

AN OPEN LETTER TO CHARLES WHEELING

— BY LUIS MUNILLA

PART ONE OF FOUR

The following letter is remarkable. It was written this summer (1994) by one of the leading workers at Charles Wheeling's organization, who was the secretary/treasurer of the corporation, as well as one of the five members of its executive board.

Luis Munilla has been at Wheeling's Jemison, Alabama, headquarters for several years and, for many, many months has pled with the Wheeling brothers, and others there, to return to confidence and belief in the Spirit of Prophecy. Because of his important position, he is well-acquainted both with corporate matters and the staff that work there.

In this startling exposure, Luis draws back the curtain and reveals the truth about how far a majority of the leaders and workers at that organization have fallen.

✓ **As a result of the crisis, described below, Charles Wheeling's skeptical views are shared by nearly everyone working in his Jemison headquarters.**

✓ **Those who oppose the apostasy are threatened and persecuted. One individual who protested was threatened with the destruction of his property. His wife was terrorized in front of their home. Another had his front door partly damaged.**

✓ **It is now revealed that part of the money donated to the Jemison group for *Great Controversy* distribution is used to print and mail out literature and cassettes attacking the trustworthiness and authorship of the Spirit of Prophecy.**

✓ **In their group meetings, both the Spirit of Prophecy and the necessity of obedience by faith are ridiculed; and books and magazines slurring the Spirit of Prophecy are quoted.**

✓ **Videos and lectures by speakers opposed to the Spirit of Prophecy are welcomed.**

✓ **Of the five-member board, the three who believe in the Spirit of Prophecy have been forced to resign under threats by the workers.**

The faithful are departing, nevermore to return. It is a tragedy to weep over. All because one man thought he was smarter than God's Word.

The following letter is self-explanatory. We have retypeset it, so that Spirit of Prophecy statements will be set in a type and width differing from that of other quoted individuals. Because the document is lengthy, we have reduced it somewhat. All subheads and italics are Munilla's; all non-subhead bold print is ours. Brackets are ours, unless otherwise stated.

July 22, 1994

Dear Charles,

I cannot express the sadness that I feel as I write this letter to you as the former president of Inspiration Books East, Inc.

After being out of the country for nearly three months, and working incessantly to organize, coordinate, and distribute with a handful of faithful Seventh-day Adventists from around the world, nearly 2.3 million *What's Behind the New World Order?* booklets in Romania, France, Taiwan, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, I arrived in the office to discover what you had done, and what I believe will be, short of a miracle from God, the end of this ministry.

For more than four years I have asked you to stop your attacks against Ellen G. White. For more than four years I have received many phone calls from faithful supporters that ask me: How can Charles attack the Spirit of Prophecy and at the same time distribute *Great Controversy*? How can you work with Charles when your theology is so different? Is it true that Charles does not believe in 1844? Is it true that Charles does not believe in 1798?

My response has always been the same: "Please ask Charles for yourself. The fact that our theology disagrees should not keep us from working together in our goal of distributing *Great Controversy*."

Many times I have been told by our supporters that, when they ask your opinion about 1798 or 1844, they cannot seem to obtain a clear answer. Some things you say seem to indicate that you do believe, but then you immediately qualify your statements to indicate that you do not believe like Mrs. White.

For more than four years I have remained quiet, hoping and praying that you would stop, even though many friends of this ministry have told me that they could no longer support us, due to your theology and continued attacks against the Spirit of Prophecy.

During the last eight months, I have received numerous phone calls from "shocked" Seventh-day Adventists who have heard you say, in your seminars, that Mrs. White only wrote 20% of *Desire of Ages*, and I continued to remain quiet, hoping and praying that your behavior would not hurt the distribution of *Great Controversy* worldwide.

Upon my return from this last trip, I was asked by a number of people whether I had heard your November 93 Update cassette (mailed in May 1993) and entitled "*Do Mirrors Ever Lie?*" I answered No.

I was then asked by others whether I had seen Vance Ferrell's 8-page critique on your Update and entitled *Wheeling's Latest Attack on the Spirit of Prophecy*. I again answered No.

I was hoping and praying again that the reports had been exaggerated, so that I would not have to publicly address these issues and hurt this most important ministry.

But when you mail more than 1,000 cassettes worldwide, stating that *Great Controversy* was not written by

Mrs. White, but was a reprint of two books written by James White, who in turn copied most of his material from Sylvester Bliss, J.N. Andrews, and Uriah Smith, then I can no longer remain silent!

What do you do with this statement?

"While writing the manuscript of *The Great Controversy*, I was often conscious of the presence of the angels of God. And many times the scenes about which I was writing were presented to me anew in visions of the night, so that they were fresh and vivid in my mind."—*Colporteur Ministry*, 128.

YOUR COMPLETE STATEMENT LEAVES VERY LITTLE ROOM FOR DOUBT

In response to a letter from a brother who is suggesting that we use the 1884 edition of *Great Controversy* instead of the 1888 edition, you stated [in your taped sermon, "Do Mirrors Ever Lie?"]:

"What do I owe to these people? Should I ignore them; should I file it in file 13; what do I owe to them? Well, do I owe them the truth? Do I really? Should I have responded to these persons with the facts?"

"One of the *unwritten stories* in Adventist history is the influence James White had in forming the ideas and sentences that came out under his wife's (Ellen's) name and pen.

"Although not noted as a literary writer or theologian, James produced four published books, two of these were: *Life Incidents in Connection with the Great Advent Movement as Illustrated by the Three Angels of Revelation 14*. This was published in 1868. And, in 1875, *Sketches of the Christian Life and Public Labors of William Miller, Gathered from His Memoir by the Late Sylvester Bliss and from Other Sources*.

"Both books, under James White's name, were almost totally copied from others. Hold on. The one on William Miller was taken from Sylvester Bliss, who in 1853 had written *Memoirs of William Miller*. The theology of *Life Incidents* was copied substantially from Uriah Smith and J.N. Andrews.

"Neither of these two books with James White's name on it, neither of these two books, was ever printed under another name after the first printing under the name of James White, as far as is known. But they were reprinted under a another name, that of Ellen G. White, his wife, just a few years after his death in 1881; this material was reprinted in 1884 as *Great Controversy*

"Is this what I owe them? Do I owe them the truth, you see? The 1888 and 1911 editions of *Great Controversy* went back to James White's compilation of doctrines and events and picked up even more of his findings and ideas, but never once was it suggested that the heart of Adventist doctrine (such as the three angels' message worldwide, that the church had applied exclusively to the Adventists, the shut door that left everyone else out in the cold, the 2300 days, the 70 weeks, the sanctuary doctrine, the United States in prophecy, the mark of the beast, the image to the beast) had all come out of James White's book, *Life Incidents*.

"What exactly do you owe to people who believe something sincerely?"—[Charles Wheeling, "Do Mirrors Ever Lie?" taped sermon sent to a thousand Adventists].

AN APOLOGY TO SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Charles, your November 93 Update cassette, which so clearly depicts your position, and the critique of the same which is being disseminated by Vance Ferrell and others, will do tremendous damage to this ministry.

On behalf of this ministry, I want to apologize for what I consider to be the most blatant attack on the Spirit of Prophecy that I have heard from any Seventh-day Adventist layman or minister in the 11 years that I have been in this church.

Unfortunately, the majority of workers in this ministry have listened so long to your sermons, that by beholding they have changed, and have denied what they have believed for many years.

However, in addition to my apology, I want to advise our supporters that not all of the workers in this ministry, nor the majority of the board members of this ministry, share your views of Ellen White. Truly did she prophesy:

"The signs reveal that the time is near when the Lord will manifest that His fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor.

"The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect. There will be gods many and lords many. Every wind of doctrine will be blowing. Those who have rendered supreme homage to 'science falsely so called' will not be the leaders then. Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file. They did not keep pace with the light. Those who have proved themselves unfaithful will not then be intrusted with the flock. In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them. The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal . . .

"True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat."—*5 Testimonies*, 80-81.

"Divisions will come in the church. Two parties will be developed. The wheat and tares grow up together for the harvest."—*2 Selected Messages*, 114.

THE DOWNWARD MARCH TO PERDITION

I have shared the following admonition two times with you in the past. I share it now for the third and final time, so that you may know that we have, in the writings of Ellen G. White, "a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place."

“It is Satan’s plan to weaken the faith of God’s people in the *Testimonies*. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the *Testimonies*, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.”—4 *Testimonies*, 211.

