

Ellen White,
Visionary
for Kids

Third Quarter 2010

Creation Care

Step Up for
God's Handiwork



In this issue:

The Secret Stocking

Ask Cindy

You've Got Issues

and more!



◀ Pull out and Save

The Secret Stocking

An oil painting depicting a woman in a dark, long-sleeved dress and a white collar, standing in a kitchen. She is holding a white stocking up in her right hand and gesturing with her left hand towards a man. The man, seen from the back and side, has a beard and is wearing a dark suit jacket. He is looking at the woman. The kitchen background includes wooden cabinets with glass doors containing dishes, and several copper pots hanging on the wall.

Ellen's recycling plan paid

“To be wasteful of time or material is dishonesty before

God” (Testimonies

for the Church, vol. 4,

p. 451).

Ellen White opened the cupboard and felt for the stocking hanging behind the door. Finding the stocking’s opening, Ellen carefully dropped the few coins she held in her hand into it. The coins clinked as they dropped inside.

Ellen smiled as she saw the growing bulge in the stocking. For months now, she had been doing what she could to save a little money here and there. It wasn’t easy finding a few coins to set aside every week. The Whites needed to buy food, clothing, and other household necessities, but Ellen spent money wisely, doing her best to help cover family expenses. She also tried not to waste anything that could be used or reused.

One day Mrs. White looked around the house. *Our rugs are so shabby*, she thought. *But how can we replace them without spending any money?*

That’s when she remembered the old, worn-out clothes she’d set aside. *That’s it!* she thought. *I’ll make rag carpets out of those old clothes!*

So that’s exactly what she did. And that week she dropped a few more coins into the stocking. Her secret fund continued to grow.

In time Ellen was able to save enough coins to fill the stocking. Not long after this her husband, James White, came home looking terribly worried. He’d been working at the printing press and discovered they didn’t have enough money to pay for the paper they needed to print the next issue of the *Review* magazine.* “What can we do?” James wondered aloud to Ellen. “Where can we find \$64?”

James White watched in surprise as his wife opened the cupboard and retrieved her secret stocking. Coins tumbled out as she carefully emptied the contents onto the table. They eagerly counted the money. Would there be enough to cover the cost of the needed paper? Yes! With thankfulness in his heart for both the funds and the amazing wife God had seen fit to provide him, James White headed out the door to purchase the paper.

Ellen White hung the now-empty stocking back in the cupboard. She was glad she had done what she could. And now she would keep saving for another day.

* Today the magazine is called *Adventist Review* and is the official publication of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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You've Got Issues

Why should I care for planet Earth when we're going to heaven soon anyway?

Imagine that someday you're engaged to be married (yeah, we know; that's a long way off). During the time that you are eagerly looking forward to your wedding day, would you neglect or beat up the person you plan to marry—just because you aren't yet married?

As Christians, we're eagerly looking forward to the return of our Friend and Savior, Jesus Christ. Planet Earth is His creation, and just like you wouldn't beat up your soon-to-be marriage partner, it's logical that we wouldn't "beat up," exploit, or otherwise misuse the earth while waiting for the big day of Jesus' second coming.

The same God who carefully folded His grave clothes (see John 20:6, 7), who notes when even a sparrow falls to the ground (see

Matthew 10:29), who instructed that the leftovers of a miraculous meal be picked up (see John 6:12), also wants us to take good care of His earth.

The environment is important because God's children are important. God died for people (that includes you and me), and our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being is affected in various ways by how we care for the earth. So the reason we care for creation is not because we worship some Mother Earth goddess or believe in evolution or think that God is part of nature. No, it's because caring about our environment is showing respect for God, our Creator, and His creation.

It's true that this present world is temporary (see 2 Peter 3:10, 12), but that doesn't mean we should destroy it!





Ask
Cindy

How can I as a Christian take care of the earth?

Be(come) a Vegetarian

You can save about 1.5 tons of harmful CO2 emissions each year by being a vegetarian. That's the difference between your parents driving a small, fuel-efficient car and them driving a big, gas-guzzling SUV. Producing one fast-food hamburger uses enough fuel to drive a small car 20 miles and enough energy for 17 showers!

Sometimes it's hard to figure out how to help. Here are some simple ideas to get you started. If there are suggestions here that you haven't put into practice, why not give at least a few of them a try? (Some of these suggestions will require parental permission and/or assistance.) We're cheering for your progress!

Cindy

Save Animals Animals slated for human consumption are often kept in terrible conditions and slaughtered by cruel and inhumane means. Learn more by Googling the term "factory farming." Ask to do a school paper on this subject.

Conserve Water You could save about 300 gallons of water each month just by turning off the faucet while you're brushing your teeth!



Start a Garden

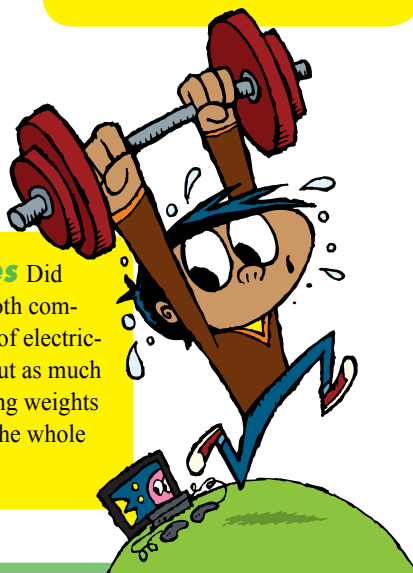
It's easy to grow delicious food in your own backyard or at school. It's basically free, and growing vegetables yourself saves lots of fuel because you're not having them shipped from somewhere far away. (The fresh veggies taste great too!)



