

Citation

ARTHUR LACEY WHITE: DOCTOR OF DIVINITY

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The candidate whom I present to you to receive an honorary degree from Andrews University, President Hammill, is Arthur Lacey White, who has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 45 years with considerable distinction.

He was graduated from Pacific Union College in 1928 with an Associate of Arts degree in Business Administration. After serving one year as Assistant Accountant at Madison College, he was asked to become secretary to his father, W. C. White, the second son of James S. and Ellen G. White, at the White Estate in St. Helena, California. He served in this capacity until the death of his father in 1937. The following year he was asked to succeed his father as Secretary of the Ellen G. White Estate, a significant and unique post which he has held without interruption from that day to this.

Early in his thirty-five-year secretariat the office of the Ellen G. White Estate was moved to denominational headquarters in Washington, D. C., and under his able leadership began a long-range program to carry out its divinely inspired mandate set forth in the last will and testament of Ellen G. White herself, namely, the promotion and care of the E. G. White books in the English language, the preparation of manuscripts for, and the promotion of the translation and publication of the E. G. White writings into foreign languages, and the custody of the manuscript and letter files, and the selection of matter therefrom for general circulation, including the printing of compilations.

To date the E. G. White books are being published in many countries around the world; at least one of the 60 has been translated into 101 different foreign languages. In addition, research centers, in conjunction

with depositories of the published and unpublished writings of Ellen G. White, are in the process of being established in several overseas countries as extensions of and holding the same objectives as the parent estate in Washington, D. C.

Arthur White has played a leading role in the production of the 24 posthumous E. G. White books that have appeared since 1930. He is a researcher in his own right. He is an authority in his chosen field of prophetic guidance, especially as it relates to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He has published books and pamphlets, and written well over one hundred-fifty articles for the major journals of the church. Moreover, some twelve times he has been called upon by the church leaders, when they were faced with critical decisions that would have far-reaching implications, to search out and compile all of the E. G. White counsels relevant to the situation. He has a keen eye for historical context and an indefatigable urge to get all the facts. In common with every scholar he strives for true objectivity and insists on facing the issues involved in research regardless of their complexity. He has assisted several doctoral candidates in the doing of their research for those portions of their dissertations which fell within his area of interest. He chaired the committee that did the groundwork which formed the basis of the late F. D. Nichol's significant work Ellen G. White and Her Critics. Currently, he is working on a three-volume biography of Ellen G. White.

Arthur White has also been an effective educator. Early in his career he saw that if the heritage of the gift of prophecy and its rich fruitage were to be preserved and remain relevant to the oncoming generations of Seventh-day Adventists an effective field education program would have to be inaugurated. Accordingly, he set about to see to it that every Seventh-day Adventist educational institution in the world would be visited for

the purpose of introducing the students to the life and ministry of Ellen G. White. The program is still in operation.

In 1952 he was asked to teach a course in prophetic guidance in a seminary extension school to be held at Helderberg College in South Africa. This was the first of a series of 13 seminary extension schools in which he taught over the following 19 years in nine divisions of the world field. During this time he developed and improved his materials for and his approach to the teaching of prophetic guidance based on his experience in working with the Ellen G. White documents and the problems he encountered while working in the field. Hundreds of ministers and teachers have been the beneficiaries.

It was in the autumn of 1953 that he offered his first class in prophetic guidance in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. He continued to challenge and inspire his students fourteen classes later in the autumn of 1966 as he led future ministers of the church to realize the truth of Ellen G. White's well-known statement: "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."

Those who know him best are amazed at the amount of knowledge and the depth of understanding he has of the life and ministry and writings of Ellen G. White. Yet, he continues to study in the field to which he has devoted his life in the service of God and the church. In recognition of the candidate's significant influence, by means of his life, his pen, and his spoken word, on Adventist education, Adventist publications, Adventist church administration, and the Adventist ministry world-wide, I present to you, President Hammill, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and on behalf of the Faculties of Andrews University, Arthur Lacey White, as a candidate for the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.