defense might Ellen White have used when the boys attacked her for wearing a gold watch?
 - a. (But I'm not wearing it for ornament.
 - b. It's not particularly attractive.
 - c. It happens to keep good time.)
2. How is Ellen White's gold watch like the food offered to idols described by Paul:

"If we do not eat /food offered to idols/, we are none the worse, and if we eat, we are none the better. . . . If food be the downfall of my brother, I will never eat meat /food offered to idols/ anymore, for I will not be the cause of my brother's downfall."-- 1 Corinthians 8:8, 13, NEB. (See all of 1 Corinthians 8 for a complete discussion.)
3. Number the following in order of their importance to Ellen White. Use facts in today's story to help you decide.
 - a. Making sure people know I'm right.
 - b. Influencing people to love God.
 - c. Arguing when falsely accused.
 - d. Being free to do the will of God as I understand it.

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY EMPHASIS STORIES

Volume I, Part II

Grades 5-8

LOST IN A STORM AT SEA

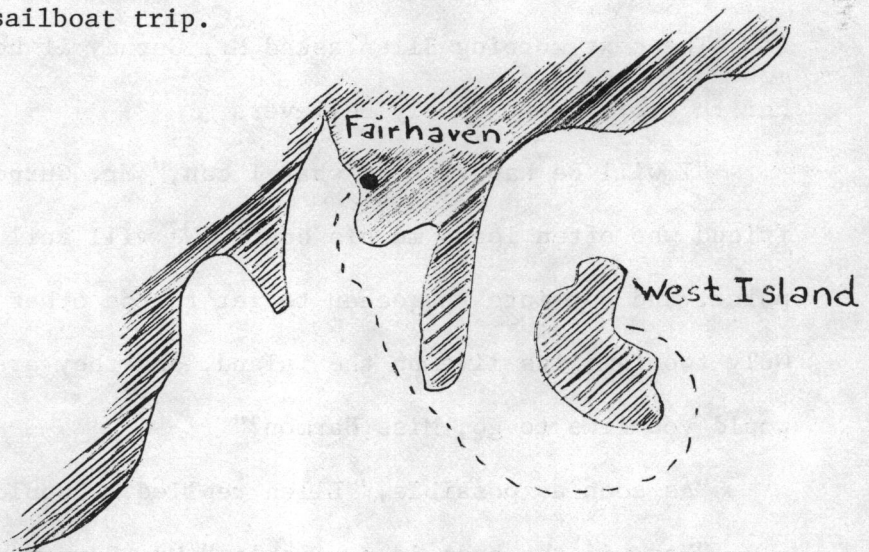
To the Teacher:

The following story is found in Early Writings, pages 23, 24.

Mrs. White's brief account is supplemented by documented material written by H. S. Gurney kept in the Ellen G. White Estate vault.

Ellen was visiting in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, probably staying in the home of Joseph Bates. Her sister "who usually accompanied me at that time" was Sarah.

An outline on the chalk board,
such as given here, will help the
children visualize the sailboat trip.



LOST IN A STORM AT SEA

Ellen and Sarah Harmon were visiting in the home of Joseph Bates in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. Ellen was sharing the wonderful things the Lord had shown her with all the believers there. Someone told her about a family who lived on a nearby island. This family was sad and discouraged. They felt that God had forgotten about them.

"I must visit these dear people," Ellen exclaimed, "but how can I get to West Island?"

A friend said, "I am sure that Mr. Gurney, our Adventist blacksmith, will take you if you ask him."

The next morning Ellen asked Mr. Gurney if he could take Sarah and her to visit these lonely believers.

"I will be happy to do what I can," Mr. Gurney promised. "I have a friend who often loans me his boat. We will sail down the bay, past the point, and out into the ocean to get to the other side of West Island. Only two families live on the island, and they are on the far side. When would you like to go, Miss Harmon?"

"As soon as possible," Ellen replied. "Could we go this afternoon?"

"Yes, if the boat is available," Mr. Gurney replied. "I will come to the house where you are staying and take you to the sailboat."

That afternoon when Mr. Gurney came for the young ladies, he found Ellen very sick.

"Do you still want to go to West Island?" he asked.

"Oh yes," she said weakly. She tried to get up, but fell back on the bed.

"Would you go if you were well enough?" Mr. Gurney asked.

"Yes, yes," Ellen answered. "That discouraged family must hear quickly the good news God has sent us."

Without another word, Mr. Gurney knelt beside Ellen's bed. He asked God to heal her so that she could take His love to the people who felt so lonely and forgotten.

As soon as Mr. Gurney had finished his prayer, Ellen sat up, then she stood up. God had taken away all her pain and sickness. Ellen, Sarah and another lady went with Mr. Gurney to the sailboat and started their journey. It was already late afternoon.

After they had gone out into the ocean, past the point, suddenly the wind began to blow, strongly at first, then fiercely. Dark clouds quickly covered the sky. Lightning flashed! Thunder roared! Then rain beat down upon them in torrents. The little sailboat rocked back and forth. The blackness of night came and still the storm continued to toss them this way and that. Mr. Gurney did not know where they were. They could not see through the darkness. No matter how hard Mr. Gurney tried to steer the boat, he could not control it. They were lost in the ocean expecting the boat to sink any moment, frightened and terribly afraid.

Holding tightly to the boat, Ellen knelt down and asked God to save them from drowning. And right there God gave her a vision while the winds were shrieking, lightning flashing, thunder crashing, and waves washing over the sides of the boat drenching Ellen and the others.

In the beauty and quietness of the vision, Ellen knew God was with them. He told her that they were safe. He said that before He would let her drown, He would dry up every drop of water in the entire ocean! He told Ellen that her work for Him was just beginning.

The vision ended. Once again Ellen heard the storm all about her. She felt the boat plunging into the waves, but now she was not afraid. She felt great peace and joy for they were in God's hands. Quickly she told the others what God had shown her. Immediately their fears vanished for they too knew that the Creator of all nature was right there with them in that terrible storm.

The boat was tossing so badly that Mr. Gurney decided to throw the anchor overboard. After what seemed a long time, the anchor finally caught on a rock or something on the bottom of the sea.

"The water is shallower here," he said. We must be near land." Cupping his hands to his mouth he called loudly, "Help! Help!" It seemed to him that the wind carried his voice away. Over and over he called again.

There were only two houses on the island. In the home closest to the shore, everyone was asleep--everyone but a little girl. As she lay in bed listening to the wind wailing around the house, she heard a faint, "Help! Help!" Had she imagined it? She listened carefully and again heard the call.

"Help!" She jumped out of bed and ran to her father's bed.

"Father, Father! I heard something! I think I heard somebody cry for help!" Her father sat up in bed and listened. Then he heard it, too.

"Someone is in trouble!" he exclaimed jumping out of bed. Quickly he dressed for the storm and ran down the path to his little boat. He untied it and started rowing out to sea in the darkness.

"I'm coming!" he shouted loudly, "Where are you? I can't see you."

"Over here! Over here!" came the reply. Mr. Gurney kept calling "This way! Over here!" until the two boats came together.

The man threw one end of a rope to Mr. Gurney and told him to tie it to the sailboat. He would try to tow the sailboat to shore. The two men held the boats as closely together as possible while the three ladies climbed into the row boat, then Mr. Gurney stepped into it.

It was hard work rowing back to land. Probably the two men pulled the oars together. The waves were high and strong. Suddenly the tow rope broke. The sailboat was free for the waves to wash it out to sea.

Finally the weary people reached the shore. Their new friends gave them dry clothes and built up the fire. How good it felt to be dry and warm! How the little girl's eyes sparkled when Ellen hugged her and thanked her for hearing their cry for help! How thankful everyone was to their Heavenly Father for saving their lives!

The next day the storm was over. The trees and flowers and grasses reflected the bright yellow sunshine. And the family's sadness and discouragement were gone. Their faces reflected the happiness of knowing God loved them. Their hearts were warmed because friends cared enough about them to come through the storm.

The father of the family took them back to Fairhaven in his sailboat because the borrowed sailboat was lost. The trip was beautiful. Gentle winds filled the white sails. The boat glided over blue waters.

But what about the lost borrowed sailboat? What could they say to its owner? How could they ever pay him for it? They were poor people who spent their time and money to spread God's message. Silently each one prayed. Together they prayed.

"All-powerful Lord, last night during the storm we called on You for help. You saved us. This quiet morning we are again in trouble. Only You know where that borrowed sailboat is--lost far out in the ocean, or washed upon rocks somewhere battered and broken along the shore, or maybe at the bottom of the sea. Lord, You know we have no way to repay the owner. Once again we cry to You for help."

On and on they talked with God until in the distance they saw the home of the man who owned the lost sailboat. They steered toward the dock where the boat was kept. As they came nearer, suddenly they opened their eyes wider and wider. Was it? Was it really so? Could it be possible?

"It is! It is!" they exclaimed. "It is the lost sailboat by the dock, right where it is always kept. Lord, we don't know how it got there, but thank You. Thank You!"

The sailboat owner thought that Mr. Gurney had already returned the boat, so he was surprised when Mr. Gurney exclaimed, "I see your boat is back already!"

"Well," said the owner, "didn't you bring it back early this morning?"

"No," Mr. Gurney replied. "No, we lost it in that terrible storm." He looked at the lost boat returned unharmed, then asked, "Who guided that sailboat through the ocean storm, back to Fairhaven, and right up to its dock where you keep it?"

Reverently the owner answered, "It could have been none other than an
angel sent from heaven." The others agreed and joyfully they knelt and
thanked God for His tender watch care over them.

LOST IN A STORM AT SEA - Study Questions

Objective: To understand God's providence in using the events of life to demonstrate His love.

For discussion:

1. Why did God save Ellen's life? (Her work for Him had just begun, E. W., p. 23. Children may think of other reasons also.)
2. Why do you think God had an angel return the boat undamaged? (Only a few Adventists lived at this time. Each person in the boat was a child of God. Each one worked for Him by giving and spreading the good news. What might have happened if they had had to pay for the sailboat?)
3. Recall two occasions when a storm frightened Jesus' disciples. (See Mark 4:35-41; Matthew 14:25-31.)
4. For what events do you think Satan might have been responsible in this story?

("In accidents and calamities by sea and land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power."--The Great Controversy, pp. 589,590.)
5. How did God use the outcome of a storm to demonstrate His presence to some discouraged people in the story we have heard today?

(Ellen White's account ends with: "We spent the most of that night in thanksgiving and praise to God for His wonderful goodness unto us."--Early Writings, p. 24.)
6. No doubt Ellen White had planned what she would say to the discouraged family. Perhaps she was going to say, "Don't be discouraged. God still loves you." By the time she saw the family, however, she had something else to say about God. What do you think she said?

STOCKING BEHIND THE DOOR

During the early years of their marriage James and Ellen White traveled a great deal in the eastern states. When God directed them to go to a certain town or neighborhood, they did not ask where they would stay or if they would have a comfortable bed. They went where God called them to go and put up with whatever inconvenience they met in order that the work might grow, and that the little paper THE ADVENT REVIEW AND SABBATH HERALD might be published and sent out to the believers on time. They never complained, but counted it a great honor for which they praised Him every day.

Yet often when walking along a street James and Ellen would see a cottage with a FOR RENT sign on it, they would pause, go up the walkway, look in the windows and dream about the time when they might have a house they could call home with furniture so they could entertain friends. One evening in Rochester, New York, they saw such a place and went up on the porch and sat down on the top step, trying to feel how it would be to have a home of their own. "I am really going to hunt for a house," James said holding Ellen close. "I'll start tomorrow."

James had passed his thirtieth birthday and Ellen was twenty-four. Surely, James thought, God would be pleased for them to have a home. When he found a big, old residence on Mt. Hope Avenue that he could rent for \$175 a year, he hurried home to tell Ellen. "It's big enough for us and the workers who will be helping us. We can set up the printing press that's coming from New York right in the house. That will save us \$50 a year.

Ellen approved and James rented the house. Then they began to look for furniture. James searched for bargains and bought chairs and tables and other pieces one by one. He bought two old bedsteads for twenty-five cents apiece. Six old chairs he purchased for one dollar. None of them matched. Then he found four more old chairs and bought them for sixty-four cents. They had no seats, but Ellen tested the frames and found them sturdy, so with needle and thread and strong drill fabric reinforced with hammer and tacks, she transformed these chairs into something usable to add to the chair collection. Now the Whites owned ten usable chairs. James fashioned a table from two packing barrels with a wide board laid across the top. It would not hold much food and it didn't need to. They had little to eat.

Spring drew on and fresh vegetables were scarce, but turnips were plentiful and cheaper than potatoes. Ellen boiled the turnips without butter, but she did make something she called "sauce" out of flour, water and salt. Poured over the turnips, it tasted good.

Although poor, they did not complain. "God has provided this place for us," they told each other. "Let us praise Him."

What God had planned for them, they accepted willingly and gladly. Other workers soon joined James and Ellen, who welcomed them into their home. The printing press came, too, and James with his helpers set it up with joy and thanksgiving. This printing press marked a big step forward and would make printing the "little paper" much easier.

The family grew to number fifteen persons; seven of them were strong men and husky boys with big appetites. This meant they would have to enlarge their table. Also they began to get a little income from the sale of tracts, pamphlets, and magazine subscriptions. James could give Ellen

a certain amount each week to buy food and run their large household. Now they did not eat turnips every day.

They also found a young girl, Jenny Frazier, who helped with the cooking. She understood that money was scarce and she knew that a dollar's worth of beans would go farther than a dollar's worth of any other food. By this time twenty-two-year-old Uriah Smith had joined the family. One day he remarked, "I really have no objection to eating beans three times a day for 365 days of the year, but when it comes to making them a regular diet, I plan to protest." Everyone enjoyed a hearty laugh and passed their plates for more beans.

Ellen, who managed this large household and directed all its activities, decided that she ought to save some money regularly. After all, James did give her an allowance for food, so one day when no one was around, she drove a nail in a dark corner behind the pantry door. From the nail she hung a long, black stocking, making sure that it had no holes or weak places in heel or toe. No one knew about the stocking. She regarded it as her private savings bank and every week she dropped something into it. Sometimes she held the toe in her hand and felt the little wad of money accumulating there. It gave her a comfortable feeling. She did not count it. She only thanked God that she could add to the little hoard every week.

Then one day James came in with a worried look on his face. "Ellen, the paper for our next issue of THE REVIEW is at the express office, but you know that our people have been slow about paying up their subscriptions. I just don't know what to do, I can't possibly pay for it!" He flung himself onto a kitchen chair.

"How much do you need?" Ellen came and stood with her warm, little hand on his shoulder.

"Sixty-four dollars!" His voice sounded hopeless and discouraged.
"But it might as well be a thousand. We haven't a cent."

Without a word, Ellen went to the pantry door and reached for the stocking. James watched wide-eyed and speechless while she emptied the contents on the table. They began to count: fifty cent pieces, an occasional silver dollar, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. The pile of counted coins grew. Would there be enough? "Fifty dollars, sixty, sixty-one, sixty-two, sixty-three, sixty-four!" James' voice shouted in triumph. He drew his little wife close and kissed her with that special kiss that said, "Thank God, thank God for a wife like you!"

Then he hurried to the express office and enjoyed the look of surprise on the clerk's face when he paid for the paper with all this small change. The REVIEW AND HERALD reached its readers on time that spring of 1852.