Save Resources

- Use recycled items whenever possible (including clothes!).
- Use environmentally friendly school supplies.
- Buy less “stuff” in general.
- Enjoy nature. It helps us realize what a great world we have.
- Make compost from kitchen scraps to fertilize your garden.
- Walk, take a bus, or ride a bike.

Plant a Tree Make some oxygen! Plant a fruit or nut tree and you give a gift that lasts many years. Volunteer with community organizations such as the Arbor Day Foundation.



Play Fewer Video Games

Did you know playing video games on both computers and gaming systems uses lots of electricity? The gaming system requires about as much energy as you could generate by lifting weights while running as fast as you can for the whole time you're playing.

What Do You Want to Know?

Ask youth minister Cindy Tutsch any question about Ellen White, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, or the Bible—especially questions on next quarter's topic: “Creation—Where Did We Come From?” Just send your e-mail to cindytutsch@hotmail.com. All of your questions will be answered—and we'll even put some of them in the next *Visionary*!

Give a Bible Study

*Here's the information you need to share
Bible truth with a friend!*



Caring for God's Creation

1. Psalm 24:1. The earth is the Lord's.

2. Genesis 1:28. God created the earth, but He has made us managers of His property. Good managers take care of their entrusted goods. (See also Matthew 25:14-30.)

3. Genesis 2:15. Caring for the earth includes keeping it orderly and beautiful—not exploiting its resources through greedy waste.

4. 1 Corinthians 10:31. Because God owns the earth (Psalm 95:5), caring for His creation is a way we can honor Him.

5. Proverbs 12:10. Even animals are to be cared for and not neglected or mistreated.

6. Hebrews 2:6-8. God has given the earth into our care not to trash or abuse it, but to bring out its full potential.

7. Genesis 3:17-19. Sin caused our earth to be in its present dying and decaying state. (See also Romans 5:12.)

8. Revelation 11:18. God will ultimately (reluctantly) destroy those who destroy the earth, and create a new heaven and a new earth. (See also Isaiah 51:6.)

9. Isaiah 11:9. If nothing will hurt or destroy in the new earth, it is a good idea to learn how to build up, not destroy, on this earth!

10. Genesis 1:31. God originally made everything good and perfect. It is the work of redemption* to bring us back to the original Garden of Eden condition. God is pleased when we partner with Him right now to restore as far as possible our body, mind, and spirit to how He first made us. Stewardship of (caring for) all God's creation is one way we can worship God.

**Redemption is God's act of rescuing us from the results of sin (death) and giving us eternal life. We are "redeemed" when we accept Jesus as our Savior, believing that He rescued us from sin by dying on the cross in our place.*

This Bible study was made especially for young people. You can find more Bible studies for young people at www.AdventSource.com, including the *41 Bible Studies* set by Cindy Tutsch.



From the Pen

Comments from Ellen White about GOD'S CREATION

“God chose a secluded home in the country for Jesus to grow up in. Jesus enjoyed the quiet of dawn and twilight in the green valleys and other lessons from nature.”¹

“Children as well as older people can relax and enjoy nature—from forests, hills, and valleys to rivers and plains. There’s such a variety of shapes and colors in nature! Think of the beautiful trees, shrubs, and different varieties of flowers found in nature’s garden!”²

“Even those without much money could have a tiny lawn if they lived in the country, with a few trees for shade and flowering shrubs and fragrant blossoms. Love of nature can draw families closer to each other and closer to God.”³

“God wants us to enjoy nature, and He hopes we will find birds and flowers delightful.”⁴

“Trees contain elements that help restore health.”⁵

¹ Adapted from *The Adventist Home*, p. 132, 133.

² Paraphrased from *The Adventist Home*, p. 154.

³ Adapted from *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 370.

⁴ Adapted from *Counsels on Health*, p. 266.

⁵ Adapted from *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 263, 264.



Ellen Looks Out for the Animals

Ellen White advocated vegetarianism not just to promote humanity's health, but also to prevent animal suffering:

“Animals are often transported long distances and subjected to great suffering in reaching a market. Taken from the green pastures, and traveling for weary miles over the hot, dusty roads, or crowded into filthy [trains or trucks], feverish and exhausted, often for many hours deprived of food and water, the poor creatures are driven to their death, that human beings may feast on the carcasses” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 314).

In the same book (p. 315), God's messenger penned these words:

“Animals see and hear and love and fear and suffer.”

“Think of the cruelty to animals that meat eating involves, and its effect on those who inflict and those who behold it.”

It turns out that being kind to animals is not such a new concept after all!



About Ellen White

Ellen White was born in 1827 near Portland, Maine, U.S.A. Seventh-day Adventists believe that God called her to be a prophet and gave her messages through dreams and visions, as foretold in Bible passages such as Joel 2:28, 29 and Ephesians 4:11-13.

Ellen White's writings bring messages of hope that express the love of Jesus for every person. She proclaimed that the Ten Commandments are based on God's great love and that God will help His children keep His commandments as a response to that love. Ellen White dedicated her entire life to serving others.

The editors of *Visionary* invite you to read Ellen White's writings for yourself to discover, enjoy, and build a stronger friendship with Jesus.

For more fun stories and puzzles, visit our online edition of *Visionary* at www.whiteestate.org/vez.

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