According to God’s prophet, there are three steps that must be taken in the downward march to perdition. First, we lose faith in God’s *Testimonies*; Second, we begin to doubt the pillars of our faith; third, we doubt the Holy Scriptures.

Charles, you first began to doubt Mrs. White’s testimonies. It is in the *Testimonies* that we find what took place in 1844.

“Calculation of the time was so simple and plain that even children could understand it. From the date of the decree of Persia, found in Ezra 7, which was given in 457 before Christ, the 2300 years of Daniel 8:14 must terminate with 1843 . . .

“But it was ascertained that the decree was given near the close of the year 457 B.C., and therefore the prophetic period must reach to the fall of the year 1844 . . .

“Instead of the prophecy of Daniel 8:14 referring to the purifying of the earth, it was now plain that it pointed to the closing work of our High Priest in heaven, the finishing of the atonement, and the preparing of the people to abide the day of His coming.”—1 *Testimonies*, 52, 58.

You quickly followed with the second step; skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position. The main pillar, according to the prophet herself, is Daniel 8:14.

“The Scripture which above all others has been both the foundation and central pillar of the advent faith was the declaration: ‘Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.’ Daniel 8:14 . . . These prophetic days had been shown to terminate in the autumn of 1844.”—*Great Controversy*, 409.

The third and final step has just been taken; doubt as to the Holy Scriptures. Your November 93 Update cassette, mentioned above, reveals the doubt you now publicly admit regarding God’s Holy Scriptures. Please note the exact language you used in that sermon:

“Scripture is light from God through a prophet. I have not put the prophet in a direct line between God and me; in a few moments I’ll show you that that’s what most Adventists do. That’s what most people do, but it’s not actually the case at all.

“I’m showing you that the light from God, to me, through the prophet is bent. It’s refracted. I didn’t say reflected. Reflected is what happens when you have a mirror, but refracted is when the light passes through

something but it’s bent in the process.”—[Charles Wheeling].

Charles, please notice your language compared with that of God’s prophet:

“God’s spirit has illuminated every page of Holy Writ, but there are those upon whom it makes little impression, because it is imperfectly understood. When the shaking comes, by the introduction of false theories, these surface readers, anchored nowhere, are like shifting sand . . .

“We should call attention to what the prophets and apostles have written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit has so shaped matters, both in the giving of the prophecy and in the events portrayed, as to teach that the human agent is to be kept out of sight, hid in Christ.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 112.

“He who has a knowledge of God and His Word through personal experience has a settled faith in the divinity of the Holy Scriptures. He has proved that God’s Word is truth, and he knows that truth can never contradict itself.”—*Ministry of Healing*, 462.

“The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. ‘Where there is no vision, the people perish’ (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God’s remnant people in the true testimony.

“There will be a hatred kindled against the Testimonies which is satanic. The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded.”—1 *Selected Messages*, 48.

“YOU HAVE THEREBY INSULTED THE SPIRIT OF GOD

It is the Holy Spirit that inspires God’s prophets. When you reject the *Testimonies* of Mrs. White, you do not reject her, but the Spirit of God.

“When I sent you a testimony of warning and reproof, many of you declare it to be merely the opinion of Sister White. You have thereby insulted the Spirit of God.”—1 *Selected Messages*, 27.

“Korah and his companions rejected light until they became so blinded that the most striking manifestations of His power were not sufficient to convince them; they attributed them all to human or satanic agency . . .

“It was this act that sealed their doom. They had committed the sin against the Holy Spirit, a sin by which man’s heart is effectually hardened against the influence of divine grace.

“‘Whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man,’ said Christ, ‘it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not

be forgiven him.' Matthew 12:32. These words were spoken by our Saviour when the gracious works which He had performed through the power of God were attributed by the Jews to Beelzebub.

"It is through the agency of the Holy Spirit that God communicates with man; and those who deliberately reject this agency as satanic, have cut off the channel of communication between the soul and Heaven.

"God works by the manifestation of His Spirit to reprove and convict the sinner; and if the Spirit's work is finally rejected, there is no more that God can do for the soul. The last resource of divine mercy has been employed. The transgressor has cut himself off from God, and sin has no remedy to cure itself. There is no reserved power by which God can work to convict and convert the sinner. 'Let him alone' (Hosea 4:17) is the divine command. Then 'there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.' Hebrews 10:26-27."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 405.

Charles, Satan has finally taken advantage of the situation. You have so long insulted the Spirit of God, by your attacks against the Spirit of Prophecy, that God is allowing you to follow your own desires and to suffer the result.

**I CAN NO LONGER CONSENT
TO LISTEN WITHOUT PROTEST
TO THE PERVERSION OF TRUTH**

A few years ago, when Charles Wheeling spoke, there was standing room only in his seminars. Seminars, where 900-1,200 people would attend a few years ago, have now been reduced to 200-300 attendees.

A few years ago there were over 1,000 paying Update subscribers. Now there are less than 300.

A few years ago we kept our video machines running constantly to keep up with orders for your videos. Now you have started a program where people can borrow your videos on a "loan basis," and return them without cost.

At a time when we should be incessantly working to finish this work, every bone and fiber of your body is absorbed in proving this prophet wrong. When will you realize that you are kicking against the pricks?

A handful of us spent two months overseas, more than 10 months ago, and distributed over 3 million books in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Japan and South Korea, and Seventh-day Adventists are still waiting for our newsletter.

Thousands of pages have been mailed from this Ministry attacking God's prophet—using money donated for *Great Controversies*,—yet we are barely scratching the barrel for funds to do God's work!

I cannot any longer, with a clear conscience, after such a blatant attack on God's prophet and the pillars of our faith, remain silent and allow the remaining supporters to also turn away from this ministry.

I cannot any longer answer phone calls from faithful Adventists, some of which have called me with the same questions about you various times, who were shocked

by your behavior, who cannot obtain from you a clear answer of your beliefs, and who finally say, "I am sorry, I cannot any longer support your ministry!"

God is being dishonored, and the truth is being made of none effect. I must advise our supporters, on behalf of the board, that this ministry, in its present condition, will no longer tolerate such behavior on your part. I am compelled, by God's Spirit, to openly protest your behavior!

"My message to you is: No longer consent to listen without protest to the perversion of truth. Unmask the pretentious sophistries which, if received, will lead ministers and physicians and medical workers to ignore the truth . . . I have been instructed to warn our people; for many are in danger of receiving theories and sophistries that undermine the foundation pillars of our faith."—*1 Selected Messages*, 196-197.

"Today there is need of the voice of stern rebuke; for grievous sins have separated the people from God . . .

"There are many professed Christians who, if they should express their real feelings, would say, What need is there of speaking so plainly? They might as well ask, Why need John the Baptist have said to the Pharisees, 'O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?' Luke 3:7.

"Why need he have provoked the anger of Herodias by telling Herod that it was unlawful for him to live with his brother's wife? The forerunner of Christ lost his life by his plain speaking. Why could he not have moved along without incurring the displeasure of those who are living in sin?

"So men who should be standing as faithful guardians of God's law have argued, till policy has taken the place of faithfulness, and sin is allowed to go unreprieved. When will the voice of the faithful rebuke be heard once more in the church?"—*Prophecies and Kings*, 140-141.

Three times in the last eight months, not including this present situation, a very small group of workers here have to resist the "rushing torrent of iniquity" that has slowly tried to take possession of this ministry. Unfortunately, prophecy tells us that this will only get worse!

"Those who have a zeal for God's honor and a love for souls will not hold their peace to obtain favor of any. Their righteous souls are vexed day by day with the unholy works and conversation of the unrighteous. They are powerless to stop the rushing torrent of iniquity, and hence they are filled with grief and alarm. They mourn before God to see religion despised in the very homes of those who have had great light. They lament and afflict their souls because pride, avarice, selfishness, and deception

Continued on the next tract

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AN OPEN LETTER TO CHARLES WHEELING

— BY LUIS MUNILLA

PART TWO OF FOUR

Continued from the preceding tract in this series

of almost every kind are in the church. The Spirit of God, which prompts to reproof, is trampled underfoot, while the servants of Satan triumph. God is dishonored, the truth made of none effect.”—5 *Testimonies for the Church*, 210-211.

“God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. The Lord calls upon all who believe His Word to awake out sleep.”—5 *Testimonies*, 707.

The goal of this ministry, from its inception, has been the distribution of *Great Controversy* as the “leaves of autumn.”

