



James Edson White:

Son, Seeker, Servant

West Jamaica Camp-Meeting, 12-26-13

Dr. Delbert W. Baker, Presenter



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH
West Jamaica Conference



Camp Meeting 2013

Theme: "Revived by His WORD - Living for His GLORY"



DEC. 26-28

Seventh-day Adventist Conference Center
Mt. Salem, Montego Bay, Jamaica

Guest Speaker: Dr. Delbert Baker

Vice President, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Officers Council on Dec. 29 @ 9:00 a.m.

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Vice President, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



Dialogue: Mother and Son (June 21, 1893; 4BIO 94ff)

- While she was in New Zealand, he was in Chicago in the printing business, and quite involved in debt, which was not unusual for him.
- In one letter he stated, “I am not at all religiously inclined.”
 - There had been times when, with a heart dedicated to God, he had served in the Lord's work—Sabbath school, hymn book preparation, publishing, et cetera. Now his letter, with these words, nearly crushed her. Her response opened:
- Dear Son Edson: Why should you express yourself as you have done? Why use such firm language? Why do you have any satisfaction in this selfish independence?
 - If you were a man unacquainted with truth, I could address you in a different way, approach you by presenting the truth in all its beauty and attractive loveliness, but this would not move you. The answer would be, “I knew all that before. I am not as ignorant as you suppose.”



Dialogue: Mother and Son (June 20, 1893; 4BIO 95ff)

- I awoke 1:15am full of terror. I had a scene presented-you, four other young men were upon the beach. Careless, unconcerned...
- The waves were rolling up, then would roll back with a sullen roar. Gestures, warnings were given by the anxious ones looking on, but you were more presumptuous.
- Someone placed his hand on my shoulder. "Did you know that is your son Edson? He cannot hear your voice, but he can see your motions. Tell him to come at once. He will not disobey his mother."
- I reached out my hands. I did all to warn. I cried with all the power of voice, "You have not a moment to lose! The undertow!"
- A strong rope was fastened securely around the body of a strong young man who risked his own life to save you. I saw the merciless undertow embrace you, you were battling.
- I awoke as I heard a fearful shriek from you. I prayed most earnestly in your behalf.



“The undertow—what does it represent? It represents the power of Satan and a set, independent, stubborn will of your own which has reached even against God. You have not preserved a surrender to God.”

Edson the Son

Edson the Seeker

Edson the Servant

The Couple

Early Home Life

- Marriage performed by a justice of the peace, in Portland, Maine, Aug. 30, 1846. James was 25 years, Ellen was 18 years
- In the earliest days of their marriage, they lived in the homes of others
 - Stockbridge Howland and Harmon homes
- They started housekeeping with borrowed furniture but early determined to be financially independent.



The Children

#1 Henry Nichols White
(1847-1863)

- “Sweet singer”, died prematurely at 16 years of age, of pneumonia.



#3 William Clarence White
(1854-1937)

- Affectionately “Willie”
- Companion and counselor to Ellen White



#2 James Edson White
(1849-1928)

- Known by his middle name (to differentiate him from his father)
- Felt challenges and experienced, caused pain to his parents

#4 John Herbert White (1860); died at age 2 ½ months, from erysipelas (known medically as “St. Anthony's Fire”).

- #1 Henry Nichols White (1847-1863)

- “Sweet singer”, died prematurely at 16 years of age, of pneumonia.



#3 William Clarence White (1854-1937)—Youngest

- Affectionately “Willie”
- Companion and counselor to Ellen White



#2 James Edson White (1849-1928)—Oldest

- Known by his middle name (to differentiate him from his father)
- Felt challenges and experienced, caused pain to his parents

#4 John Herbert White (1860); died at age 2 ½ months, from erysipelas (known medically as “St. Anthony's Fire”).

The Challenge

Acquainted with grief..
Four Siblings, then three and then two



P4K Presented Tough Challenges

- **Instability:** Ellen White remarked "Our work was to labor for souls; if we had been prospered, home would be so pleasant that we would be unwilling to leave it; trials had been permitted to come upon us to prepare us for the still greater conflicts that we would..." LS 105-106.
- **Trials:** James and Ellen White both suffered with health challenges; James experienced his first stroke December 25, 1865; he would experience some five strokes before his death 16 years later, in 1881, at the age of 60 (Edson was 32; Willie was 27) LS 248-249.
- **Criticism:** The White family were opened to scrutiny and routinely were the target of rumors and disparagement.

P4K: Preacher, President, Pioneer Prophetess



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James Edson White
1849-1928 (79 years)

The Importance of Place and Privilege

- ⁴ “I will make mention of **Rahab** and **Babylon** to those who know Me; Behold, O **Philistia** and **Tyre**, with **Ethiopia**: **‘This one was born there.’**”
- ⁵ And of **Zion** it will be said, “*This one* and that *one* were born in her; And the Most High Himself shall establish her.” ⁶ The LORD will record, When He registers the peoples: **‘This one was born there.’** Selah.

