

# Ellen White. Visionary for Kids

Third Quarter 2012

## Gifted to Serve

Ellen's lifework  
continues to  
bear fruit.



In this issue:  
Fearful No More  
Just for Fun  
Ask Cindy:  
Five Reasons  
You Can Trust  
Ellen White

Healthy Diet

◀ Pull out and save



# Fearful No More

BY HELEN LEE ROBINSON

*Mano's*

Visionary

V2

**A**s Ellen lay on a cot, too sick to get up and move about, she overheard a visitor asking her mother, “Have you talked to her about dying?”

Ellen tried to stifle a gasp. Were they talking about her? Was she really going to die? The thought terrified her. No, she couldn’t die. She wasn’t ready to die.

The accident had happened on the way home from school. An older girl had thrown a stone at her, hitting her in the face. Somehow Ellen had managed to make it back home, but she had been in a coma for three weeks, and the accident had left her very, very ill.

Now, as Ellen thought about the possibility of dying, she was filled with fear. She began praying earnestly, asking Jesus to forgive her sins and to come into her heart. As she prayed, Ellen’s fear was replaced with a sense of peace.

Ellen slowly got better, but she did not fully recover. Because of her poor health she was unable to attend school. At times she blamed God for this, and then she felt guilty about blaming Him. She also struggled with doubt and fear. The thought of Jesus’ soon coming should have made her happy, but instead she lived with the dread that when He came, she would be lost.

*How can I possibly be good enough? she wondered. Why would God save me? Will I be lost forever?* The questions swirled in her head. Sometimes when she went to bed, she couldn’t fall asleep. All she could think about was the fear and dread that she was not ready for Jesus to come.

A few years later Ellen attended a meeting at which the preacher invited people to come forward if they

**One Person  
alone could bring  
assurance to the  
girl’s troubled  
heart.**

wanted to accept God's gift of salvation. Ellen stood and walked forward with the rest of the people, but secretly she felt that she couldn't really be a child of God. She simply wasn't good enough.

All that changed one summer when she learned more about God's grace. At a meeting she attended, the preacher said that all people had to do was accept

God's "scepter of mercy." Could this be true? Ellen knew the story of Esther and how King Ahasuerus had extended the scepter to her, saving her life. Was receiving salvation that simple?

Ellen later wrote of the truth she discovered at that moment: "Those who were waiting to make themselves more worthy of divine favor before they ventured to claim the prom-

ises of God were making a fatal mistake. Jesus alone cleanses from sin; He only can forgive our transgressions" (*Life Sketches*, p. 22).

Ellen realized she had been making this "fatal mistake." She now knew that salvation wasn't about how good she was; it was about how kind and merciful God is. She felt so much better! No longer did she feel sad, scared, or anxious. She was happy. Jesus was close beside her.

Later that year, at the age of 14, Ellen decided to be baptized to publicly show her faith and acceptance of God's gift of salvation. In a bay outside Portland, Maine, Ellen stepped into the cold, choppy waters and was baptized. Despite the wind and the waves crashing on the rocks, Ellen felt at peace. After so many years of uncertainty, and, yes, even fear, she felt accepted by God and secure in His love for her.

**After so many years of uncertainty, Ellen felt accepted by God.**

Baptism did not quiet all of her fears, however. She was still troubled by her imperfections. How could she be good enough?

She found reassurance after a special dream in which she met Jesus. In the dream Jesus told her, “Fear not.”

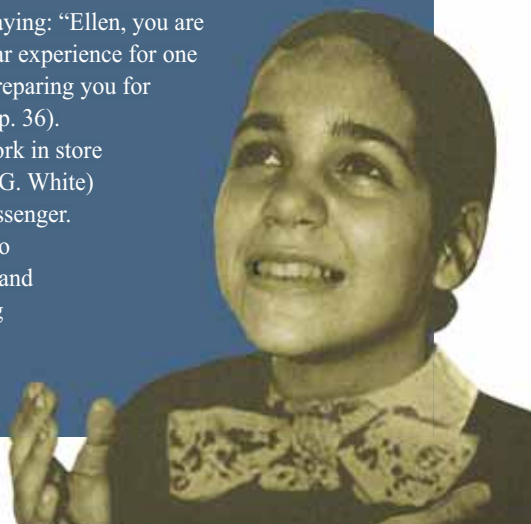
Ellen Harmon (who after her marriage became Ellen White) learned to place her life more and more in God’s hands. She had found a friend in Jesus, and because of this she could let go of her fears. When she felt unworthy, when she felt lost, she knew that she could give her fears to God and claim His promises of forgiveness and grace.

### Ellen’s Special Work

While young Ellen was struggling with her fears and doubts, her mother suggested that she talk to Pastor Stockman, a preacher in the area. Ellen went to Pastor Stockman and shared with him the ups and downs of her spiritual journey. She told him about her fears of being lost forever and the peace that she had felt when she accepted God’s gift of grace. She also told him about her dream in which Jesus had told her to “fear not.”