As board member and secretary/treasure of this corporation, I have been able until the present time, to tell our supporters that their funds have been used to distribute this book worldwide. I can no longer, with a clear conscience, make this assertion!

I cannot remain quiet any longer and allow you, with God’s money, to disseminate falsehoods against the Spirit of Prophecy, whether in your seminars, videos, cassette tapes, or literature mailed from this ministry.

“GRIEVOUS SINS MUST BE CALLED BY THEIR RIGHT NAME”

“Everyone who loves Jesus and the souls for whom He died will follow after the things that make for peace. But His followers are to take special care lest . . . in warding off divisions, they make a sacrifice of its principles.”—*Upward Look*, 220.

“Wrongs must be called wrongs. Grievous sins must be called by their right name . . . The plain straight testimony must live in the church, or the curse of God will rest upon His people as surely as it did upon ancient Israel because of their sins.

“Never was there greater need of faithful warnings and reproofs . . . than at the very time.”—5 *Testimonies*, 676.

THE LAST WEEK AT COUNTDOWN MINISTRIES

The issues contained herein are normally of a confidential nature. However, at the “employee meeting,” held on July 14th, all of these issues were discussed, and have now become part of the public record. The facts have been so distorted that some of us have been accused of firing Charles Wheeling, taking over the ministry, and stealing \$500,000.

As a result, people are calling from around the world, wondering what really happened in the last board meeting. In defense of truth, the following facts are being disclosed.

On July 14, 1994, at 10:00 a.m., began a meeting of the board of this ministry. The five board members

present were: Charles and Judy Wheeling, Bill Wiese, David Caine, and Luis Munilla. Also present at the meeting were: David Wheeling, who is Charles’ brother but not a board member, and Charles’ secretary, who was recording the board minutes.

A PRECARIOUS INCOME STATEMENT A SHOCKING DONORS’ REPORT

Immediately after lunch, Luis Munilla passed out to all the board members the income statement for January through June of 1994. Luis also passed out a comparative income statement for the last six years of the ministry.

The comparative income statement reveals that we have received, as of June 30, 1994, 46% of the income that we received for the same period in 1993, and less than 65% of what it has been for any year since 1889.

Luis then passed out a six-page donor comparative report of the 300 largest donors for 1993 and 1994. Sixty seven (67) of these donors had contributed, in 1993, over \$1,052,000; and, for 1994, the total contributions of the same 67 donors was zero. This cannot be blamed on the economy.

I stated that many of these donors have personally called me, and have stated that they can no longer support this ministry because of your theology and attacks on Mrs. White. I reminded the board that, during the last eight months, three times I have had to call all the workers of this ministry into the worship room, to publicly deal with their blatant attacks of the Spirit of Prophecy. Excerpts from these meetings are included at the end of this letter.

VANCE FERRELL’S CRITIQUE OF “DO MIRRORS EVER LIE?” BY CHARLES WHEELING

Luis then passed out a copy of Vance Ferrell’s critique of Charles’ November 93 Update cassette entitled, “*Do Mirrors Ever Lie?*”

All of the board members were familiar with Ferrell’s critique. David Caine stated that we were losing our goals at Countdown Ministries. David Caine, Bill, and Luis stated that we have no business sending out any other materials, with ministry funds, except the Spirit of Prophecy books.

Luis stated that, “Short of a miracle from God, this November 93 Update cassette, with its blatant attack and rejection of the Spirit of Prophecy, will be the end of this ministry.”

Charles stated that the book distribution had been seized by a bunch of “Feastkeepers.” I answered that the feasts may be believed or disbelieved, but they do not tear down the pillars of our faith, nor do they attack the Spirit of Prophecy.

I also reminded Charles and the board that I have never used the funds of this ministry for any of my per-

sonal letters, or seminars, or postage, or to advertise the 7 feasts of the Lord and the 1994 Jubilee!

Charles stated that it was now the rumor that only Feastkeepers could take part in these trips abroad to distribute books.

I reminded Charles that when we went to Russia, India, or Mexico, not one person from the ministry desired to go, even though I personally encouraged them to go. Many times the excuse used was that it would be dangerous work for Americans to take part in.

I reminded Charles that he has not gone on one of these trips. I said the same thing to David, his brother. I also reminded Charles that, when the people were chosen to go to Germany, I was in France. When Charles faxed me the people that would go to Germany, which he chose, I immediately complained of three people whom I believed were very old for the work.

I suggested very strongly that they should not go, not because they were not Feastkeepers, but because they could not endure the walking and long hours that was required in France, and someone else would have to carry the burden. As it turned out, Charles decided that all three people should go on the trip, and they did. Of the people that went to Germany, there were more non-Feastkeepers than Feastkeepers.

At this point Charles presented, on an overhead projector, certain quotes regarding Ellen G. White's writings, attempting to prove that she copied much of her writings. Much discussion followed.

THE NOTES PAYABLE

I reminded the board that six months ago we had entertained much discussion regarding whether or not we should pay outstanding notes payable, totaling more than \$273,000, plus accrued interest. The board had agreed, at that time, to always keep a reserve of \$300,000, in case these notes had to be paid back. A certain board member, who prior to this meeting had already resigned, insisted that the notes should be paid back since we could not use the money anyway. The money was earning 3% interest in the bank and we were paying the note holders 8%.

David Caine and Luis Munilla now insisted that, because of our precarious financial condition at this moment, the money should be paid back. If for any reason we use some of these reserved funds and did not have the moneys necessary to repay these loans, as board members we could be held legally liable.

Luis also reminded the board that two of these notes, totaling more than \$85,000, had already expired in March, and it was our duty to pay these moneys back, since note holders had been contacted regarding extending the notes and they had not responded.

Charles stated that two of these notes were over 90 years old, and if the money was paid back, they would just reinvest the money with another ministry; and, if they died, another ministry would benefit instead of us. He insisted that we should not pay the money now until he could personally visit with them in California.

CHARLES REQUESTS A SIX-MONTHS SABBATICAL WITH PAY OR ELSE HE RESIGNS

Charles stated that he had some projects in mind that he wanted to accomplish before the end of the year; and, in December, he would like to request that the board grant him a six-month sabbatical with pay, otherwise he would resign.

Luis told Charles that we have now come to the end of the world, when we need to be working the hardest, and that he could not with a clear conscience, allow Charles to receive God's money for six months without working. No further action was entertained on this topic.

THE CRUCIAL MOTION

A motion was presented by Luis Munilla as follows:

That Charles Wheeling stop all "prophet bashing," or speaking against Mrs. White in his seminars, or mailing out from this ministry anything against Mrs. White in the form of videos, cassette tapes, or literature.

This motion tendered would eventually be delivered upon for almost two hours. During this period, Judy Wheeling asked to resign or be taken off the board, three times. Three times Luis requested a vote be taken on the motion. On the third time, Bill seconded the motion, and Judy and Charles opposed it.

Just prior to the deciding vote being cast by David Caine, Charles stated that if the motion was voted on, he would resign and the ministry would end.

Luis stated that we could not now remain silent while Charles made these attacks against Mrs. White.

After another heated discussion, and immediately before David was to cast his vote, Charles rose to his feet, said he resigned, and left the room. At this point, David was again asked to cast the deciding vote on the motion, which he did in favor of the motion, at which time Judy left the room. A few minutes later, David Wheeling also left the room.

The three remaining board members had prayer, and sat down again to conclude the board meeting and vote to accept the resignation of Charles Wheeling, which we did. As we were about to consider the resignation of Judy Wheeling, which had been tendered three times, two employees burst into the room, followed by the others, and angrily accused the three board members of "firing Charles." In addition, they demanded, by screaming at the top of their lungs, that an employee meeting should be called immediately.

Luis stated that it was 8:00 p.m., that it had been a long day, and that it would be best to have the employee meeting early Friday morning. At that point, one of the principal employees in the ministry, speaking personally to Luis demanded again, "If an employee meeting is not called immediately, your house may be torched." Due to these circumstances, the board meeting turned into an employee meeting.

THE EMPLOYEE MEETING

For nearly half an hour before the employee meeting began, Luis, especially, and the other two board members were angrily and loudly accused of being fanatical Feastkeepers, even though one of the board members is not, and never has been a Feastkeeper.

We were accused of playing Holy Spirit by telling

Charles what to speak on. We were accused of maliciously orchestrating a takeover of the ministry.

