

SPECIAL ELLEN G. WHITE ISSUE

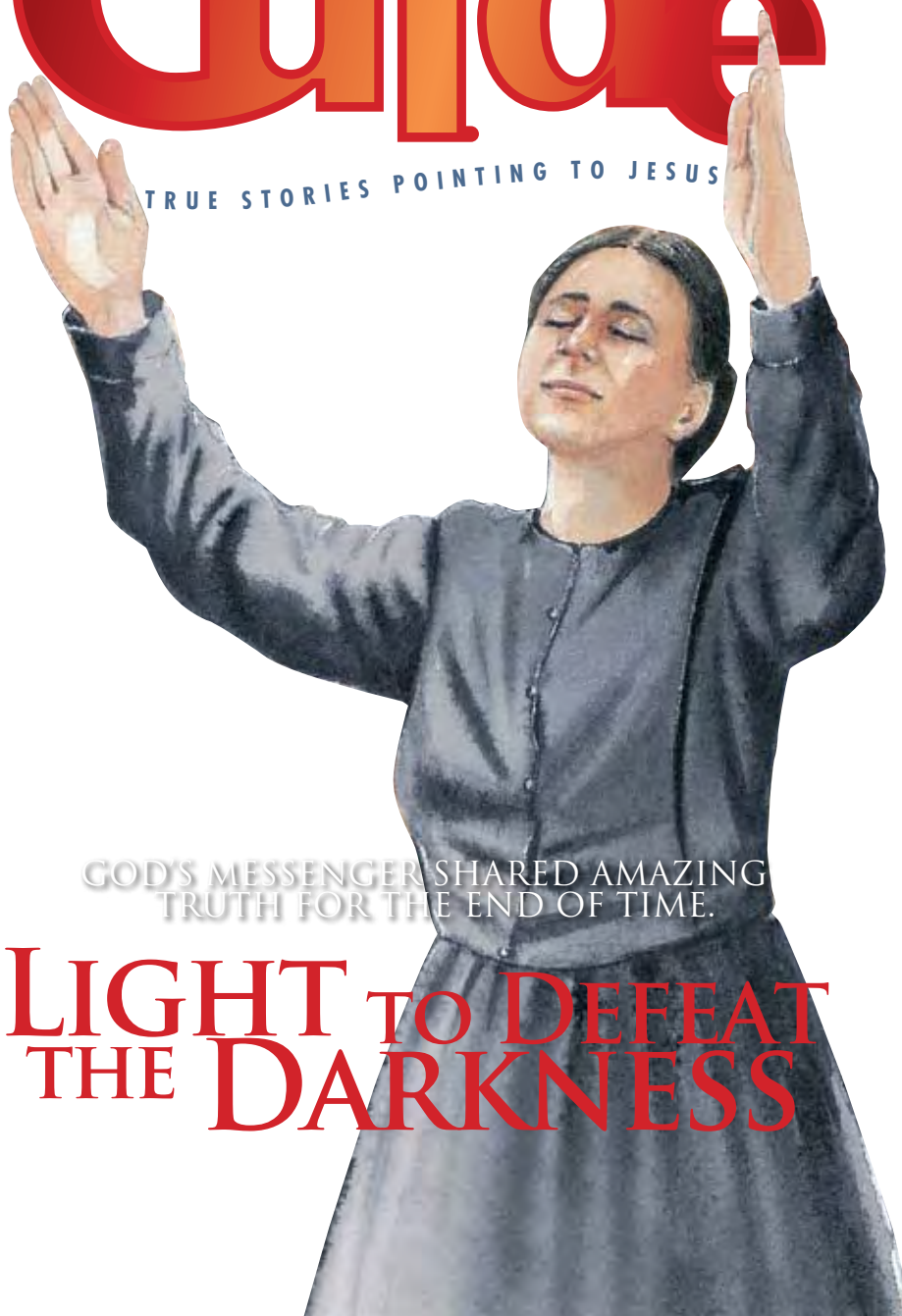


Guide

TRUE STORIES POINTING TO JESUS

GOD'S MESSENGER SHARED AMAZING
TRUTH FOR THE END OF TIME.

LIGHT TO DEFEAT THE DARKNESS



LIGHT TO DEFEAT THE DARKNESS

ELLEN'S
MISSION PUT
HER ON THE
FRONT LINES
OF A COSMIC
BATTLE.