Ellen White practiced strict economy herself and she advised others to do likewise. She advised young people to save some of their wages each week. When she saw children spending all their money on candy, it grieved and troubled her for two reasons. Food eaten between meals is harmful and the nickels and dimes wasted on such indulgence could have been saved for useful things. To Ellen White, every dollar was a sacred trust from God.

THE STOCKING BEHIND THE DOOR - Study Questions

Objective: To recognize that the amount of income is not so important as the use one makes of it.

For discussion:

1. If Ellen were arranging the following facts of life in order of great concern to her, which would she number 1 (most important)? Number the rest as you think she would.
 - a. We lack money.
 - b. We have to eat beans, and I don't like them.
 - c. We should live on what we can afford.
 - d. The people don't pay for the paper as they should.
 - e. We need to save some money every month.
 - f. Our chairs don't match.
 - g. We need to keep the good news about God before the people.
2. How should a young person act if he wishes to avoid waste? Think of as many answers as you can.
 - a. (Put only the food that he is able to eat on his plate;
 - b. Choose nutritious food rather than junk food;
 - c. Speak up against litter;
 - d. Buy food in containers that can be recycled or returned, etc.)
3. How would a person behave who places importance on using his money to help others?
4. How would a person behave who places importance on saving?

ELLEN'S LAST HOME: ELMSHAVEN

One spring morning when Dennis came to breakfast, Mother had a surprise for him. "Father has a vacation soon, and we have decided to go to California to visit Uncle Don. Would you like to see Ellen White's last home, Elmshaven? "

Dennis jumped for joy, then sat down to eat. "Yes! Yes! When can we go? Will we see the room where the angels came?"

Mother laughed at Dennis's enthusiasm. "Dad's vacation is in two weeks. We will see Elmshaven soon after we arrive in California."

While Dennis ate his breakfast Mother said, "When Ellen White was coming back to America from Australia, God told her that He had prepared a 'refuge' for her. That refuge was her home at Elmshaven."

What kind of place would it be, Dennis wondered. A refuge for God's beloved messenger - that would be something wonderful to see!

Vacation time arrived. Father, Mother and Dennis traveled to San Francisco. A few days later they drove toward the mountains. Dennis watched the road that wound among the green California hills. "Did Ellen White see the hills look like this?" he asked.

Father gazed at the lovely green-carpeted hills. "I suppose she did see them as beautiful as this. She delighted in lovely scenery and graceful trees. In all these natural beauties she saw God's hand of love," Father said.

In a short time they arrived at Pacific Union College. After lunch and a leisurely walk around the campus, they returned to the car and drove up a curving lane to a big old-fashioned farmhouse with porches and balconies and lots of windows. "This is Elmshaven." Father smiled as he drove around the house and parked in the back yard. A great oak tree stood near an old-fashioned square building. "This used to be the office building," Father said. Off to their left, workmen seemed to be putting the final touches on a roomy new cottage. "It must be for the new caretaker and his family." Father stopped to look at it. "The lady living at Elmshaven right now is a granddaughter of Ellen White and looks a lot like her."

They climbed the steps to the front veranda where a tall, old gentleman waited for them. After introductions, he invited them into the red carpeted front hall. A large, stained glass window near the steep stairway splashed colored light into the whole room.

Dennis looked around on everything with a hushed awe. He could almost see the figure of Ellen White climbing those stairs with the colored light from the high window shining on her white hair. Beautiful! So this was the "refuge" God had prepared for Ellen's last years!

He turned to the left and looked into the sitting room with its comfortable sofa and a fireplace that warmed the downstairs rooms. An old organ stood in one corner and interesting pictures and books filled the room with memories of ancient treasures. Dennis remembered that angels had walked and talked in this house, familiar friends of the gentle, little woman who had spent the last fifteen years of her life here.

They had been in the house only a short time when other people came p the front steps and the guide went to welcome them. The guide led

them all upstairs to Ellen White's bedroom. All the rooms had unusually high ceilings which made them feel spacious. The bedroom furniture that had belonged to Ellen White was plain, but solid. Dennis looked down at his feet and knew that he stood where angel feet had stood, for Ellen had received many visions from Jesus while she slept in this room. The sense of awe that enveloped him convinced him that angels still lingered about this place.

Their guide led them down the carpeted hall to the writing room at the other end of the house. The sense of angel-presence grew stronger. "This room is the heart of the house. Here Ellen White spent most of her time in a comfortable chair with her writing board in front of her. Light from the southeast corner windows flooded the place where she sat. Certainly no spot could be better for writing. She wrote nine books here," and Dennis looked up to see all nine of them on the fireplace mantel.

"At the threshold of this room she tripped and fell on February 13, 1915, and this lovely room had been turned into a sickroom where loving nurses had used all their skill to make her comfortable. Four months later, on July 16, 1915, she died in this room. The nurse on duty stopped the mantel clock at the exact moment she drew her last breath, 3:50 p.m. on Sabbath afternoon." Dennis studied the hands of the clock as he listened to the guide.

After Dennis and the other visitors returned to the first floor living room, the caretaker's wife came out to meet them. She looked like her grandmother, Ellen White, the same short figure, same gray hair, same sparkling smile and pleasant face, same kindness of manner which endeared Ellen White to so many people. "I learned to walk in this house." She

pointed to the stairs. "I crawled up those stairs and then crawled down head first many times."

The little woman appeared so friendly and kind that Dennis ventured to ask a question: "Will you tell me what Ellen White kept in that great big cupboard in the writing room upstairs?"

"Yes, certainly." The lady sat down on the living room sofa and motioned for Dennis to sit beside her. "Grandmother kept bolts of new cloth in that cupboard. She was always buying bolts of good material that she thought would make attractive garments. Whenever she learned of some poor family that had suffered the loss of their things through fire or flood, or who had become desperately poor, she would tell the women who helped her to get out the bolts of cloth and make suitable garments for them."

"Did she give her worn clothes to the poor, too?"

"No, I can't remember that she ever did. She always gave good, new things," said the lady. "One time in Australia one of her dear friends came to visit and saw Sara Hughes hanging the washing on the clothesline. She looked at the under-garments and said, 'I have never seen clothes so patched; they have patches on patches. Whose garments are those?'

"'They are Mother's (Sara Hughes always called Ellen White, Mother). She gives her good, new things to the needy and keeps the patched things for herself. She says that many of the poor don't know how to patch. They also have a lot of personal pride and she would never offend them by offering them old, worn out or patched garments.'"

Dennis thanked the kind little lady and supposed that now she would go back to her kitchen, but she still sat smiling at him. "Maybe you would like to hear another story about bolts of cloth?" She looked at Dennis.

"Oh, yes, I would." Dennis moved a little closer to her.

"Once Ellen White had a dream. She found herself cutting up bolts and bolts of cloth into garments for many people. With a great deal of care and patience, she fitted the garments to the people and gave them to those persons. Many of the people didn't want the garments and threw them down in anger or disgust, but angels kept handing her more bolts of cloth.

"Finally she became very tired and said, 'What's the use of cutting and fitting all these garments? People don't want to wear them.' She lay down her scissors.

"Then the angel answered, 'It is your work to cut and fit the garments. What people do with them after you have finished your work is not your concern. God will take care of that.' He handed back her scissors and another bolt of cloth."

Dennis thought for a moment, then wrinkled his nose. "What did the vision mean?" he asked.

"The angel was talking about the special testimonies that Ellen White gave for so many people. She must have gotten very tired of giving all those messages of warning and reproof; but God wouldn't let her stop until she had 'cut garments' that fit everyone. And that's why we need to read those special testimonies. We will find 'garments' that just fit us."

The kind lady stood up and Father motioned Dennis to the door. They walked out to their car and the guide walked with them. He pointed to the gigantic oak tree near their car. The tree was actually three enormous trunks of about the same size.

"About the time Grandmother moved into this house, the gardener mowed down a small oak tree right here." The guide pointed to the mighty oak!

trunk. "His wife grieved over the little oak and hoped that it might spring up again from the root; so she put stakes around it and protected it through those early years. Grandmother White watched it grow."

The guide laid his hand on one of the great oaks. "For me, it has a lot of meaning that you will understand better when you grow older. About the turn of the century, the devil tried in a special way to destroy God's work. He really 'mowed it down.' But God, right here at Elmshaven, put a stop to his plans and the new work grew in three directions. It grew strong and tall and beautiful."

"Can I guess what the three directions are?" Dennis could hardly wait to speak it out. Their guide nodded. "Teaching, healing, and publishing," he said.

"Very good indeed! Some people have likened it to the three angels' messages which have made us a peculiar people. Maybe the trees mean all these things and much more."

The family thanked the kind gentleman and got into the car. As they started down the curving drive the scene before them stretched away to the mountains, peaceful and lovely. "All this was orchard land when Ellen White lived here." Father turned onto the highway. "How she must have loved this place! How often she must have thanked God for the 'refuge' He so generously provided!"

Dennis turned longing eyes back to the big white house on the hillside. "I wish Ellen White still lived in Elmshaven."

"Yes, Son, we all wish that so much, but one day she will live on this earth once more, and who knows where her home will be? It might be a home like Elmshaven with all the glorious orchards and flowers of the New Earth around it. One thing we do know; her husband will be with her and

her four sons and many of her grandchildren. She will be completely happy."

Dennis thought of that time and his heart swelled with a hope that had become more urgent, more bright and sure during this vacation time. A new determination possessed him that nothing should rob him of the joy of seeing Ellen White and her family in the earth made new.

ELLEN'S LAST HOME - Study Questions

Objective: To understand that benevolence, dedicated service, and accompanying blessings were characteristic of Ellen White's interaction with God and His work.

For discussion:

Provide a picture of Elmshaven.

Possible display for this story: The nine books that Ellen White wrote at Elmshaven:

Life Sketches

Education

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 7, 8, 9

Prophets and Kings

Gospel Workers

The Acts of the Apostles

The Ministry of Healing

1. What question would you like to ask about Elmshaven?

(Consider sending a significant question to Elmshaven. It should be something that would not require considerable research by the caretakers. As an alternative, have students write letters of appreciation to be sent to Elmshaven. They might serve as a temporary display there.)
2. How do you think Elmshaven compares to the first home that the Whites lived in? Other early homes?
3. In her dream, Ellen saw that different testimonies "fit" different people. Which of the following testimonies might "fit" you?

3T 137 Children need well-regulated amusement
1T 399 Children need useful, interesting books
2T 85 Children need comfortable clothing
1T 394 Children need exercise of mind and body
1T 558 Children need to do their part of family labor
9T 55 Children need to lay aside offerings for Christ
2T 325 Children need to lighten cares of overworked parents
5T 424 Children should be present at family worship

PROPHETS, VISIONS AND INSIGHTS

God Chose Ellen

Ellen's Longest Vision

Ellen and the Bicycles of Battle Creek

Nellie Sisley Never Forgot, Part I

Nellie Sisley Never Forgot, Part II

A Horse and Carriage

A Bridge of Ice

GOD CHOSE ELLEN

God plans for all of us long before we are born. He knows where we will live and who our parents will be. He knows who our brothers and sisters will be. He places each one of us in the right place to do the work he planned for us.

God chose Ellen to be a special messenger for Him. He let her grow up in a big family with a kind father and mother, so she would learn to be loving and unselfish. He allowed the accident which spoiled her pretty face so that she would grow up to be humble and patient and sympathetic toward all persons who were hurt or sick and weak. He did not let her go to school and learn like other children because He wanted to teach her Himself. He drew her close while she was very young, so that she would trust Him and obey His will for her. He taught her the sweetness of Jesus' love, so that she might have a joyous heart and be able to cheer and help other people.

When Ellen reached her seventeenth year everyone knew that she loved Jesus more than anything else, that she had become patient and kind through the years of her weakness and suffering. Then God gave her her first vision. A vision is a beautiful and wonderful thing. God took Ellen's mind and heart away from this world for a few minutes, or a few hours, and allowed her to see things that no one else could see or know about. Sometimes an angel talked with her and told her important things that God wanted His people to know. Sometimes she saw Jesus.

In this first vision God showed Ellen the people of God walking on a straight and narrow path high above the world. He showed her Jesus coming in the clouds of heaven. He showed her the dead coming out of their graves when Jesus sounds His silver trumpet and calls them forth. She saw all of God's people being taken up to the glorious cloud and she knew that they traveled for seven days to God's heavenly home. There she saw the sea of glass, the river of life and the throne of God.

When the vision ended and Ellen found herself back in this dark world again, she felt homesick for heaven. She had seen the beautiful things in heaven and felt its joy and peace. The world seemed sad, dark, cold and lonely.

Ellen told the five women that were with her what she had seen and all of them praised God for the wonderful thing that had happened to Ellen. glory that shone in Ellen's face and the holy joy that rang in her voice showed them that she had been with Jesus and His angels.

The news quickly spread to all the believing people that God had given Ellen a vision. They called it an "open vision" because other people were there and saw how she looked and acted and heard what she said while in vision.

Ellen told the believers in Portland, Maine, about her vision and they all felt sure that God had sent it and they praised Him, because they felt so happy that Jesus loved them so much and that He would someday let them see the things He had shown Ellen.

Ellen herself could hardly understand what had happened. She knew that God had sent the vision, but why should God choose her, a young girl with a

face ruined by that cruel rock, a girl who felt weak and sick much of the time, a girl who had not gone to school beyond the third grade? She felt so unworthy that her courage almost failed.

Then God sent her a second vision. He showed her that many people would not accept her visions. They would mock and ridicule her and try to stop her work, but God promised to make her strong to bear all these trials. He showed her that He had chosen her for a special messenger to His people.

This second vision troubled Ellen's mind until she could hardly bear it. She begged the Lord to find someone else for this work, but the angel's words rang in her mind all the time, "Tell others what I have revealed to you."

Her heart sank lower and lower until all her joy and peace drained away. A dark cloud seemed to enfold her and a terrible burden rested on her. She longed to die and be released from the agony of the darkness and pain. People came to her father's house to pray and sing and witness for Jesus, but Ellen would not come out and join them. She felt crushed, overwhelmed, discouraged.

At last one night her family and friends persuaded her to come out and join them in worship. By this time she had suffered so much that she wanted only Jesus. If only Jesus would come back with His love and joy and peace, she would be willing to do anything, go anywhere. While the people knelt around her and pleaded with God to bless and heal her, the dark cloud lifted and a light appeared. God gave her the third vision. Again she heard the angel say, "Make known to others what I have revealed to you."

Ellen knew now that she would do all that Jesus asked of her. No matter how hard the way, or painful the task, she would obey Him.

At once God opened the way for her to go to a town thirty miles away where she gave a strong and clear testimony for God, revealing some of the things He had shown her in vision. Then friends invited her to go with them to Orrington in eastern Maine and God's Spirit went with her and gave power to her words. Many hearts were touched and changed.

It was at Orrington, Maine, that Ellen first met James White, a young man who had given his whole heart and life to God, the young man who would soon be her husband.

GOD CHOSE ELLEN - Study Questions

Objectives: To discover how God helps people overcome weakness and turn it into strength.

To find in the life of a person dedicated to God many blessings to overcome Satan's efforts to discourage and shut down God's work.

For discussion:

1. What would you have liked about being Ellen?

(Knowing I was doing God's will

Having a loving family

Seeing heaven in a vision

Having a talk with an angel)

2. What would you have disliked about being Ellen?

(Having an unpopular message

Having a scarred face

Being weak)

3. God could have chosen anyone in the world to be His special messenger. He could have chosen a strong, healthy man with a good education and a strong preaching voice. Why do you think God chose a sickly, weak young girl? How could her testimony glorify God better than someone else's?