The words, "I hate you," were addressed to Luis Munilla, and were heard loudly and angrily by at least two people. Luis was told loudly, angrily, and by many people at the same time, "Why don't you leave the ministry; we do not want you here." Finally, 8:30, the meeting began.

Luis spoke for half an hour or more, and presented a recap of what had taken place at the board meeting—including the precarious financial condition, the comparative income statements and donors' reports, and the suggestion of potentially laying off employees.

Throughout the board meeting and employee meeting, angry and loud remarks were made against Feastkeepers.

The following two references were not quoted at the meeting because I was clearly told, by one of the principal employees at the ministry, not to use any Spirit of Prophecy quotes; but I must use them here to clear this issue.

Mrs. White stated:

"The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones."—*9 Testimonies, 11*.

She also stated:

"The heavenly messengers seen by Ezekiel, like a bright light going among the living creatures with the swiftness of lightning, represent the speed with which this work will finally go forward to completion."—*4 Bible Commentary, 1161*.

Luis made it clear that the board members of this ministry had been chosen by Charles himself; and, that now since Charles and Judy had resigned, the legal board of this ministry was composed of Bill, David, and himself.

Luis stated, on behalf of Bill and himself, that when they came here many years ago, Charles did not attack God's prophet. Back then, Charles did not reject the pillars of our faith. Luis reminded the employees of a vision Mrs. White had, entitled *A Firm Platform*, found on page 259 of *Early Writings*.

Mrs. White states:

"I saw individuals approach the platform and examine the foundation. Some with rejoicing immediately stepped upon it. Others commenced to find fault with the foundation. They wished improvements made, and then the platform would be more perfect, and the people much happier. Some stepped off the platform to examine it and declared it to be laid wrong. But I saw that nearly all stood firm upon the platform and exhorted those who had stepped off to cease their complaints; for God was the Master Builder, and they were fighting against Him. They recounted the wonderful work of God, which had led them to the firm platform, and, in unison, raised their eyes to heaven and with a loud voice glorified God." [*Early Writings, 259*].

Luis then asked the employees, "Who has gotten off the platform, you or us? We still believe the same as we believed when we came. You, on the other hand, have totally rejected what you have believed for many years"

I then answered some questions and exhausted, depressed, and discouraged, sat down. As soon as I sat down, another principal employee made the remark that the remaining board members were going to have a hard time running the ministry, since she had taken the mailing list and the accounting files out of the computer.

Charles then spoke for 45 minutes and presented his side of the story, which was again composed of arguments trying to prove that in fact Ellen G. White copied *Great Controversy* and many other books.

THE BALM OF GILEAD IS APPLIED

During Charles' discourse, as I was sitting bewildered and exhausted in my seat, I asked the Lord: "Father, what am I doing here? What do I do now?" Immediately I heard (not audibly) that still small voice speaking to my heart and saying, "Relax, and I will tell you what to do."

I was very clearly impressed by the Holy Spirit, that the remaining three board members were to go to the bank, early in the morning, and purchase six cashier's checks totaling more than \$302,000 to pay off the note holders.

I was further impressed to purchase a seventh cashier's check in the amount of \$60,000, from which to pay current bills that were outstanding and other miscellaneous expenses, including, but not limited to, printing and mailing a letter of apology on behalf to this ministry, for Charles' blatant attacks against the Spirit of Prophecy.

After Charles finished speaking, I stated that we had voted on principle. That the action of most of the employees of this ministry against the Spirit of Prophecy was an insult to the Spirit of God, and that to attribute the works of the Holy Spirit to that of man was blaspheming against the Holy Spirit.

I reminded the employees that, for eight months, I had been asking them to stop speaking against the Spirit of Prophecy because God's curse would rest upon the ministry; and, that now, in my opinion, the financial condition of the ministry was the result of our actions.

I further stated that, contrary to the assertions being made that this was a takeover of the ministry, the remaining board members had no intentions of running this ministry by force or by court order, even though, legally, we were empowered to do so.

Further I stated that, if Charles refused to resign and the employees of this ministry were going to withhold the tools necessary for the proper accomplishment of the duties of this ministry, then the remaining board members would have no other alternative but to resign, since we were prohibited, by the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, to seek redress in a court of law. At that point, prayer was offered and the meeting came to an end.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE \$500,000 STOLEN

Pursuant to the Holy Spirit's clear instructions, early the next morning David Caine, Bill Wiese, and I left promptly for the main office of our bank in Birmingham

at 8:00 a.m. Birmingham is 45 minutes north from our local bank, which is just 7 minutes from the ministry. We purposely went to Birmingham to avoid “cleaning our dirty laundry” locally. Upon our arrival at the bank I requested approximately \$362,000 in cashier’s checks, and I waited and waited and waited.

Finally the teller returned and said, “I’m sorry Sir, but you will have to see a bank official.” The bank official said, to me, that there was a problem with the funds. I requested that she contact our local bank official in Jemison, and she stated that our local bank official was precisely whom she talked to.

I then requested that I speak to our local bank official. And, when I asked what the problem was, “she said, “Luis, there seems to be a problem at Countdown Ministries, and a *hold* has been requested on the funds. I then explained to her that there was a good possibility that we would resign from the board; and, before we did, we wanted to make sure that certain note holders were paid off, since, as board members, we were legally responsible.

Being an attorney and knowing my legal rights, I then stated to my local bank official that a personal request from an officer in a corporation is not sufficient to *hold* the funds in an account. I told her that since I was in the main branch in Birmingham, I would be most happy to visit their legal department, and present copies of the promissory notes owed, which we as a corporation have a right to pay. I suggested to her to please consult her legal staff and call me back in 10 minutes. Just a few minutes later she called back and the funds were released, and we went home!

THE ATTACKS TURN TO LUIS’ WIFE AND CHILDREN

Arriving home, I found out that my wife and children had received unwelcome visitors. My children stated that a principal employee of the ministry, with his wife, had come down our driveway very fast and beeping the horn. They got out of the car and proceeded to bang loudly and vigorously on our door.

My wife opened the door and stepped outside; and, there on the front lawn, I was loudly accused of being a thief, of orchestrating a takeover of the ministry, of playing the Holy Spirit, and thinking myself and my family so holy that, perhaps, we should be worshiped.

At this point, this individual physically and mockingly bowed down before my wife, on our front lawn, and pretended to worship her. He also used unchristian language repeatedly.

This sad incident was concluded by the statement: “What Luis needs is some milk to clear his brains. Why don’t you leave this place? We don’t want you here!”

IN A FIT OF ANGER THE TRUTH IS REVEALED

After things settled down at home, I proceeded to call the individual above mentioned. As soon as he heard my voice, he screamed, “You thief, you crooked thief,” to which I responded, “if you want to talk, I will explain what I have done.”

As I again reiterated that our intentions were to re-

sign and not take over the ministry, and that what I had done was perfectly legal, I asked, “By the way, how did you know that the money was not in the bank?”

At this point, he again burst into a wild rage and loudly screamed over the phone, “because you are a thief, a ‘white trash’ thief. And, in order to protect ourselves from you, I went to the bank and was about to withdraw the money to place it in a separate account and keep you from messing with it, when I was told that you had already purchased cashier’s checks.”

In reply I could only say, “Even though you have falsely accused me all over the country of being a thief, you went to the bank to do the same thing I did, except that I beat you to it.”

Only God knew what would happen, and I was successful because I followed perfectly the clear instructions of God’s Holy Spirit, given the night before! Later that morning, the wife of the same employee loudly accused me by stating to my face, in front of her husband, “How could you, how could you, expose the internal affairs of this ministry, that has existed for years in this community, by going to the bank and causing this embarrassing situation?”

I answered that I had driven 45 miles to Birmingham to prevent exposing our dirty laundry, and that I would have obtained the cashier’s checks without any problem; that it was her husband who had gone to the local bank to *hold* the funds. She looked bewildered at him and did not say a word

Later that afternoon, I learned that an employee had gone to Bill’s front door and kicked it so hard, that it bent the aluminum and had to be repaired.

A FORCED RESIGNATION

Here we are one week later. All of the note holders and outstanding bills have been paid with cashier’s checks and sent by certified mail. God’s business has been carried out decently and in order.

Charles Wheeling has refused to abide by the majority vote of the board of Inspiration Books East, Inc. The present board members do not desire to reject clear counsel from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, by exercising their legal right to seek redress in a court of law.

In view of these circumstances, the three remaining legal board members—Bill Wiese, David Caine, and Luis Munilla—have unanimously tendered their resignation as board members and officers of Inspiration Books East, Inc. on July 22, 1994.