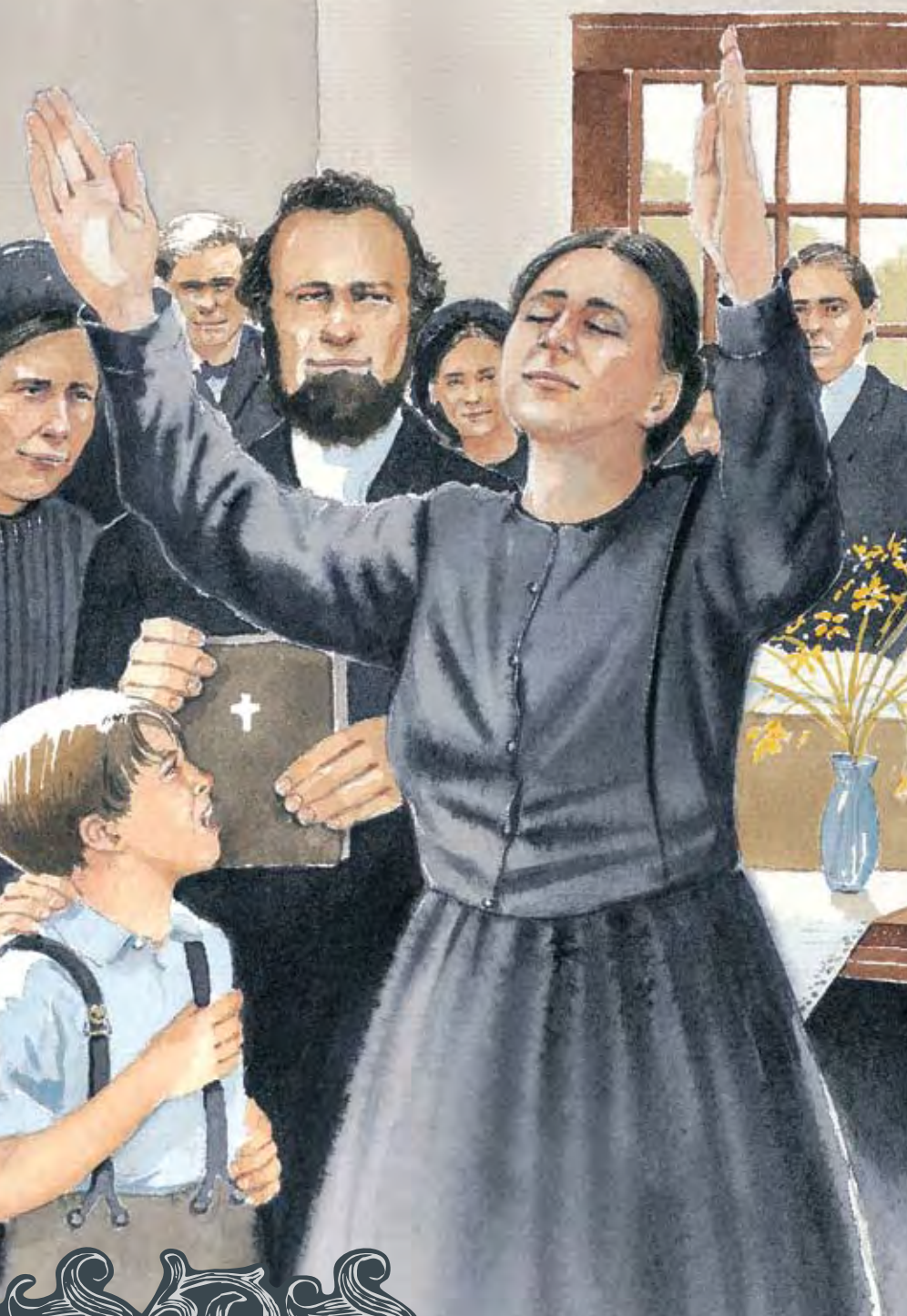
BY RACHEL WHITAKER
ILLUSTRATED BY DENNY BOND

A trace of winter's chill hung in the March air as carriages and wagons drove up to the small schoolhouse. The year was 1858 in Lovett's Grove, a quaint town in rural Ohio.

The people crowding into the building were dressed in black. Their somber faces reflected the occasion: the funeral of a young man who was dear to many of them.

But despite the sad event, there was an undercurrent of excitement in the room. A special speaker was to give the funeral sermon—James White, a well-known preacher from Michigan. James and his wife, Ellen, were visiting for the weekend, and many in the audience had come more

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to hear him than to pay their respects to the deceased man.

Only a few weeks before there had been no believers in Lovett's Grove who kept Saturday as their day of worship. But an Adventist evangelist had been holding meetings in the schoolhouse, and 40 people had accepted the Bible truth of the seventh-day Sabbath. It was an honor to receive a visit so soon from the movement's best-known leaders—James and Ellen White.