Psalm 87



James Edson White
1849-1928 (79 years)



and brother William Clarence White
1854-1937 (83 years)

Edson the Son

Edson the Seeker

Edson the Servant

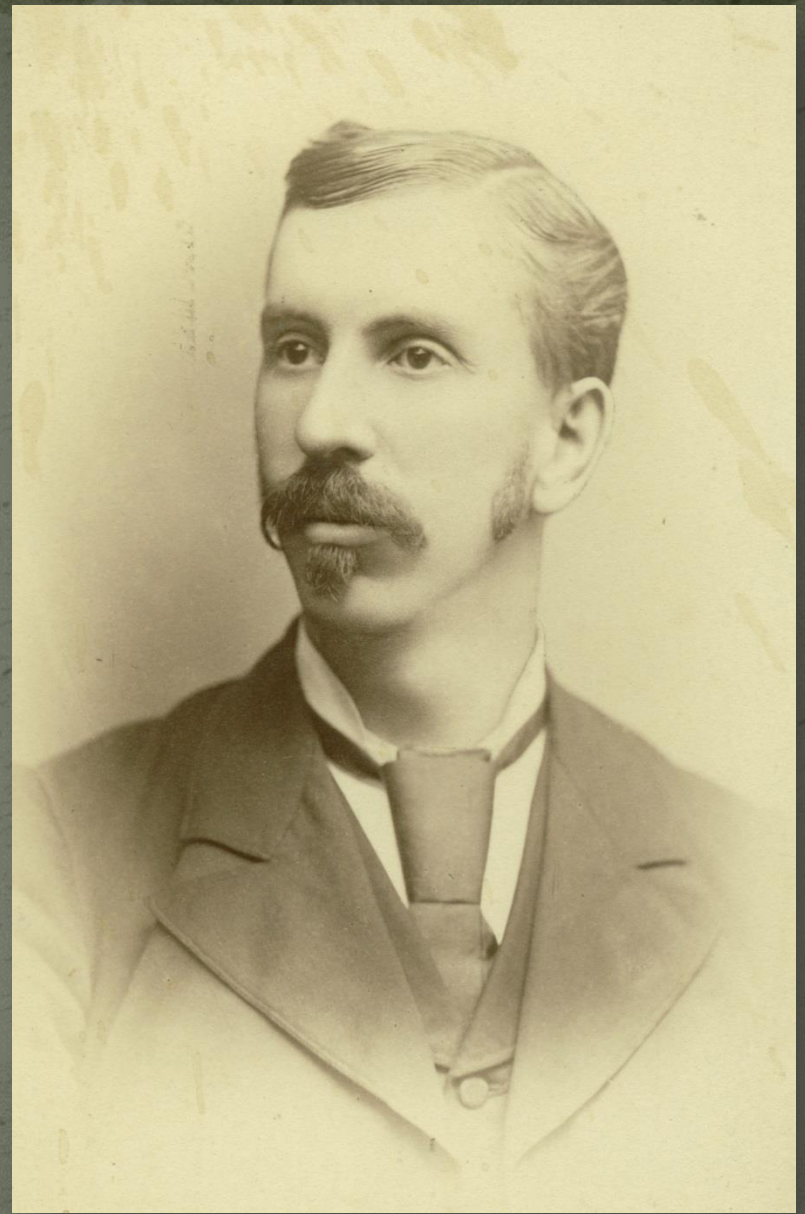


Vitals



- **James Edson White**
- **Born:** July 28, 1849, Rocky Hill, Connecticut
- **Early years:** Battle Creek
- **Education:** Commercial subjects; medical courses in New Jersey; Univ of MI
- **Married:** 1870 Emma McDearmon (d. 1917);
- **Remarried:** 1922 Rebecca Burrill;
- **No children**

Marriage



Emma, the understanding spouse who stayed, loved and supported;
She was one of the best things that ever happened to Edson

Vocation and Avocation

- **Professional Areas:** Publisher, Author, Manager, Hymnist, Missionary, Captain, Educator, Minister, Musician, Entrepreneur, Business man
 - Review and Herald, 1864 (15 working for father)
 - Pacific Pub Association, 1877-1880
 - Gen SS Association, 1880-1886
 - J.E. White Publishing Company, 1880s
 - Publishing /business interest, late 1880s & early 1890s
 - Missionary, captain of Morning Star, 1894-1900
 - Ordained to the ministry while in the south, 1897
 - Compiled/printed EGW articles in *Southern Work*, 1898
 - Director of Southern Missionary Society, Printer, 1900-1912
 - Developer of stereopticon slides, Marshall, MI, 1912-1917; Battle Creek, 1917-1922; continued, Otsego, MI, 1922-1928.