Your Brother in Christ,

Luis Manilla

AN INTRODUCTION TO THREE SAD MEETINGS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT COUNTDOWN MINISTRIES

After many private appeals to Charles Wheeling went unheeded, to stop what appeared to be an obsession to

Continued on the next tract

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AN OPEN LETTER TO CHARLES WHEELING

— BY LUIS MUNILLA

PART THREE OF FOUR

Continued from the preceding tract in this series

attack the Spirit of Prophecy, I personally called him and all the workers of the ministry, and requested their presence at worship on Monday, November 8, 1993.

At that time, I personally read, in the presence of all the workers, a 14-page letter regarding their beliefs and attacks on the Spirit of Prophecy.

I cannot include the 14 pages here, but I feel that I must include portions of my letter for those that may have been deceived on these points.

Except for those statements addressed to Charles Wheeling and David Dence, the two persons that have sent out literature on behalf of the ministry, insinuating doubts against the Spirit of Prophecy, I have used Worker A instead of one of our workers, to protect their identity.

Towards the end of my letter, I included the following paragraph:

"I prayfully request that you study the contents of this letter as I have read it. I will not pass out any personal copies, because I believe that if Seventh-day Adventists that support us were aware of the issues contained in this letter, we would virtually lose all our support, financial and otherwise. And, even though we totally disagree, I love you all very much; and, as long as we can continue to distribute the books, I count it a privilege to work here. Soon we will know who is right and who is wrong!"

In addition to the meeting of November 8, I had to call two other public meetings in the ministry to deal with blatant attacks against the Spirit of Prophecy. The second meeting took place on December 6, 1993.

The third meeting took place on March 2, 1994, and another 10-page letter was read by me to all the employees, in an effort to defend the Spirit of Prophecy. This letter, like the first, was not distributed in order to keep the matter totally private.

**EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER
READ AT A PUBLIC MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 1993
AT COUNTDOWN MINISTRIES**

November 8, 1993

Dear Countdown Staff:

It is with a burdened heart that I write this letter to you today. I want to say that, after the remarks I heard about the Spirit of Prophecy in our worship on Friday morning, I have spent the most discouraging Friday of my life. For the last two days the Lord has not allowed my mind to rest, to the point that I feel compelled to write this letter.

I wanted to share verbally what I am about to write, but the Lord again has impressed me to write for the following reasons: 1) If I share privately what I am about to write, I could be misunderstood as backbiting or criticizing; the comments were made in public and they must

be publicly addressed. 2) By writing it, I can cover each point that needs to be addressed and do not have to rely on my human memory. 3) I have been impressed that I must share this letter with each employee that works here, and if someone does not attend worship, I can read the letter in private . . .

In the last year, we have heard mentioned in the worship room, statements written by Desmond Ford, Walter Rae, and *Spectrum* magazine. In the last year we have mailed out an open letter to the church, by Larry Wilson, where he publicly rejects the prophetic views of Ellen G. White in 7 different areas. There are people working in this ministry that would have resigned had this happened five year ago . . .

For those that were not here on Friday, I want to repeat what started this controversy. Thursday morning, someone had drawn on the blackboard a diagram, placing the cross of Christ in the year A.D. 30. Thursday afternoon, a very strong financial supporter, who had just given us a \$5,000 check for WORLD MISSION, mildly rebuked me for having the diagram on the board, since Mrs. White was clearly shown that Christ died on the cross in A.D. 31.

When I told him I did not know who had left the diagram on the board, I stated to him that, if we believed that diagram, we would have to throw away the Spirit of Prophecy. He then told me that there was a movement in the church, pushing the view that Christ died in A.D. 30, and not only would we have to throw away the Spirit of Prophecy but also the 70 weeks of Daniel.

Late Thursday night, while in prayer, the Lord impressed me to share with you, Friday morning, Daniel 9:26 and how Jesus, the Messiah, was "cut off" in the "midst of the week," and at that time sacrifices ceased on the cross.

I then paraphrased *Desire of Ages*, where Mrs. White states that Jesus died in the midst of the week. in A.D. 31, three and one half years after His ministry began. I shared that, if you move back in any calendar 1,260 days, or three and a half years, from any given Passover, you will most assuredly land on the Feast of Tabernacles in the fall of the year. Therefore Jesus had to be baptized in the fall of A.D. 27, and had to die in the spring of A.D. 31, at Passover, in the "midst of the week," exactly three and one half years after He had commenced His ministry.

I was absolutely convinced that all of us would agree on something as basic as this, which we have used for 150 years to teach the first angel's message; but, to my amazement, I heard the following from several people:

Charles, you stated that the church did not include the introduction to *Great Controversy* in the colporteur's

edition of that book, because they strongly believed that Willie White had written the introduction and not Mrs. White.

You stated that we cannot use *Desire of Ages* to prove A.D. 31, since only 20% of *Desire of Ages* was written by Mrs. White.

Worker A said that Mrs. White, in many instances, really did not understand what she was writing, and she was just espousing her ideas or the ideas of others.

David Dence, I heard you whispering to yourself that it is "foolishness" to believe that Mrs. White, in some of her writings, does not contradict the Bible.

Charles, you stated that the "He," in Daniel 9:27, ("He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease"), does not refer to Christ but to Satan. In Addition, you stated that we could not be sure that Christ's ministry lasted three and one half years.

You also stated that it is possible to believe in the Spirit of Prophecy, even though we do not believe that all of her books were completely written by her or that even some of the things she wrote were erroneous. The evidence presented for this statement was the following:

"I was shown the company present at the conference. Said the angel: 'Some food for worms, some subjects of the seven last plagues, some will be alive and remain upon the earth to be translated at the coming of Jesus.'

"Solomn words were these, spoken by the angel."—*1 Testimonies*, 132.

What I heard on Friday, in our worship, is the most blatant rejection of the Spirit of Prophecy that I have ever heard anywhere in person. It is only fair, if the prophet is going to be attacked, that we allow her to defend herself from her writings.

I will start with the last one of these statements. First notice that it was the angel that said these words. If the angel is wrong, then it could not have been an angel of God but of Satan, and the Spirit that led her would have to have been the spirit of Satan. If this is the case, we might as well throw all her writings out. According to Deuteronomy 18:20-22, "the thing did not come to pass," and therefore she is a false prophet.

If the angel was right, and we explain it wrong, then we are ascribing to Satan the works of God, and end up blaspheming against the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:22-32)!

The explanation is easy: "Food for worms" are those that died in subsequence to the vision.

Some will be alive and remain upon the earth to be translated at the coming of Jesus," refers to those who will be resurrected during the special resurrection, just prior to the first resurrection (Daniel 12:2; *Early Writings*, 285; *Great Controversy*, 637).

Some subjects of the seven last plagues refers to those who, according to *Great Controversy*, are resurrected during the 7th plague; those which have been, and I quote:

"The most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold him in His glory and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient."—*Great Controversy*, 637.

Daniel 12:2 confirms this: "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to everlasting shame and everlasting contempt."

Charles, regarding your statement that the church did not include the introduction to *Great Controversy* in the colporteur edition of that book, because they strongly believed that Willie White had written it, I will let Mrs. White answer for herself. The answer is found in a letter written to Dr. Paulson, on June 14, 1906, 9 years before her death. The full letter is quoted in *1 Selected Messages*, 24-31.

"In my introduction to *The Great Controversy* you have no doubt read my statement regarding the Ten Commandments and the Bible."—*1 Selected Messages*, 24-25.

Notice that she herself states: "In my introduction to *The Great Controversy*," Mrs. White wrote the introduction to this book for the 1888 edition, 27 years before her death. It is unthinkable that she would refer to it as "my introduction," if Willie had written it. This would again be ascribing to man the works of the Holy Ghost. In addition, it would be dishonest and false on her part, and contrary to the Bible which states: "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit."—*Matthew 12:33*.

Regarding your statement that only 20% of *Desire of Ages* was written by Mrs. White, again I will let her answer:

"How many have read carefully *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *The Great Controversy*, and *The Desire of Ages*?" I wish all to understand that my confidence in the light that God has given stands firm, because I know that the Holy Spirit's power magnified the truth, and made it honorable, saying: 'This is the way, walk ye in it.' In my books, the truth is stated, barricaded by a 'Thus saith the Lord.' The Holy Spirit traced these words upon my heart and mind as indelibly as the law was traced by the finger of God, upon the tables of stone, which are now in the ark . . .

