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*Ordination of
E. G. W.*

Elder H.T. Elliott
Takoma Park, D.C.

Dear Brother Elliott:

In your letter of February 7, you place before us three questions regarding the ordination of Sister White and of women to the ministry.

Mrs. White was never ordained by the laying on of hands. Her ordination and commission was given by the Lord directly to her in a manner with which you are familiar. This being the case, she never received the rites of ordination in the way which is common to us.

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Mrs. White never baptized, although she performed wedding ceremonies. If I am not mistaken, Mrs. White was placed on the basis of the ordained minister by the leaders in our denominational work and in ministerial credentials to her which we have in our files, we find that in some cases they read "ordained minister" and in one case in the credential issued by the General Conference in 1885, the ordination is scratched out.

Your second question relates to women in the denomination being ordained to the ministry. We are not aware of any women at any time being ordained to the ministry by Seventh-day Adventists.

Your third question relates to instruction from Sister White which would relate to this matter of the ordination of women. There is only one statement from her pen that we are aware of which has to do with the setting apart of women by prayer and the laying on of hands. This appears in an article from Mrs. White's pen of the Review and Herald, July 9, 1895, and the statement reads as follows:

"Women who are willing to consecrate some of their time to the service of the Lord should be appointed to visit the sick, look after the young, and minister to the necessities of the poor. They should be set apart to this work by prayer and laying on of hands. In some cases they will need to counsel with the church officers or the ministers; but if they are devoted women, maintaining a vital connection with God, they will be a power for good in the church. This is another means of strengthening and building up the church."

ALW

H.T.E. -2-

I trust, Brother Elliott, this will fully satisfy
our brethren in South America who are raising the questions.

With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely your brother,

Arthur L. White, Asst. Sec.
THE ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE

ALW:lfw.