



Ellen G. White

Research Center Newsnotes

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

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Image: Courtesy of the Ellen G. White Estate. Circa 1875. White Estate photograph archives: <https://photo.egwwritings.org/>

From the Editor

It is my privilege to present to you another edition of our EGW Newsnotes. One of the most amazing things, as I think about God, is His willingness to work with imperfect human beings in order to fulfill his mission – spreading the “good news” of Jesus to a world that desperately needs Him. Even Ellen White, as we know her, was not “perfect.” After all, what made her ministry so effective was not her “infallibility” (her words), but her “willingness” to co-operate with Jesus. She allowed the Holy Spirit to use her and we see the results. There is no question in my mind, why she became the most prominent minister and leader of our denomination. She was “willing.” May we follow her example and allow God to use us in the same way wherever we find ourselves to be. My hope is that you would enjoy reading this new edition of the EGW Newsnotes and be inspired to “keep the vision alive.”

Here is some important news related to the White Estate worldwide. Super Moesi, who is currently the Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator for the Southern Africa-India Ocean Division, will be the new director of the Kenya office at the end of the year. Also, a

warm welcome back to Daniel Plence who will be the director for the Argentina Research Center. Last, but certainly not least, we have three new Spirit of Prophecy Coordinators. James Daniel will be responsible for the Inter-America Division; Rey Cabenero will be representing the Southern-Asia Pacific Division; and Darius Jankiewicz will be working in the South Pacific Division. Welcome!

Let me remind you again, that you are always welcome to submit your reports twice a year. As you know, we issue the *EGW Newsnotes* bi-annually – in January and in June. So put it in your calendars and let us keep on inspiring each other. Please, submit your reports faithfully. Also, remember, that you can have access to all of the previous issues by clicking [here](#). Enter the user name “12345” and password “carnotes.”

Once again, thank you for your contributions. God’s blessings to all. ♦

James R. Nix

From the White Estate Director

My report this time will be shorter than usual because my doctor has restricted me from flying, at least through the end of June—possibly even longer. Mindi, my wife, and I traveled to La Sierra University the weekend of April 25-27 for the 50th anniversary of my graduation from college. On the flight there,

I became short of breath. Before flying back home, I went to the emergency room at the hospital in Long Beach, not far from where my daughter lives, to get checked. I was put in the hospital for two nights, plus had to cancel my forthcoming research trip with Merlin Burt, as well as also assisting him with the Adventist heritage tour for Seminary faculty from Andrews University (not that he needs any assistance; he’s an excellent tour guide.) I was looking forward to helping him lead the tour, plus having the opportunity to become acquainted with some of the Seminary faculty who I have never met. As of this



writing, I am still grounded from travel, with my doctor also instructing me to take it easy until the various tests he has ordered eventually indicate what is causing my shortness of breath. Knowing how rapidly rumors can spread, let me quickly let you know that none of the various test results so far have been out of the normal range. Consequently, what is going on? I still do not know! On the Alumni Weekend Sabbath at La Sierra, I led an early Adventist hymning in the La Sierra University Church.

In addition to my current several-week travel ban, during the first week of March I gave a series of presentations at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe at the leadership conference for the South Africa-Indian Ocean Division. During the first week of February, my wife accompanied me at a week of seminars in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Given that I only gave one presentation there, it proved to be a relaxing time. Another partial vacation/partial work week was in March when Mindi and I visited Markus and Agnessa Kutzschbach, and their two kids, at their home on the campus of Bogenhofen Seminary in Austria. We did some sightseeing; Markus and I also had some quality time to talk about Adventist Heritage Ministries.

In January I attended the White Estate Board's Consultation in January—the last one I will be organizing given that we do not have Consultation's

in General Conference session years. Sadly, Tim Poirier's mother-in-law, Marilyn Petersen, died on Sunday, January 6. It was a sad time for Merle, Tim, and their two daughters and their families. Our prayers are with them. In March I attended the Pacific Press's Spring board meeting in Nampa, Idaho. Due to my current health situation/travel ban, I have cancelled several trips: one for a camp meeting in June; another for presentations at Loma Linda University in July. Depending upon how long my travel ban continues, I may have to cancel other trips also. After having spent the past nearly 45 years trying to serve people, cancelling speaking appointments is not easy.

Before I close, I want to wish each of you God's continued richest blessings in your service for Him. I am also hopeful that some of the exciting things that are currently happening at the White Estate are reported by my associates at the office. But exciting things are also happening in your offices. I hope each of you have taken a few minutes to share about them with the rest of us.

This afternoon I learned that Dr. Pedro Cortes, our Research Center Director in Puerto Rico, is leaving his position. Although I don't yet know all the details, I wish to thank him for his service and wish him well. ♦

From the White Estate Vice Director

The first half of 2019 has been a “moving” experience for me. Literally. As mentioned in my previous report, now that the EGW Visitor Center is completed, we have been working on renovating our vault. The aim is to make it visitor-friendly for self-touring while still providing proper security for protecting the original materials.

The renovation required a complete emptying of our vault—books, periodicals, original manuscripts, photographs, artifacts, and 19 lateral filing cabinets. This involved packing 140 boxes of materials, in addition to relocating the filing cabinets. A big concern was where to keep these materials during the estimated 3-5 months of construction so that they were properly protected. We were fortunate to learn that the empty fire-protected art room vault at the Review and Herald Publishing House was large enough to store our irreplaceable materials. The RH administration has graciously allowed us its use during this renovation.



Tim Poirier



Design plan of entrance into the public area of the vault.

Accompanying this report are several pictures of the progress being made on the vault. You will also see two renditions of what the finished public area will look like. The new design is primarily the work of Siloe Oliveira, who was also the chief designer for our

exhibits in the Visitor Center. We are extremely grateful for the talent God has given him. He is also working on designs for the Joseph Bates home exhibit. As I write this report it is anticipated that the work will be completed at the end of July, after which we will begin the task of transferring all our materials back to the vault and unpacking.

Work has also been progressing on the second volume of the annotated EGW letters and manuscripts (1860-1863). Denis Kaiser has now completed years 1860-1862 and about two thirds of the documents in 1863.

Another project I worked on during the first part of this year was writing a chapter for the forthcoming college textbook about Ellen White on how she wrote her books—covering not only the publication process but also her use of editorial assistants and other literary sources. The textbook is a joint project of BRI and the White Estate.

May God bless each of you in your responsibilities as you carry out the mission entrusted to us. ♦



Design plan of original manuscripts display (behind glass panel)

Associate Directors' Reports

Greetings in the name of our wonderful God, who cares for each one of us “as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son” (E. G. White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 100).

Most of my time during the first half of 2019 was spent, as usual, in writing, traveling, and lecturing. Some weeks when I did not travel, I was able to finish several writing assignments. But even so, there are still a few challenging projects waiting for me. I am also a member of several committees, including the Biblical Research Institute Committee (BRICOM) (since 2005), the Biblical Research Committee (BRC) of the Inter-European Division (since 2011), the General Conference Spirit of Prophecy Committee (since 2014), the Geoscience Research Institute Committee (GRICOM) (since 2016), the *Church Manual* Committee and Subcommittee (since 2016), and more recently also the Adult Bible Study Guide Resident Committee (since 2019).