(Though Ellen's voice was hoarse and she could hardly speak above a whisper, her voice became strong when she testified of God; her weakness was turned to strength when doing God's bidding; everyone who knew her knew God's hand was upon her, giving her supernaturally-endowed strength.)

ELLEN'S LONGEST VISION

When Ellen first began to receive visions from God, the Advent believers were few and lived mostly in the New England states. God gave her "open visions" where people could see her having the experience, so their faith would be strong and they would know that God had chosen Ellen to be His special messenger.

Just south of Boston, at Dorchester, Otis Nichols lived on a comfortable farm. His big farmhouse had become a center for the Advent believers in the Boston area. Today he would drive his horse and carriage up to Boston and bring back Ellen White and her sister, Sarah. He had invited them to spend a few days in his home. Ellen always brought courage to the little companies of Adventists who loved Jesus and longed for Him to come.

While Otis Nichols drove along the road he thought about two men in Boston who did not believe that Ellen's visions were from God. These two had been going about among the believers speaking against Ellen and telling everyone that the visions came from the devil. They had never seen her have a vision, but they both declared that Ellen would never dare to have a vision in their presence.

When Otis Nichols invited the Harmon girls to come and stay with his family for a few days, he hoped that the two men, Sargent and Robbins, would be able to get acquainted with Ellen and see that her visions had nothing devilish about them.

He met the girls and took them to his home. They talked about good things, Bible promises, the love of Jesus and all the new believers who were coming to the meetings. Otis Nichols could see that Ellen seemed full of praise to God and great joy in serving Him. "Surely this humble, gentle girl is God's child," Otis Nichols told himself. "Surely her visions are from Him."

Not long after the two girls had come, Otis Nichols looked out the window. A carriage had driven into the yard. He hurried out and saw that Sargent and Robbins had come. They greeted him with big smiles. "We have come to visit with you and we would like to spend the night here."

Otis Nichols felt a thrill of joy. "Oh, that's good!" he said as he stood close to the side of the carriage. "I'm really glad you have come. Ellen and Sarah Harmon have just come and now you can meet them and get acquainted with them."

The two men looked surprised and glanced sharply at each other. "We have another call to make," Sargent explained. They made no move to get down from the carriage.

But Otis Nichols didn't want them to go. "You just told me that you will stay here tonight. You have wanted to see Ellen for so long and now is your chance. It may be a long time before you get to see her and hear her speak."

"Oh yes, we really do want to meet her. Couldn't you bring her in to our Sabbath service in Boston?"

Otis Nichols stepped back a pace, "Well, maybe we could do that." The two men drove away in a great hurry.

"Now, why did they act that way?" Otis Nichols asked himself while he walked back to the house. He remembered that these men had told the

Adventist believers that Ellen would never dare to have a vision in their presence. Could it be that they were afraid of Ellen?

That evening Ellen had a vision there in the Nichols' home. The next morning she told Otis Nichols, "The Lord showed me three things last night. First, we are not to go to Boston on Sabbath. Second, we are to go to Randolph instead. Third, when we get there we will know why."

"But Randolph is thirteen miles in the opposite direction," he exclaimed. "I can't understand that!"

"I don't understand either," Ellen said. "The Lord says that He has work for me to do there."

Sabbath morning Otis Nichols hitched up his horse and they started for Randolph. "I don't know what those people will think when we promised to meet them in Boston today and now we go south to Randolph, instead of north to Boston." All the thirteen-mile drive he fretted about the matter. Ellen sat quietly without saying a word. At last they drove up to the Thayer home where the Adventist believers were meeting.

They knocked on the door and when Mrs. Thayer opened it, they saw that the meeting had already begun, and the man in charge of the service turned to face them. Sargent!!! Otis Nichols glanced quickly over the little company and saw Robbins. So that's why God had sent them here! He saw the whole deception clearly. These men did not want to meet Ellen or have anything to do with her, but God had directed Ellen to come here. Faith began to strengthen in Otis Nichol's heart.

Sargent tried to continue his sermon but became so confused that he finally said, "We will close this meeting a little early. Come back after lunch and we will have a good time together."

No one left. Sargent and Robbins had been telling the believers that Ellen's visions came from Satan. Also they, themselves, professed great

holiness and said over and over that Ellen would never have a vision when they were present. Everyone felt curious to see what would happen. Most of them had been confused by Sargent and Robbin's talk and didn't know what to think.

The afternoon meeting began with singing and prayer. Then Ellen began to pray. She paused for a moment and the next words that Otis Nichols and all the others heard were, "Glory to God! Glory to God!" God had taken her in a vision.

Sargent and Robbins looked wildly around in great distress. Ellen was having a vision right here in front of them, a thing they had declared could never happen. She began to speak. She mentioned the two men's names. Sargent said, "Let's sing!" So they sang very loudly until their voices grew hoarse.

Then Robbins said, "Let's read the Bible!" So they read the Bible in a loud voice until they were exhausted. Their hands shook. Sweat stood out on their faces. Some of the people asked them to be quiet, but Robbins said, "You are bowing to an idol. You are worshipping a golden calf."

The vision had continued about three hours by this time and Otis Nichols could see that Ellen did not breathe, had not breathed for over three hours. Also, she knew nothing of what went on in the room. Her mind and soul had entered into the presence of Jesus, so all the noise Sargent and Robbins made did not disturb her.

Then Mr. Thayer, owner of the house where they had gathered, said, "I have heard that visions from Satan can be stopped by laying a Bible on the person who is having the vision." He picked up the large family

Bible from the living room table and held it out toward Sargent. "Here, you lay it on her."

"Oh no!" the pale and frightened man backed away.

"Then I'll do it myself!" Mr. Thayer opened the big Bible and laid it against the reclining figure of Ellen Harmon. When the Bible touched her, she rose to her feet, picked up the Bible, balanced it on her left hand and held it as high as she could reach. Then with her eyes looking up and away from the Bible, she said, "This is the inspired testimony from God."

She began to turn its leaves with gentle reverence. Then she placed her finger on a verse and quoted the words in a strong, clear voice. For some time she continued to turn pages, point to verses and quote them with the Book still held high above her head.

Otis Nichols brought a chair and stood on it, so he could read the verses. In every case she spoke the exact words of whatever text on which her finger rested. By a solemn nod of his head, he indicated to the waiting people that Ellen was making no mistakes.

Now, a solemn hush had fallen over the little company. These were not just random texts, but every one had something to do with the believers, the false claims of Sargent and Robbins, and the loving care of the Lord Jesus over all of them. Otis Nichols could see that the sweet Spirit of God had touched hearts.

Then the vision began to close. Ellen drew one deep breath. Mr. Thayer took the heavy Bible from her. She drew another deep breath. Then she began to breathe naturally again. Then she looked around with surprise. Candles had been lighted. Evening had fallen. She had spent the whole of that winter afternoon in vision, the longest that God ever gave her--nearly four hours!

Otis Nichols looked around for Sargent and Robbins. They had gone. They had not been able to prevent Ellen's having a vision right in the room where they were sitting. They saw that she did not breathe. They heard her inspired words and saw her hold the heavy Bible above her head for more than half-an-hour, in her outstretched left hand. They saw her point to the texts and heard her quote them correctly.

Otis Nichols had no more doubts. He had seen and felt the power of God and seen His miraculous doings. The believers in the Boston area had received a great refreshing. The power of Sargent and Robbins' influence had been broken and their professions of holiness and sinlessness had been shown up for the deception they were.

ELLEN'S LONGEST VISION - Study Questions

Objective: To understand the way God reaches out to win people, yet never forces them beyond their will.

For discussion:

1. Why did God give Ellen "open visions"?
(To strengthen the faith of people who saw her in vision.)
2. Who profited from the sight of Ellen in her longest vision?
(The people whom Sargent and Robbins had attempted to mislead.)
3. What special efforts did God make to correct the ideas of Sargent and Robbins?
 - (a. He brought the two men to the Nichols home when Ellen was there.
 - b. He told Ellen in a vision not to go to Boston, but to Randolph where the two men would be on Sabbath, in spite of their assertion that they would be in Boston.
 - c. He gave Ellen a vision in the presence of Sargent and Robbins, something they had said would never happen.)
4. "God never asks us to believe without giving sufficient evidence upon which to base our faith. . . . Yet God has never removed the possibility of doubt."--Steps to Christ, p. 110.
How does today's story support this statement?
What "sufficient evidence" was given in today's story?
What possibility of doubt remained?
(The two men hadn't seen the vision; they didn't have to believe that it was from God.)

ELLEN AND THE BICYCLES OF BATTLE CREEK

The bicycle, brought from Europe in 1876, took a few years to become popular in the United States, but by the early 1890's they had caught on. At Battle Creek, headquarters of the young Seventh-day Adventist Church, bicycles had become an expensive obsession. Montgomery Ward's catalog for 1894 advertised economy models for both ladies and gentlemen at \$49.50, but if one wanted a deluxe model, he might spend as much as \$125 or even \$150, which was the price of a family carriage. Clearly the bicycle was not for poor people.

The young people who worked at the Review & Herald Publishing House earned from \$3 to \$6 a week, so a bicycle could easily cost several months' pay. Yet by the summer of 1894 the whole town of Battle Creek seemed to be on wheels. The bicycle had become a status symbol and Battle Creek probably had more bicycles than any other American city the same size. The urge to possess a "wheel," as bicycles were called, dulled consciences and distorted reasonable thinking. Even young people who earned \$3 or \$4 a week managed to get bicycles, but their room rent and food bills went unpaid.

Of course, some who owned a bicycle put the invention to good use. Elder F. M. Wilcox of the Review & Herald found it a convenient and economical means of traveling from his home to the office. Elder Henry Nichols rode about town with his Bible strapped to his handle bars, but the great majority of "wheels" were used only for racing, speeding, and

showing off.

And where was Ellen White during all this fanaticism? She had been in Australia for over three years.

In the autumn of 1894, when the bicycle craze was at its peak, an announcement from the Battle Creek Church called everyone, young and old, to a special evening meeting. An urgent message had come from Ellen White. The letter had traveled for almost two months by boat and train from far-off Australia.

The church filled up with eager people. They still cared about Ellen White; they waited for her latest message. Some of them believed with all their hearts that the words she wrote came from God. A hush fell over the assembled audience when Professor Prescott, president of Battle Creek College, stood up with the open letter in his hand. The congregation listened with alert attention.

Granville, N.S.W.
Australia,
July 20, 1894

In the night season I was in a dream or vision which revealed some things in Battle Creek. My Guide said, "Follow me."

I was directly in Battle Creek; the streets were alive with bicycles ridden by our people. There was a Witness from heaven beholding our people indulging their desire for selfish gratification, and using the money that should be invested in foreign missions. . . . There was an infatuation, a craze, upon this subject. The Witness from Heaven said . . . "Every device that Satan can invent to make our people disloyal to Jesus Christ, the Captain of our Salvation, will be ready at hand. The notices in our papers extolling bicycles might better be cut out, and in the place the destitute foreign fields be represented.

Brethren and sisters in Battle Creek, I enquire, who hath bewitched you? Shall the idols be expelled from the heart and Jesus enthroned there? (Letter 23c, 1894)

I was told by my Guide, "Look ye, and behold the idolatry of My people, to whom I have been speaking, rising up early, presenting to them their dangers! . . ." There were some who were striving for the mastery, each trying to excel the other in the swift running of their bicycles. There was a spirit of strife and contention among them as to which should be the greatest. . . . Said my Guide: "These things are an offense to God."

Testimonies, Vol, 8, p. 52

After the meeting people asked, "What shall we do? Is it wrong to own a bicycle, if we make good use of it and it takes the place of a horse?" Another man spoke up, "It costs so much less to maintain, too." Elder F. M. Wilcox confessed that he had been using a bicycle for almost six months. He felt sure that Ellen White's condemnation was against the competitive spirit, the selfish pride and the abuse of the bicycle, yet he did not insist on his own way. He wrote to Elder W. C. White:

. . . The question comes to me, should I continue to use my bicycle? I look at it in this light. I am a young man and just as able to walk as scores of other young men here who have "wheels." Will they not look to me and feel that my influence is against the testimony? So I feel that for the sake of my influence . . . it would be better for me to discontinue the use of my "wheel", which I have done.

F. M. Wilcox letter to W. C. White, Sept. 12, 1894.

He looked to the principle involved and felt that we should look for basic principles as Paul did when the matter of eating food offered to idols became a matter of controversy. "It is good neither to eat flesh nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended or is made weak." Romans 14:21

The leaders thought about the letter from Ellen White and decided to publish it in a leaflet so that everyone could read and reread every sentence.

Studying the underlying principles today we might consider the pastor and his wife at a car lot looking for a new car. They found a lovely little car with bucket seats for two--neat, compact and economical. "Just the thing for us, wouldn't you say?" He climbed into the driver's seat and motioned his wife to the other seat. She got in and sat quietly while the pastor took it for a short test drive. "For a childless couple like us, it's just perfect, don't you agree?" the young pastor looked at his wife.

Then for the first time she spoke. "It seems like a selfish car to me, Dear. What about the little neighbor girls who like to go to Sabbath School with us? How about Grandma Larson . . . ?"

The pastor sat locked within his private thoughts for a minute or two. "You are right! We serve an unselfish God and we need an unselfish car for His work."

Five years rolled away. Ellen White had not yet returned from Australia. The price of bicycles dropped to \$25 and good used ones could be gotten for much less. Edson White reported that he rode back and forth to work on a second-hand bicycle costing \$9. He could go from his home to the office in just five minutes. What had been a luxury in just a few years became the cheapest and simplest way to get from one place to another. Owning a bicycle that cost \$10 could no longer be called selfish gratification or "idolatry" because most of the reasons for not owning bicycles no longer existed: they cost much less, they no longer were a status symbol.

At Elmshaven, in the early 1900's, Ellen White's secretaries hurried her important testimonies from her home to the St. Helena station three miles away on their bicycles. Her grandchildren rode their bikes to school, ran errands with them, and used them for good, clean fun.

Are the "bicycle testimonies" obsolete now? No, not by any means. So long as people are selfish and strive to outdo others, so long as they are tempted to idolize some prized possession, the warnings given in Battle Creek will apply.

ELLEN AND THE BICYCLES OF BATTLE CREEK - Study Questions

Objective: To identify and apply the principles underlying God's messages.

For discussion:

Locate Battle Creek, Michigan, on a map.

1. If you earned \$6 per week, how many weeks would it take to earn enough for a \$49.50 bicycle?
2. If your father earned \$14 per week and bought you a \$49.50 bicycle one month, how much would he have left for food, clothing, house payments, heat, light, charity, and other items?
3. Ask your parents: "If it took a month's salary to buy an economy bicycle and three months of your salary to buy a deluxe model, would you buy either one for me?"
4. Ellen White wrote about the "infatuation and idolatry" of bicycle owners.
 - a. What does infatuation mean?
 - b. What does idolatry mean?
 - c. What might become idols today if they monopolize your time and attention?

POSSIBLE RESPONSE: Motorcycles, TV, cars, clothing

5. Ellen White wrote of the contention stirred up because of argument, dispute, quarreling and rivalry over the Battle Creek bicycles.
 - a. What does contention mean?
 - b. What does rivalry mean?
 - c. Name something that causes rivalry and contention today.