"God would be pleased to see *The Desire of Ages* in every home. In this book is contained the light He has given upon His Word."—*Colporteur Ministry*, 126.

Charles, if the Holy Spirit traced these truths upon her heart and mind "as indelibly as the law was traced by the finger of God, upon the tables of stone," how can you claim that 80% of the book was written by man? If she were here today, and you made such a statement, do you think she would agree with you, that you believe in the Spirit of Prophecy?

Protestants claim that the Bible is their only rule of life. Seventh-day Adventists teach that "Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (*James 2:10*). If they keep only nine of the Ten Commandments, they cannot say that they believe in the Bible; the same is applicable to the Spirit of Prophecy. Either we believe in its totality or we don't believe it

at all. There is no middle ground.

God is not the author of confusion. If only 20% was written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, how do we know, or who do we ask, what was inspired and what was not? The end result would be that people would throw the book out when it steps on their toes! Or they would claim that those portions which convicted them were not inspired, and therefore need not be obeyed.

Worker A, regarding your statement that Mrs. White was just espousing her ideas or the ideas of others, please notice her answer:

“There have been those who claim that testimonies purporting to be given by the Spirit of God were merely the expression of my own judgment, based upon information gathered from human sources. This statement is utterly false.”—5 *Testimonies*, 683.

“Written in different ages, by men who differed widely in rank and occupation, and in mental and spiritual endowments, the books of the Bible represent a wide contrast in style, as well as a diversity in the nature of the subjects unfolded. Different forms of expression are employed by different writers; often the same truth is more strikingly presented by one than another. And as several writers present a subject under varied aspects and relations, there may appear, to the superficial, careless, or prejudiced reader, to be discrepancy or contradiction, where the thoughtful, reverent student, with clearer insight, discerns the underlying harmony . . .

“God has been pleased to communicate His truth to the world by human agencies, and He Himself, by His Holy Spirit, qualified men and enabled them to do His work. He guided the mind in the selection of what to speak and what to write. The treasure was intrusted to earthen vessels, yet it is, none the less, from Heaven . . .

“Yet now when I send you a testimony of warning and reproof, many of you declare it to be merely the opinion of Sister White. You have thereby insulted the Spirit of God. You know how the Lord has manifested Himself through the Spirit of Prophecy. Past, present, and future have passed before me. I have been shown faces that I had not never seen, and years afterward I knew them when I saw them. I have been aroused from my sleep with a vivid sense of subjects previously presented to my mind. And I have written, at midnight, letters that have gone across the continent, and, arriving at a crisis, have saved great disaster to the cause of God. This has been my work for many years. A power has impelled me to reprove and rebuke wrongs that I had not thought of. Is this work of the last thirty-six years from above or from beneath?”—1 *Selected Messages*, 25-27.

Ellen White was not perfect. She was not sinless. However, she did have 2,000 visions and probably none of us have had any. We cannot put her on a pedestal, and pray to her like the Catholics do to the Virgin Mary, but we

cannot bring her down to our level and say that she was espousing the ideas of others.

David Dence, regarding your statement that it is “foolishness” to believe that Mrs. White, in some of her writings, does not contradict the Bible, this is what she would answer:

“Many of our people do not realize how firmly the foundation of our faith has been laid. My husband, Elder Joseph Bates, Father Pierce, Elder [Hiram] Edson, and others who were keen, noble, and true, were among those who, after the passing of the time in 1844, searched for the truth as for hidden treasure. I met with the brethren, and we studied and prayed earnestly. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light and studying the Word. Again and again these brethren came together to study the Bible, in order that they might know its meaning, and be prepared to teach it with power. When they came to a point in their study where they said, ‘We can do nothing more,’ the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me. I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me, with instruction as to how we were to labor and teach effectively. Thus light was given that helped us to understand the Scriptures in regard to Christ, His mission, and His priesthood. A line of truth extending from that time to the time when we shall enter the city of God, was made plain to me, and I gave to others the instruction that the Lord had given me.”—*Selected Messages, Vol. 1, 206-207.*

Ellen White was as inspired as Moses, Peter, or Paul. It was the same Holy Spirit working in all of God’s prophets. “I am the Lord, I change not.” (*Malachi 3:6*). We need to search our hearts and realize that the problem is not with the Lord’s prophets, but with us . . .

Charles, regarding your statement, that the “He,” in Daniel 9:27, refers to Satan, please notice what Mrs. White says in *Desire of Ages*, 233.

“Then said the angel, ‘He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week [seven years].’ For seven years after the Saviour entered the ministry, the gospel was to be preached especially to the Jews; for three and a half years by Christ Himself; and afterward by the apostles. ‘In the midst of the week He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease.’ Daniel 9:27. In the spring of A.D. 31, Christ the true sacrifice was offered on Calvary. Then the veil of the temple was rent in twain, showing that the sacredness and significance of the sacrificial service had departed. The time had come for the early sacrifice and oblation to cease.”—*Desire of Ages*, 233.

Please notice that, according to Mrs. White, His ministry lasted three and one half years. Also notice that she has capitalized the “He,” in Daniel 9:27, both times to show that it refers to Jesus Himself, and not to Satan.

As I mentioned Friday, where would we be without the Spirit of Prophecy? We would probably be worship-

ing on Sunday. Like the rest of the Protestant world, because of tradition and prejudice, we would be ignorant of the state of the dead, the millennium, eternal hell, the health message, and the sanctuary!

“Where there is no vision the people perish.”—*Proverbs 29:18*.

“Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established.”—*2 Chronicles 20:20*.

Charles, please reason this out. How can we study together and come to the unity, if when we find something hard to understand in the Scriptures, and I go to you and quote the Spirit of Prophecy as evidence, you answer, Give me the Bible and the Bible only as proof? We might as well go back to spiritual kindergarden.

Instead of picking up where the Spirit of Prophecy left off, we are having to put all our energies into proving whether she was right or wrong! Has not God already given us enough evidence in what her writings have done for our lives?

“In these letters which I write, in the testimonies I bear, I am presenting to you that which the Lord has presented to me. I do not write one article in the paper expressing merely my own ideas. They are what God has opened before me in vision—the precious rays of light shining from the throne.’ [*Now Notice*] It is true concerning the articles in our papers and in the many volumes of my books. I have been instructed in accordance with the Word in the precepts of the law of God. I have been instructed in selecting from the lessons of Christ. Are not the positions taken in my writings in harmony with the teachings of Jesus Christ?”—*1 Selected Messages, 29*. [Emphasis in brackets supplied.]

Again, I ask you, Charles, if all of her books are not inspired, who can tell us what is and what is not? Again I quote her:

“God sets no man to pronounce judgment on His Word, selecting some things as inspired and discrediting others as inspired. The Testimonies have been treated in the same way, but God is not in this.”—*1 Selected Messages, 23*.

“When the power of God testifies as to what is truth, that truth is to stand forever as the truth. No suppositions contrary to the light God has given are to be entertained. Men will arise with interpretations of Scripture which are to them truth, but which are not truth. The truth for this time God has given us as a foundation of our faith. He Himself has taught us what is truth. One will arise, and still another, with new light, which contradicts the light that God has given under the demonstration of His Holy Spirit . . .

“We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith. They gather together a mass of Scripture, and pile it as proof around their asserted theories. This has been done over and over again during the past fifty years. And while the Scriptures are God’s Word, and are to be respected, the application of them, if such application moves one pil-

lar from the foundation that God has sustained these fifty years, is a great mistake.”—*1 Selected Messages, 161*.

Any thing that takes away from the truths that have been revealed through inspiration, does not bear the seal of Heaven.

My dear friends at Countdown Ministries, two years ago I should have told you why I did not come to worship here on Sabbath. I am sure many of you have thought only negative thoughts about me for not being part of the group, for not leaving the church when Charles was disfellowshipped. Even though I believe we should not leave the church until we are put out, I will now tell you another most important reason why our family does not attend church here at Countdown Ministries.

One of the basic Bible rules is that by beholding we become changed. A long, long time ago, when we used to have prayer meetings in this ministry, our family faithfully attended. Two subjects were constantly under attack: 1) Can we really obtain perfection of character before the latter rain falls? and 2) Can Mrs. White be inspired, yet contain some error in her writings?

Many were the times when I would voice my opinion, to the point that I felt I was being a real thorn in the flesh. I hated this, but I could not keep silent while two issues, which are so clearly brought out in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, were constantly under attack.