My traveling itinerary during this past half year included some International Bible and Mission Conferences (IBMC), where I presented what the Bible and Ellen White have to say about some issues church is facing in different regions of the world. The first conference was at Camp Hope, British Columbia, Canada (January 21-22), where I spoke on the alleged prophecy of the “seven times” of Leviticus 26, modern Adventist anti-Trinitarianism, and the final punishment of sinners. Next, I attended a conference at Northeast Brazil College



Alberto Timm

(January 28-29) about our Adventist biblical identity.

At the Prophetic Campmeeting of the West Mexican Conference, Guadalajara, Mexico (February 22-23), I spoke on some distinctive components of our Adventist message. During that trip I visited the place where John H. Kellogg operated for eight years (1899-1908) his Guadalajara Sanitarium, as well as his impressive mansion and the residences of some of his workers. Kellogg's natural treatments attracted many people from the city's upper class. Afraid of losing its own hegemony, the Roman Catholic Church built an impressive church nearby and even two hospitals to compete against the Adventist institution.

During my overseas trips, not everything went as well as I expected. Artur Stele, General Conference Vice President, organized a team of five Portuguese-speaking scholars to hold two IBMCs in Africa—one at the Adventist Seminary of Angola, in Huambo (March 9-11) and another one at the Adventist Seminary of Mozambique, in Beira (March 13-16)—and asked me to represent the White Estate at those meetings. The conference in Angola went very well. I spoke there on modern anti-Trinitarianism, justification by faith, independent ministries, and preached the Sabbath-morning sermon at the university church. But our next experience in Mozambique was radically different.

Our challenges began with some flight delays—five hours for one and three hours for another—during our trip from Huambo to Beira. Shortly before I boarded my last connecting flight, my wife told me that there was a severe-cyclone warning for Beira. Indeed, I had no idea of what was ahead of us! We arrived in Beira on Wednesday, March 13, in the early afternoon. It was a very enjoyable sunny day! That same afternoon, as scheduled, we began our inspiring conference. On Thursday morning, we started the meetings with a devotional. But then the university president agreed to cancel the meetings based on the government warning that the cyclone would hit the city from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

We went back to the Golden Peacock Resort Hotel – Beira, located very close to the shore of the Indian Ocean. Each of us went to his own room to prepare himself for the worst that could happen. With some pieces of furniture, I protected both the wood door entrance and especially the balcony glass doors facing the ocean. Then I laid down on the bathroom floor, along the short bathtub wall with a mattress above me. There I would end up spending the whole night.

As expected, that afternoon the cyclone came from the ocean with much intensity. But surprisingly, it moved back to the ocean and returned overnight much more furiously. According to local meteorology, the winds reached more than 170 km/h (some say even 200 km/h) and the ocean waves came 7 m high (some say even 10 m high). At any rate, no building can withstand 4+ m high waves! But providentially, before reaching the specific area of our hotel, the waves came down to 2 m high! Tragically, some 90% of the houses and buildings in town were severely damaged, and the population was left without electricity, communication, and drinking water. Large areas were completely flooded.



IBMC in Mozambique – opening meeting

Meanwhile, Elder Ted Wilson requested, through various social medias, for the worldwide church to pray for us. Many other friends did the same. And the Lord protected us and cared for us in marvelous ways, during the cyclone and afterwards! Without electricity and several damage, the small Beira Airport remained closed after the storm. But Filipe Nyusi, president of Mozambique decided to fly on Sunday (March 17) into Beira to see and evaluate all the damage. So, even without electricity and without the control tower working, the airport was open. Taking advantage of it, a local airline made a couple of flights available out of Beira, but the tickets could be bought only with cash and boarding passes were handwritten. Providentially, I carried more money than usual, and that helped us in that emergency when nothing else was working.

Actually, no words can describe our emotions, first, when our airplane departed from Beira and, then, when we landed in Johannesburg and could tell our families that we survived! Praise God for preserving our lives and caring for us during that major cataclysm!

Spending only two days at home, I next attended the Meetings of the Editors of the South American Division Publishing Houses, in Brasilia, Brazil (March 21-23). My presentations there were entitled,

“Divine Accommodation and Cultural Conditioning of the Inspired Writings” and “Ellen G. White on the ‘Deeper Meaning’ of Scripture.” Then, with a less intense rhythm, I attended the BRICOM Meetings, in Loma Linda, California (April 15-16); spoke at the Annual Convention of the Brazilian Association of Adventist Physicians, in Santa Catarina, Brazil (May 30 – June 2); and addressed modern Adventist anti-Trinitarianism at the Adventist Theological Society (ATS) Symposium, at the Italian Adventist University Villa Aurora, in Florence, Italy (June 19-22). There I had the opportunity



Mozambique – Sabbath afternoon after-cyclone meeting at the Adventist University.

of discussing with the dean of the School of Theology some strategies to strengthen and preserve SDA history in Italy.

I also joined the team that went for an interim visit of the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) to evaluate the Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary (IATS), located on the campus of the Antillean Adventist University, in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico (June

25-27). There we confirmed firsthand some major challenges of the local Ellen G. White Research Center. In our final AAA Report we pointed out that the Center needs appropriate facilities and financial support.

Many blessings to each of you during the second half of 2019! ♦



Edgar Bryan Tolentino
Assistant Director
Philippines Branch Office

Branch Offices' Reports

No Report Received

Kenya Research Center

On January 25-26, the year started for Pastor Bryan Tolentino, the assistant director of the Branch Office in the Philippines when he was called to speak for SOP Congress of Central Luzon Conference at the Literature Ministry Seminary in Lipa, Batangas with 300 elders, sculptors, young people and church SOP coordinators

with the theme "Belief his Prophets." We continued reaching more young people this year using the television platform and social media. Pastor Bryan spoke about answers to lifestyle issues during his program series in Hope Channel Philippines entitled "Sharing the Vision" with 13 episodes. The recording was done in AIIAS Media Center from February 5-7 of this year. It is now being broadcasting all across the country every week. He was also invited to conduct preaching and seminar



Pastor Bryan during his program series "Sharing the Vision"

during the Prayer Camp of Northern Luzon Mission at Barbara, Pangasinan on March 22-23. He was also given an opportunity to share with the young people during the Bible Retreat Seminar in Sabah Malaysia on April 19-21.

Pastor Bryan is currently writing his dissertation project trying to find out what are the perceptions of Adventist Millennials in Philippine regarding the Spirit of Prophecy doctrine. Because of this,

he is constantly being invited by the youth department of different missions and conferences to share his studies. On May 14-19, he spoke on "Sharing Ellen White to the Millennials" at the Southern Asia Pacific Division Youth Leadership Congress in Bacolod City. Many youth directors from different Union

Conference and Missions would also want him to share these findings with their young people. In the following month, he was invited to do the same lecture at the Philippine Youth for Christ which was held from May 29-June 2 at Iloilo City where thousands of young people gathered for revival and reformation. Pastor Tolentino was privileged to lecture on "Balance" in Ellen White's writings. Immediately he spoke again to a gathering of young people in Bacolod City from June

4-9 which they called “Advent Workshop” During this gathering Pastor Tolentino spoke how Ellen White has endeavored to “Lift Him Up” a Christ-Centered approach to understanding Ellen White’s writings. He also was given a chance to present an academic paper during the AIIAS Asian Theological Society Forum on June 14. He presented a paper entitled “Ellen G. White on Soul Winning through Christ and Cross-centered Preaching” during the plenary session. The last presentation was made in Central Luzon Conference youth leadership gathering on June 22 at Malabon City Manila.

