

From the G.C. President

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O HERE WE GO AGAIN! In recent weeks a new independent publisher, *PacificRim Press*, has been offering for sale the “most complete” collection of “published and unpublished” Ellen G. White writings. *PacificRim Press* is not an authorized publisher/distributor of Ellen G. White materials, nor can it possibly fulfill its advertising promise to provide the unpublished Ellen G. White materials inasmuch as **it does not have them!** For several years the Ellen G. White Estate has been preparing for release on a CD-ROM all Ellen G. White’s unpublished letters and manuscripts. But since that project is still ongoing, the unpublished materials are not yet available. Furthermore, a number of the Ellen G. White books included in *PacificRim Press*’s published volumes are still under United States copyright. Permission for publication by *PacificRim Press* has not been granted by any of the copyright holders (Pacific Press, Review and Herald and Ellen G. White Estate).

As for the “Study Bible” offered by *PacificRim Press*, it should be noted that for several years the White Estate Board of Trustees has been on record as opposed to placing Ellen G. White’s writings within the same covers as the Bible. The board does not believe that it is in the interest of truth and the church to give critics the opportunity to accuse Adventists of having their own Bible and placing Mrs. Ellen G. White’s writings on a par with the sacred canon. Moreover, it is concerned that the biases of whoever makes the selections of EGW comments will be reflected in the selections. This could result in her meanings being distorted.

As Ellen G. White once wrote: “The Lord has given to His people appropriate messages of warning, reproof, counsel, and instruction, but it is not appropriate to take these messages out of their connection and place them where they will seem to give force to messages of error” (TM 36).

Thus, not only have copyrighted materials been misappropriated and distributed under a name the casual reader might conclude is (or is affiliated with) a denominational publishing house, but they have been released in a context likely to bring reproach on our church.

I believe it was the Catholic bishop, Augustine, who proposed that “the ends justify the means,” that doing wrong is justified if some good results. I thought Adventists had rejected this rationalistic, unbiblical doctrine.

Further inquiries should be directed to the Ellen G. White Estate. Phone: (301) 680-6540; Fax: (301) 680-6559.

O PASTOR RELEASED FROM JAIL! I am pleased to report that Pastor Houmphanh and Sister Ba See, arrested and jailed last October while bringing Bibles into Laos, were released from jail on Friday, June 6. Pastor Houmphanh attended church last Sabbath, brought a message of hope and faith to the members and lead them in singing, “In His Time.” While the church rejoices there is uncertainty about what the future might hold. Please continue to pray for the church in Laos and especially Pastor Houmphanh.

O LEADERS RETURN TO KINSHASA: The four families of church leaders, forced to flee Kinshasa across the Congo River to Brazzaville, found themselves in the midst of another military uprising between warring militias and sought refuge at the World Health Organization. Pastor L.C. Cooper, associate secretary assigned to the Africa-Indian Ocean Division, reported that when the shooting subsided on Friday,

the four families were able to rent a river taxi to take them back to Kinshasa where they are safer than they were in Brazzaville.

O FROM THE FRONT LINES: Two young men, Lee Hyun Mo and Surakarn Thammachatkiri, recently began working in the Krabi and Phang-nga provinces in southern Thailand. Trained by the Global Mission-funded “1,000 Missionary Movement” in the Philippines, these two volunteers hold worship services with two groups. Each evening they visit nearby villages where villagers supply them with an evening meal. Please pray for the thousands of courageous Pioneers who truly live the Global Mission motto: “Reaching the Unreached with Hope.”

Off the Back Burner

Segment #68: A source of abuse of inspired writings is distinguishing between the sacred and the common. While the quest for self-supremacy leads some to reject that which is sacred based on presumed discrepancies in that which is common yet, at the same time, one must be alert to the obvious distinction between the sacred and the secular.

Examples where both elements are intertwined abound in hundreds of Ellen G. White’s letters in which she spoke of the weather, her grandchildren or the garden. But in the same document, she would often direct the reader’s thought to his or her spiritual needs or to a profound spiritual thought. That shift would signal readers they were now listening to a message based on divine instruction.

On one occasion, Ellen G. White explained how she made a distinction between her own counsel and a clear message from the Lord. In 1897, she wrote from Australia to John Wessels in South Africa, suggesting that he come to Australia to help in establishing the sanitarium work. The letter included matters that she had been shown regarding his family, but also some things she had not been shown, and she made this clear: “I have not been given the message ‘Send for Brother John Wessels to come to Australia.’ No; therefore I do not say, I know that this is the place for you. But it is my privilege to express my wishes, even though I say, I speak not by commandment. But I do not want you to come because of any persuasion of mine. I want you to seek the Lord most earnestly, and then follow where He shall lead you. I want you to come when God says Come, not one moment before. Nevertheless, it is my privilege to present the wants of the cause of God in Australia. ... A work is to be done here, and if you are not the one to do it, I shall feel perfectly resigned to hear that you have gone to some other locality. I have been shown that it were better for you and the other members of your mother’s family to be in some other locality, because where they are, the companionship and associations are not the most favorable to their spiritual healthfulness” (Letter 129, 1897, parts of which may be found in *Selected Messages*, book 3, pp. 58, 59).

This is an example where Ellen G. White clearly differentiated between her opinion and revealed information, similar to Paul’s experience as noted in 1 Cor. 7:6.