POSSIBLE RESPONSE: Grades, games, races, TV, musical performances

6. Think of solutions for the problems you have named in 4c and 5c.

NELLIE SISLEY NEVER FORGOT

Part I

Fourteen-year-old Nellie Sisley had come from England with her mother and brothers and sisters to live in Battle Creek, Michigan. Elder and Mrs. James White also lived in Battle Creek near the publishing house and sanitarium.

On Friday evening, June 12, 1868, Nellie and her mother attended prayer meeting at the Battle Creek church with about 200 other people. Elder and Mrs. White, who had been away, had returned to Battle Creek, and everyone wanted to hear them speak.

After a song and prayer, Elder James White spoke for about ten minutes. Then he said, "I know you want to hear Mrs. White, so we will turn the meeting over to her."

Then Sister White began to talk. She told the people that God had impressed her that they were not making the preparation that they ought to make to meet Jesus. "Jesus is coming soon," she said, "and we must be ready."

When she had spoken for about half-an-hour, suddenly she seemed to fall backward. She didn't drop to the floor with a thud. It seemed to Nellie as though angel hands were gently lowering her to the platform. Nellie and her mother, who had never seen Sister White in vision before, thought that she had fainted, and so did many of the audience. Often

when God gave her a vision she exclaimed "Glory," or "Glory to God," but this time she did not. The people opened the windows wider and someone brought a glass of water. Then James White said, "Don't be alarmed. Mrs. White has not fainted. She is in vision."

When James White spoke these words a quiet hush came over the audience. Nellie said years later, "It seemed as though heavenly beings were there, but we weren't frightened. Sister White lay on the lower platform, quiet and absolutely unconscious."

Then Brother White said, "Some here may have doubts in regard to Mrs. White's inspiration, and about the visions. We would be glad to have such questioners come forward and try the physical tests as given in the Bible."

Then Elder White knelt down by Ellen's side, raised her head and shoulders so that they rested on his knees. Nellie, who still sat by her mother, knew that her mother had doubted the visions, and she said, "Mother, why don't we go up and see Sister White as Brother White has invited us to do?"

So Nellie and her mother went up together and stood by Sister White's head. They could see that she did not breathe. Her eyes were open. A pleasant expression covered her face.

Other people in the congregation also came up, and two large men who worked at our Battle Creek Sanitarium stood on either side of her. Elder White spoke again, "The entire congregation has seen Sister White fall. They know that she has lost her natural strength. Now we will see if she has been supernaturally strengthened."

Her hands lay clasped lightly on her chest. Elder White spoke to the two strong men, "I want you to pull her hands apart. You have two hands to her one." So they tried. They pulled and pulled. Nellie saw the two fragile hands in the heavy grasp of the strong men, and she was afraid they would hurt her. Elder James White said, "Don't be anxious. She is safe in God's keeping, controlled by His power. Pull until you are perfectly satisfied."

"We are satisfied now," they said, "we don't need to pull any more."

"Then Brother White said, "Take one finger at a time and try to pull them apart." But they couldn't do that. They could not move one finger.

As Nellie told the story she said, "They looked . . . to see if Sister White's eyes would close, and if she was breathing, but her eyes remained open with no movement of the eyelids. She didn't breathe at al

Then Sister White took her own hands apart, and made graceful gestures. James White said to the two strong men, "Now I want you to hold her arms." So they took hold of her wrists, but they couldn't stop her movement. It looked like any child could keep her from moving her arms, but she lifted and lowered them and moved them around as though no one was near. The men seemed afraid they might hurt her, or that they might interfere with her view. But Elder White said, "No, you won't hurt her, or interfere with what she is witnessing. Although she is unconscious of anything about her, yet she is safe in God's keeping."

Nellie went back to her seat in awe, anxious to learn what Ellen White had seen in the vision. But she would have to wait until Mrs. White returned from vision to hear her words.

NELLIE SISLEY NEVER FORGOT, PART I - Study Questions

Objective: To understand God's willingness to demonstrate His choice of a prophetess to undergird the beliefs of His people.

For discussion:

Locate Battle Creek, Michigan, on a map.

1. Think of some things you know Ellen White sometimes saw in vision that might have caused her to have a pleasant expression on her face.

POSSIBLE RESPONSE: Bible events; historical events; heavenly scenes; New Earth scenes.

2. Think of some things seen by Ellen White in vision that might have caused her to have a troubled expression.

POSSIBLE RESPONSE: Events during the time of trouble; apostasy and indifference of former believers; behaviors for which she was to give reproof.

3. How does Nellie Sisley's story support these ideas:
 - a. God is omnipotent (all-powerful, strong).
 - b. God gives adequate evidence for belief in Him.

NELLIE SISLEY NEVER FORGOT

Part II

Fourteen-year-old Nellie Sisley sat stark still, watching Sister White who was in vision at the Battle Creek Church. Elder White asked those who doubted her visions to come forward and see for themselves that she did not breathe and that God had given her supernatural strength.

James White said, "Now that you are satisfied that she does have supernatural strength while in vision, we will see if her eyelids will close." A brightly burning lamp stood on the stand. Elder White took the shade off and put the lamp right in front of her eyes. Nellie thought for sure that Mrs. White would move her eyes to protect them, or certainly she would close them, but she did neither. That same natural expression remained, and her eyes were neither staring nor glassy. Sometimes the expression on her face changed. Sometimes she looked pleased, and at other times very troubled. Elder White said, "Now we will send out and get a mirror, and we will see if she is breathing." So someone went next door and borrowed a mirror, and held it close to her face, but not one particle of moisture gathered on the mirror. So the people knew that she was not breathing. But they felt of her pulse and found that her heart beat regularly and the color of her face remained rosy and healthy.

Occasionally she spoke. Her sentences were short, and she spoke of the things she was seeing in vision. At times her face appeared animated

and excited, and at other times her face looked sad, and she seemed to shrink back from what she saw.

When she began to come out of vision, she took three long, deep breaths. Elder White assisted her to a chair and said to her, "The congregation will be very interested in the vision. I know that they will want to know something about what you have seen."

Sister White replied that she would gladly tell the people what had been shown her in the vision. She talked for about a half hour. She had seen the bright and glorious home that the Lord is preparing for His people. She had also seen the destruction of the wicked people, and what troubled her greatly was that she saw some who had been Seventh-day Adventists among the lost. They had started on the narrow pathway to heaven, but for different reasons they had turned aside. Some had become discouraged; some had fallen in love with the pleasures of this world; money interested others more than serving the Lord. So quite a few who had been Adventists had wandered from the truth.

As she spoke about the New Jerusalem, she said, "Oh, I wish I could describe it. I have no language in which to tell you even a little of what has been shown me. If you could be there and see what I saw, nothing in this world could tempt you to live in such a way as to be in danger of losing eternal life."

For a time after the vision Ellen could not see very well. She told the people, "Now you may not understand why I cannot see well. But if you will turn your face to the sun for a while, then turn away, you will understand. Heaven is brighter than the sun."

Then she gradually regained her sight, and the experience of the vision did not injure her eyes at all. Many visions were given to Ellen

White, but they did not leave her weak or ill, or impair her health in any way.

After the vision Sister White talked with the people. She said, "God is concerned that we are careless. He would gladly give us things to do for Him, but we are living too lightly. We are spending too much time and thought on present interests, concerned about little things. Some of these things may be all right in themselves, but they crowd out heavenly things.

As Nellie and her mother went home that night, they said to themselves, "How glad we are that we went to prayer meeting tonight. Now we have seen Sister White in vision. We know that God gives her visions." And they determined in their hearts to study the counsels that were written out, and apply them to their own lives.

Nellie married a young minister a few years later, and she spent large portion of her life serving the Lord in America and Australia. While in Australia she often traveled with Sister White, and at times she and her husband lived at Sunnyside. But Nellie never forgot that Friday evening in 1868 when she and her mother went to prayer meeting in the Battle Creek church and she saw Ellen White in vision.

NELLIE SISLEY NEVER FORGOT, PART 2 - Study Questions

Objective: To examine the serendipitous effects of Ellen White's public visions.

For discussion:

Locate Sunnyside, Australia, on a map.

1. Experiment with a mirror to discover the moisture your breathing deposits. See if you can breathe on a mirror without leaving a trace of moisture.
2. Do you think that everyone at prayer meeting the night Nellie Sisley saw Ellen White in vision was convinced that Ellen White was God's prophetess? Why?

3. Do you think that everyone at prayer meeting remained faithful to God because of what they saw that night? Explain your response.

POSSIBLE RESPONSE: Faith based merely on supernatural manifestations is not firmly grounded.

4. What did Nellie and her mother do to help "ground" their faith?

POSSIBLE RESPONSE: Studied the counsels; applied the counsels to their lives.

A HORSE AND CARRIAGE

During the early years of their marriage James and Ellen White experienced hard times. They had little money, and Ellen was so frail. She often rose from her sick bed to go somewhere or carry a message to someone because God told her to go. For these journeys, God always strengthened her, but much of the traveling they did was difficult and tiring.

When they must travel long distances they went the best way they could with what money they had. Automobiles and airplanes were not known in those days. Sometimes they went in a carriage or sleigh loaned by friends. Often they traveled by second-class railway cars, or on the lower decks of small ships where thick clouds of tobacco smoke choked Ellen and made her faint. At night they slept on the floor or on boxes or bags of grain. They used overcoats and shawls for blankets. When James and Ellen closed their eyes and tried to sleep, swearing and obscene words from the other passengers rang in their ears and kept them awake; and the deck passengers often played cards and drank until very late in the night.

One day a request came for Ellen to speak to a group of believers at Sutton, Vermont. They would have to make the forty-mile trip in a stage-coach that ran over the rough, dusty roads. The coach stopped for fresh horses every ten miles, giving the passengers a series of ten-minute breaks. When they finally got to Sutton, Ellen looked so weak and tired that the friends who welcomed them were alarmed and concerned at her condition.

Even James White looked quite "used up."

These believers at Sutton were dedicated, warm-hearted people who wanted to see the message go quickly. They realized how important the Whites were to the growing church and they valued their ministry. The believers decided to do something. They called a secret meeting to discuss the matter, and decided to take up a collection and purchase a horse and carriage for the Whites. "Then these dear people can drive wherever the Lord sends them in so much more comfort."

They did take up the collection and gave generously. When the believers counted the offering, they had \$175.00, which they felt sure would purchase both carriage and horse. They selected a well-built, comfortable buggy, but after discussing the horse, they decided to give the Whites a choice of several animals being offered for sale.

On that Sunday night before the Whites were to leave Sutton and return home to Rochester, Ellen found herself in vision. She stood at a cross-roads where several men had gathered. The men had three horses with them and they asked James White to look them over and choose one. One horse was a high-spirited sorrel. When the men stepped forward to examine this horse, the angel in the vision turned to Ellen and said, "Not this one."

Then someone brought forward a large gray horse, clumsy-footed and awkward. Again the angel spoke, "Not this one."

The third horse was a big dappled chestnut with an intelligent face, and arched neck and sway-backed. "This is the horse for you," the angel said. Ellen Told her husband about the strange vision.

The following morning the Whites were taken to the crossroads where twenty men greeted them. The men brought out the three horses. Ellen immediately recognized them as the same horses she had seen the night before

in vision; the nervous sorrel, the clumsy gray, and the big sway-backed chestnut named Charlie. Of course the Whites chose old Charlie. Then the men presented the Whites with the beautiful new buggy. They harnessed Charlie in a fine new harness and fastened him between the shafts of the shining buggy.

James and Ellen had never owned a carriage before. They had known which horse to choose because of the vision, but they knew nothing about the fine carriage. Such a surprise almost overwhelmed them. They might even have hesitated to accept so beautiful a conveyance had it not been for the vision. They knew that God understood all about this particular horse and this particular carriage. He approved of these humble and obedient servants of His having a nice, new buggy to travel to His appointments for Him. They thanked the good people of Sutton with all their hearts and especially they thanked God who had shown them this great mercy.

Driving home to Rochester through the beautiful fields, groves, and pastures in the sweet air of the open country was so much more enjoyable than the stuffy, smokey stage coach. They loved old Charlie and he loved them. They always took good care of him and although they took long trips in their carriage, they never drove their horse too far in one stretch, or failed to give him good care. That same autumn while traveling the five hundred miles between their home in Rochester, New York, to Bangor, Maine, they drove through miles of orchard land where apples hung ripe on the trees and fallen fruit lay on the ground. Charlie could never pass up a red apple without wanting to eat it. James White loosened the check rein so that Charlie could get his head down to the ground where he nuzzled the apples to his heart's content.

The long trip of one thousand miles lasted two months and faithful old

Charlie brought the little family safely home in better health than when they started the long journey.

The Whites were always generous with their horse and carriage. When other workers needed to go on trips in God's service, James and Ellen allowed them to borrow old Charlie and the carriage.

Although old Charlie never knew it, he was a specially favored horse. God showed him to Ellen White in a vision and chose him to be her faithful servant.

A HORSE AND A CARRIAGE - Study Questions

Objective: To recognize God's providence in motivating benevolence toward His workers and providing information on using such gifts most profitably.

For discussion:

1. If someone gave you \$175 today to use for God's work, what would you want to do with it?
2. When you are making a choice among items to purchase, what are some good questions to ask?
 - a. (Do I need it?
 - b. Is this the best for the money?
 - c. Is it safe?
 - d. Is it good for me?)
3. What reasons might the Whites have had for choosing the high-spirited sorrel rather than Charlie?
4. What problems do you think the Whites would have had if they had chosen the high-spirited sorrel? The clumsy horse? What might have influenced them to bypass Charlie if Ellen White hadn't had the vision?

A BRIDGE OF ICE

Winter had come and James and Ellen White went to Illinois to visit some of the believers who had moved west. They stayed in the homes of Josiah Hart and Elon Everetts in Round Grove. These two men had preached the message of Jesus' second coming for a while, but now they had gotten some of the rich new land and were spending their time farming. God used James and Ellen White's visit to show them that they should go back and work for the Lord again.

One evening, while at their home, Ellen saw in vision the sad condition of some believers at Waukon, Iowa. She told her husband, "We must all go up to Waukon and help the brethren there."

Waukon lay on the other side of the great Mississippi River and about two hundred miles away. They would have to travel by wagon or sleigh. That was the only possible way.

Since winter had begun with heavy snowstorms, Josiah Hart and Elon Everetts decided to take the Whites to Waukon with their sleigh and team of horses.

The night before they intended to start, rain began to fall. It came down hard all day and the snow started to melt. "What about the trip to Waukon?" Josiah Hart asked Ellen White.

"We shall go," she spoke with firm determination.

"Yes, if the Lord works a miracle," Josiah Hart shook his head.

That night Ellen White rose from her bed several times to look out the window to see if the weather had changed. She knew how much the believers

in Waukon needed encouragement. Several of them had left the work of preaching Jesus' coming and had settled down to become farmers. She prayed that if God wanted them to go to Waukon, He would change the rain to snow.

About daylight the weather turned colder. Snow began to fall so sleighing could be enjoyable. They started their journey north about five o'clock that afternoon, in the sleigh behind a team of lively horses. Snow fell all the way to Greene Vale, where they stopped to hold some meetings with believers.

So much snow fell that they were snowed in for a week. "What about Waukon?" Elon Everetts asked Ellen White.

"We shall go," she answered.

When they felt that their work for God in Greene Vale had been finished, they started on their way. Now, again, the snow turned to rain. They had come to the banks of the Mississippi. No bridge crossed the river, but it had frozen during the cold weather and the men thought they could cross safely on the ice. People on the Illinois shore warned them, "Look, the rain had made the ice all mushy on top. Several teams have already broken through the ice and barely escaped drowning."

