

# From the G.C. President

March 30, 1998

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**A Special First Wednesday:** Wednesday night, April 1, I am planning to introduce Daniel and Don to members in the North American Division and to those attending a special meeting at the World Headquarters auditorium. These gentlemen come from very different backgrounds and professions and yet they have successfully seen a common dream come true. Daniel Fontaine, president of the Cuban Union; and Don Noble, president of Maranatha Volunteers International will share their life-changing ministry in Cuba. I am eager for those in the NAD satellite footprint to tune into this special live edition of *First Wednesday "Dateline Cuba"* on April 1 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm on the Adventist Communication Network (Galaxy 9, Channel 22). During this hour ACN will broadcast a 30 minute video report on the status of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cuba. Specifically, this report will highlight the successful coordinated efforts of Maranatha Volunteers International and other dedicated volunteer lay-members, *It Is Written*, and the Cuban Union to share Christ in a country that has only recently opened its doors to religious freedom. Please join us Wednesday evening for a celebration of mission as shared through the lives of Daniel, Don, and the many faith-filled people of Cuba.

**Clarification:** I need to explain a statement I made in a recent edition of "From the GC President" in which I reported the results of a study regarding the cost of operating our church organizations above the conference level. As a more complete report will explain in the June NAD edition of the *Adventist Review*, the total cost of operating all Union offices in North America, the North American Division, and General Conference offices is only 7.9 cents of each tithe dollar from North America. Certainly, that is not too much to pay to hold a world church together!

**ADRA's Global Village in DC:** When ADRA's Global Village appears on the U.S. Capitol Mall near the Smithsonian Castle, April 16-29, it will be the largest presentation of Adventist humanitarian work to date. ADRA serves in 140 countries, but many people around the world, including those in the United States, are not familiar with its efforts. ADRA's Global Village is scheduled when many school and tourist groups visit the nation's capitol during cherry blossom time. It is estimated that more than 200,000 people will visit this educational exhibit dedicated to heightening awareness about the daily life of millions in underdeveloped countries. At interactive learning stations visitors will begin to understand the importance of clean water, bridges, animal life and successful marketplaces to the lives of the poor. Visitors will grind corn with a bicycle grinder and pound rice as they tour ten life-size habitats. Visitors will be invited to respond to their Global Village experience by packing a box of clothing and personal care items for the needy. Many of these boxes will be distributed in the District of Columbia and many will be sent to the country of Haiti.

## Off the Back Burner

**Segment #107:** Not all who received counsels from God through Ellen White profited from them. The tragic case of Moses Hull is one such example. In *Testimonies*, Vol. 1, pp 426-437 are two messages warning him of dangers if he persisted in the course he was following. A brief outline of Hull's life can be found in the *S.D.A. Encyclopedia*, Vol. 10, 1996 ed., p. 718.

Since my purpose this week and next is to show how--unfortunately--Hull's life fulfilled some of the warnings he ignored, I will summarize his life briefly, including some details about his Spiritualist years not included in the *Encyclopedia*. Moses Hull was born in 1836. Before joining the Seventh-day Adventists in 1857, he had been a member of three other churches. His first wife died eight weeks after their marriage; he remarried a year later. Hull and his second wife, Elvira, had four children. He was a gifted preacher who especially enjoyed debating. In time he began debating Spiritualists, something that Ellen White warned him against. During a debate in 1862, by his own admission, he was not debating the spiritualist medium, but rather "with some demon professing to be Mr. Downing, speaking through W. F. Jamieson" (*Review*, Jan. 27, 1863). Although Hull attended both the 1860 conference where the name "Seventh-day Adventist" was chosen, and the 1863 meeting at which the General Conference was organized, he apostatized in the fall of 1863 and joined the Spiritualists.

In the mid-1870's Moses Hull was estranged from his second wife, who had accompanied him into spiritualism, and began to live common-law with Mattie Sawyer, a spiritualistic medium. While a Spiritualist, Hull edited several papers and wrote nearly twenty books and pamphlets. Among them were *The Question Settled*, *The Encyclopedia of Biblical Spiritualism*, and *The Devil and the Adventists*. He was one of the first to use the Bible in an attempt to prove the validity of spiritualism. For a while, Hull was such a vocal advocate of free love that he even embarrassed the Spiritualists. In 1903 he became the first president of the Morris Pratt Institute in Wisconsin, established to train spiritualist mediums. He resigned the post in 1906, although he was on a fund raising trip for the Institute at the time of his death in San Jose, California, in 1907.

Now let's look at some of God's warnings to Hull. These are from *Testimonies*, Vol. 1, where two of Ellen White's letters to him are printed. On November 5, 1862, she wrote, "I saw that those who wish can have plenty of room to doubt the inspiration and truth of God's word" (p. 427).

While a Seventh-day Adventist, Moses Hull had written a 182-page defense of the Bible entitled *The Bible from Heaven*. Later, as a Spiritualist, he wrote two books on how to interpret the Bible according to his spiritualistic beliefs. In his *Encyclopedia of Biblical Spiritualism* (1895, p. 23), he stated, "The Spiritualists of to-day do not believe that the Bible is inspired. . . ." On the previous page he had asserted, "While the Bible is none of it infallible--none of it unerring,--when rightly interpreted it is all of it useful; all of it good."

Among Hull's presuppositions on how to interpret the Bible is the following as found in his *Our Bible--Who Wrote It? When, Where, How? Is It Infallible?* (1899), pp. 21, 22: "The terms 'men of God' [referring to 2 Peter 1:21], and 'man of God' will always be found in the Bible to refer to mediums. The Holy Ghost, is always Spirit power. If the reader will remember this, it will be of great assistance to him in understanding the Bible."

The story of Moses Hull illuminates the tragedy and confusion that so often marks a life lived disobediently.