On August 15-20, Pastor Reuel Almocera, the Branch Director reached out to our people during the SSD-Wide Personal Ministry, Sabbath School, and SOP Congress at Mountain View College where some 60,000 Adventist members have attended. He spoke during the plenary session and gave two lectures during the breakout sessions. Overall, the general ministry of the Branch Office was more on outreach and equipping our Pastors and Brethren about the writings of Ellen White. ♦

The first six months of 2019 were filled with important developments for the Center for Adventist Research and the Andrews University White Estate Branch office. I was busy with travel, writings, and administration. My various activities including the Alaska Conference worker’s meeting in January, working on continued writing for a Development of Seventh-day Adventist Theology textbook during February and March, General Conference Spring Meetings planning for the new Certificate program (I’ll mention more about this shortly), BRICOM meeting in Loma Linda during April, a New England Adventist History Tour for the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary Faculty during May. Also during May Markus Kutzschbach and I did some interest research at the Vermont Historical Society on William Miller’s diary and military records as well as visiting the Washington, New Hampshire, Historical Society where we made copies of some significant pictures of Adventist pioneers.

During June, I spent nearly three weeks at Sahmyook University in Korea teaching a class for the graduate school of Theology. It was very nice to work closely with Dr. Unbae Kim, the dean, who also served as my translator for the class. I also met some other interesting faculty members there. I was impressed with the earnestness of my students.



Merlin Burt
Director
Michigan Branch Office

The two biggest developments at the Center are the settling of plans for the 18 credit-hour academic certificate in Ellen White and Adventist Studies. The first cohort of this three-year certificate will launch in Asia at AIIAS during February 2020. It will be limited to 30 students/teachers from the three divisions, NSD, SPD, and SSD. The division education directors are gathering the names to recommend. Any Ellen White Research Center director from these divisions is automatically recommended for this program if they do not have an advanced degree or cognate in Adventist Studies.

Over the next six years, all of the world divisions will be involved in recommending students who teach or will teach in the area of Ellen White and Adventist Studies. More information on this program will be sent soon

from your division and from the White Estate regarding White Estate Research Directors who may need to take this Certificate.

The second major development is the continued improvement to the Adventist Digital Library (ADL). Eric Koester, the manager and programmer has begun beta testing on the second version of the software platform that has enhanced search capabilities and other helpful improvements. Over the next several months version 2 of our software will be improved to the point where it will go public (hopefully by the end of the year). We keep adding new scanned materials to the platform. I’m sure many of you have used this resource and I hope some of your unique holds can even be added to ADL soon. You can communicate with me or Eric regarding this possibility.

I wish each of my esteemed colleagues God’s richest blessing in your work of helping people to understand and read Ellen White’s writings. It is a great privilege we have to do this important work. ♦



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





Theodore Levterov
Director
California Branch Office

Hello from Loma Linda University. It seems, time is “flying” fast . . . and that is how I have felt about the first part of 2019. Yet, I have to say, that God has been good and has enhanced my ministry here at the Branch office. Here are just a few “highlights” of things that I have been doing.

In January, I had the privilege to attend the White Estate Consolation meetings. One thing that really stayed with me was our discussion there of how to make Ellen White more prominent among

our younger generation. This issue seems to come up more and more often as we face challenges of introducing Ellen White to this post-modern generation.

In February, I spent a whole weekend with the new pathfinder leaders of the East California Conference. I presented a three-part series on the importance of Adventist history for preserving our “identity.” We had great discussions. The seminar finished with a tour of our Heritage Center that all participants enjoyed.

In April, I attended the West-Coast Religion Teachers Conference at Pacific Union College. We had time to fellowship and listen to various presenters who were alive during the

Desmond Ford controversy. Some shared memories of attending the Glacier View Conference and gave personal accounts of their experience there. Then, on April 15 and 16, I attended the BRICOM meetings that took place here at Loma Linda University. The two days were packed with papers and articles for many new upcoming publications. I enjoyed meeting some of our White Estate colleagues

there. We were able to spend some wonderful time together.

In May, I went to Keene, Texas for the ASDAH association meetings. The theme was the “1919 Bible Conference.” I found it very beneficial since I am in the process of writing a paper on the topic myself. Then in June, I was invited to present three worship talks on “Ellen White and Education” for a meeting of NAD Union and Conference Educational Leaders. I used the three talks to explore “The Past,” “The Present,” and “The Future” of Adventist education in relation to Ellen White. My overall theme was really to emphasis how we *must* keep Ellen White’s principles of education alive if we want to preserve our unique contributions to education.

Of course, in the midst of all these events, I continued to teach my regular classes. In the Winter quarter I had my seminar class on the book “Ministry of Healing.” I also taught a couple of classes on “Adventist Heritage of Health” – one in-class and one on-line. The last two weeks in June, I also taught an intensive course on the “History of Seventh-day Adventism” at La Sierra University. Most of the students were “teachers” from our Academies and we had a great time discussing issues pertaining to Adventism.

How do we make Ellen G. White more prominent among our younger generation?



Levterov with the pathfinders leaders of the East California Conference.

As I said in the beginning, the first six months went by very fast. Yet, I was blessed to have the opportunity to share a part of Ellen White and Adventist history with my students.

Lastly, let me say that Lori Curtis, the archivist at our Heritage Center has left us looking for new opportunities. We have been blessed by her work

of updating and enlarging our collection for many years. I will give you an update on some new things that have been acquired and collected as soon as I can. ♦

Research Centers and Spirit of Prophecy Coordinators' Reports



Robert Wright
Director
Jamaica Research Center
Inter-American Division

The Ellen G. White SDA Research Center at Northern Caribbean University continues to function without a secretary since January 2018, as the former secretary migrated to the United States of America on January 9, 2018. As such the operations of the Center have been seriously affected. It has been difficult for the director to fill the many appointments with the churches as well as the on-campus responsibilities. Because of staff shortage in the School of Religion and Theology the Director of the Centre has been asked to carry additional teaching load. We hope that will be remedied in the near future.

In the Churches

Since January 2019, the Director engaged in:

1. Nine Spirit of Prophecy Seminars
2. One Publishing Training Seminar with East Jamaica Conference
3. One Training for Elders in North Jamaica Conference in the teaching of SOP and Sanctuary doctrine.
4. One Elders' certification Programme in SOP in collaboration with the Jamaica Union.

5. One Religious Liberty Programme.
6. One Revelation Seminar and several Bible classes in Bible prophecy.

No Reports Received

Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator
East Central Africa Division

Russia Research Center
Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator
Euro-Asia Division

Costa Rica Research Center
Mexico Research Center
Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator
Inter-American Division

On Air

The Director continues to host the daily Sabbath School study programme, Sabbath School Nuggets, as well as the weekly prophecy programme, Prophecy, Yesterday, Tomorrow, Today (PYTT). The current focus of PYTT is on the prophetic messages of Ellen White. We have frequently received feedback from listeners as to how interesting and educationally inspiring the fond the programmes.