One night while having worship at home, we read something in the Spirit of Prophecy which my oldest son did not understand. When I started to explain it, he stated: “Dad, is it not possible that this is one of those areas, like Mr. Charles says, where Mrs. White is wrong?” I felt like weeping. By beholding, my son, Lou, had become changed. A few days later I personally related this experience to Charles and told him that I would not be able to continue to come to prayer meeting.

I now see more clearly than ever, the change that has taken place regarding Mrs. White, by reading and rereading *Spectrum* and other so called scholars’ opinions. It is the story of the frog in the boiling water. If thrown in, she will jump out. If placed in warm water, until the water boils, she will not be able to escape. Please read *Early Writings, 124-125*. Mrs. White states that, when we read or listen to error, the light that we have will be turned into darkness; the angels of God will leave us and we will be left to the buffeting of evil angels.

The Bible is clear that, if we do not obey the truth, we will no longer recognize it.

“If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”—*John 17:17*.

As I stated in worship, I have received personal phone calls from our largest financial supporter, and many other strong supporters, and they have expressed to me that

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they cannot continue to support our ministry after hearing statements by Charles, such as: "1798 will not hold water; the prophet was flat busted wrong; the 2,300 days cannot be proven from the Bible." I have shared some of these phone conversations with Charles, now I share them with you . . .

It is my prayer that we corporately repent, and experience a revival and a reformation, before the Lord turns His face from this ministry completely. If no repentance and reformation take place, then I pray that the Lord will continue to use this ministry to open the eyes of the blind, but I am convinced that many of its members, regardless of the millions of books we have distributed, will one day exclaim: "Lord, Lord, have we not . . . in Thy name done many wonderful works?" Only hear: "I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity."

I love you very much as my family. Even if you disregard everything that is contained in this letter, I pray that you will continue to love me and my family.

Your brother in Christ,

Luis Munilla

**EXCERPTS FROM AN ARTICLE
READ AT A PUBLIC MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 6, 1993
AT COUNTDOWN MINISTRIES**

On December 2nd, I wrote a letter to the board members in which I stated:

I am also enclosing a document which I have prepared, entitled A Warning from Ellen G. White, Against What She Called "Demoralizing Influence."

A Seventh-day Adventist brother, by the name of Mr. X, asked us to print envelopes and an invitation form, and, in addition, package and label a book which he has printed, and for which we designed the cover.

A few weeks ago he was invited to speak here at Countdown Ministries on a Sabbath morning, and some of the people had real problems with the statements he made. I have not read the book, nor was I here. However, I have heard, from various people, how he stated that either He was correct or Ellen G. White. Both could not be correct. He is also of the opinion that the little book in the angel's hand, of Revelation 10, is his book . . .

Even though I had told this brother that we would give him an answer in early January, I was so moved by the Holy Spirit in the days that followed, that I was compelled to call every worker in the ministry, and again requested the presence of every one for worship on Monday, December 6, 1993.

I then explained to everyone that, as I was typing the letter to the board members, this brother stormed into my office; and, before I had invited him to sit down, he stated vehemently that:

"William Miller was a Baal worshiper. The 2300-day prophecy was the biggest scam perpetrated upon Seventh-day Adventists. Ellen G. White was a false prophetess, and I am now working in a new version of the book that will unmask her for what she really was."

I was absolutely convinced that, after reading the above counsel and stating the facts, everyone would agree that we could not move one piece of paper for this de-

ceived brother.

But, to my surprise, I was met with argument after argument as to why we should help this humble "country man from the backwoods of Alabama," who was just trying to present the message as he understood it.

Finally, Charles saved the day, but for the wrong reason. He stated that, with such a vehement spirit this man had betrayed, he would not agree to do the job the brother requested.

I then stated that the man had not been disrespectful; in fact I even stated that, before he left my office, we prayed together and I hugged him. The reason we could not do the job was not because of his spirit, but because of the soul-destroying error his book contained.

Charles then stated, again, that, as far as the book was concerned, he had no problem doing the job; but, because of the man's spirit, he would return his deposit. And the deposit was returned.

**EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER
READ AT A PUBLIC MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 2, 1994
AT COUNTDOWN MINISTRIES**

Dear Countdown Staff:

In my 14-page letter to you that I read in worship on November 8, 1993, I stated the following:

"In the last year, we have heard mentioned, in the worship room, statements written by Desmond Ford, Walter Rea, and *Spectrum* magazine. In the last year, we have mailed out an open letter to the church by Larry Wilson, where he publicly rejects the prophetic views of Ellen G. White in 7 different areas."

In spite of my recent opposition to Larry Wilson, as I left for Romania, David Dence designed a flyer inviting all of you to a 12-week series, every Wednesday night, to view a video of Larry Wilson, here at the ministry . . .

I have spoken to Larry Wilson two different times. What I am about to share with you, I have shared with him privately and publicly. On our second meeting, he was preaching and I was suppose to preach immediately after him. He began his talk by stating that, after being confused for 7 years by reading the Spirit of Prophecy, he decided to lay it aside and read only the Bible . . . Now I would like you to read it from his own pen:

Enclosed, please find various pages from an open letter to Seventh-day Adventists, dated November 1991, and published by Wake Up America Seminars, Inc., in which he states:

"*Question:* Some of your views do not agree with Mrs. White's statements. Do you believe Mrs. White is wrong in certain areas?"

"*Answer:* Yes . . ."

"*Question:* So, how can you tell if or where she is wrong?"

"*Answer:* In matters of prophecy, I believe she is wrong in a few areas."—*Larry Wilson, An Open Letter to Seventh-day Adventists, 15.*

"I have found seven or eight conclusions where I believe Mrs. White is wrong because the weight of Scriptural evidence and the absence of historical data clearly confirm that her conclusions are wrong."—*Larry*

Wilson, *An Open Letter to Seventh-day Adventists*, 16.

CONCLUSION

When the board of Inspiration Books, East, Inc., recommended that Larry Wilson or anyone else who is attacking the Spirit of Prophecy not be invited to speak in the ministry, most of the employees went in an uproar.

Charles insisted that we allow the employees to use the premises of the ministry without restraint, as long as it was made clear that the views presented were not those of this ministry.

Not only were the videos of Larry Wilson shown but, one month later, Larry Wilson himself came to the ministry and presented a seminar.

This astounding letter is the capstone to the devastating structure of error which Charles Wheeling has been erecting for several years. We and others have issued warnings to beware of the skepticisms and doubt coming from Jemison.

At last the situation has become so bad that nearly all of its remaining workers, who still believe in the Spirit of Prophecy, have forsaken Countdown Ministries.

This is, indeed, a tragedy. A tragedy which need never have occurred. We are not safe for a day nor an hour, without continual humble reliance on Jesus and trust in His Inspired Word.

Those who choose to forsake God's Books will erelong have to suffer the consequences. It is a dangerous thing to know as much as historic Adventists know. If they depart the faith, there are few ways to retrieve them, other than their own heartfelt repentance.

The following letter was handed to me this afternoon:

"Last Sabbath was a very disturbing day for my wife and I. We went to listen to Charles Wheeling. While I had received your study (WM—315x1), I had forgotten what was at stake here.

"The most disturbing thing he spoke about was the unreliable data in the S.O.P. He said that, in 1980, a vault was unlocked, and what came forth would shock Adventists to their knees.

"He passed out some, for example, that were about a 1919 Bible conference where it was pointed out that some of her writings were written by her secretary or others and inserted into different books.

"He said that he would send me other documentation, showing many other cases where she did not write books or paragraphs in books, yet it contained her name as the author.

"He said that only about 20% of the *Desire of Ages* was written by Sister White. Also that the 2300 days, beasts of Daniel, and so on, as we now believe, were not hers.

"He said that nothing happened in 1844, and that there is no two-apartment sanctuary in heaven.

"Who is right? Charles Wheeling or the Spirit of Prophecy. I have friends who are being carried away by this. He speaks so convincingly. Is this what he uses the donations sent him for?"

Others have heard Charles cavil about the supposed errors in our prophetic beliefs. As reported earlier,

Is it any wonder that the employees of this ministry have so readily accepted the blatant attacks of Charles Wheeling against the Spirit of Prophecy?

"God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness."—*Early Writings*, 125.
— Luis Munilla

Charles maintains that the pope was taken captive in 1799, not 1798 as given in the Spirit of Prophecy and our historic beliefs. Yet his source is a single Encyclopaedia Britannica sentence; whereas, we have shown in an earlier publication that there are many, many historical statements from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, which specify the exact month in 1798 when the pope was taken captive by the French general, Berthier.

