

# From the G.C. President

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Robert S. Folkenberg

■ **Meeting of Leadership:** After returning to the United States last week, I began a series of meetings with GC Vice Presidents and representative officers from Secretariat and Treasury. This leadership group, known as PREXAD (Presidential Advisory), meets each quarter to consider significant issues facing the church. Twice each year this group meets away from the busy headquarters building in order to produce a more focused and serious reflection on the progress of the Advent movement. These meetings highlight for me the incredible amount of faith, dedication and intelligence found among these Godly individuals. As a church family, we are deeply blessed by their expertise and collective years of service.

■ **Two examples of faith in action from Global Mission:** 1) Did you know that just six years ago there were no Seventh-day Adventists in Cambodia! But thankfully a presence was established in 1992, and today the church in Cambodia is growing rapidly. Now an exciting, new initiative is soon to begin. A set of 18 culturally sensitive Bible lessons, specifically prepared for Cambodian Buddhists, have now been completed by Scott Griswold (Adventist Frontier Missions missionary) and Pastor Pen Chenda. Regarding these new lessons, Dr. Bruce Bauer, president of the Cambodia Mission commented, "We now have carefully developed materials made specifically for our country and culture. This is a tremendous blessing! Two weeks ago all our pastors came to Phnom Penh for a week of training on how to teach their members the proper use of these new lessons. Our goal is to have 2,000 people studying the lessons within the next year."

2) In 1953, a man found a small pamphlet while sweeping a train station in a city in Haryana, India. He wrote to an address in Poona for more literature and received the Voice of Prophecy (VOP) Bible lessons. He studied for five years and graduated from several courses offered by the VOP. For forty years this gentleman maintained his faith and worshiped alone. In 1997 a Global Mission pioneer came to his city. Now, at the age of 75 he works along side the GM pioneer. He has just planted his second church and rides his bicycle 6 kilometers one way each day in order to minister and share his faith.

■ **The FTP Survey—thanks for your input:** Several weeks ago I asked you to respond to the first-ever FTP Readership Survey. After eight years of production, I was curious to discover what happens to FTP after it leaves my computer terminal. Here is a synopsis of information gleaned from the 255 usable surveys we received back from you. Each week FTP is translated into Spanish, German, Romanian, French, Yugoslavian, Korean and Swedish. Sixty-five percent of FTP recipients share it with other Adventists. One individual xeroxes and distributes 1,165 copies each week! Eighty percent of FTP's readership fall between the ages of 30-65 and 76% of readers are employed by the denomination. Many of you took the time to offer suggestions for improvement. We will carefully consider all comments as we work to strengthen the effectiveness of FTP.

■ **Just Voted:** On June 23, the GC Executive Committee voted to accept the retirement of Pastor George Crumley, treasurer of the North American Division and associate treasurer of the GC. The committee elected Pastor Juan Prestol, formerly the associate treasurer of NAD, to fill the vacancy.

physical phenomena that accompanied Mrs. White's visions as *evidence* of God's leading in her experience, they never used them to *prove* the divine origins of her visions. Twenty-one year old Merritt Kellogg, the older half-brother of John Harvey Kellogg, was present at a meeting in Livingston, Tyrone County, on May 29 when Ellen had her first vision in Michigan.

Here is Merritt Kellogg's account: "Sister White was in vision about twenty minutes or half an hour. As she went into vision every one present seemed to feel the power and presence of God resting upon us mightily. We were engaged in prayer and social meeting Sabbath morning at about nine o'clock. Brother [James] White, my father, and Sister White had prayed, and I was praying at the time. There had been no excitement, no demonstrations. We did plead earnestly with God, however, that he would bless the meeting with his presence, and that he would bless the work in Michigan. As Sister White gave that triumphant shout of 'Glory! g-l-o-r-y! g-l-o-r-y!' which you have heard her give so often as she goes into vision, Brother White arose and informed the audience that his wife was in vision. After stating the manner of her visions, and that she did not breathe while in vision, he invited any one who wished to do so to come forward and examine her. Dr. Drummond, a physician, who was also a First-day Adventist preacher, who (before he saw her in vision) had declared her visions to be of mesmeric origin, and after a thorough examination, turned very pale, and remarked, '*She doesn't breathe!*'"

"I am quite certain that she did not breathe at that time while in vision, nor in any of the several others which she has had when I was present. The coming out of the vision was as marked as her going into it. The first indication we had that the vision was ended, was in her again beginning to breathe. She drew her first breath deep, long, and full, in a manner showing that her lungs had been entirely empty of air. After drawing the first breath, several minutes passed before she drew the second, which filled the lungs precisely as did the first; then a pause of two minutes, and a third inhalation, after which the breathing became normal. Signed, M. G. Kellogg, M.D., Battle Creek, Mich., Dec. 28, 1890." (Quoted in J. N. Loughborough's *The Great Second Advent Movement*, 1905 ed., p. 206.)

A few pages earlier (pp. 204-205), Elder Loughborough, who, starting in October, 1852, saw Ellen White in vision about fifty times, recalled his own experiences of seeing her in that state. "In passing into vision she gives three enrapturing shouts of 'Glory!' which echo and re-echo, the sound, and especially the third, fainter, but more thrilling than the first, the voice resembling that of one quite a distance from you, and just going out of hearing. For about four or five seconds she seems to drop down like a person in a swoon, or one having lost his strength; she then seems to be instantly filled with superhuman strength, sometimes rising at once to her feet and walking about the room. There are frequent movements of the hands and arms, pointing to the right or left as her head turns. All these movements are made in a most graceful manner. In whatever position the hand or arm may be placed, it is impossible for any one to move it. Her eyes are always open, but she does not wink; her head is raised, and she is looking upward, not with a vacant stare, but with a pleasant expression, only differing from the normal in that she appears to be looking intently at some distant object. She does not breathe, yet her pulse beats regularly. Her countenance is pleasant, and the color of her face as florid as in her natural state."

## Off the Back Burner

**Segment #119:** This week I share two more eyewitness accounts of Ellen White in vision. The first was during James and Ellen White's initial visit to Michigan in 1853. Although the pioneers saw the