On Campus

During the period the Director taught three undergraduate courses, Daniel, Biblical Spirituality (formerly Spiritual Formation) and Prophetic Studies (Gift of Prophecy), as well as two graduate courses, The Writings of Ellen White and Contents and Contours of Biblical Ethics. We also continue to distribute Bible study guides from the Centre. ♦

The Lord is good and his mercy endures forever. God, in his goodness and mercy has allowed me to serve for the last nine years as the Director of the White Research Center and Adventist Heritage in Puerto Rico. During this decade long ministry, we have been able to reach thousands of church members and hundreds of theology students and other university level students, with the specific message from the Spirit of Prophecy and the broader message from the Word of God. Without a doubt, the work of this outreach will be correctly and truly known when the fruits of eternity followed by the never-ending centuries, reveal it to us through the work and person of our loving Lord Jesus.



Pedro L. Cortés Burgos
Director
Puerto Rico Research Center
Inter-American Division

My most sincere thanks to the White Estate for the vote of confidence placed on me and the unconditional support that all the staff of this entity has given me for the past years. I thank the Inter-American Division, its administrators and departmental, for their interest and help in the face of the challenges that were sometimes presented to our Center and the commitment they always showed me. The Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary and its administrators can not be overlooked, given the commitment shown to our Center by providing economic support on several occasions for various projects that tended to expand the reach of the White Center in the Inter-American Division. And last but not least, I deeply thank the Seventh-day

Adventist Church in Puerto Rico, which through its faithful brotherhood provided us with the opportunity to broaden and keep the vision alive in the context of our island, by granting me with great pleasure the church pulpits every Saturday in order to increase and keep alive, through the exposition of His Word, the flame of faith.

Today, at the end of approximately a decade of work that with great pleasure and privilege we carry out, we hope and wish greater blessings for our successor. I write, as predecessor and first Director of the Center since its opening in 2010, requests prayers for each reader of this Newsletter, so that God may continue to

lead us, step by step, to the last step under the threshold of the pearly gates. At

the end of this last report as a White Research Center, I remind to all who will continue to be committed to this work what are the inspired words that, as a motivator of our faith, remind us that "we have nothing to fear of the future unless we forget the way that God has led us in the past." Amen. ♦

CONGRATULATIONS TO PEDRO ON TEN YEARS OF SERVICE AS DIRECTOR OF THE PUERTO RICO RESEARCH CENTER.



Daniel Plenc
Director
Argentina Research Center
South American Division

I send an affectionate greeting to the entire family of the White Estate and the Spirit of Prophecy Service. After a missionary experience in northern Brazil, where I headed the White Study Center of the Faculdade Adventista da Amazônia (Amazonia Adventist College) and the Adventist Heritage, I returned to the River Plate Adventist University, in the Argentine Republic. In February of this year, I started a new period as director of the EGW Research Center (center that I had directed from the end of

the year 2000 until the middle of 2014). Licenciata Liliana Elena Velázquez was chosen as the new secretary of our Center, while Dr. Silvia C. Scholtus continues in the coordination of the Argentina Adventist Historical Center.

Planning

The first task we encounter was to prepare a work planning for the years 2019 and 2020. I spoke with the outgoing director, Dr. Sergio Becerra (now Dean of the Faculty of Theology), our University president, Mag. Horacio Rizzo and with the Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator of the Argentine Union, Pr. Fernando Mammana. In addition, we received the timely visit of the Spirit Prophecy Coordinator of the South American Division (SAD), pastor Hélio Carnassale and the Director of Archives, Statistics and Research of the SAD, Dr. Thadeu J. Silva Filho. We also form an Advisory Board of the Research Center with active and retirees church workers living in our town.

Research and publication

I dedicate time to continue with the task that I assumed in 2015 as part of the editorial staff of the Seventh-Day Adventist Encyclopedia preparing historical and institutional articles of the North Brazilian, Argentine, Chilean, Paraguayan and Uruguayan Unions. I have sent 113 articles to the editors. The articles were written in collaboration with a team of writers.

I have also been asked to write two book previews and two critical reviews. Both Dr. Scholtus and I have sent several articles on church history to the Adventist Review, Adventist World, and other publications. Silvia published a Spanish book about the missionary Eduardo Thomann (*Eduardo Thomann: Visión y pasión en tinta y papel* [Edward Thomann: Vision and passion in ink and paper]) and I published a book in Portuguese, with a chapter dedicated to Ellen G. White. It is entitled: *Música na Igreja* (Music in the Church). Silvia Scholtus has also published another three books on doctrinal matters: *Los 144 mil en Apocalipsis* (The 144,000 in Revelation); *10 Conceptos clave en la vida Cristiana* (10 Key concepts in Christian Life); and *Los sacerdotes en la Biblia: Sacerdotes y Reyes para Dios* (The priesthoods in the Bible: Priests and Kings for God).

I continue with a project of the SAD on the history of theological education in its territory. Silvia Scholtus is preparing a book with poems written by pioneers. The SAD has authorized the translation into English of two books on history (*Misioneros fundacionales del Adventismo Sudamericano* [Foundational missionaries of the South American Adventism], by Daniel O. Plenc, Silvia C. Scholtus, Sergio Becerra and Eugenio Di Dionisio; and *Liderazgo femenino en los inicios de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día en Sudamérica* [Women Leadership in the beginnings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in South America], by Silvia C. Scholtus).

Academic and pastoral extension events

I have presented three sermons on the gift of prophecy this semester and I directed two weekend events in pastoral districts (Córdoba and La Rioja). I also presented two papers on Ellen G. White at undergraduate and graduate academic events. Three meetings of the

Historical Conferences Series and the first meeting of the University Athenaeum Season have already been held at the Research Center. These meetings were attended by students and people from the community.

As part of the task of the Historical Center, our team had the opportunity to organize and guide groups of people to places of historic interest. Mainly Crespo, in the province of Entre Ríos, located near the University, where the first Adventist church in South America was organized, and recently also Las Tunas, in the province of Santa Fe, where the first educational institution began.

Office and service activities

Our staff have received and guided graduate and postgraduate students, as well as other visitors in the Research Center and in the Historical Center. We attended personal interviews and answered many consultations that we received by mail. We also continue with the digitization of the Adventist Review in Spanish (up to now the issues corresponding to the years 1901 to 1965).

One of the important moments for the second semester will be the celebration of the 40th anniversary of our Research Center, on September 13-15. We seek in

advance to received Dr. Alberto R. Timm, Pr. Hélio Carnassale, and many other visitors. There will be a Theological Biblical Symposium organized by the Faculty of Theology on the theme: "Ellen G. White: Life, Thought and legacy", and our Center is organizing a Seminar on the Gift of Prophecy for the educational community of the University and churches in the area, entitled: "Keeping the vision alive". This year we are also preparing our Historical Center for an evaluation.

Blessings of the Lord for those who work in this important ministry keeping alive the memory of our pioneers. ♦



Renato Stencel
Director
Brazil Research Center
South American Division

It is grateful to know how God has led us through in the activities of the first semester of 2019. And it is the right time to thank God and tell about all His wonderful

blessings. During this period, we had many events that were accomplished under the guidance and grace of God. We began this year with a Spirit of Prophecy Symposium occurred on the 12th of February at Hope Channel, located in Jacarei, SP, planned to prepare and bring more information about EGW life and ministry to the group of people who work at this institution. There was a very enthusiastic reaction by the group!

From 22th to 24th of February, we led a SOP weekend at Vila Velha Church at Espírito Santo state. It was a wonderful Sabbath with members and visitors. We shared several messages in two different churches and it was a joyful experience.