Now Josiah Hart reined in the team of horses at the river's edge. On top of the ice lay water a foot deep. He stood up in the sleigh and pointed his whip handle at the frozen river. "Is it forward to Iowa or back to Illinois? We have come to the Red Sea. Do we cross?"

Ellen White raised her voice. "Go forward, trusting in Israel's God!"

Josiah eased horses and sleigh down onto the ice. The water came up almost to the sleigh box. The horses splashed slowly forward. They all prayed. Any moment they might strike a weak spot and plunge into the icy waters.

Now people began to gather on the far bank to watch them cross. They had passed midstream now and approached the Iowa shore. The same God Who had divided the Red Sea now froze the waters of the Mississippi in the path of the sleigh.

They reached the shore welcomed by glad shouts from the crowd who had been watching. They pressed on toward Waukon, but still had a long distance to go, and Friday evening darkened around them. They stopped at a hotel in Dubuque and spent the Sabbath there. In the hotel parlor they held meetings and sang gospel songs of deliverance and hope. The hotel keeper and all his guests delighted in such unusual entertainment. They begged them to stop on their way back.

On Sunday morning they started on. Sleet and snow driven by a fierce and chilling wind struck the riders in the open sleigh. They wrapped quilts and buffalo robes around them and watched one another's faces. "Sister, your nose is freezing! Brother, your ear is white," they would call to each other.

For four days they rode on and finally on Wednesday evening, they reached Waukon, but no warm welcome awaited them. They received a chilly reception, but they let no discouragement enter their minds. "We have come in the name and power of God," Ellen told her husband. "Let us pray for victory."

On Thursday evening they gathered to sing old Advent hymns and the sweet melodies warmed their hearts. James White spoke. Brother Hart and Brother Everetts told of their experiences. The glow of their first love began to warm those cold hearts in Waukon.

They knelt to pray and God gave Ellen a vision. He showed her just why these believers had backslidden. When she came out of vision she spoke them. "If you will open the door of your heart now, Jesus will come

in and walk in our midst with power."

John Loughborough's wife stood up. She spoke to James and Ellen White. "I am so glad you have come. I have been wrong. I have sinned. I influenced my husband to leave God's work. God forgive me! Lord Jesus come into my heart. It is all Yours!"

Many confessed their sins, and the love of Jesus came in. The meetings held over Friday into Sabbath. Those who had been cold were brought back. John Loughborough stood up. "I have laid up my hammer. I have driven my last nail. From this day I hold only the Sword of the Spirit, and I will never give it up, so help me God."

When James and Ellen White left Waukon, John Loughborough went with them. He took up active work for God, never to lay it down for the remaining seventy years of his noble life. His uncle and aunt were converted. So was the family of Cyprian Stevens.

One of the Stevens girls, Angeline, married John Nevins Andrews the following spring. John Andrews and his children were the first missionaries sent by the church to a foreign field. His children and grandchildren have been faithful to God's truth and have given many years of service to God.

Ezra Butler, who had done such dedicated work in the eastern states, rekindled the fire of his devotion and stood firmly for God again. His son, George, had also wandered, but he, too, came back and became a mighty worker for the Lord, standing like a rock before the rising tide of wrong. Elder George Butler became the president of the General Conference when James White relinquished that post. He also helped establish the early work in Europe.

At that Waukon meeting the believers were strengthened to meet the trials that God knew would come. The work in Iowa went forward with great strength and as a result, many workers for Christ trace the beginning of their strength

! dedication back to Iowa.

So the bridge of ice that God laid under the fragile sleigh of His servants that wintry day so long ago, carried the fire of heaven to Waukon, Iowa, and rekindled a flame that shall burn even to eternity.

A BRIDGE OF ICE - Study Questions

Objective: To discover how God cares for His children who are carrying out His directions.

For discussion:

1. Why would Satan want to prevent the Whites' trip to Waukon?
(He knew there were talented people there who could do great things for God if encouraged. "See the storms and tempests. Satan is working in the atmosphere; he is poisoning the atmosphere, and here we are dependent upon God for our lives."--Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 52.)
2. Compare the Whites' trip across the Mississippi River and Israel's trip across the Red Sea.
(Both times Satan hoped to destroy God's people.
At the Red Sea, God parted the waters.
At the Mississippi River God froze the waters.
Moses was God's spokesman to Israel.
Ellen White spoke directions to the rest of the party.)
3. Which of the following would be scariest for you? Role-play one of the suggestions.
 - a. To greet a stranger in Sabbath School or school and offer to show the person around.
 - b. To pray in public.
 - c. To participate in discussion at a new church or school.
 - d. To tell someone else what you know about Jesus.
 - e. To say, "I have done wrong."
4. Name a time when you did something scary or hard because you wanted to encourage someone else.

YOUR HOUSE IS THE WORLD

Europe: Your House is the World

Asia: The Dove and the Book

South America: Crisis in Argentina

Australia: Instead of a Windmill

Southern Asia: A Book and a Baby

South Sea Islands: Harvest on Pitcairn Island

North America: Ellen and the Madison School

YOUR HOUSE IS THE WORLD

Mother spread a big beach towel on the soft green grass under the big elm tree. Then she brought a dishpan heaped with green peas. "Come, Dennis," she called, "help me shell these peas, and we can talk some more about Ellen White."

Dennis came running. "Are you going to freeze all those peas?"

"Yes, and a couple more panfuls too, if I can get them shelled."

Dennis sat down and began to shell peas into his own pan. "You must have gotten some big gunny bags of fresh peas from the cannery."

"That's just what I did. Aren't they beautiful!"

Dennis agreed that the peas looked very nice indeed, but he felt eager to hear more about Ellen White. "Do you have a special story to tell me today?"

"Yes, I thought you would like to hear about how God showed Ellen that her work was not just for a few people on the East coast of the United States, but included the whole world."

"Did He show her a vision?" Dennis asked, tossing a handful of peas into his pan.

"Yes, in 1848, just four years after their great disappointment and while Ellen was still very young, God gave her this special vision. The Seventh-day Adventist church had not even been named yet. God showed her the world in vision. It hung there in space shrouded in dense dark

ness; but the angel told her to look, and right before her eyes she saw jets of light like stars flashing out in the darkness. More and more of the star-like lights appeared and seemed to multiply.

"What did those lights represent?" Dennis had learned that most of the things Ellen saw in vision had a deep and beautiful meaning.

"The angel told her that each light represented a believer in Jesus who loved Him and kept His commandments. She watched them shine out from the East and West, from North and South, lighting the whole world with their radiance."

"So that's when they began sending out foreign missionaries?"

"No, not yet." Mother shook out her apron and went to bring another pan of peas. "You see, Dennis, God's people were few in number and very poor. Their ideas were small. They had not yet any idea of how large

d's work would grow, or how many thousands of people would believe, or how many hundreds of churches would be built."

"Well, when did the missionaries first go to foreign fields?"

"The first Seventh-day Adventist missionary that went to Europe was a converted Catholic priest. His name was Michael Bonaventura Czechowski. He had been born in Poland and received an excellent education. Finally he discovered a Bible and God opened his eyes to its truth and beauty."

"What happened to him?"

"The same thing that happened to Martin Luther. He tried to reform the Catholic church and suffered severe persecution. He then fled to America where he joined the Baptist church. Later he accepted the Seventh-

day Adventist message and longed to return to Europe where he wanted to speak God's truth to the Pope himself."

"Did he get to talk to the Pope?"

"No, but he had made up his mind to return to Europe and asked the Advent believers to give money to send him, but they couldn't because they were so poor. So he asked the First-day Adventists to send him, and they did. But they did not realize that his heart burned with the Seventh-day Adventist truth. He preached it all over Europe."

"So this man became our first missionary to Europe."

"Yes, he organized the first Seventh-day Adventist company in Tremelan, Switzerland, on New Year's Day, 1867. He did not tell them that there were believers in the United States. When he left them, they discovered some old copies of Review & Herald in his papers and they wrote to the Review & Herald office for information and were soon in touch with the young church in America."

"I think that it is really wonderful how God helped the new Adventists in Switzerland get in touch with the believers in the United States. It shows that God kept close watch over His church."

Mother smiled and emptied her apronful of shelled peas into her large kettle. "Yes, from that day forward, the foreign mission work grew and prospered. In 1874 Elder J. N. Andrews and his two children, Charles and Mary, went to Europe. (Mrs. Andrews had died two years before.)"

"In that same year, in the vision, Ellen White heard the angel say, 'Your light must not be put under a bushel, or under a bed, but on a

candlestick that it may give light to all that are in the house. Your
house is the world.'

"Elder and Mrs. John G. Matteson sailed for Denmark in the spring of 1877. In that country Elder Matteson found no private home large enough for the crowds who wanted to hear him. Halls were too expensive so he held meetings in barns.

"The next year in Christiania, Norway, he announced meetings to be held in two large rooms of his house. The people began coming an hour before time. They filled all the rooms and stairs and many had to go away. So he hired a gymnasium which could seat six hundred, but often more than a thousand crowded in."

Dennis had stopped shelling peas and sat looking at his mother with big, round eyes as Mother added, "All heaven must have been happy to see the Adventist missionaries bringing the truth of God's love to the hungry people in Europe."

As Dennis picked up another handful of peas he wondered to himself what the early pioneers would say if they could see how much the work in Europe and all over the world had grown since their early efforts.

YOUR HOUSE IS THE WORLD - Study Questions

Objective: To understand how God led the way in the spread of the gospel when His people had no idea that it should happen or how it could happen.

For discussion:

Locate on a map Christiania, Norway; Poland; Italy; the United States; Switzerland; Battle Creek.

1. On a map of the world, trace the travels of Michael Czechowski.
2. How did the believers in Battle Creek help Michael Czechowski's missionary work without even knowing about it?
3. Two years after he arrived in Europe, Matteson bought a hand press, which he placed in his house. With it, he printed Tidernes Tegn, a paper about Jesus' soon coming. The ink dried so slowly on the paper that it smeared. "We'll hang the papers on the clothesline to dry," Matteson announced to his children. They hung the papers up, then folded and mailed them when they were ready. It took all week to prepare the little weekly paper for 1,500 subscribers. It was important to keep faith with the subscribers--and to keep food on the table, for the paper provided the family income. By 1886 there was a new press. New papers were printed in a new building. Soon thereafter Ellen White visited the press. "This is the very press building I saw in vision years ago," she announced.

THE DOVE AND THE BOOK

The largest island of the Philippines is Luzon. On this island, in the small village of Famyi an old man, Regino Balaoise, lived. He figured that he must be about one hundred fifteen years old. His neighbors agreed, because when many of them were little children, Regino was already an old, old man. He had lived so long that he didn't work any more and he didn't walk far, but his eyes were still strong enough to read and he felt thankful because he knew how to read.

He enjoyed sitting in front of his house and watching the village people go back and forth. Sometimes they called greetings to him and he would ask them about their children.

When Regino wanted to read, he sat in his back garden under the thick shade of the mango trees where he could be quiet.

One sunny day when Regino sat in front of his house, a young man came along the street selling a book. He showed the book to Regino with its beautiful pictures and told him about the good words that were written in the book. Regino ordered a book and a few days later the young man brought it. Regino paid for it and took it out to his favorite reading place in the back garden where he could look at it. He opened the book and began looking at the pictures. Then he turned to the first chapter and began to read. The book's name was THE GREAT CONTROVERSY.

Regino had not been reading long when he heard a fluttering sound. He looked up and saw a white dove circling around his head. "Now this is strange," he said aloud to himself. "I never saw a bird act like this before." Then he went on reading and after a while the bird flew away.

The next day Regino again took his new book to the back garden and sat down to read. He had barely opened it, when the white dove came again and fluttered in circles around his head. "This must be a good book," he told himself. "Maybe the bird has been sent to let me know that I am doing right to read it." Then he decided to tell his friends about it. If the book was that good, maybe he should share it with them.

Regino got up from his comfortable chair and walked to the front of his house where he found two of his friends. "Come to my back garden and see the white dove that comes whenever I read this book." He held it up for them to see.

The old man's friends looked at each other and smiled.

"You don't believe me," he said. "Come with me and watch me read and then you will know that I speak the truth."

Regino had grown so old that everyone in the village of Famyi had great respect for him, so his friends followed him into the shade of the mango tree. "Now be quiet and watch. When I begin to read, the dove will come."

He settled himself in his chair and opened the book. He began to read. One of his friends caught his breath sharply and pointed to the sky where a beautiful white dove flew gracefully to Regino and began to circle round his head. The men gasped in astonishment.

"What does it mean?" None of them could explain.

Regino held up the book, THE GREAT CONTROVERSY. "I think it means that this book is good. Whoever sends the dove wants us to read it."

Regino and all his fellow villagers were Roman Catholic and they had great respect for holy things. They knew the dove was holy because they had seen pictures of a white dove hovering over Jesus' head after He was baptized. "Yes, one of the men said. "God must want us to read that book. Maybe we should call the other village folk, too."

After that many of the people of Famyi came every day to hear the book read. Sometimes Regino read and sometimes one of his friends read. After the people began to gather every day and listen to the book, the dove did not come so often. Some days it did not come at all.

Then one day, after they had almost finished the big book, Regino sat in his back garden alone and the white dove came back and spoke three words to him. "Keep the Sabbath!"

"The Sabbath! The Sabbath!" Regino cried out startled. Oh yes, he knew about the seventh-day Sabbath. The book had taught them all about it and how important it is for us to honor the Sabbath Day.

Regino arose at once and went to find his friends. "The bird has spoken," he told them. "God sent the dove to show us that we must read the book. Now He has sent the dove back to speak to us and tell us to keep the Sabbath just as the book has taught us."

The village people who had listened to the words from the book agreed with Regino and they decided to keep the seventh-day Sabbath. They did

know that God had spoken to them and they must obey Him. They decided to form a church of their own. They called it The Church of the Pure Religion. Then the man who had helped Regino read THE GREAT CONTROVERSY told the new church members, "We ought to be baptized just as the book told us.

"But who will baptize us?"

"Regino will baptize me," the man said. "Then I will baptize him. Then we both will baptize the rest of you." So they did just that. The new little church had nineteen members.

Then one day the young man who had sold Regino THE GREAT CONTROVERSY came back to visit the village of Famyi. The people welcomed him with great gladness and told him about the dove who told them to keep the Sabbath and how they had joined together in a church. Of course, the young colporteur rejoiced with them. He called a minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who organized Regino and his neighbors into the first Seventh-day Adventist Church in that area.

THE DOVE AND THE BOOK - Study Questions

Objective: To recognize God's myriad ways of encouraging His people.

For discussion:

Locate on a map Luzon, largest island of the Philippines.

1. What did the Spirit use to bring truth to Regino?

(A book, The Great Controversy, written by Ellen White.

A colporteur, who sold the book to Regino.)

2. Of what is the dove a symbol? Read John 1:32.
3. What special job does the Spirit of God have that made it important for Him to be near Regino? (See John 16:10, 11.)
4. Think of ways Regino might have responded to the book if he hadn't had the Spirit to change his heart.

("I can't understand."

"This isn't important."

"I'm bored by this."

"I don't care what it says, I'm reading it for enjoyment.")

5. What makes you think that the Spirit was present when Regino read

The Great Controversy? (Use evidence from the story.)

