

The convention is open to any Adventist who would like to come, while membership in the professional organization is open to most Adventists employed in writing or editing positions, both inside and outside the church organization.

The meeting will be held at the Executive Inn in downtown Seattle. For further information, contact Myron Widmer, *Adventist Review*, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904; (301) 680-6564; or FAX (301) 680-6638.

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

- Feb. 19 Youth Temperance Emphasis
- Feb. 19 Health and Temperance Magazines Emphasis
- Mar. 5 Tract Evangelism Emphasis
- Mar. 5 Women's Day of Prayer for Adventist women in North America
- Mar. 12 Adventist World Radio Offering
- Mar. 19 Adventist Youth Day

**Ellen White Letter Comes to Light**

By WILLIAM G. JOHNSON

The Ellen G. White Estate has announced the finding of a new letter from Ellen White. Dated August 29, 1903, the letter is addressed to Dr. J. H. Kellogg and was composed at Elmshaven, St. Helena, California.

Tim Poirier, assistant director and archivist for the White Estate, happened upon the letter last December while working through the Document File. This file consists of hundreds of folders containing historical materials relating to Ellen White, the White Estate, and Seventh-day Adventist history.

One of the folders contained extra copies of manuscripts primarily relating to Battle Creek and the Kellogg controversy of 1902 to 1908. These duplicates of Ellen White's letters were already found in the regular file; however, Poirier found that one letter, K-195, 1903, had never been placed in the regular file by Ellen White or her secretaries. A different document in the regular file carried the same number, hence the letter had been overlooked by researchers, who wrongly assumed it was duplicated in the regular file.

The letter was obviously read by Ellen White, since it contains numerous interlineations in her own handwriting. According to Poirier, however, it probably was never sent to Dr. Kellogg—which was not unusual, since Ellen White during this period wrote other letters to Kellogg that she withheld as she waited to see how events would transpire.

Like most of Ellen White's letters, this one—now renumbered as K-303, 1903—deals with practical matters. But one paragraph touches on the humanity of Christ, and, with the interlineations indicated between the symbols < >, reads as follows:

“When Christ first announced to the heavenly host His mission and work in the world, He declared that He was to leave His position of dignity and disguise His holy mission by assuming the likeness of a man, when in reality He was the Son of the infinite God. And when the fullness of time

was come, He stepped down from His throne of highest command, laid aside His royal robe and kingly crown, clothed His divinity with humanity, and came to this earth to exemplify what humanity must do and be in order to overcome the enemy and to sit with the Father upon His throne. Coming as He did, as a man, <to meet and be subjected to>/with all the evil tendencies to which man is heir, <working in every conceivable manner to destroy his faith>, He made it possible for Himself to be buffeted by human agencies inspired by Satan, the rebel who had been expelled from heaven.”

Students of Ellen White's writings will be interested in the final sentence of this paragraph. They will observe how she was concerned not to be misunderstood and, upon reading the typed draft, made changes in her own hand that attempted to make her meaning clearer. This statement will take its place among the many others she wrote about the human nature of Jesus.

Will other letters of Ellen White come to light? Possibly. Several years ago a batch of letters that she wrote to Lucinda Hall were discovered in an old trunk. Ellen White was a prolific writer, and in the earlier years of her ministry all her correspondence was by hand. Only after her letters began to be typed were copies kept on a careful basis.

According to Paul Gordon, director of the White Estate, however, any new letter or letters are not likely to change significantly Adventists' understanding of her teachings. “We already have such a large collection of her writings in books, letters, diaries, and manuscripts,” says Gordon, “that we can be confident of knowing what she believed.”

Readers may obtain a copy of letter K-303, 1903, by sending \$3.00 to cover postage and handling to: Ellen G. White Estate, Inc., 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904-6600.

*William G. Johnson is editor of the Adventist Review and a life member of the Ellen G. White Estate Board of Trustees.*