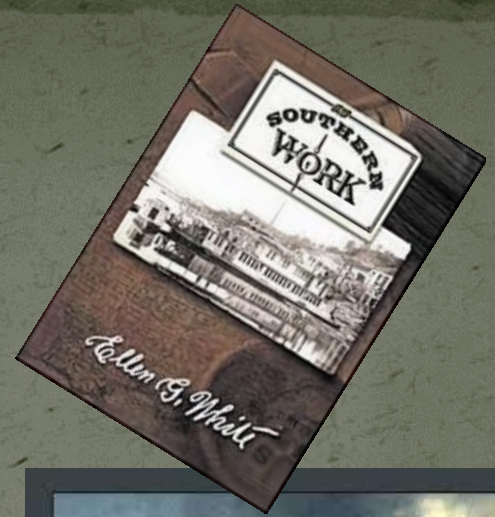
Everything became dark. . .

Edson the Son

Edson the Seeker

Edson the Servant

Conversion



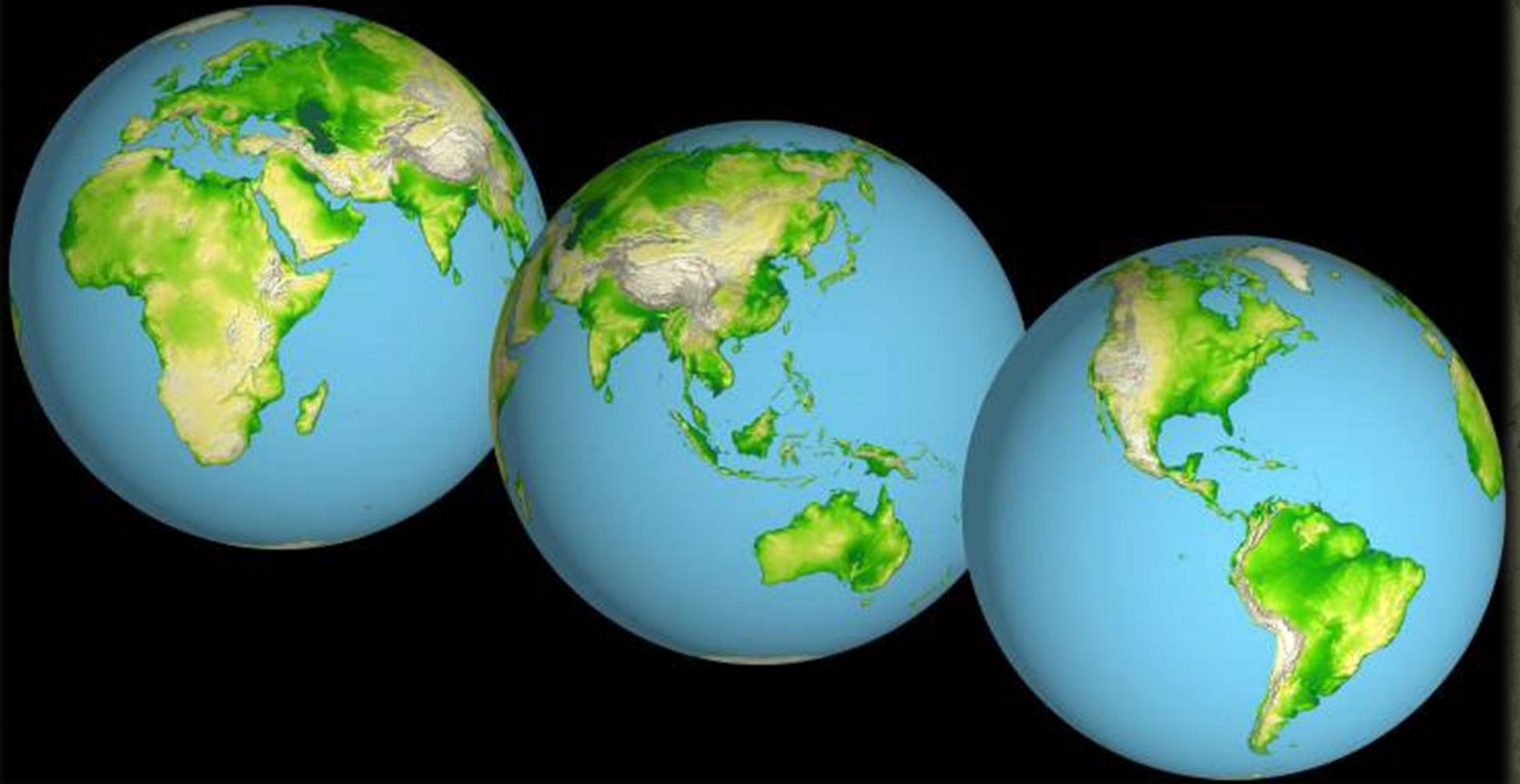
Ellen White, champion of the oppressed...