(Since the Spirit guides into all truth and convicts people's hearts of truth, and Regino became convicted of truth, the Spirit must have been working on his heart. The evidence in the life is the best evidence we have of the presence of the Spirit.)

6. It is appropriate to pray for the help of the Spirit. We don't know how the Spirit helps, because it's so much like _____.

(See John 3:8.)

CRISIS IN ARGENTINA

The bright sunlight shone through the open window and made patterns on the office floor where Dr. Fernando Chaij (pronounce Chī) and Elder Hector Peverini sat discussing the latest Mission crisis. It was 1954, a year of change in the government of Argentina. A committee of three men had been appointed by the government to recommend needed reforms in the laws.

"I am sure an effort will be made to remove religious liberty provisions from the new constitution." Dr. Chaij looked with earnest eyes at his fellow worker. "We ought to do something, but what can we do?"

"Of the three committee members, two are outspoken Catholics and certainly are not in favor of religious liberty for anyone, Elder Peverini said. The third committee member is a professor at the University of Argentina, and he is a foremost authority on constitutional law in this country. Also, he is known to be a liberal. No doubt his influence will carry great weight in any discussions of reform or change in the constitution."

"Do you suppose we can go see him?" Dr. Chaij asked.

"We can try," said Elder Peverini. "Let us pray about it right now." So the two men knelt and asked the Lord for guidance and wisdom, and special help from God's Holy Spirit in order to prevent laws that would not allow them to preach and teach in their churches and institutions

in Argentina.

They arranged an appointment with the noted professor and went to his private office at the University. The professor ushered them in with great courtesy. The three spent an hour discussing the various aspects of religious liberty and the blessings it brought to all the citizens. Elder Peverini and Dr. Chaij found the professor unexpectedly warm toward their beliefs and open to their suggestions. While Dr. Chaij talked, Elder Peverini prayed silently and earnestly, and when Elder Peverini took over the conversation, Dr. Chaij offered up earnest petitions that God's Spirit would speak to this man and influence him to protect religious freedom.

Finally the professor said, "Let me show you gentlemen the best book I have ever found on this subject of religious liberty." He arose from his chair and went to a bookcase on the wall. They saw him take down an old and well-worn copy of The Great Controversy, the book Ellen White wrote about the way Satan has tried to take away man's freedom. When the professor opened the book Dr. Chaij and Elder Peverini saw that it had been heavily underlined on many of the pages. They saw, also, that it was a very early edition of the book. Both men marveled that God had already placed this remarkable book in this lawyer's hands to influence him to fight the battle for religious liberty in the constitutional committee in Buenos Aires. Millions of people would enjoy added years of freedom because of it. They left the place with hearts full of praise and thanksgiving. God had sent His messenger before them-- in the form of a book, The Great Controversy.

Since Ellen White's books came from God, and His Holy Spirit is always active wherever they are distributed, some surprising experiences

attend our faithful colporteurs.

In a town in Northern Brazil, Juan Olimpo went from house to house selling Christ Our Saviour. He showed the book at one home where the lady seemed to want it very much, but her husband came home while Olimpo was still talking about the book with the lady. Furious with anger, the man threw the colporteur out of the house.

However, the wife had been so attracted by the book that she went to every hotel and hostel in town trying to find the bookseller. When she found him, she ordered a copy to be delivered at her home during hours when her husband would be away.

When Olimpo came to deliver the book, the husband had unexpectedly come home and was working in the garden behind the house. One of the small sons saw the man with the book coming and called out, "Daddy! that book seller is here again!" The father rushed into the house and in a frightful rage, grabbed Olimpo and flung him and his book out of the house for the second time.

But the wife still wanted that book. She made a sign to the colporteur which he understood. Later she went to the hotel where she bought the book and took it home.

Olimpo often wondered about that copy of Christ Our Saviour. Did the woman ever get to read it? At such times he prayed that God would watch over the precious Gospel seed and bring forth fruit to His glory.

For seven years Olimpo traveled the streets and highways of Brazil's towns and cities, faithfully selling the books which had power to turn men from sin to righteousness, from sorrow to rejoicing. One day while he walked a city street, he felt a hand on his shoulder. He turned to face the man who had touched him.

"Aren't you the man who sold my wife a book several years ago?"

Then Olimpo recognized him--the fellow who had twice thrown him out of his house with violence. Every muscle in his body tightened. Surely this man would punish him with a terrible beating this time.

To his surprise, the man made no move to attack him, and Olimpo looked into his eyes. They twinkled with joy and he held out his hand. "My friend," he said, "I want you to know that by that book, my wife, my aunt and I have accepted God's truth, and we are now members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

So in a lawyer's office or in a laboring man's home, the mighty Spirit of God moves to accomplish His purpose. God has said, "My word shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please."
saiah 55:11

CRISIS IN ARGENTINA - Study Questions

Objectives: To perceive the impact that a book containing messages from God can have on an honest person.

To see how God's power works through His messages.

To perceive and emulate the patience of God in working with apparently rebellious people.

Vocabulary: "religious liberty provisions"

For discussion:

1. If the Buenos Aires lawyer had said, "I'll vote that everyone should study the Seventh-day Adventist religion and join your church," what do you think Dr. Chaij and Elder Peverini would have said?
2. Read The Great Controversy, pp. 591-592. What sentence or sentences do you think the Buenos Aires lawyer might have underlined? Give a reason for your choice.
3. After reading the following sentences, the lawyer from Buenos Aires might have said, "I want to . . ." (Complete the sentence.)
"God never forces the will or the conscience; but Satan's constant resort--to gain control of those he cannot otherwise seduce--is compulsion by cruelty. Through fear or force he endeavors to rule the consicnece. . . . To accomplish this, he works through both religious and secular authorities, moving them to the enforcement of human laws in defiance of the law of God."--The Great Controversy, p. 591.

INSTEAD OF A WINDMILL

Ellen White loved the land. She cherished every beautiful thing that grew. She marveled over the power of God that could change soil, rain and sunshine into the lovely shapes and colors of flowers. She often mentioned the flowers of heaven in her talks, and she taught precious lessons from Jesus and His love of the lilies.

She knew that God had put the first man and woman into a garden. The first work He gave them was arranging and training the vines that made their home. Adam and Eve had walls of living plants, flowering trees and vines heavy with delicious ripe fruit. Ellen White would have delighted in such a house herself. But she contented herself with a garden which she lovingly tended.

Our story begins when she lived in Australia on the big farm where Avondale College was being built. God had told her that the farm would bring forth abundant fruit and vegetables to supply the institutions that were being established there. She named her home Sunnyside, and the land surely received plenty of sunshine.

She had planted a large garden at Sunnyside, and this morning she walked out to look at it. The weather had been dry for days and although the little green plants had come up, they looked wilted this morning. The long rows stood drooping and dust covered.

She walked toward Iram Jones, the farm's manager, who worked close by. Before she could say a word, he spoke, "Don't be discouraged. This

doesn't have to happen every time the rains don't come on time. All we need is a good windmill. There is plenty of water under the soil. With irrigation it will produce abundant crops."

Ellen White continued to look upon the caked, dry soil with cracks criss-crossing it in every direction. "How much would a windmill cost?" She lifted her eyes to meet his. "Please find out how much it will cost and whether we can get one on credit."

While the man hurried away to get the information for her, she thought of many other things. The young Avondale school needed so many things. She always saved all she could. For some months she had been saving money for a windmill and now she felt that perhaps the time had come to spend it.

A gust of hot wind blew dust in her eyes. All the people at both the sanitarium and the college needed the fresh fruit and vegetables a garden would bring forth, if they could only have a windmill to pump the life-giving water. Slowly she walked back to her home. She looked across the road to her son Willie's house, where he lived with his family. Even Willie's little children needed the benefits of a well-watered garden. Yes, her mind was settled about it. She would use her little hoard of savings and see that the thirsty land and the shriveled plants got water.

She saw Willie crossing the road, coming toward her. He did this every day when they were both at home, so his coming did not surprise her, but his discouraged attitude did. He looked depressed and utterly tired. "Oh Willie," she said, "we will all feel much better when the rains begin."

"It isn't the weather, Mother," he took her arm, "it's the bills. The plasterers over at the new sanitarium want their pay and we have no money to give them." They walked into the house together.

"Will they not be willing to wait a few days for the money?"

"They have already waited patiently. Payday is long past. These men are not Adventists. We want our dealings with them to be just and fair." He slumped down in a chair and began to fan himself with his hat. Then he went on to tell her about other pressing debts and he concluded, "The leaders are almost sick with worry over the financial pinch."

Then Ellen told her son about her conversation with the farm manager and how she had decided to purchase a windmill with the money she had been saving. "But now," she said, "I will cancel that plan. I will give you the money and trust in the Lord to send relief. Those men must be paid." She went and got the money and laid it in his hand.

Willie hesitated. He knew all about the drought and the great relief a windmill would be, but he rose to go. "You know how great a burden this key is lifting. Now I can pay the workers tonight. God knows our needs." He hurried home to tell May, his wife, the good news.

A stifling night settled down over Sunnyside and the new buildings on the Avondale campus project. Ellen White knelt before her open window and thanked God for all His merciful provision and His precious promises. She prayed for rain and knew that from every home there on the new campus, prayers were being offered for rain. Ellen prayed that God would guide in every detail of the work in Australia.

The next morning she looked out to see lightning streaking through dark clouds on the horizon. She heard the roll of thunder becoming louder every moment. Then the thunder shower broke. Huge raindrops splashed the dry gardens. Thirsty land took in moisture until every crack disappeared. Dust turned to mud and the saturated earth began to overflow until nearby

Dora Creek swelled out of its banks. Ellen bowed her head and praised God.

After that first downpour lighter showers continued until most of the crops were saved.

A few days later a letter came for Ellen White. She opened it and a bank draft fell out. She looked at it--a large donation from a friend, large enough to settle all those debts that had worried the school leaders. She knelt to thank the Lord. Then she walked out in her garden. Every leaf on every plant shone with healthy green. All the dust had been washed away. The cool, sweet breath of the land filled her nostrils with delight.

Iram Jones straightened up from his weeding. "Well, God took care of that problem, didn't He. Faith did it again," he smiled.

"Yes, instead of a windmill, He opened the windows of heaven."

INSTEAD OF A WINDMILL - Study Questions

Objective: To understand that God expects us to use our best judgment to advance His cause.

For discussion:

1. Tell whether each statement below is true or false. Correct the false statements.
 - a. When Ellen decided against buying a windmill, she decided against having a good garden.
 - b. When Ellen White decided not to buy a windmill, she put her trust in God for rain.
 - c. If Ellen White had decided to buy beautiful new clothes instead of a windmill, she would have been demonstrating her faith in God's sending rain.
 - d. If Ellen White had bought a windmill, she would have shown that she lacked faith in God's ability to water the earth.
 - e. Ellen White decided to use her windmill money to pay the laborers and thus defend the reputation of God and His work.
2. Ellen White had to choose to use her money for one of two good things: a windmill or payment of the workers.
 - a. Which choice seemed more beneficial to her personally?
 - b. Which choice would you have advised her to make?

A BOOK AND A BABY

Alim held tight to Little Brother's hand and tossed a stone into the canal. He liked to amuse the baby while Mother worked. She trusted him to keep the little boy away from the deep canal that flowed through the village past their house.

Alim heard a strange sound that made him look toward the house next door. There, he saw a young man dressed in white and people running up onto the porch to look at something the man held in his hand. Alim pulled Little Brother along and pushed into the crowd until he could see the queer thing the man held in his hand - a book with lots of pictures.

When Alim saw their neighbor pay his money and take the book, he hurried Little Brother home. "Mother, Father, a man is coming," he called from the front steps.

The whole family met the young man on the porch and sat down there to look at the pictures and hear about the book.

"This is a book about God," the man told them. "It tells how He made the earth, water, animals, plants and people, too. Can you read Malay?" He looked at Father. Father nodded and the man looked happy.

Alim couldn't sit still. He danced up and down the wooden steps. He forgot everything but the wonderful book. He whispered to Mother, "Get it. Get it. I know it's good!"

The young man smiled and told more about God and the book he held, written by Ellen White. Father and Mother listened so eagerly that Alim felt sure they would never let the man take that book away. Finally the man handed the book to Father and stood up.

Then Mother looked at Alim. "Where's the baby?"

Alim's heart began to race. He leaped up from the steps and looked around. He had forgotten all about Little Brother! He ran and looked under their house and under the neighbor's house, but he could not see a little fat boy anywhere. Father and Mother looked around for a moment. Then Father leaped into the canal and disappeared under the water. The young book-seller jerked off his coat and jumped in, too. Neighbor men came running and dived in one after another. Mother screamed and pulled her long black hair in agony. The neighboring women began to wail.

Alim felt so frightened, he could not speak. He saw his father come up, empty handed. One of the neighbor men came up with nothing. Alim knew he could not stand that screaming another minute. He decided to throw himself into the canal, too.

Just then the young man came up holding in his arms the limp form of Little Brother. The women ran to help him up the steep bank, while all the men scrambled out of the water. They laid the baby on the grass by the canal bank.

"He is dead!" someone shouted. "He must have been under the water for fifteen minutes!"

Then the awful wailing and screaming began again, but louder and more terrible this time. Alim threw himself on the ground and felt that his heart would burst with sorrow, because surely it had been his fault that the baby had fallen into the canal. He should have watched him every

moment. Now he wanted to die, too!

Then he heard the young man's voice. "Listen, my friends. Listen! Let us ask God to bring back the little child. He knows that the baby fell into the canal because you were all looking at God's book."

The wailing and crying stopped. Alim lifted his head. The young man was kneeling by Little Brother with his hand on the baby's forehead. And he spoke to God.

"Our Father in heaven, bring the breath of life back to this little child, for Your glory. Amen."

Alim stared intently at his brother. Had he seen a flicker of the baby's eyelids? Yes, Little Brother opened his eyes! Then he sat up. Mother grabbed her baby with a cry of joy.

Then Father laid his hand on the young book-seller's arm. "Stay with us, young man," he said. "Teach us about this God who brings the dead back to life."

The young colporteur agreed to stay and teach the people of that village, and today in the homes along the canal that brought death the light of the gospel shines unto eternal life.

A BOOK AND A BABY - Study Questions

Objective: To recognize the blessing of God that has aided the spread of His word through the efforts of a great network of people, including printers, translators, and colporteurs.

For discussion:

Locate Malaysia on the map.

1. In the last year of her life, Ellen White said, "In the foreign languages the Lord designs that the circulation of our books shall be greatly increased."--Life Sketches, p. 447.

Imagine the many people who now know the Lord because this counsel was followed. When Alim and Ellen White meet in heaven, what story might Alim tell her?

2. What vision might Ellen White recall when Alim tells her his story?

(In November, 1848, Ellen White had a vision that instructed her husband to print a small paper about the good news of Jesus' coming. "From this small beginning," she said, "it was shown to me to be like streams of light that went clear round the world." That paper was first printed in Middletown, Connecticut. Use a globe, and fasten a string in New England to represent "streams of light" from the beginning of James White's printing; stretch it to Malaysia and other parts of the globe where you know people have learned the good news about Jesus.

3. Do you know or have you ever met a printer, translator, or colporteur who works for God? Tell what you can about his work.
4. Make a list of the ways God has helped through the centuries to prepare the way for the spread of His Word on the printed page.

(He helped people develop an alphabet and writing skills.

He guided in the steps that led to printing.

He sent messages about publishing, especially in Colporteur Ministry and Counsels on Publishing Work.