Pastor Stockman responded by saying: “Ellen, you are only a child. Yours is a most singular experience for one of your tender age. Jesus must be preparing you for some special work” (*Life Sketches*, p. 36).

And indeed God had a special work in store for her. Ellen (now known as Ellen G. White) was chosen by God as a special messenger. She was given visions and dreams to share with others. The many books and articles that she wrote are still being read all over the world, drawing readers closer to Jesus.



# Just for Fun

BY HELEN LEE ROBINSON

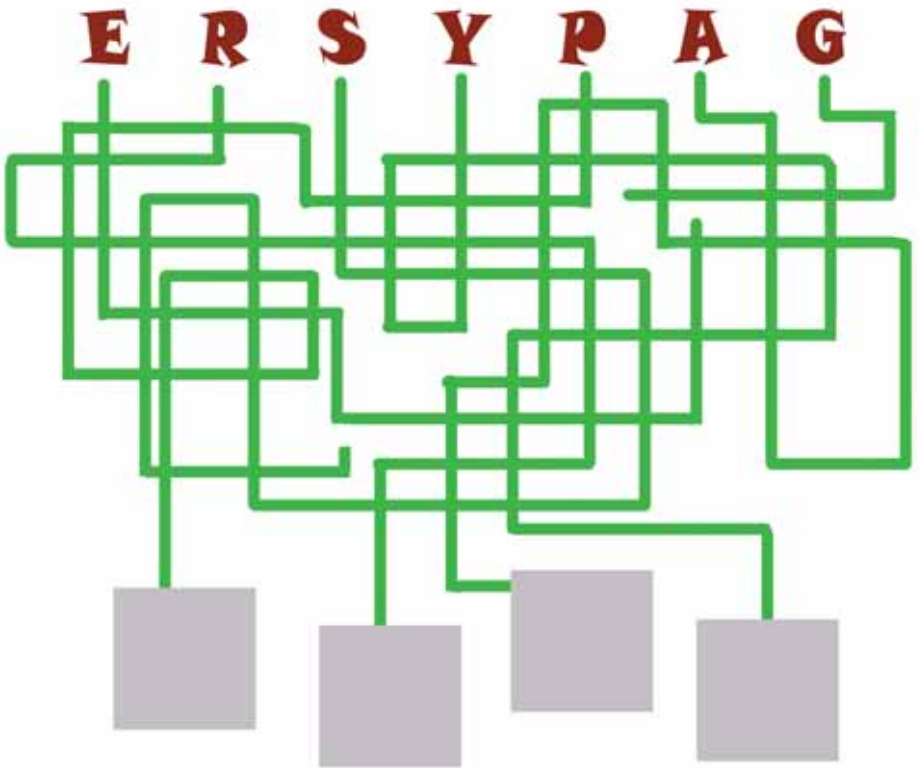
## Unwrap God's Gifts

Ellen Harmon (who later became Ellen White) was happy to discover that God is a gracious Savior who offers us His “scepter of mercy” just as King Ahasuerus offered his scepter to Queen Esther. “Unwrap” each gift below by writing down the letter that comes between the two letters provided. The answer will reveal two special gifts for sinners who accept God’s grace and touch His “scepter of mercy.”



# Friend to Friend

When Ellen White was a young girl, she was eager to share God's "pardoning love" with her friends. In the book *Life Sketches*, page 41, she writes that not only did she meet with her friends personally to talk to them about God, but she did something else. To discover what this was, follow the lines from the letters to the boxes below. Some of the letters will not be used.



All answers on p. V9



Ask  
Cindy

**Q. How do we know that Ellen White was a true prophet?**

**A. Many Christians believe there can be no more prophets outside of those that we read about in the Scriptures. But the Bible does not support this view.**

God still wants to communicate with His children, and sometimes He does that through the voice or writings of a contemporary prophet.<sup>1</sup>

In the Bible study on page V10, you'll see the tests of a prophet as provided in Scripture. Let's see how Ellen White measures up to these tests.

**Test 1: Isaiah 8:20—The Bible is the standard.** Ellen White never contradicted Scripture. In fact, all through her 70 years of public ministry she continually pointed people back to the Word of God. For her the Bible was and is the ultimate authority.

**Test 2: Jeremiah 28:9—Prophecies are fulfilled.** Although Ellen White's work was not primarily predicting the future, we see evidence of her fulfilled predictions. For instance, she wrote that calamities would be more frequent just before Jesus comes. She wrote that smoking would cause disease—and that was back when physicians were prescribing nicotine as “lung medicine”!

**Test 3: Matthew 7:20—A spiritually fruitful life.** Ellen White was a compassionate neighbor and lived simply so that she could help those who had the least. She was loyal to her husband and kind to children and animals. Though she never claimed to be “perfect,” she always tried to be like Jesus, and she confessed and repented when she felt that she had not been like her Savior.