Chicago, Illinois in the 1890s



Auckland, New Zealand in the 1890s



**God's providence reaches across the ocean
at right time, place, circumstances.**

Calling

**“Edson, God is calling you.
What are you going to do about it?”**

Dialogue: Mother and Son (June 21, 1893; 4BIO 97ff)

- “Several times has the Lord heard and answered prayer in your behalf and raised you up when your case was apparently hopeless,” she wrote, referring to some of his childhood experiences. “And now I see that invisible foe, lurking, alluring and deceiving your soul to your ruin. I know your only hope is to cling to God and to your mother and brother.” The tearful mother closed her letter with the words: I cannot save you; God alone can save you. But work, while Jesus invites you, in harmony with God. Mother.
- The letter, written in such anguish, was attended by the winning and softening influence of the Spirit of God; Edson, yielding his hard heart, experienced a reconversion. His immediate response and his experience of the next two or three weeks is not recorded in the files, but on August 10, 1893, he wrote to his mother:

Dialogue: Mother and Son (June 21, 1893; 4BIO 97ff)

“I have surrendered fully and completely, and never enjoyed life before as I am [enjoying it] now. I have for years been under a strain, with so much to accomplish, and it has stood right in my way.

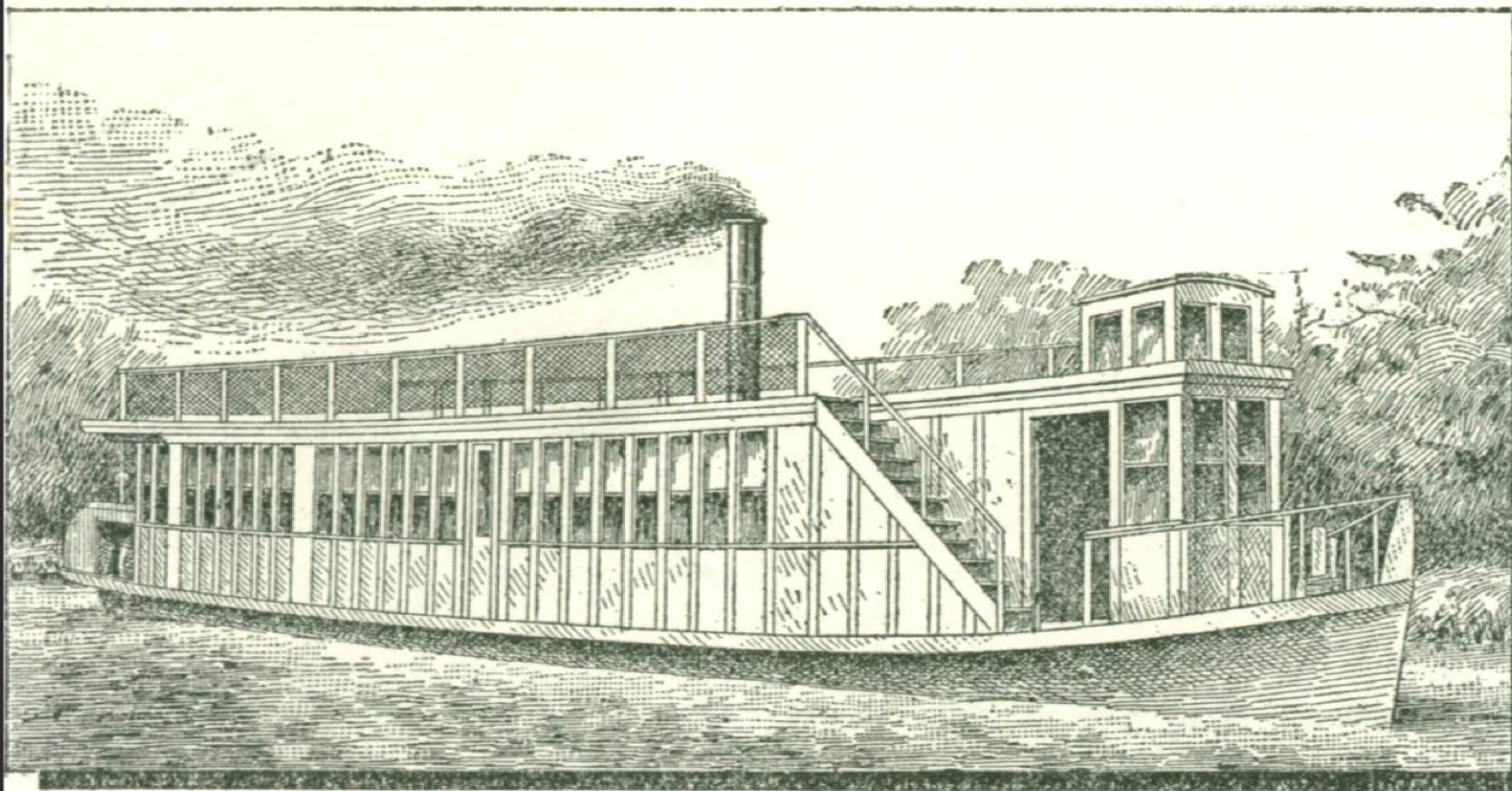
“Now, I have left it all with my Saviour, and the burden does not bear me down any longer. I have no desire for the amusements and pleasures that made up the sum of my enjoyments before, but have an enjoyment in the meetings with the people of God such as I never had before.”