He blesses the efforts of colporteurs.

HARVEST ON PITCAIRN ISLAND

Out in the wide and lonely Pacific Ocean, far from any other land, lies a small rocky islet. In ancient times men may have known about it, but modern sailors did not discover it until 1767, when a sailor on lookout spotted the island and gave it his own name--Pitcairn.

In 1789 the sailing ship BOUNTY made a voyage to the South Seas to find breadfruit trees to ship to South America. They reached Tahiti in October and found plenty of breadfruit trees. The crew loaded the trees onto their ship then spent several months on Tahiti. Before sailing again the sailors took on board water, fresh fruit, goats and other animals. Soon after leaving Tahiti the BOUNTY's crew, under the leadership of the First Mate Fletcher Christian, mutinied against their tyrannical captain and seized the ship. Christian put the captain and other officers into a small boat and set them adrift. These men eventually found their way to Dutch Timor, and the cruel Captain Bligh returned to England at last to report the mutiny.

Meanwhile Fletcher Christian took the BOUNTY and its crew of mutineers back to Tahiti to find pigs and goats. Sixteen of the English crew chose to remain on Tahiti. The remaining eight men decided to stay with Christian, so the BOUNTY sailed away from Tahiti with nine English sailors, ten Tahitian women and six men and one fifteen-year-old girl.

Fletcher Christian had heard of Pitcairn Island's isolation and he resolved to take refuge there. On January 23, 1790 the BOUNTY reached the tiny, uninhabited island.

The crew of the ship brought the BOUNTY in close to the rocky landing place, and removed from it everything that they could possibly use in their new life. Then, to assure that they would not be discovered, they set fire to the ship. The charred and gutted hull sank beneath the waves, and with it went the danger that they would be found, for the penalty for their mutiny would be death.

The newcomers spent the first days of their new life on Pitcairn in caves and tents made of the ship's canvas, but they soon prepared cottages for their homes. Then they divided the land among themselves and planted the plants they had brought on the ship. The little island was slightly over two miles long and one mile broad, and its surface was rocky.

The sun shone on this primeval Eden; the soil produced food, and they found enough water for their needs. Nature seemed to enfold them with blessing and protection, but they were not happy. They carried memories of their crime and the same fierce tempers and unruly behavior that had cursed the BOUNTY voyage.

By the year 1800, just ten years after settling on Pitcairn, only John Adams remained of the men who had come. The others had died violent deaths for the most part. He found himself the sole surviving mutineer, left to lead the 11 wives which they had brought from Tahiti and their 23 children.

The scenes of bloodshed and violence had sobered John Adams and when he looked around on the young children who had no other person to depend on, he experienced a great change of heart. He had only the

two books salvaged from the BOUNTY: the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer. Using these, he began to instruct the children in religion; he taught them to read and write, and no doubt to pray and sing. Their lives began to change. When the ship TOPAZ visited the island in 1808 the captain reported that he found the islanders living in peace and contentment. After that, ships began to call at the island, and the story of Pitcairn became known around the world.

When Elder James White heard about the people of Pitcairn in 1876, he and Elder J. N. Loughborough sent them a packet of literature and letters urging them to read the tracts and papers; but no word ever came back that the letters or books had been received.

Then, in October, 1886, missionary John Tay went to Pitcairn and everything changed. The island people had read the packet of books and papers that Elder White and Elder Loughborough had sent. Now John Tay explained their message more fully. The people of the island who had been such devoted Christians of the Church of England, saw the seventh-day Sabbath as God's holy rest day, and they all began to celebrate the Sabbath every week.

Brother Tay returned to California and told of this little island where all the people had accepted the Adventist faith. In December, 1890, the mission ship PITCAIRN, built by the Sabbath School members of North America, reached Bounty Bay with Elder and Mrs. E. H. Gates aboard. Elder Gates conducted meetings and taught the islanders, then baptized all 82 adults and organized them into a church. He formed a Sabbath School with 114 members.

The work began in the power of God and guided by His Holy Spirit has endured to this day, despite afflictions and troubles. Sickness

has come, too, but God has smiled upon the islanders and given them peace and happiness such as few countries in the world enjoy.

Pitcairn, the "Gem of the Pacific," lies in the remote South Seas; her rocky coast and rugged heights still challenge the adventurer. The blue tropical sky arches over her humble dwellings and the church where the islanders worship. Angels are familiar with the place and all its people, who are waiting for Jesus to come and receive them unto Himself.

HARVEST ON PITCAIRN ISLAND - Study Questions

Objective: To recognize the many ways God has of reaching people who seem remotely removed from the witness of His word.

Vocabulary: "mutineers"--sailors (or soldiers) who rebel against their officers.

For discussion:

1. Imagine a meeting between James White and the people of Pitcairn in heaven. What surprises will the Islanders have for James White? What questions might James White ask them?

(James White will be surprised that they recognize his and Ellen's name and that all the Islanders became Sabbathkeepers.)

2. Name the people you have "met" through this story whom God used to help the remote Pitcairn Islanders find truth.

(John Adams, the lone survivor of the Bounty

James White, who sent literature, wrote letters, and prayed for the Islanders

John Loughborough, who joined James White in his efforts

John Tay, who visited the island and taught the people to keep the Sabbath

Sabbath School members in North America who, between 1887-1890, organized a shipbuilding project and raised money for the ship

Six missionaries, including Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Gates and Mr. and Mrs. John Tay, who baptized the adult population and organized the people into a Sabbath School.

ELLEN AND THE MADISON SCHOOL

One June morning in 1904 a riverboat, the MORNING STAR, chugged slowly up the Cumberland River, where its broad waters flowed through the farm country north of Nashville, Tennessee. Mother White sat on its deck enjoying the delightful scenery. Several of her helpers were aboard, and her two sons, Willie and Edson. Ed Sutherland had come along on this trip and Ed's best friend, Percy Magan, waited for them at Edgely Junction twelve miles up the river. The MORNING STAR belonged to Edson White. He had made it into a missionary boat. On this trip he hoped to find a spot where he might open a training school for black young people. Ed Sutherland and Percy Magan had come searching for a place to start a small school for the white young people of the South.

Just below Neeley Bend something went wrong with the engine. "We'll have to put in for repairs," Edson told his mother. "It probably won't take long."

Mother White, already seventy-six years old, still had an enthusiastic interest in the schools these young men wanted to build in the South. Instead of sitting on the comfortable deck of the MORNING STAR, she urged Ed Sutherland to go ashore with her. "I know what's on the shore," Ed Sutherland told her. "I have seen that Ferguson farm and I don't want

to see it again. It's miserable land." The young man described the farm, the pigs wallowing under the parlor windows, the stoney and barren ground. Even in June when the lush springtime lay on all the riverlands, it looked desolate, miserable, impossible.

But Mother White's eyes brightened when they actually stood at the lower edge of the Ferguson property and looked it over. "I have seen this land before. This is the farm where God wants you boys to have your school."

Ed's heart seemed to close up. Did God really intend that he and Percy should get this run-down, worn out old farm? He had already been president of three of our colleges, Battle Creek, Walla Walla and Emmanuel Missionary College. He and Percy Magan had worked hard and long. Now they wanted to find a small, quiet place in the South where they could start in a modest way and build slowly.

Ed Sutherland argued with Mother White. He loved her dearly and he did believe that God had spoken to her over and over in vision, and that He had given her wise counsel for God's people, but this Ferguson farm! No, no, there must be some mistake. The Fergusons wanted more than \$12,000 for their wretched property, pigs, stones and all. He and Percy had less than half that amount of money in sight. Go in debt for such a worthless acreage? He couldn't see it, or accept it.

The MORNING STAR, repairs all completed, edged out into the river and proceeded on toward Edgefield Junction where Percy Magan came aboard. When Ed told Percy about the boat breaking down right off the Ferguson farm, Percy had some sharp things to say about that piece of land, for he had seen it, too.

Then Willie White called Ed and Percy below to the cabin where Mother White waited for them. "We are going back to look at the Ferguson

property again," she told them.

As fond as they were of Mother White, and as much as they respected her work, they felt sure that this time there must be some mistake. Could she be getting a little dim? After all, she was past seventy-five. They refused to go with her to look at the land, so she got someone else to take her. But later, for some reason they could not explain, they did go back, just to take one more look. It looked even worse than they remembered, a hog-ridden, rocky, barren, worthless piece of land. Their human hearts cried out against it, but on the other side stood the words of Mother White, "This is the place God wants you to have."

All their senses rebelled. Reason told them that such a venture would be sheer folly, but they remembered Avondale College in Australia. The experts had condemned that property, too; but God told Ellen White that it would be a "fruitful garden." Ten years had passed since she made that prediction and now Avondale College farm had become a productive garden and a flourishing orchard. The two young men sat on a rockpile there on the despised Ferguson farm and battled their doubts. Everything they could see and know with their six senses told them that this property would be a poor investment; only fools would become involved in such a disaster. But the Word of God through Mother White had informed them that this acreage would become "a beautiful farm, a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men."

"We cannot go against Mother White's counsel." They decided to buy the farm and set about raising the money. Mother White guided them in the development of the school and its industries. She even consented to come on their board, the only time in her life that she accepted such a position.

Then she told them that God wanted a sanitarium in connection with Madison School. They could see no possible way to build, equip and staff such an institution. One day Mother White came to the campus, and while they ate a picnic dinner under the trees, she asked them, "When are you going to build a sanitarium?" No one said anything. "Right here is an excellent site for the sanitarium. Why don't you get a mule and a plow and mark out the site. You can do that much," she said.

Today Madison Sanitarium stands on that spot.

She told them that they should start to manufacture health foods. So they bought a second-hand food factory that had failed in business. Under God's blessing it prospered greatly.

She told them that little replicas of Madison School should be started in many places. About fifty such units sprang up in the South as well as other parts of the United States, and even in foreign lands.

By 1940 the Madison School had become a miracle of fruitfulness, and hundreds of students had been able to attend school because of Madison's policy of letting them work their way without paying money. Madison's institutions, college, sanitarium, food factory, were all self-supporting; they helped one another.

Then the world began to notice. In 1940 an article appeared in the Reader's Digest that drew world-wide attention and fulfilled the prediction that Madison would be "a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men."

Ellen White died in 1915. She did not live to see the barren Ferguson land blossom forth into a beautiful spot that would attract world-wide attention. She did not see the thousands of visitors from foreign countries that came to learn the secret of Madison's success. She did not hear Ed Sutherland, an old man now, explain to everyone how God, through His fa

ful messenger, had guided him to this special place in the bend of the
mberland River and had promised His blessing and favor.

All over the world the Madison ideal is being upheld and brought
to fruitful success, and thousands of young people have been educated
along the path Ellen White marked out in 1904.

ELLEN AND THE MADISON SCHOOL - Study Questions

Objectives: To understand the wisdom of following God's counsel in spite of circumstantial evidence to the contrary.

To perceive the consistent wisdom in God's counsels.

To recognize how deep is God's interest and concern for His people.

For discussion:

Provide a map of the United States. Locate Tennessee, the Cumberland River, Nashville, and Madison on the map.

1. Which of the following are reasons for buying the Ferguson property?

Which are reasons for not buying? Which do you think is the very best reason for the purchase?

- a. Ellen White had seen the property in a vision, developed into a school for God.
- b. The farm was over-priced.
- c. The prophecy that Ellen White made about the unpromising land for Avondale College had come true.
- d. The Word from God had never failed to be right.
- e. The land was barren.
- f. The property was rocky.
- g. The boat needed repairs at the site of the farm; otherwise Ellen White wouldn't have had easy opportunity to see it and verify it as the land seen in vision.

2. Because of Ellen White's guidance, not only Madison College was built, but . . . (Complete the sentence.)

(. . . a sanitarium, a health food company, 50 self-supporting institutions built on Madison's model sprang up. The institutions became a spectacle to the world, angels, and men.)

EXPERIENCES RELATED TO SPIRIT OF PROPHECY WRITINGS

Mountain Adventure

Lost and Found

Wine, Grapes and Other Things

MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

The year 1873 found James and Ellen White living in Battle Creek. They had been married for over twenty-five years and their younger son Willie had grown to be a young man. They both had worked hard throughout their married years; they had traveled a lot, going from church to church and from company to company, attending meetings, speaking and helping the people.

One day a letter came from Ellen's niece, Louisa Walling, who live in Colorado. They read it with great interest. Louisa and her husband, William, invited the White family to come and spend the summer in their cabin high in the Rocky Mountains. "What do you think, James?" Ellen asked her husband.

A smile spread over James' tired face. "Wonderful! Exactly what we need, a quiet place where we can write and rest."

They decided to take Willie and Mrs. Hall, a lady who had been a dear friend for years. The four of them took the train from Battle Creek to Colorado. They enjoyed the ride, especially through the mountains.

Mr. Walling ran a sawmill and worked in the woods. He worked hard and long hours every day, but he got the cabin ready for the Whites and took them up there with food supplies and other camping necessities.

The camp in the mountains proved to be peaceful and quiet, At once both Ellen and James White took up their writing, while Mrs. Hall took care of the cooking and simple housekeeping. Willie explored the woods and streams and he found several places where wild berries grew. James and Ellen didn't write all the time. They climbed the mountains and enjoyed the rushing streams and the fragrant mountain air. The enormous granite rocks amazed them and they often climbed one of them to sit and watch the gorgeous sunset. Willie led them to his berry thickets and they picked the luscious berries and enjoyed themselves every day, and so they passed the first part of the summer.

One day in late summer, Mr. Walling came up to the cabin and asked if they would like to go on up the mountain to Grand Lake for a while. They could camp right beside the beautiful lake. Of course, they all wanted to go.

So on a Sunday morning they set out with everything packed in two of Mr. Walling's wagons. They brought food, candles, tents and such clothes as they would need. They planned to camp up at Grand Lake for about two weeks. Of course, they took all their writing material because they expected to do a lot of writing, even in the tents by Grand Lake.

At eleven o'clock they started up through the mountains, past the timber line where no trees grew because it is too high. They got through the pass and started down the long, winding trail and when evening overtook them, they camped there for the night. Monday morning they started out again. James and Ellen White and Willie rode horses. They had not

gone far when a rider from the wagons called them back. An axle had broken and now they would have to camp for a few days right here while Mr. Walling went back home to get the axle fixed. A week later he sent his hired man with the repaired axle. The hired man took the Whites on to the lake.

They found Grand Lake quite large, and nobody lived there. The forest towered around them and the beautiful scenery more than compensated for their troublesome travel. They selected a good camping site and the hired man helped them pitch their tents. He hauled in dry logs that could be used for firewood. They were soon nicely settled, but their food supply was running low.

After spending Sabbath with them, the hired man went back, promising to send supplies soon, or having Mr. Walling come and take them back to the cabin. Then the Whites gave themselves over to enjoyment of this lovely place by the quiet lake. They found two fishermen who spent their summers by the lake. They caught fish in nets and kept them alive in water until a man came up from Black Hawk with horses and saddlebags. Then on that evening they would take the fish out of the water, clean them and leave them out in the frosty air. The next morning they would pack them in the saddlebags and take them to the markets in Central City and Black Hawk.

The Whites expected Mr. Walling back any day, but he did not come. Their candles were used up, so they went to bed at dusk and got up at sunrise. However, the pinching problem was food. They asked the fishermen to sell them some of their supplies, but they had run short, too. They had found wild berries up here on the high mountain and they picked

those. They even made pies of some of them and traded the pies to the fishermen for other staples. Every day food grew more scarce.