Boots scuffed against the rough board floor as people squeezed closer together in their seats. Some had to stand outside—the schoolhouse was full!

The low voices hushed when James stood to speak. He preached a moving sermon.

Then Ellen rose to her feet. "I feel urged by the Spirit to share my thoughts with you as well," she said. The crowd settled back in their seats, eager to hear what she had to say.

Ellen's face glowed with enthusiasm as she spoke of Jesus' second coming. "Those who have died believing in Jesus will be raised to life again. There will be no more death, no more sorrow and weeping such as we experience here today. What a wonderful hope we have as Christians!"

Suddenly Ellen paused in her talk. "Glory to God!" she called out. "Glory to God!"

James stepped quickly toward his wife, who was gazing into the distance. "My wife is having a vision," he

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explained to the audience. “God often gives her special messages to encourage and guide His people, just as He spoke to the prophets in Bible times.”

The people were surprised to see that while Ellen was in vision, she did not breathe, but she could still walk around. At times she even spoke a few words, evidently reacting to the scenes she was seeing.

For two hours the crowded schoolhouse was quiet as the people watched Ellen throughout her vision. The funeral was almost forgotten.

Finally she began to breathe again and to notice the people around her. Realizing that the vision had ended, the family and close friends of the young man who had died left to take the casket to the cemetery. But many people stayed behind, hoping to hear what Ellen had seen in the vision.

They were not disappointed. God had given Ellen special counsels for the believers in Lovett’s Grove. There were words of encouragement for some who had chosen to follow God’s truth even though their family had not. There

Q: Who was Ellen White?

A: Born in 1827, Ellen White was appointed by God as a special messenger to draw the world’s attention to the Bible and help prepare people for Jesus’ second coming. From the time she was 17 years old until she died 70 years later, God gave her approximately 2,000 visions and dreams. The knowledge and counsel received through these revelations she wrote out to be shared with others.

A tireless worker for Jesus Christ, Ellen White is known today as

- author of 5,000 magazine articles and 40 books;
- the most-translated American author;
- author of the classic book *Steps to Christ*, which has been translated into 140 languages thus far.

This remarkable woman met the Bible’s tests of a true prophet.* Her work stands the test of time as a valuable guide for pointing others toward the Savior she loved so much.

*See “True or False?” on pages 16, 17.

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Q: What are God and Satan fighting about?

A: Satan claims that God's laws are unfair and that God is trying to take away our freedom by making us obey Him. God wants us to know that everything He does is in our best interest. He wants the whole universe to see His justice and love in contrast to Satan's lies and cruelty.



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were messages of instruction for those who needed to use their money to help God's work.

"But God showed me so much more than this," Ellen said. "He showed me the whole story of this world from beginning to end, starting with Satan's fall even before this earth was created. I saw God's plan for getting rid of sin forever. He wants us to know these things because we are living in the very end of time."

Ellen's listeners leaned forward, wanting to hear more. "I can't even begin to tell all the details right now," she said. "But God has told me that I should write down what I have seen so that everyone can read it."

The people filed out of the schoolhouse to return to their homes and farms, thoughtful as they looked back over the remarkable events of the day. What a privilege to hear God's messages especially for them!



Ellen smiled up at her husband as the carriage jounced along the road toward

Fremont, Ohio. "Just think—in two days we'll be home in Battle Creek," Ellen said. "I can't wait to see Henry, Edson, and Willie again!"

James patted his young wife's hand. "I know you miss our boys when we have to travel. Especially little Willie. But doing God's work requires us to sacrifice."

"I know," Ellen said. She gazed at the leafless trees along the road, remembering something from her vision the day before. "You will have to contend with the powers of darkness," the angel had told her. "Satan will make strong efforts to hinder you from writing out this message. But keep trusting in God. Angels will be with you in the conflict."

What new difficulties lie ahead for us? Ellen wondered.

The next morning James and Ellen eagerly boarded the train for Jackson, Michigan. As the train rocked and swayed through the countryside, Ellen and James pulled out their writing instruments and began to work. When they traveled, James usually had articles to complete for the *Review and Herald* magazine he published,

Q: Why didn't God destroy Satan right after he sinned instead of letting him bring so much misery here on earth?

A: One reason is this: God knew that the angels and other beings He had created didn't fully understand the consequences of sin. If God had instantly punished Satan and the angels who followed him by wiping them out of existence, many of His created beings would have served God from fear rather than love.

God gave Satan time to demonstrate the bad results of his rebellion. God did this even though He knew that humans would sin and that Jesus would have to die to save us.



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