

Land, Gary, editor. THE WORLD OF ELLEN WHITE. Hagerstown, Maryland: Review and Herald Publishing Assn., 1987. 253 pages, \$16.95.

Discussions of Ellen G. White and her writings often allude to the events of the period in which she wrote. While a few writings have dealt with certain phases of the world about her, up to now no book has spanned her entire life.

Gary Land, as editor, has focused on this need for a historical context for Ellen White's writings. He has brought together a new generation of historians and writers with Adventist backgrounds to fill this gap.

Although Land has competently synthesized the 14 articles to provide better continuity and smoother transitions, the writers' individuality still comes through. While the pedantry has been toned down somewhat, some of the articles contain considerably more detail and in-depth exposition than others.

The chapter on Australia reveals, in an interesting way, the existing frontier spirit and prevalent conditions "down under." It gives some attention to the international scope of Mrs. White's work, which could have been further magnified by reference to her years in Europe.

This volume, with its attractive format and black-and-white illustrations, fills a void in our libraries. It draws back the curtain to offer us a better understanding of the quite different world of 75 to 100 years ago, offering insight into the environment, as well as the social and political milieu in which Ellen G. White found herself.

Teachers and students, as well as preachers and laypersons, would certainly enhance their understanding of the background of the Adventist Church after spending a few hours with this volume.

The reviewer hopes that *The World of Ellen White* will whet the appetites of the professional writ-

ers who contributed to this book so that they will produce further studies that will present Ellen G. White as part of her historical context, rather than isolated from it. This would be a real challenge, but certainly a worthwhile project.—Charles B. Hirsch.

Dr. Charles B. Hirsch has taught college-level history and served as a college president and world education director of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. At the time of his retirement, he was a General Conference vice-president. He writes from Loma Linda, California.

Knight, George R. FROM 1888 TO APOSTASY: THE CASE OF A. T. JONES. Hagerstown, Maryland: Review and Herald Publishing Assn., 1987. 288 pages, \$16.95.

Biographical in style and thoroughly documented with 25 pages of references, this book tells the life story of one of the prominent leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Alonzo T. Jones. The narrative thrusts the reader into a study of Adventist history during one of its more controversial periods. The issues of the 1888 controversy over righteousness by faith and subsequent controversies over church and state and the medical work have many contemporary parallels.

As a talented spokesman for Adventism from 1884 on, Jones was catapulted into expounding Scripture on righteousness by faith, championing religious liberty, representing the church in Congressional hearings, and reforming educational, medical, and publishing institutions. Church reorganization and administration were among his burdens.

However, Jones saw no gray areas. His positions led inevitably to dogmatism and extremism. Not one to shrink from controversy, however, Jones seemingly relished conflict. "In all his 73 years, the records indicate, he never once turned his back on a battle."

For many years he appeared as a spokesman for Ellen G. White and as a prominent denominational reformer. In later years, however, his rigidity and stubbornness led to apostasy and alienation from the church he had championed in the late 1800s.

This book offers significant insights into the meaning of the 1888 conference, the essence of the problems of the General Conference sessions of 1893-1895, 1901-1903, and the controversies in regard to the laws of Galatians. Within the biographical account, Knight also offers helpful theological side trips into hermeneutics and the nature of Christ.

Teachers, ministers, and students of denominational history will see clearly in this volume the influence that the decisions and character traits of one man had on his church—and also on his own life.—Thomas S. Geraty.

Dr. Thomas S. Geraty taught history in SDA colleges, and served as an associate director of education for the General Conference. Now retired, he writes from Angwin, California.

Land, Gary, editor. ADVENTISM IN AMERICA. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986. 301 pages. Paper, \$14.95.

This book presents a panoramic view of Adventism in America from 1830 to 1980. Despite a suggestion by the unsigned author of a back-page summary, it is *not* a history of Adventism in America. The book is the production of seven outstanding Adventist historians who love their church and have worked sacrificially for its growth and development. It is an ambitious undertaking.

The need for a general history of Seventh-day Adventism in America is urgent and long overdue. Therefore, any new book on the subject is welcome. However, this book is not a general history; it is a

sort of historical superhighway that zooms the reader across the continent of SDA history in North America. Though offering a general overview, *Adventism in America* lacks vitally important historical data.