General Conference Session
“Our Duty to the Colored People”
March 21, 1891, Battle Creek, Michigan



W. O. PALMER.

J. E. WHITE.



"MORNING STAR"

Southern Missionary Steamer.

© Ellen G. White Estate, Inc.

"MORNING STAR"

Southern Missionary Steamer



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Edson's mission built up to 50 schools, building an organization called **Southern Missionary Society**. This became part of the SDA Southern Union Conference, Atlanta, Georgia

Evangelism in the South, US

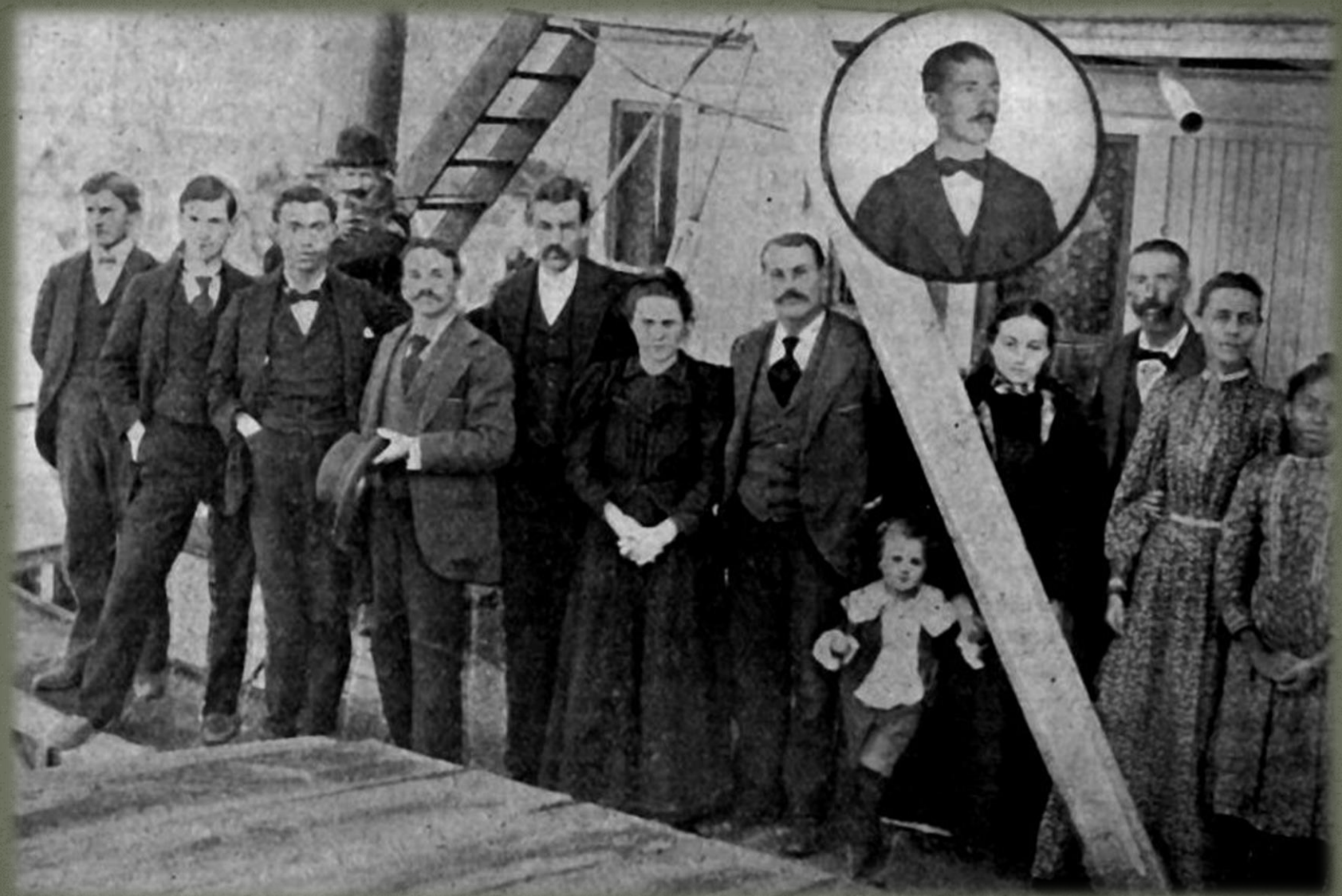


Creative evangelism and Mission to the Cities—1800s in the South, US



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Morning Star had staff living quarters, library, chapel, photo lab and print shop