**Test 4: Acts 4:12 and 1 John 4:1, 2—Work points to Jesus.** Ellen White continually promoted Jesus Christ as God, Redeemer, and Friend—in her life, in her writings, and in her public and private speaking. Her book *The Desire of Ages*<sup>2</sup> is a biography of Jesus. *Steps to Christ*<sup>3</sup> contains practical instruction on how to know Jesus better. *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*<sup>4</sup> features stories and parables that Jesus told.



**Test 5: Jeremiah 23:16, 17—Faithfulness to duty no matter what.** Ellen White had the courage to tell people when they were doing wrong. She didn't try to "buy" popularity, fame, or prestige by watering down the messages God gave her in order to make people like her better. She was not even afraid to confront the General Conference president when he was making poor choices!

Today there are schools, colleges, and universities that exist because of the visions that God gave to Ellen White. Publishing houses around the world were started because of the messages God sent her. Seventh-day Adventist hospitals, clinics, food factories, and sanitariums were built because Ellen White declared to the people what God had shown her in vision.

When God gets ready to do something important, He often sends a prophet to announce the event. Think of Noah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, and other prophets in the Bible. Now we are on the verge of the greatest event the world has ever seen—the return of Jesus! I invite you to test Ellen White by reading her writings for yourself.

<sup>1</sup>“Prophet” means “one who speaks on behalf of God or who brings messages from God to the people.”

<sup>2</sup>Available in adapted English under the titles *Messiah* and *Humble Hero*.

<sup>3</sup>Available in adapted English under the title *Steps to Jesus*.

<sup>4</sup>Available in adapted English under the title *Blessings*.

Cindy

### **What Do You Want to Know?**

Ask youth pastor Cindy Tutsch any question about Ellen White, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, or the Bible—especially questions on next quarter's *Visionary* topic: “Ellen White's book *The Great Controversy*.” Just send your e-mail to [cindytutsch@hotmail.com](mailto:cindytutsch@hotmail.com). All of your questions will be answered—and we might even put some of them in a future issue of *Visionary*!



# Give a Bible Study

## Prophets in the Last Days

*Show others why you have confidence  
in the writings of Ellen White!*

### Could There Be Prophets Today?



**Matthew 24:24.** When speaking of events before His second coming, Jesus said to beware of false prophets. If there were to be no true prophets at that time, He would have said something such as “Beware of prophets, period!” If there are false prophets, then there must be true prophets.

**Ephesians 4:11-13.** In every listing of the Holy Spirit’s gifts the gift of prophecy is included. (See also Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28.)

**Revelation 12:17.** The last church of God will have the gift of prophecy, also known as the “testimony of Jesus” (KJV). Revelation 19:10 (KJV) says: “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

## Tests of a True Prophet

**1. Isaiah 8:20.** Lots of people claim to be prophets. If they contradict Scripture, they are false prophets.

**2. Jeremiah 28:9.** A true prophet's predictions should come to pass—unless it's a conditional prophecy, such as Jonah's prophecy against Nineveh, whose inhabitants repented and did not have to suffer God's predicted judgment. (See also Jeremiah 18:7, 8.)

**3. Matthew 7:20.** The "fruit" or lifestyle of a true prophet will show them to be like Jesus. Money-grabbing or immoral "prophets" are false prophets.

**4. Acts 4:12 and 1 John 4:1, 2.** True prophets will direct people to Jesus alone for salvation. They will make it clear that eternal life cannot be gained through human works. The Jesus to whom a true prophet points is God Himself (see John 1:1-4, 14).

**5. Jeremiah 23:16, 17.** A true prophet will let us know when we're doing wrong, even if it makes him or her unpopular.

## How Should We Relate to Prophets?

**Amos 3:7.** God will reveal to a prophet what we need to know in order to be saved. Prophets are a blessing—don't despise them.

**Joel 2:28-30.** God has given the gift of prophecy many times in the past, and He is entitled to give it again in the future. Be ready to test the prophets by Scripture.

**This is study 36 in a set called 41 Bible Studies, a series for teens by Cindy Tutsch. It's available at [adventsource.com](http://adventsource.com).**





# About Ellen White

**E**llen 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 such Bible passages 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](http://www.whiteestate.org/vez).**

*Visionary* is provided by the Ellen G. White Estate.

Director: James R. Nix • Vice Director: Tim Poirier

Associate Directors: William Fagal, Cindy Tutsch, Ivan Leigh Warden

*Visionary* Editor: Cindy Tutsch • Associate Editors: Darryl Thompson, Gilbert Cangey

Contract Writer: Helen Lee Robinson • Artwork and Design: Wendy Hunt, Darryl Thompson

Writer-Researchers: Darryl Thompson, Cindy Tutsch, Gilbert Cangey

Online Coordinators: Gilbert Cangey, Darryl Thompson • Consultants: Larry Blackmer, Linda Koh, Kimberly Luste Maran

Unless otherwise noted, photos © 2012 Thinkstock.com. Unless otherwise noted, Bible texts in this issue are from the *Holy Bible*, New International Version. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

V12

Visionary