The book passes over the structural growth and development of the church at almost lightening speed, leaving no time or space for recalling the varied and important experiences along the road. Too many important pioneers are totally ignored.

Yet for all this, the story is interesting, moving, beautiful, and informative. The reader catches a great panoramic view of the church. The topics include the Millerite Movement of the 1830s and 1840s; the first try at organization in the 1860s; the rapid expansion; the first growing pains of the last quarter of the 19th century; the reorganization and shaping of the modern church and the problems and controversies affecting the church, such as Sunday laws, prophetic interpretation, righteousness by faith, pantheism, the role of Ellen G. White, city evangelism, spreading the gospel to blacks, and expansion abroad. But though these subjects are interesting indeed, they lack much of the "soul of Adventism."

The editor, Gary Land, in his article, "Coping With Change," observes that the Seventh-day Adventist denomination is fast becoming a third-world church. However, in describing the expansion and development of Adventism, blacks occupy mere headlines.

Black pioneers and leaders who made substantial contributions to the growth of the church apparently did not achieve enough status to get their names mentioned. C. E. Bradford, president of the North American Division, was fortunate enough to be included, but outstanding pioneers like J. H. Laurence, W. H. Green, G. E. Peters, F. L. Bland, and E. E. Cleveland will forever remain unknown to the rising generation of SDAs who depend on this book to sketch out the

history of their church.

For this reviewer, some phases of the book proved disappointing. One was the critical attitude some of our intellectuals are developing toward Ellen G. White. They fail to state that Mrs. White acknowledged her use of the words of others to explain her messages. The book complains that "In some cases where a historian has so grouped together events to afford, in brief, a comprehensive view of the subject . . . his words have been quoted, but in some instances no specific credit has been given" (pp. 14, 15). Mrs. White did not have the research methodology of our professional historians.

Another problem is the abundant use of impersonal statements such as "offered by another writer" (p. 50), "A writer in the Harbinger" (p. 57), "one historian" (p. 67), an optimistic delegate" (p. 67). As many as three such statements appear on a single page. The book sends the reader to the endnotes time and again to find the actors, only to provide no information. The book often lists as sources only a reference to some article in the *Review and Herald*.

In spite of these shortcomings, *Adventism in America* has value. It is easy and interesting reading. The authors are excellent storytellers.

The abundant endnotes should prove helpful to graduate students hunting for sources in SDA history. Appendices offer useful comparisons of SDA beliefs drawn up in 1872, 1931, and 1980, as well as an overview of the membership of the church in North America and the world for 1870 to 1979.

Church administrators and laypersons will find in the book a helpful description of trends now developing in the church. *Adventism in America* should inspire interest in SDA history by students and church members alike.—Clarence J. Barnes.

Dr. Clarence J. Barnes is Chairman of the Department of History and Political Science at Oakwood College, Huntsville, Alabama.

Baker, Delbert W. THE UNKNOWN PROPHET. Hagerstown, Maryland: Review and Herald Publishing Assn., 1987. 160 pages, \$12.95.

The names of William Foy and Hazen Foss have been a part of Seventh-day Adventist folklore from its beginning. To most Adventists, they are remembered as two men, one black, who were divinely chosen to communicate a message that was ultimately borne for one described as "the weakest of the weak." For nearly 150 years nothing more has been known about them, and the little that has been written has not been altogether accurate—particularly in the case of William Ellis Foy.

Delbert Baker, currently editor of *Message* magazine, has reconstructed the life and visions of Foy, correcting a number of misconceptions that have resulted from confusing Foy with Foss and from the general lack of information concerning their lives.

It may be surprising for some to learn that Foy not only related at least two of his visions, but that he also had them published for greater circulation, together with a brief narrative of his Christian experience. Baker reexamines this pamphlet, supplementing Foy's autobiographical sketch with recent genealogical research. Devoting a chapter to each vision, he analyzes their spiritual themes and the messages that might have spared the Millerite believers the disappointment of October 1844.

What makes this work of broader interest is Baker's illumination of the difficult social structure confronting a free black such as Foy in mid-19th century America. He interweaves the narrative of Foy's life with a depiction of blacks' religious involvement in and around the Millerite era, thus providing an avenue to introduce to students our church's ethnic diversity from its earliest years.

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ization, 19th-century suffrage movements, abortion and birth-control clinics, and female ordination issues could also stimulate thought.

