

Ellen G. White Estate, Inc.

PROPRIETOR OF

ELLEN G. WHITE

Publications



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Office Address:

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20012

April 6, 1972

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Dear Brother

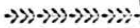
We have your letter written March 30 addressed to the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, concerning the Great Controversy as published by Inspiration Books of Phoenix, Arizona. You ask about this organization, about this printing of Great Controversy, etc. Your letter was passed to me because our office is the organization within the General Conference which handles the E. G. White books.

I am sending along to you a reprint of some articles which appeared in the Review several years ago which tells about the work of the Ellen G. White Estate. You may find these of interest. Ellen White left the care of all of her works with the Board of Trustees of this Estate. I serve at the present time as the Secretary of this Board. There are a number of the General Conference leaders on the Board. We have done a great deal in arranging for the continued publication of the E. G. White writings in the English language and overseas.

There is a Seventh-day Adventist physician in Phoenix, Arizona, who has associated with him several of our lay brethren. They have presumed to take the matter of publishing certain of the E. G. White books in their own hands. Copyrights on certain of the E. G. White books have expired and there is no legal way of preventing this group of doing what they have done. They worked with the 1888 edition of Great Controversy so as to avoid copyright problems. This is an edition which was widely distributed, but in 1911 Ellen White made a revision of this book giving us the volume we have today. The two books have the same number of pages, but there are time references which have been brought up to date, and some other adjustments made to make the book more readable and helpful. I am enclosing a brochure which deals with Great Controversy, and its publication down through the years. Some of the changes made in 1911 are explained in this document.

The E. G. White books are distributed to the church and through our colporteurs to the world by editions published by our publishing houses. This is as it should be.

W. P. BRADLEY	T. CARCH	A. L. WHITE	D. A. DELAFIELD	PAUL GORDON
President	Vice-President	Secretary	Associate Secretary	Assistant Secretary



April 6, 1972

Ellen White maintained that our books could be distributed at a price which would be sufficient to meet the expense of publication and distribution and leave just a little margin to assist in continuing to do business.

Now, this group of laymen in Phoenix, who are not connected with any offshoot movement, but have been very zealous in their desire to see certain of the E. G. White books published in very economical form, have taken steps, which they can do legally, although it is hardly ethical, to arrange for the publication of Great Controversy by a paperback publisher of the world. This was done without our permission, and we would assume that probably the book correctly represents what Ellen White published in 1888. The organization distributing it does so on the basis of donated labor, and of course it is not possible to run a publishing house on that basis. This being so, they have put a price on the book which is below that which our publishing houses are able to meet.

It is quite confusing to have promotional literature go into the field advertising as they do, and we have protested against this. On the other hand, we will not engage in what might be interpreted to be opposition to the circulation of Great Controversy. We think it much better if our folk will use the books published by our publishing houses. This would provide the 1911 edition of Great Controversy, which is the book Ellen White wanted to see used. The Pacific Press has arranged to publish this and is furnishing the book for 95¢ a copy.

The little document "Calling All Calebs" is one which I prepared and read at a Field Missionary Secretaries meeting in California in 1938. Just how it got into the hands of these people I do not know. It has been published without any consent on my part. It does deal with some history which I thought would be of interest to our publishing leaders at the time, but is quite a thing of the past. We find no opposition at the present time to the very widest distribution of Great Controversy or Patriarchs and Prophets or any of Sister White's books. In fact, church leaders are ever urging a wider distribution of these books.

We have a very well developed church organization. We have a very fine publishing structure. The prices which are placed upon our literature are in keeping with prices of literature published and distributed today. Most of our books sell for just a little less than books which are published by the world. There is strength in unity. When Ellen White was on two occasions approached with the idea of some one publishing her books privately at a price below that at which the denomination could furnish them, she was each time instructed by the Lord that this should not be, for it would bring confusion into the work and in the end would not be the best benefit which some thought it would be on the face of it.

I think this outlines quite well the background of the matter concerning which you have written. We would encourage our members to secure their E. G. White books through the regular channels of distribution--the Church Missionary Secretary and the Book and Bible House.

Sincerely your brother.

Arthur L. White, Secretary

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