James White was writing a tract that would be printed at Battle Creek and he had promised to have it ready by a certain date. If Mr. Walling delayed much longer, he could not keep his promise, but he still kept writing on the tract.

One Tuesday when he and Willie returned from a hike, he found that the men had come from Black Hawk to get the fish and they would be returning the next morning. He decided that he must finish the tract and send it with these men. So he got out his Bible and concordance and continued working. But the day waned fast. He watched the sun and knew that the daylight would not last long enough for him to complete it. They had no candles. What could he use for light?

Then he remembered that he and Willie had seen the body of a dead wolf on their hike that morning. He called Willie to him. "Do you remember the dead wolf we saw today?"

"Yes, it isn't far from here."

"Willie, I want you to go back to the body of that wolf and scrape all the fat off that you can. I need it for light." Then, as Willie hurried off, his father called after him, "Take the shotgun. Brown bears live in that valley."

So, with the shotgun, a pan and a knife, Willie hurried over the trail. He hoped and prayed that no other animal would have discovered the wolf carcass since he and Father had seen it. Then he found it, knelt down beside it and took off some of the skin. He scraped a little yellow fat from here and there. Then he slashed the carcass open and found a little more fat around the liver. He had never seen such a skinny

wolf! Finally he had about one and one-half cups of fat. Night had fallen and he almost ran back to camp. His father set the fat over the fire and melted it into oil which he poured into a bowl. Then he tore up some pieces of rag, twisted them and dipped them in the oil, then twisted and shaped them some more. When he lighted the rag it sputtered and then flared up into a bright flame. Father sat down again to his writing. He wrote with ease in the light from the wolf-oil lamp. He glanced at his watch: Ten o'clock. Eleven o'clock came and still he had not finished the tract. He glanced in the bowl--still plenty of oil. By midnight he finished the tract and the letter that must go with it. He looked at the oil--still some left. He pinched out the flame and went to bed.

Early in the morning when the men took the fish into Black Hawk, they took the letter and the finished tract to the Post Office.

A few days later Mr. Walling came and took them back to his home. Soon they went back to Battle Creek, carrying delightful memories of their weeks in the Rockies. Ellen White had worked on the beautiful life of Jesus, Desire of Ages, and James White had completed the important tract. Willie had a new respect for the Colorado mountains and for his parents, who could and would accomplish their work no matter what difficulties confronted them.

MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE - Study Questions

Objective: To recognize that the life style of the Whites included adventure, recreation, resourcefulness, and accomplishment.

For discussion:

Locate Battle Creek, Michigan, and Colorado's Rocky Mountains on a map.

1. Name someone you know who can balance good times with work.
2. What disadvantages do you perceive in a life that is devoted almost totally to good times?
3. What disadvantages do you see in a life that is all work?
4. What work is included in vacations you have taken? Who does the work when your family is on vacation?
(Think of the driving, setting up camp equipment, washing clothes, food preparation, cleaning up, packing up.)
5. How can you help your parents on a vacation so that they will have a good time?
6. What new things did you learn about the White family in this story?
7. What would you have liked about the Whites' Rocky Mountain vacation?

LOST AND FOUND

One June morning in 1853 a carriage drew up to James and Ellen White's home. They had hired a man to take them to Vergennes, Michigan; now the man waited outside. Ellen came to the door and called to him, "Will we need to pack a lunch? It's eight o'clock now - will we get there before lunch?"

"It is only fifteen miles," the man replied. "We are getting an early start, we should be there before lunchtime."

The driver helped his passengers aboard and they started on their way. At first all went well. Of course, there was no paved road. They followed the double wheel tracks through the forest. Someone had laid logs over the worst potholes, and the driver assured the Whites he had traveled this way several times and was certain of the road. No signposts marked the way. Many sets of double wheel tracks traversed the forest. Ellen thought they all looked alike.

On and on they traveled. The June sun grew warm, then hot. Finally James White asked the driver, "Are we almost there?"

The man pushed his hat back from his sweating brow and answered, "Brother White, I'll have to admit this trail doesn't look familiar. I must have taken a wrong turn. But never mind, we'll cut right through the forest to the trail."

So away they went through the woods, between logs and fallen trees where Ellen could see no trace of a road. She felt thirsty, but all the water seemed to be murky marsh water. "Do you suppose," she asked the driver, "that we could get some milk from one of these cows?" She pointed to several cows grazing in the grassy spots. The driver stopped the team, got out, took a tin cup from the carriage and started to stalk one of the cows. The cow seemed to understand his intentions and had ideas of her own. A second and third cow when approached behaved the same way. Finally Ellen told the man, "Never mind, I'll just go thirsty."

After a while the travelers saw a small clearing and in the middle of it a log cabin stood. They drove close to the cabin and clambered down from the carriage. A woman came out to meet them with a warm and hearty welcome. Evidently she seldom saw visitors. She set out food and drink and while the travelers ate the food and drank the milk, they talked. After the woman learned they were going to Vergennes to conduct meetings she asked them, "Won't you please come and hold meetings in our neighborhood. It doesn't look like many people live around here, but if you came to preach at our school house you'd be surprised how many would come. We need you! The Spiritualists are very active here. I have been to some of their meetings and I'm afraid of them. Please come and give us some good preaching." She continued to beg earnestly, then she began to weep.

Ellen and James tried to comfort her. Ellen thought of all their pressing appointments and how urgent they all were. They couldn't promise

to come at any time in the near future. Ellen explained to the woman. "I'll tell you what we will do," she said, "We'll leave you one of my books and some papers." The woman dried her tears, accepted the book and periodicals, and told them how to find the way to Vergennes. The new friends parted, hoping to see each other again soon.

After more hours of travel the journey which should have been only fifteen miles bumped along for forty miles, but at last they reached Vergennes. Ellen said to her husband, "Why did this have to happen to us? The Lord knows how precious our time is. Why this long wandering through the forest?"

James patted her hand and said in a comforting voice, "Always remember He plans our lives, and someday we'll know why this strange experience happened to us."

Twenty-two years later at the Michigan campground a lady hurried up to Ellen White. She shook her hands, greeted her joyously, and asked, "Do you remember being lost in the woods many years ago? Do you remember the log house in the clearing? You were lost and tired, hungry and thirsty. While your horses rested I got you food and drink. You astonished me because you didn't waste any time gossiping or complaining about the trip. You just talked about Jesus, the beauties of heaven, and you gave me a little book, Experience and Views, that you had written. Well, I read it over and over. I still have it. It's about worn out now. I lent it to the neighbors and they read it. Since then, Seventh-day Adventist ministers have come to our area. But you were the ones who prepared the

soil and when those ministers came, many were ready to receive the seeds of truth. So we have quite a company of Sabbath keepers in our area." Then the woman threw her arms around Ellen in an exuberance of joy. "Oh, I am so glad that we are Seventh-day Adventists." The woman stopped long enough to take a deep breath. Her face beamed. She didn't need to tell Ellen of her joy in the Lord. Everything about her proclaimed it.

Ellen's heart thrilled with joy, too. At last she had the answer to the question she had asked twenty-two years before, when they took that long and troublesome detour through the forest that day in June 1853. They were on God's errand. He had sent them to this hungry woman who longed for truth, to bring the little book and to speak the words of courage and truth that set her feet in the way to heaven.

A peculiar beauty and power of the Holy Spirit attends Ellen's writings. She has said, "My writings will constantly speak and their work will go forward as long as time shall last." She knew the source of her writings and she explained, "They contain the precious comforting light that God has graciously given to His servant to be given to the world. From their pages this light is to shine into the hearts of men and women, leading them to the Saviour."

So whether in the marshy forests of Michigan, amidst the towering Andes Mountains of South America, wherever Ellen's books are distributed, the mightypower of God goes with them and His Spirit speaks through them to hungry souls the world over.

LOST AND FOUND - Study Questions

Objective: To perceive the importance of accepting circumstances that cannot be changed and making the best of them.

For discussion:

1. Why did the Whites get lost on the way to Vergennes? (Think of two or more reasons.)
2. Which of the following sentences would help you talk about something positive? Which could easily lead to complaining or gossip?
 - a. "Did you see Greg's crazy hat?"
 - b. "Helen did the nicest thing for me!"
 - c. "That was a really great Sabbath School program today."
 - d. "Wasn't church long today?"
3. Which of the following is easiest for you?
 - a. To complain.
 - b. To tell what Jesus means to you.
 - c. To talk about other people.
4. When Ellen White was thirsty, her first request for a drink was unfulfilled. What did she get besides a drink when her thirst finally was quenched?
5. Read John 4:7-15, 27-32, for a story of a time when Jesus was thirsty and hungry. What happened to relieve His feelings of thirst and hunger?

WINE GRAPES AND OTHER THINGS

Tomorrow would be Mike's first day at Pacific Union College and today his father drove him up to the college through the September glory of the evergreen forests. As often happens on such trips, Mike and his father talked about Ellen White. "Ellen White made a lot of predictions, didn't she?" Mike asked. "Did she make any predictions about the sanitarium up here on the hill, or about the college?"

His father looked about at the grape vineyards they were passing through. "Yes, I remember one prediction she made about these acres and acres of vineyards. Alma Baker McKibben has told us the story. In 1891 Sister White looked upon a scene much like what we see today. On the roads leading north and west out of Healdsburg stood several large wineries, and in the country beyond, vineyards of wine grapes covered the hills and valleys. As she looked out over the scene, Ellen White said, 'Oh, beautiful, beautiful Healdsburg. How I love you! But the curse of God is upon you. You have taken the benefits of heaven, the beautiful fruit that God gave you to cheer the heart of man, and have made of it a poison that destroys both body and soul.'

"At once a solemn hush fell over the people that heard her, and Alma McKibben, who was listening to her, almost forgot to breathe.

"Five years later Alma returned, and a friend took her for a ride. She noticed the grape vines. They seemed to be dying--all of them. 'What's wrong?' she gasped.

"'Haven't you heard,' her friend said, 'a disease has affected all the vineyards in this county? They are all dying.' Alma remembered that sermon when Ellen White had said, 'The curse of God is on you.'"

"Well, where did these new vineyards come from?" Mike pointed.

"The farmers had to tear out all their old vines. For months the smoke of burning grapevines hung over the beautiful valley. The farmers had to import a new resistant strain from Italy and had to start all over again. It took years for them to recover."

Mike thought for a moment. "So when God curses something, or pronounces a judgment against it, it might recover and be good again?"

"Yes, you remember that Jerusalem was cursed of God, and totally destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and again by the Roman army, but there is a Jerusalem today in the Holy Land. God is very merciful; His judgments are warnings, and He gives people a second chance. But if they continue to disobey Him, new judgments will fall. Sometimes it happens over and over again, as in the case of Israel."

"And I suppose there were times when God didn't give them a second chance."

Father said, "I recall one instance where God commanded a judgment which was never removed, although the man repented and will doubtless be saved in heaven."

"Tell me about it," Mike said.

"You remember that in our talks we have mentioned the Wessels family of South Africa? At one time Philip Wessels grew cold toward God. They were a wealthy family, and the cares of this life pressed hard on them, and the deceitfulness of riches constantly drew them toward the world. Ellen White sent Philip a straight testimony, a message from God, warning him against the course he was following. In her letters Ellen told him how, in vision, she had been shown Philip with his arm in a sling. When he read the letter, he laughed about it and scoffed, and paid no attention to the warning.

"Some time later while Philip Wessels operated a threshing machine on one of their large farms, the machinery caught his arm and mangled it so severely that he carried his arm in a sling for the rest of his life."

"Do you think, Dad, that if he had heeded the warnings Ellen White sent him that the accident wouldn't have happened?"

Mike's father thought for a moment. "I certainly think that if he had obeyed God and mended his doings that God's angels would have shielded him from injury. But because he had rebelled against God, he had no protection."

Chills ran down Mike's spine, and he understood better how serious it was for anybody to reject the warnings and counsels of God which Ellen White delivered.

"One of our missionaries attended the same church in which Philip Wessels was worshipping the day Ellen White's death was announced. When the pastor read the announcement, Philip rose, weeping, and holding up his withered arm in a sling, and said in a voice of deep sorrow, 'The Wessels

family would have had a much different history if they had only followed the admonition of God's servant."

"Don't you think that is true of all of us?" said Mike. "Our lives would be far different if we followed Ellen White's instruction completely."

"I believe that with all my heart," Father replied thoughtfully. "Now, Elder Willard Saxby's story is a little different. Elder Saxby believed that he fully accepted Ellen White's testimonies. But one day at campmeeting in Ohio one of his fellow workers came to him, tapped him on the shoulder and said, 'I want to talk with you this evening.' So they went to a small family tent and the older minister asked, 'Do you believe in the testimonies?'

"Elder Saxby replied, 'I certainly do.' They prayed together and then the older man said, 'I have here a testimony from Sister White. May I read it to you now?' Elder Saxby felt surprised, but he consented. After his fellow worker had read the first few paragraphs, he jumped up and said, 'That is not so!'

"The man looked up and said, 'Brother Saxby, you say it is not true, but the Lord will help you to see that it is true.'

"Still angry, Brother Saxby said, 'How can I say a thing is true when it is not?'

"The older man began reading again. After another page or so, Saxby again declared forcefully, 'That is NOT so!'

"His friend just looked up for a moment, and Saxby saw the compassion and love in his eyes. He went right on reading.

"Four times Elder Saxby broke in with objections, but the minister read until he had finished the testimony. Then Elder Saxby asked, 'May I take this with me?' Then he went back to his own tent.

"Mrs. Saxby heard him come into the family tent and asked, 'Why are you so late, Willard?' When he told her what had happened she asked him to read the testimony to her.

"'It's too long,' he said, 'but I'll read this one paragraph. I told Elder A. it isn't true.' But even before he had finished reading, his wife sat straight up in bed, pointed at him and spoke earnestly, 'It is true.'

"Elder Saxby stared at her, but he could argue no longer. His wife, Elder A., and above all, Ellen White, the servant of the Lord, had said it was true. It must be so. He began to fast and pray, and soon saw that the testimony from Ellen White presented a true picture of his real self. Without delay he made things right and never again did he argue against the Spirit of Prophecy."

"I am so glad the man repented and God showed him his real self," said Mike. "I want to see Elder Saxby when we go to heaven."

"Yes, so do I," said Father. "I'm sure he'll be there. Any of us can be blind like that, but the Holy Spirit can give us light and show us how to follow the Lord fully."

WINE GRAPES AND OTHER THINGS - Study Questions

Objectives: To accept the words of Ellen White as inspired and helpful to individuals.

To understand that God's messages are warnings.

To perceive the human tendency to reject truth about one's own sins.

For discussion:

Locate the Napa Valley on a map of California.

1. Which is easiest for you? Which is most difficult?
 - a. To admit you're wrong.
 - b. To overcome a bad habit.
 - c. To ask for counsel.
 - d. To accept rebuke.
2. Finish these sentences for Phillip Wessels:
 - a. "If I had my life to live over, I would . . ."
 - b. "I appreciate the counsels of Ellen White because . . ."
 - c. "I'm looking forward to . . ."
3. How has Satan perverted the use of grapes?
4. What were God's purposes in cursing the vineyards?
5. What were God's purposes in allowing the later wine grapes to flourish?
6. Describe someone who has been harmed by drinking fermented wine.
7. Describe what you would like to do about people who prepare and sell fermented wine.
8. Describe what you would like to do for people whose senses are dulled by wine.