On the 22th - 25th of March we participated in a Symposium about the Spirit of Prophecy, in the southern area of Brazil, in the city of Maringá, Paraná state. The program was attended by church members and many visitors. There was a great involvement by the participants and a great interest about

the topics presented. On the 4th and 5th of May, we participated in a SOP Symposium in the city of Ilhéus, Bahia state. The participants were very animated as we shared the messages about the Gift of Prophecy and Adventist History. It was a great experience to more than 800 participants!

On the 9th - 12th of May we had a remarkable experience with a Spirit of Prophecy Symposium in the Central Church of the city of Marabá, in Pará state. The church had been recently inaugurated. It was an exciting event with the involvement of the Church leaders and lay members. They were very joyful with the whole program. In the weekend program of the Marabá's Central Church, it was inaugurated an Ellen G. White Minicenter. We hope that this Minicenter might be a great blessing to the overall Church members in that region of the country.

Let's keep moving forward towards the second semester where important events will happen in our field. May God continue to lead us as we keep serving Him. ♦

No Reports Received

Alabama Research Center
Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator
North American Division

South Korea Research Center
Northern Asia-Pacific Division

Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator
South American Division

Greetings from the warm Northeast of Brazil. I thank God for all the blessings and victories during this semester. At the beginning of our school year I had the blessing of spending two weeks (Feb 21-Mar 7) at Andrews University continuing my research about the White couple, as part of my doctoral dissertation. It is always good to be back to my alma matter.

This semester was spent in classrooms and class related work, preparing lectures, exams, and grading papers for about 300 theology students, from freshman to senior classes. I taught classes in Development of SDA History and Theology, Church History, and Issues in Ellen G. White Studies. Besides that, I am the advisor of five theology college students as they prepare their final research paper, a graduation requisite for all students in Brazil, and advisor to four Master thesis.

On Sabbath, May 4, I participated in an all-day spirit of prophecy seminar to



Gerson Rodrigues
Director
South American Division

about 1000 people, including pastors, lay members and some non-SDAs, in the city of Ilhéus, state of Bahia. In this city, in 1912, was organized the first SDA church in the state. Nowadays, Bahia (with five conferences) and Sergipe, the smallest state in Brazil (with one mission) form the East Brazil Union. Renato Stencil, my friend and director of the Research Center in São Paulo was there as well.

On May 12, I made a presentation to the student canvassing leaders in our school about the history of the canvassing work in Brazil. The first official SDA missionary in Brazil was Albert Stauffer, a colporteur, in 1893.

This semester I also worked in writing a chapter for a book prepared by SDA high school students and teachers. They plan to launch the book next semester. Our Center helped them with the selection of some copies of handwritten letters (available online) from Ellen White and Eunice Harmon. They are doing a philological study, analyzing the language used by these two nineteenth-century figures. It has been very interesting working with these students, welcoming them to the Research Center and talking to them about the context of the letters. They are working, gathering funds and dreaming of visiting Andrews University and Battle Creek, hopefully soon. I pray that this project may be a blessing to them and to those involved. ♦



Cristian Gonzales
Director
Peru Research Center
Inter-American Division

Among the main activities that took place in the first part of the year were five:

First. Teaching of the prophetic gift of Ellen G. White in the Faculty of Theology. A little more than 50 students divided into two groups received the course of Prophetic Orientation. They were challenged to be promoters and advocates for the Writings of Ellen G. White.

Second. Training and training. Through the coordination with the churches of Lima, several seminars are held on the "Gift of Prophecy, biblical doctrines and history of the SDA". In the photo below you can see a two-hour seminar organized by the white mini-center of the Church of Miraflores. It was attended by more than 70 leaders. The meeting was held on Saturday, May 25.

Third. Organization of a White Mini Center. On Saturday, March 16, it was organized the White Minicentro number 19 in Peru in the Magdalena Church of the missionary district of Magdalena del Mar of the Peruvian Central Association – Southern Peruvian Union. In addition, we held a seminar on the Prophetic Gift.



Seminary in the Church of Miraflores, the most important of the Southern Peruvian Union.

Forth. The Peruvian Union University this year celebrates its 100th anniversary as an institution. For this reason, a commemorative photo exhibition was organized and prepared. The exhibition gathered photographs from 1919 (up to now) The exhibition was divided into three parts: the first gallery was dedicated to the presidents and the rectors, the second was a timeline in five stages, which were the times that the institution changed its name (1. Instituto Industrial, 2. Colegio Union, 3. Center de Estudios Superior Unión - CESU, 4. Universidad Unión Incaica and 5. Universidad Peruana Unión) and the third, was a gallery dedicated to companies such as; Products Union "e" Printing Union ".

Fifth. Digitalization of the magazine "El Eco". The most important magazine of the Peruvian Union University, because it records its history, anecdotes of students, the nomination of teachers and students

among others. It was printed for the first time in 1927 and since then it has been the magazine most appreciated by all graduates and workers of the university. It has been a very hard work because in the first place the whole collection had to be completed in the physicist and then be digitized and made available to the public. ♦



Panels of the photographic exhibition with more than 200 photographs.



John Skrzypaszek
Director
Australia Research Center
South Pacific Division

No Reports Received

Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator
South Pacific Division

Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator
Southern Africa-Indian Division

Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator
Southern Asia Division

Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator
West-Central Africa Division

The New Year 2019 commenced with what one could call as a big bang. Firstly, March 7-12, I was invited to present at two conference *Mission to the Cities and Church Planting Conference*. The topics "Urban Mission: A Road to Community Transformation: Historical Reflections" and "Church Building or Church Planting in the Early Adventist Movement" outlined the progressive developmental stages in urban mission and church planting in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was affirming to discover Ellen White's emphasis pointing the church towards an all-inclusive engagement in the mission "not merely by preaching but the deeds of loving Ministry" (Ms7, 1908). She directed this challenge to



Imam Ghamal at the main Alnoor Mosque

pastors, medical doctors, nurses, students, teachers, and people from, every profession and walks of life, drawing attention to Christ's way of reaching people. "The work Christ came to do in our world was not to create barriers and constantly thrust upon the people the fact that they were wrong. Though He was a Jew, He mingled freely with the Samaritans, setting at naught the Pharisaic customs of His nation. In the face of their prejudices, He accepted the hospitality of these despised people. He slept with them

under their roofs, ate with them at their tables—partaking of the food prepared and served by their hands—taught in their streets, and treated them with the utmost kindness and courtesy. While He drew their hearts to Him by the tie of human sympathy, His divine grace brought to them the

salvation which the Jews rejected (Ms87-1907). In the workshop titled *Church Planting Through the Eyes of an Inspired Visionary*, I explored Ellen White's focus on God's Vision for the Church Space which imparts boldness to relinquish old status-quo methodologies, to provide a contextual and refreshed but biblically grounded meaning of faith in Jesus.

Besides several preaching appointments, I presented weekend seminars, in Melbourne for the Cook Island Churches (February 22-23), Cairns (March 9-10) and Christchurch New Zealand (May 10-11). The highlight of my trip to New Zealand was the visit to the Mosques. Not so long-ago people of this city experience the horror of mass killing. It's hard to describe the depth of the tragedy and the lasting remains of the emotional trauma. It was my pleasure to talk to the Imam's of both mosques and listen to stories of pain, frustration, but at the same time, appreciate how the community surrounded them with love. I stood there longing for the day when pain, suffering, and the presence of evil will be no more "Come, Lord, Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

In the area of education, the first semester is always busy and full of excitement as I teach an undergraduate class "Introduction to Adventist

Heritage", the Graduate Diploma Class for advanced students "Studies in Adventist Heritage" and a unit titled "Studies in Christianity." I also team-teach a class on "Revelation and Inspiration" in which I focus on issues relating to the writings of Ellen White.