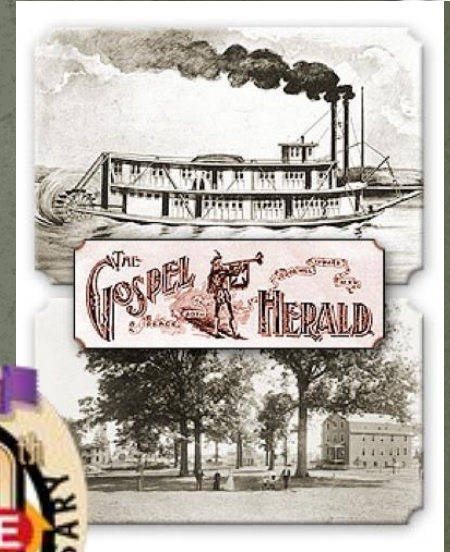
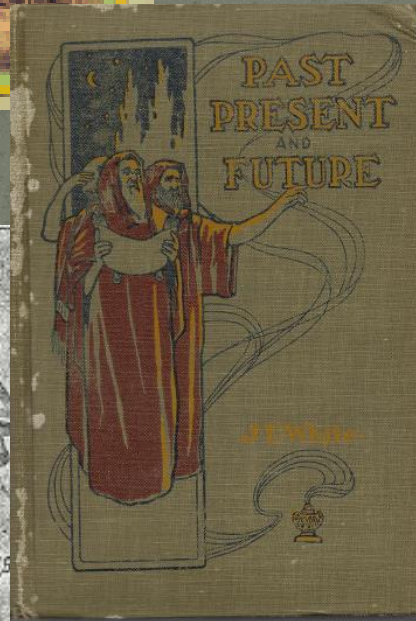
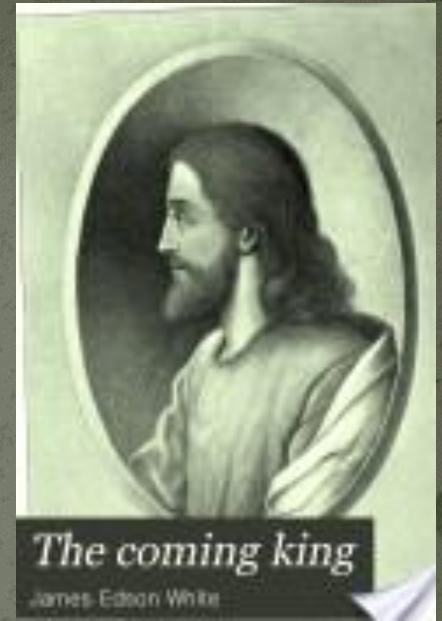