Students' reasoning abilities and skills in logic can be polished by debates on topics related to women in historical contexts: Should SDA women be ordained as elders or pastors? Is the best man for the job sometimes a woman? Did the Protestant Reformation help or hinder women's roles? Cooperation between teachers of Bible, civics and history, and guidance counselors can lead to presentations by women who serve as elders or pastors, chaplains in hospitals or the armed services, or as counselors to abused women. Listening to these women describe the challenges of their careers and how they prepared for the work they do would be an eye-opening experience for many students.

Suggestions for College-Level Instruction

For the Seventh-day Adventist college or university professor, the market is flooded with textbooks sensitive to religious, minority, and women's issues. Certainly one of the best for a Western civilization course, however, is Kagan, Ozment, and Turner's new textbook *The Western Heritage*.⁵ The authors place significant emphasis on social

and cultural history, including women's roles and family history through the ages. Topics include women in Athens; the Roman family; medieval women and children; the Reformation and changing roles of women; and family life in early modern Europe. In their survey of the modern period, the authors give extensive coverage to why witchcraft and witch hunts occurred; explain the family structure and economy of 18th-century Europe, during the Industrial Revolution in England, and in the late-Victorian era; and explore the new patterns of women's work and roles in post-1945 Europe.

For the Western Civilization instructor, O'Faolain and Martines' book *Not in God's Image: Women in History From the Greeks to the Victorians*⁶ provides a marvelous compendium of primary sources and readings for each era of European history. For U.S. history, Miriam Schneir's *Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings*⁷ includes a broad and often witty selection of period pieces that reflect the spectrum of opinions by and about women for each epoch.

Other Resources

A vast array of audio-visual materials also awaits the enterprising college professor. Some of the best color films, available for nominal rental fees at university media centers, include "Hey! What About Us?"; "Job Discrimination: Doing Something About It"; "The Role of Women in the Movies"; "Sexual Harassment: No Place in the Workplace"; "Sugar and Spice," as well as a host of film biographies on such topics as "Coalmining Women," "Georgia O'Keefe," "Mary Cassatt," and many more.

Hands-on history for college students could include book re-

views on major issues related to women (which should represent in-depth critical analyses, not summary reports); comparative studies (women's roles in ancient Greece compared with Rome; American versus British suffrage movements; Moslem versus Christian women's roles); and significant life-and-times biographies of women.

Student debates on current issues like equal pay, women's ordination, and abortion could explore the prejudices and historical roots of contemporary conditions for women. Panel discussions featuring short reports, dialogue, and question-and-answer periods with audience participation can be beneficial in heightening the awareness of college students of both sexes.

Showing provocative films such as those listed above and in the bibliography can make young people sensitive to biases, historical context, photo slant, and emotional undertones of which they may not be aware. One stunning film in this genre is "Killing Us Softly: Advertising's Image of Women," which deals with the sexist imagery perpetuated by alcohol ads in the media.

Broadening the Curriculum

By far the most important step a college professor can take to increase awareness of women's issues in the classroom, however, is to introduce courses that address history, literature, government, sociology, and religion from a woman's perspective.

At present, no Adventist college offers a B.A. degree in women's studies. None even offers regular courses in women's history, though an occasional course featuring women in history, literature, or

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Because of the rather widespread misconception of Foy's commission, *The Unknown Prophet* deserves careful reading by all educators in denominational history. Its narrative style, illustrations, and unusually short chapters make the book inviting for secondary-level students while adult readers will enjoy the mix of social, historical, and theological insights that come from getting better acquainted with the first prophet of the Advent Movement.—Tim Poirier. □

Tim Poirier is an Archivist and Researcher for the Ellen G. White Estate in Washington, D.C.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY: FILMS

Elementary (K-8)

- "And Everything Nice" (20 min., color, 1974)
- "Katy" (17 min., color, 1974)
- "Olga" (47 min., color, 1975)
- "Other Women, Other Work" (20 min., color, 1973)
- "Rookie of the Year" (47 min., color, 1973)
- "Susan B. Anthony" (20 min., B&W, 1951)
- "Woman's Place" (52 min., color, 1974)
- "Women at Work: Change, Choice, Challenge" (19 min., color, 1977)
- "Young Women in Sports" (16 min., color, 1975)

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