John at Linwood Mosque.

In April, Adventist Record published my article titled "Faith-nurturing guide: How to understand and use Ellen White's writings" in which I are recapture the primary purpose of the prophetic gift and its application to life's journey. Click [here](#) to read the article.

I am involved in other projects, but I will share more details in the next report. In conclusion, the words that challenged my life and work during the past few months were penned by Ellen White in 1912. "A mere head knowledge will not suffice to win men and

women to Christ. Head and heart must be enlisted if believers would do effectual work for God. The souls of those who listen are to be touched with the converting power of God; therefore, it is essential that the hearts of those who teach shall be touched with divine power as they present the lessons of the Word (RH January 25, 1912). ♦



Passmore Hacalinga
Director
South Africa Research
Center
Southern Africa-Indian
Division

As I write this report from my Ellen G. White Research Centre office in Cape Town, South Africa, I do so with utmost gratitude to God's faithfulness. After spending the whole of 2018 without setting my feet in my Centre office, now I am here. The Lord was faithful to the promises he made to Israel when he said: "For behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, 'that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,' says the LORD. 'And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.'" (Jere 30:3, NKJV).

The Lord has not just brought me back, but on Friday, 11:00 hours, on June 14, 2019, our defense lawyer sent me a telephone message to tell me that the Angolan Supreme Court had acquitted all six of us from all the false charges that were made against us, and that we are now free! I was humbled, but deeply grateful to the Lord who upholds justice, and am truly thankful to all those who prayed for us. The Lord deserves to be praised.

In our work, between January and June 2019, I have been involved teaching the *Life and Teachings of Ellen G. White* module to a class of 25 theology students at Helderberg College of Higher Education. My first event outside South Africa was that of conducting a Spirit of Prophecy seminar for South Zambia Conference workers in Livingstone, Zambia, from February 6 – 9, 2019. Then in March, 6-8, 2019, I participated in the Division Leadership Summit held in Victoria Falls town, Zimbabwe, where Elder Jim Nix served as one of the speakers. I was given opportunity to give an update report on the progress

of the Encyclopedia of SDA project. I shared with our church administrators several copies of our 2019 Heritage Calendar, featuring twelve Editorial Assistants of Ellen G. White.

From April 12-14, 2019, I visited Lesotho Kingdom to participate in the Spirit of Prophecy Convention held in the northern district of the Lesotho Conference. From Friday evening to Saturday evening, in company with other presenters, I gave four presentations on various Ellen G. White related topics. These were greatly appreciated by church members and pastors who attended the convention. The Convention organization said that they were planning to hold a similar program for the central district towards the end of this year. After the convention, I was privileged to visit Kolo Mission, the first Adventist mission in Lesotho Kingdom.

Later within the month of April, I was invited to speak at a Cape Conference workers' meeting held at Heidelberg College. A little later, on April 20, I preached at Bellville Church in the northern part of the Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality, where I spoke about the need for Adventists not to shy away from Ellen G. White, God's messenger to the remnant church. The members are usually bombarded with the numerous so called television charismatic "prophets". Our church is not a "non-prophet" organization. We have the Bible and the prophetic gift that will safely take the Adventist ship into the heavenly harbor.

At the Adventist University-Zurich, in Madagascar, our Ellen G. White Study Centre there received two high school visiting groups in April this year. The Centre also acquired 342 new books, and conducted four Spirit of Prophecy seminars in the local churches within Madagascar. The transfer of the

archives from the Indian Ocean Union Conference office to the E.G. White Study Centre at Adventist University-Zurich is in progress. The Centre also received several heritage items, such as an 1858 rare old Bible, a 1910 rare old Greek New Testament, a special 1965 stamp, etc. The Centre is also waiting for the arrival of a shipment of approximately 4000 books. Meanwhile the Centre is working on developing its strategic plan, building its mini museum as well as looking for people to be trained on how to manage its archives.



Unfortunately, the Ellen G. White Study Centre at Mozambique Adventist University in Beira, was hit by the devastating cyclone that swept through Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe early this year. The university infrastructure that had been developed at a great cost, was lost over night. Millions of dollars are now being sought for to rebuild the destroyed infrastructure. We can only thank God that no life was lost, nor was anyone physically injured. The university leadership solicits for our prayers for the restoration of the church's very important institution ♦

SYMPOSIUM AT SPICER ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY



Jesin Isreal Kollabathula
Director
India Research Cenyer
Southern Asia Division

An inspiring Symposium was held at Spicer Adventist University, Pune, India from Aug 30-Sep 1, 2018. It was attended by over 400 delegates. The resource personnel were Dr. Jim Nix, Dr. Alberto Timm, Dr. Clinton Wahlen, Dr. Gordon Christo and Dr. Howard Weems. All the delegates were blessed by enlightening and inspiring presentations. The symposium concluded on Sabbath evening with a banquet in university

cafeteria. Several students were given awards for spiritual excellence by Dr. Jim Nix.

HERITAGE WEEK AT MIRAJ SDA CHURCH

The Miraj SDA Church started in 1977 with 7 baptized believers. In the last few years it has grown to 65. It was our privilege to visit the church with a team from Spicer on Oct 26-27, 2018. The journey included a seven hour train ride. On the train we distributed health and gospel tracts to the co-passengers, sang songs, prayed, and spent time studying the Bible and preparing for the different spiritual activities we will be conducting at the Miraj Church. At the church, we had the privilege to sing, preach, pray and strengthen the believers during the Vespers, Sabbath School and Divine Service. The sermon was on the theme, 'Road Map To Heaven.' The worship service was followed by a fellowship meal. One of the highlights of the trip was to visit and pray for the believers who were hospitalized and visiting the people in their homes.

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who were hospitalized and visiting the people in their homes.

STUDYING WITH SUNDAY PASTORS

As Lydia opened her heart to the Gospel, Mrs Stella Ravi Babu opened her heart to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to invite Sunday pastors into her house at Hyderabad to study the book of Revelation. She was a Lutheran Christian but miraculously found the truth about Sabbath after she went on a Holy Land tour. Filled with a strong desire to tell the world about the true Sabbath, she invites Sunday Pastors to her home every month. Since an year and half, we have been systematically studying of the book of Revelation. The last study on Rev 20 about the Millennium was very inspiring to the Sunday pastors and all who attended the study were filled with a warm appreciation of the character of God. ♦



Rey Cabenero
Spirit of Prophecy
Coordinator
Southern Asia-Pacific Division

Greetings in JESUS' name!

Due to hectic appointments and busy schedules of Publishing meetings & Spirit of Prophecy Seminars I was not able to reply as urgently as needed. The SSD publishing houses had printed more than 1 million copies of *Steps to Christ* as the Church celebrated 125 years of its first printing.