Edson and Emma White, Will Palmer, his associate and the MS Crew

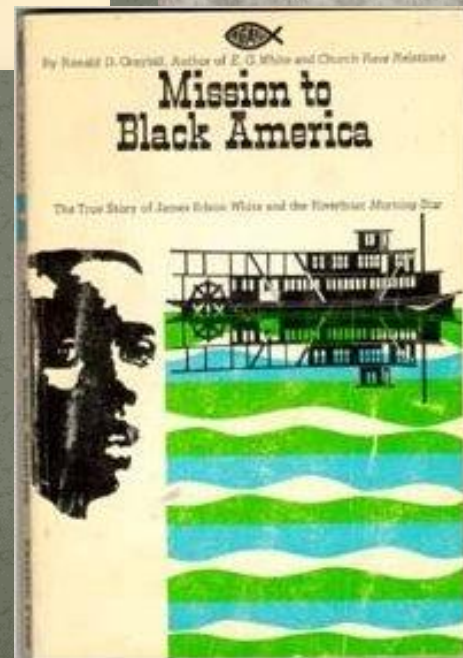
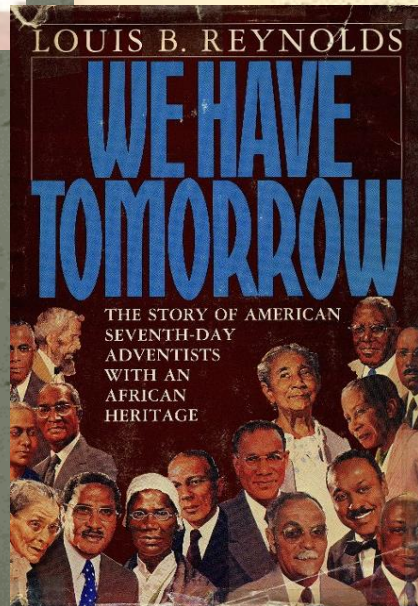
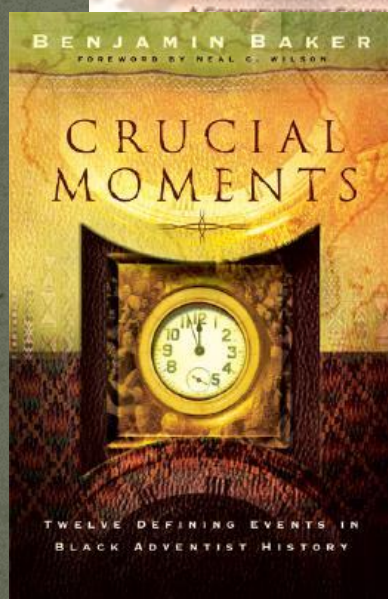
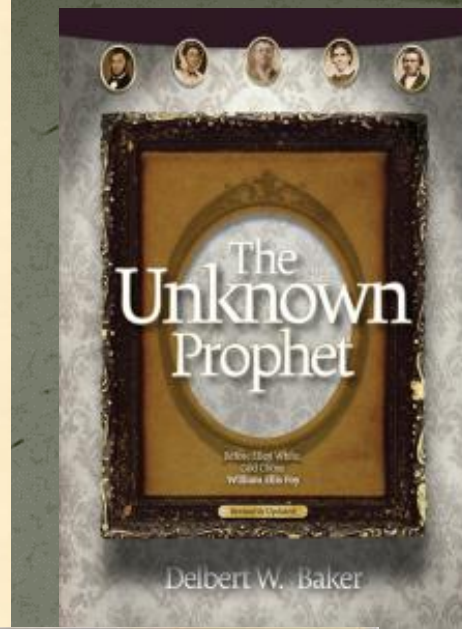
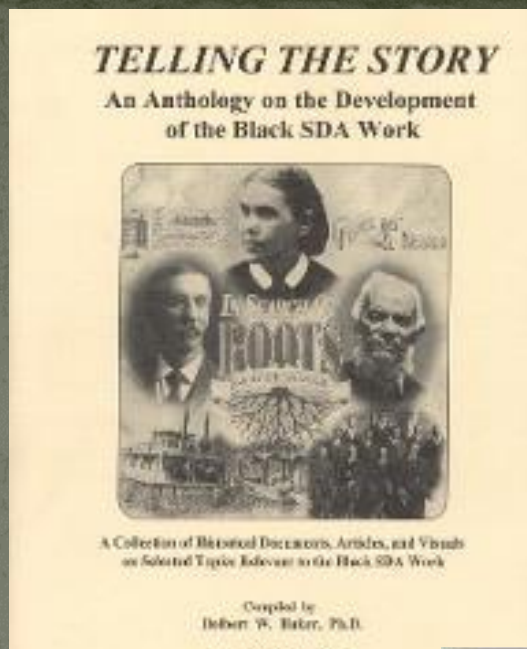
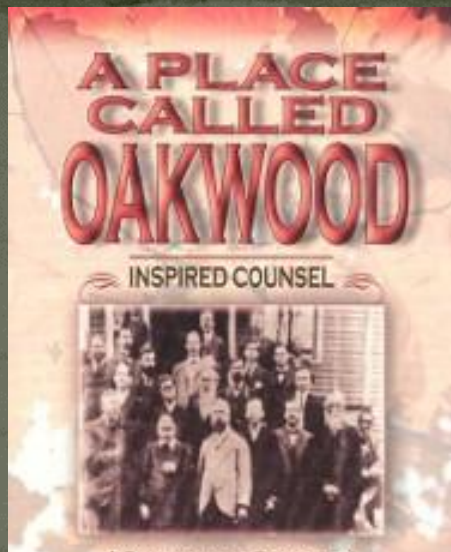


