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Your other question relates to having a party room under the church. A careful reading of the chapter on recreation as found in The Adventist Home (beginning on page 493) will direct your attention to the fact that parents and teachers are to provide wholesome, innocent substitutes for entertainments which are detrimental. At times parents are inclined to take a very stern attitude and are very faithful to forbid their children or young people to participate in what they should not do, and they stop right there. We must keep in mind that of equal value with the counsel that we should not do some things, is the counsel that we are to provide something appropriate in the place of that which is forbidden. This throws a large responsibility on the church, and there are churches which have a good basement room which can be used for Christian recreation. Sister White has given us no specific counsel on this point. She was, however, a member of the St. Helena Sanitarium Church for a period of many years. In the basement of this church there was a gymnasium used by the patients of the Sanitarium and Adventist families of the community as a recreation room. Programs of a secular nature which could not be held in the church were held in this gymnasium. There were no words of counsel or reproof from Sister White's pen, except on one occasion--when the program was of such a character as to dishonor God. A very stern rebuke was presented to the church the next Sabbath, but the burden of the reproof was on the program itself and had no relation to the fact that the program was given in a room which was beneath the dedicated Chapel.

I feel that a church plans well when it makes provision for the proper association of its young people. Christian recreation is essential, but of course in all our recreation we should be governed by those principles which will lead to an entertainment that will not be a denial of our faith.

Please read carefully the entire section in The Adventist Home dealing with Christian recreation. I think you will find this to be good, safe, and sane guidance.

May the Lord give us wisdom to know how to deal with the problems which arise in the proper entertainment of our families and our youth.

I trust this information will be of some service to you.

Sincerely your brother,

Arthur L. White, Secretary  
ELLEN G. WHITE PUBLICATIONS

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Encl.