As of this time, four millennial books of newly designed SOP Books are printed by Philippine Publishing House entitled *Last Day Events*, *Ministry of Healing*, *Counsels on Stewardship* & *Messages to the Young People*. The plan is on the way to distribute like leaves of autumn to all parts of SSD. Plenty of SOP seminars are being held in many churches by God's grace. ♦



I have been asked by the Ellen White Research Centre board members to report annually on the theological trends and issues circulating in the churches of the Trans-European Division. Because of that I will start this year's report with some of these cases. Pastor Mateusz Krzesinski from Poland wrote:

I am writing to you with regard to one question I am not able to verify. Is the acceptance of Ellen White as a prophet a test of membership? In other words, do we need to expect from people who want to be baptized that they accept the prophetic gift of Ellen White? Or is it only required for them to believe in the continuation of the spiritual gifts (the gift of prophecy included) and that 'the testimony of Jesus' is one of the characteristics of the Eschatological Remnant?

There are differences of opinion among pastors in Poland. Therefore, this question is of high importance. Because of this, I would like you to clarify this issue and to present the official position of our Church. I would also like to ask you for permission to use your answer in a discussion with the leaders of the Church in Poland as a presentation of the official position.

Pastor Claudiu Gulyas, Greek Mission president wrote:

I am writing to you regarding one ever-present issue in the church that we have to deal with and that is fanatic vegan views. A year or two now, we have this issue being raised up in the church, especially in the church of Athens where we have groups of Russian and Bulgarian members and a small group of Greeks too. One Greek brother and sister started to go in that direction and, as is usually done, they misuse the writings of Ellen White to prove their point. They are vegan; they see themselves as above others who eat differently, especially those eating meat. They think of themselves as being more holy.

I especially want your input on the issue presented by Ellen White in the book *Testimonies to the Churches*, volume 9, chapter 4 dealing with the health message. There, Ellen White mentioned Joseph, Moses and Daniel. Is there any evidence in the Bible that these believers, while going through their trials, chose to become vegans?

The South-East European Union, South Conference, is faced with huge challenges caused by anti-Trinitarian claims. I have received a request from them to try to explain the following sentence by Ellen White:



Radiša Antić
Director and Spirit of
Prophecy Coordinator
England Research Center
Trans-European Division

The Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Father, is truly God in infinity, but not in personality. He has wrought out the righteousness that enables human beings to overcome every assault of Satan. He will impute His righteousness to the believing saint who walks as He walked when on earth¹ [Ellen White Mss. 19, 1905, p. 116.]

In addition to that, I was asked to write one article per year to be sent to the unions and the Trans-European Division Communication Department on Ellen White and a second one on some major theological issue, approaching it from an Ellen White perspective. The two articles which were sent are: *Christian Perfection in the Bible and Ellen White Writings and Catholic-Protestant Dialogue: An Assessment*. Moreover, the video presentations on the following topics have been put on the Ellen White Research Centre web page: *The Concept of Sin in the Pentateuch, the First Epistle of John and Ellen White; Jesus's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary; The Relevance of Ellen White's Writings for the 21st Century; The Relevance of Jesus for the 21st Century; Forgiveness: What did Jesus Write on the Ground?; The Meaning of Giving, the Meaning of Faith in God and The Meaning of Life Itself: Ecclesiastes 11 and 12; Gideon*.

The first semester in 2019 was extremely busy for me because I was teaching a full load at Newbold and also at the end of the semester I travelled to Poland to teach yet another MA class at Podkowa Lesna. In addition to that, I have been tutoring students, holding seminars, speaking at conferences and have had weekly preaching appointments. On January 20 I travelled to Peterborough and shared the word of God with the faithful in that city. I found there an exceptionally warm community of faith that studies the Scriptures with passion and diligence. On January 24, I had several presentations to the ministers of the North England Conference in Birmingham. Because I was the only speaker on that day, I had to use all my physical and spiritual energy in order to reach the end of that ministers' meeting. On February 2, I spoke in the Cardiff Seventh-day Adventist Church. In spite of the treacherous roads caused by snow I found in that church a wonderful community of God and a dedicated pastoral family.

Seventh-day Adventist Church where I stayed the whole day. I had one presentation in the morning and another one in the afternoon after which there was quite a long time for questions and answers. I found that this kind of communication with our members although quite demanding physically and intellectually, is extremely important to our church members. On March 25 and 26 I participated in the Biblical Research Committee of the Trans-European Division meetings held at Newbold College.

Sabbath, March 30, was an extremely happy day for me because I had the chance to baptize a young girl, Snjezana Markek, at Newbold College. It took us almost a year to carefully study the Bible and even after that it was not easy for Snjezana to make a decision to be baptized because she comes from a very strong Catholic family and her parents are practising Catholics. However, the love of God prevailed in her life and I am thankful to God for that decision.

From April 5 to 9 I was in the Norwegian Union. On Friday evening and the whole day on Saturday I spoke to the students and church members at Tyrifjord secondary school. What a beautiful educational institution that is! More than two hundred students attend the school, both Adventists and non-Adventists. I was asked to speak on Friday evening to the students and faculty members about *The Origin of the Universe, the Origin of Life and the Meaning of Human Life*. On Saturday morning I addressed the issue of the *Relevance of Ellen White's Writings for the Church and the Contemporary World at Large*. Two days later I spoke to the ministers of the Norwegian Union at their meeting about *Jesus Going Behind the Veil in Hebrews 6: 19 and 20, The Issue of Plagiarism and Discrepancies in Ellen White's Writings and The Last Generation Perfection Theology*. The reaction to these presentations, in my view, was mixed.

From May 3 to 6 I travelled to Sweden to our school in Ekebyholm not far from the capital Stockholm. I was given the chance to speak to the students and the church members on several occasions. One of the main challenges for this institution is the position of the Swedish Ministry of Education according to which nothing but the theory of evolution is to be taught in the school. The teachers of Ekebyholm school are not even allowed to mention the creation account as an alternative to the theory of evolution. Several newspapers in Sweden have ridiculed the position of the school principal. Representatives from the Ministry of Education have visited our school several times and the dialogue is going to continue. On Saturday afternoon we travelled to the central Adventist church in Stockholm where I was asked to speak about the Last Generation Theology of Perfection. I was surprised to see how many people came to this meeting and the discussion after the presentation was passionate and at times overheated. My impression is that a one-sided exegesis has led many good people in that church away from a balanced biblical teaching about Christian perfection.

From May 12 to 17, I was in Poland teaching an intensive MA class, *Adventism and Ellen White*. ♦

During the first half of this year 2019, the WAD SOP Coordinator, Pastor N. J. Enang and I visited three Unions in our field namely: Cameroun Union Mission, Western Sahel Union Mission, and Eastern Nigeria Union Conference. Our focus in each of these trips was mostly on Heritage research. We interacted with many of our church leaders and Elders through whom we gathered many historical accounts, documents, and artifacts of individual Pioneers and churches to enrich our Heritage Center.

CHURCH HERITAGE ACTIVITIES

Below are samples of the accounts and the list of some of the people interviewed during the period under review;

ABRAHAM ARUOCHA NZOTTA AND SDA CHURCH IHIE, ABA NORTH CONFERENCE OF EASTERN NIGERIAN UNION CONFERENCE

The church was established in 1933. This followed the visit of the Missionary, Pastor Jessie Clifford led by one of his students, and an indigene of Ihie,

Abraham Aruocha Nzotta. The attempt to introduce the Adventist message and bible-based Seventh-day Sabbath doctrine was resisted by the people who were predominantly Anglican Church members. They began to throw sand on the Missionary and his boy, Nzotta. He latter prophetically declared that SDA church members in and around Ihie community shall be greater than the volume of sand poured on him. In spite the hostile reaction, the church began and the fulfillment of Clifford's statement is evident. In addition to the spread of the church since then, the community has hosted the first Nigerian Training College and Adventist High School and currently the Clifford University.