Edson White and team were integrationists before their time

More Reading



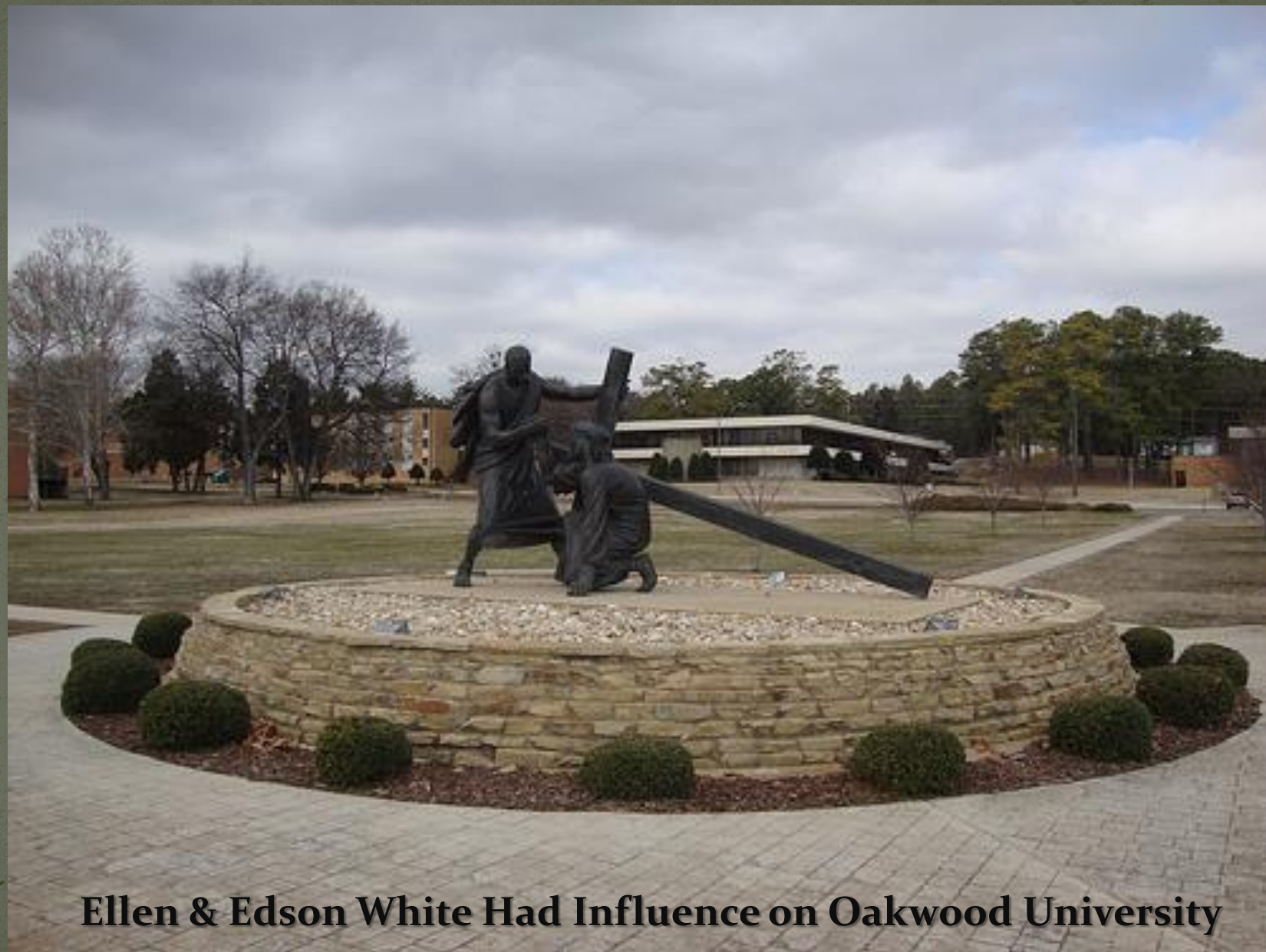
Books and materials by Edson White



Books containing Edson White materials...



Oakwood Board Meeting: Edson White, Ellen White, Willie White, circa 1904



Ellen & Edson White Had Influence on Oakwood University



From the Southern Missionary Society to the Southern Union Conference

Later Years



James Edson White and brother William White at about 1916. Later he produced stereoptican slides for Adventist evangelists. A pioneer in this audio-visual work, he used to travel, giving slide lectures about his work among the black people of the South.



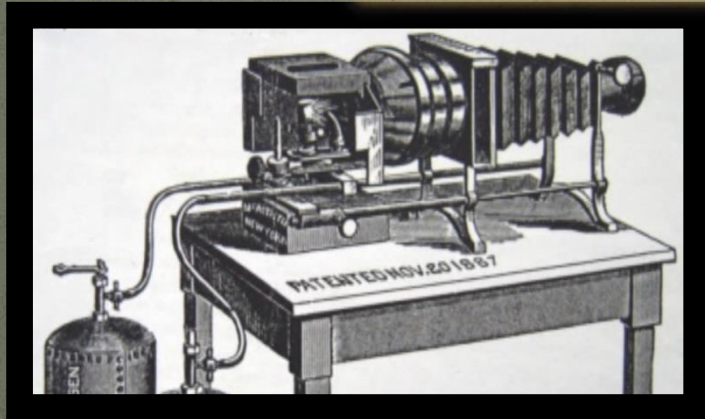
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Blank Books, School Books and Suppl.
Wall Paper, Window Shades, &c.



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Shower Frame



In 1900s he lectured on the Southern work using stereopticon media

Chronology

- Emma died July 29, 1917 two years after his mother' death
- Remarried: 1922
Rebecca Burrill
- Edson Died: May 30, 1928,
Funeral: Battle Creek Tabernacle;
Oak Hill Cemetery



Lessons from Edson...

1. A parent's prayer is a powerful force for transformation.
2. God plan for us factors in our past, present and make-up.
3. Those close to the fire will get warmed or get burned.
4. In love God calls, seeks and pursues us but never make us.



Lessons from Edson...

5. Privilege and access doesn't mean attainment and piety.
6. God uses creative evangelism and courage to do His work.
7. Success comes in different packages at different times.
8. Discover what God has for you for by pursuing your passion.





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Free Helpful OnLine Resources:

Life Lesson: 101 Stories with Life Changing Lessons

- http://www.oakwood.edu/goldmine/quotebook/life_stories.pdf

The Help-Yourself List Book: 101 Lists for Success and Self-Improvement

- http://www.oakwood.edu/goldmine/quotebook/the_help-yourself_list_book.pdf

Lives With Impact: 101 Diverse Biographies

- http://www.oakwood.edu/goldmine/quotebook/lives_with_impact.pdf

Telling the Story: Anthology of Black SDAs

- <http://www.oakwood.edu/goldmine/hdoc/thestory/contents.pdf>

A Place Called Oakwood

- http://www.oakwood.edu/goldmine/quotebook/a_place_called_oakwood.pdf

Black SDA History Website

- <http://blacksdahistory.org/>