Adelowo Felix Adetunji
Director
Nigeria Research Center
West-Central Africa Division

EDMOND NAKU (A.K.A.) LOVING-GOOD AND OTARI ABUA SDA CHURCH, RIVERS WEST CONFERENCE OF EASTERN NIGERIA CONFERENCE

Mr. Edmond received the advent message through Pastor Jessie Clifford while serving a jail term in the then Gold Coast (now Ghana). Loving-Good, as was popularly known, returned home in Otari Abua Kingdom, Eastern Nigeria. He was so furnished that he started to share his new found faith with

the people of his community. In 1915, Pastor Jessie Clifford traced his friend Naku to his community in Nigeria. The two reconnected and the missionary was led to Chief Amaleph Oti, the Prime Minister of Abua Kingdom and second in command to the King Obuge Egsom. The chief received Pastor Jessie Clifford on behalf of the kingdom, accepted the truth along with his house household. The chief's house became the first place of worship for SDA Church members in Eastern Nigeria, by implication; Otari community was the first to receive the Advent message in Eastern Nigeria. In June 21, 1922, a missionary called W. Edmund signed an agreement with the Amaleph family of Otari, Abua for a piece of land for church building with the sum of 300 manilas as compensation.

ROBERT OLUIKPE WOSU AND SDA CHURCH UMUOBIAKWA, ABA EAST CONFERENCE OF EASTERN NIGERIA CONFERENCE

The SDA church Umuobiakwa was established in 1924 through an indigene, Robert O. Wosu. Wosu came in contact with Pastor J. Clifford while he was attending a government school at Aba to complete his primary school education. This missionary invited him to a bible class and the Sabbath program on Saturday. He became curious after attending the programs with the new light he had received. A promising leader in the ladder of education, Robert was respected in the Anglican Church where he had him membership in his village. He presented the new light, but only few members of the church positively responded at the onset. Majority rejected his presentation of new day of worship and determined to get rid of him and his idea. In spite of opposition, the advent message was gaining ground. Those who accepted the message broke away from the Anglican Church and demanded for their own share of the church assets. They specifically demanded for the giant bell and some benches. Their requests were turned down and these who moved out to join the new faith-SDA Church then decided and bought their own bell that year, 1924. With the unique sound of the bell, members were called for church



The 1924 SDA Church Umuobiakwa's Bell donated to WAD Heritage Center.

services for decades until it developed a crack. This "ancient bell" was donated to the WAD Heritage Centre in Babcock University, Ilishan, Nigeria on June 22, 2019. Another unique feature of this local church is the accurate record of their baptism since 1926 till date. This is highly commendable.

HRH Silas Monday Onwunali (1908 till date)

The Royal Father was a member of Roman Catholic Church by birth and education. He was a trained teacher, who served in various schools before his retirement. While in service as a teacher, he interacted with people of various Christian denominations, including Adventists. His desire to truly know and serve his Saviour gave him the conviction to embrace the Advent message in 1936. Since then, he had served his local church in various capacities. He was also a man of his People and contributed greatly to the development of his community. As a man of God who also loves and serves his people, Silas crowned as the traditional monarch of Obasi Ukwu Autonomous Community, Abia State, Nigeria in 2001. This old Statesman in his royal status still lives as a committed Adventist and an authority in the history of Adventism in Eastern Nigeria. In African settings, it is rare to combine traditional office with Christianity without compromise.

Among the Church Leaders and Pioneers interviewed are the following:

*From Eastern Nigeria Union Conference are - Professor Lawrence Nwaneri Chigbu, Pastor Matthias N. Olukaibe, Elder D. Z. Igenewori, Elder Joel Nwaogwugu, Elder I. Mgbeahuru, Elder O. Emmanuel, Pastor S. J. Ogbonna, Elder C. O. Etete, Elder S.A. Elemba, Elder Emmanuel O. Adaelu and Deaconess Elida Ebiya Nwakanma (Nee Tikili).

From Easter Sahel Union Mission – Elder Coulibaly



Rtd Pastor and Mrs. Bahauak Guillaume that pioneered Adventist faith in Gabon and Rep of Congo donated a French Bible to the WAD Heritage Center.

Lassina, Shepherdess Jeannine Mansaly Sadio, Mal. Abdoulaye Dan Caure, Mal. Moussa Sy and Pastor Guy F. Roger.

From Cameroun Union Mission – Elder Nsana Calvin, Rtd. Pastor Bahauak Guillaume, Madam Ngo Batoum Marie Dominique, and others.

RESEARCH CENTER'S REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Prophetic Guidance on Radio – The radio program is reaching more audience and currently on air every Wednesday by 6:00pm and Saturday by 9:00pm.

The Research Center's website (hosted by that of the University) remains active as our publications are regularly uploaded – <https://babcock.edu.ng/egw>

Our regular publications – The weekly publications: *Newsflash*, and *From the Pen of Inspiration* were regularly produced and two of the monthly editions of *Our Pioneer of the Month* had been released.

Special WhatsApp platform for Spirit of Prophecy – In addition to the WhatsApp platform for the WAD SOP Directors/Coordinators, another one has been created through which messages from the writing of Ellen G. White are sent to over 230 recipients on my contact list. Responses that come from these friends are wonderful.

Man power Training – for effective handling of the Research Center's cameras, a staff of the center, Pastor Taiwo Olawuyi, was sponsored for a-month training in multimedia.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

SOP Lectures - During the period under review, I had the opportunities to teach Spirit of Prophecy courses in Babcock University, Nigeria and Adventist University of Africa, Kenya.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

SOP Retreat - Aba South Conference in Eastern Nigeria Union Conference has conducted a retreat this year with the theme, "The Bible, The Spirit of Prophecy and Christian Life". The Conference hosted more than 500 delegates and graduates of Voice of Prophecy Discover Bible School during their maiden Spirit of Prophecy Convention. This long awaited maiden convention was staged at Eastern Nigerian Union Conference Headquarters on May 1-4, 2019. The Union has also carried the Spirit of Prophecy Awareness Seminar and promotions down to local Churches under the leadership of the Union Coordinator for SOP/VOP Pastor Josiah C. Nwarungwa. The effort of creating awareness and calling people back to the study of Spirit of Prophecy materials is yielding much fruits. For instance, within the last one year, the publishing department had sold over a thousand sets of the "Conflict of Age Series"

Growing Together SOP Translation Project - By the grace of God, both the Western and Eastern Nigeria Union Conferences had translated and submitted five SOP books each and the Northern Nigeria submitted two under the White Estate program tagged 'Growing Together'. We are working hard, to ensure that the target of getting the balance of the twelve specified books translated before the end of this year shall be a reality.

It is a great privilege to work with the church leaders in various fields visited within the last six months. I commend the commitment and hospitality of each of them. I cannot quantify the wealth of knowledge and experiences gained from the stories of those pioneers who had served before us. All hands must be on deck to ensure that their labours would not be in vain. The 'raw materials' brought from the field would be of no use without the diligent efforts of the Research Center staff who faithfully transcribed, translate, and restructure the stuffs. It is our determination, from this end, to 'Keep the Vision Alive'. ♦



Islamic Clerics in Senegal Mal. Abdoulaye Dan Caure, and Mal. Moussa Sy Embraced Adventism and shared their experiences with the Heritage Team.