Historic Adventism is true! Listen not to these scoffers and skeptics. They know they can gain control of your mind—only by separating you from your source of protection and strength. And that is God and His Inspired Writings. If you leave them, you are a ship cut adrift on a stormy sea. Soon you will drift into the rocks, and you may never recover yourself.

"It takes those who have trained their minds to war against the truth to manufacture quibbles."—*3 Testimonies*, 36.

Do not doubt the best books in the world! Instead, stop listening to the doubters, and spend your time reading God's writings to you. They will never lead you astray.

"We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith."—*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 32.

We have received so many letters and phone calls about this matter, asking us to print the 1888 edition of *Great Controversy*, so it will not be necessary to buy from Jemison, that we are going to initiate a Fall 1994 Great Controversy Book Co-op of the 1888 edition. We will try to put out an edition that is quite low in cost. The books need to be gotten out. If you wish to see this book widely circulated, write for several 1888 Great Controversy Book Co-op sheets, fill one out for yourself or your group, and mail the other sheets to friends so they can have a part. It is our hope to provide you with very low-cost books.

"We are living in an important period of this world's history. A great work is to be done in a short time. I feel an overwhelming sense of the condition of our world."—*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 21.

In the strength of Christ, stay with God's truth and keep working, and you will be safe.

More WAYMARKS - from —
PILGRIMS REST

HCR 77, BOX 38A - BEERSHEBA SPRINGS, TN 37305 USA

We now have a copy of the book which Charles Wheeling wanted to print, but didn't, because of the urgent protests of Luis Munilla.

It was a small book and was written by an Eastern U.S. layman. Munilla claimed it attacked both Ellen White and historic Adventism.

But the staff of Countdown Ministries, in Jemison, Alabama, liked it so much that they prepared the cover for the book, and Charles was planning to go ahead and print the book on his press.

Well, that layman contacted the present writer recently. He wanted us to carry his book and reprint it. Just as he doubtless did when he approached Charles, he immediately launched into a vigorous attack against Ellen White as an inspired prophet, and against several of our historic beliefs.

Last night I read through the book, in order to find what it was that Charles liked about it—so much that he designed the cover and wanted to print the book (without, of course, identifying Countdown Ministries as the publisher).

—What I found were most of the errors which Charles teaches! Here is a brief summary of what is in this book which Charles wanted to print, and like so much that he had his staff design the cover:

Pages 1-7—Jim, the author (his real first name), says he left the Adventist Church, but still keeps the Sabbath. He has a message for Adventists, because they are going to be destroyed unless they accept his message. Lacking that information, they are going to be destroyed.

A sample of his reasoning patterns: "We believe Jesus came to redeem us and that only through Him can we obtain eternal life. But none of these things, though true as they are, proves there is a God, or Jesus Christ."—page 7.

Pages 8—"The lack of knowledge that destroys God's people can only be a lack of knowledge of His prophecies."—page 9. Our pastors and teachers have taught us the wrong interpretations of Bible prophecy, and that is the reason we are going to be destroyed. [Jim will later explain that it wrong interpretations of Daniel 7-9, Matthew 25, and Revelation 11-19]. But there is hope, if we accept what Jim has to tell us.

"The prophecies of God in the Old Testament, given by the prophets of old, and the prophecies of God in the New Testament, given by Jesus Christ have been turned around backwards and the truth of these prophecies are cast in the streets. God's people have turned away from Him and gone after false prophets."—page 11. [The "false prophets" will later in the book be identified as William Miller and Ellen G. White.] Because of these teachings of the false prophets, the prophecies "have become total darkness to God's people."—page 11.

"Let us discuss some of God's prophecies that have been distorted by His people in these last days."—page 11.

Jim next starts in and briefly (very briefly!) attacks one point of historic Adventism after another. Intriguingly enough, most of his attacks are the same ones which

Charles brings out in meetings here and there, across the country. No wonder that Charles wanted to print Jim's book!

"Now I know that most of you have been taught that this judgment began in 1844 and was the judgment of the saved people from Adam to our day. This is simply not true."—page 12. [Adventists have never taught that the Investigative Judgment is only of "saved" people; read GC

Jim starts off with a direct attack on the 1844 date. In support of his point, he denies the day-year interpretation, even though it clearly given us in the Bible (p. 14-15).

Then, as an assertion without any support (as is done throughout most of the small book), Jim says that the little horn will make war with God's people for three-and-a-half years just before the Second Advent, and not earlier. —But that is Jesuit Futurism! Futurism was invented by clever Jesuits several centuries ago, in order to totally eliminate papal domination and persecution throughout the Dark Ages. Jim agrees with the teachings of Futurism. Jim comes back to this point later in his book.

—Yet this is the book that Charles Wheeling wanted to print!

Jim also maintains that the little horn power will not be destroyed until the end of the millennium:

"Question: When will the little horn power be consumed and destroyed? Answer: At the end of the thousand years. 'And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.'"—page 14.

Charles Wheeling has frequently stated in lectures, since 1990, that nothing happened in 1844. On page 15, Jim again returns to this point:

"The judgment of Daniel 7 absolutely did not begin in 1844. It will begin when Jesus comes the second time."—page 15.

We have here typical New Theology. These were the errors which we opposed in the early 1980s, because they were taught by modernist Bible teachers, such as Desmond Ford, who learned them in outside universities where they obtained their doctoral degrees.

Now we find these blatant errors being taught by individuals supported within the Independent Ministries!

Here is another Futurism statement by Jim: "The overwhelming majority of the prophecies of Daniel will not be fulfilled until probation closes for the entire world."—pages 15-16. Jim adds: "This time period constitutes . . . the great tribulation days of Matthew 24:21 which is now ready to be fulfilled."—page 16. Later in the book, Jim will tell the reader that the prophecies of Matthew 24 had nothing to do with the destruction of Jerusalem or the Dark Ages, but only with the last three-and-a-half years before the Second Advent!

Then Jim turns his guns on William Miller, calling him a "Sunday-keeping prophet" (page 16). Later in the book, he will repeatedly denounce him as a "Baal worshipping false prophet."

"The 2300 day prophecy mentioned in Daniel 8:14 is one of the scriptures William Miller used to preach the false message that Jesus would return in 1844."—page

16.

As proof for that, Jim gives the modernist error that the notable horn of Daniel 8 was Antiochus,

Here are historical facts about Antiochus Epiphanes:
=====

As usual, with hardly any support for his contentions, Jim quickly jumps from Antiochus back to William Miller and 1844:

“The 2300 day prophecy mentioned in Daniel 8:14 is one of the scriptures William Miller used to preach the false message that Jesus would return in 1844 . . . The angel Gabriel did not mention *days* in Daniel 8. He called them *evening and morning*.”—page 16.

In the Hebrew of Daniel 8:14, the wording is “unto 2300 evenings and mornings.” Jim says that this refers to the “evening and morning sacrifices” and not to days. It is only ignorance that can permit Jim to say such things.

From Genesis 1 onward, “evening and morning” is the Hebrew term for a whole day (as opposed to just daytime or nighttime). From Leviticus onward, the “morning and evening” burnt offering (not “evening and morning” offering, as stated by Jim) stood for the offering that was offered each morning, and again each evening—and thus was a continual burnt offering. The Hebrew thus clearly separates between the two terms.

In agreement with Charles Wheeling, Jim tells us:

“This prophecy of Antiochus Epiphanes and the 2300 days (or evening and morning), we now can understand from the writings of history, was fulfilled approximately 170 B.C.”—page 17.

Historic Adventism teaches that the little horn of Daniel 7 is the same notable horn of Daniel 8. Jim says the Daniel 8 horn was Antiochus Epiphanes, who lived nearly 200 years before the time of Christ and pestered the Jews for several years before his total downfall.

Jim next connects the two horns and says they symbolize the same power. —Thus Jim makes the very terrible little horn power of Daniel 7 to be Antiochus Epiphanes, just as do the Jesuits and modern apostate Protestant theologians.

But then, unaccountably, Jim applies the persecution of Daniel 7 to the papacy in the last three-and-a-half years before Jesus returns. I say, “unaccountable,” because Jim has both linked the horns of Daniel 7 and 8, and he has (elsewhere in his book; p. 30) denied any possibility of double applications of Bible prophecy.

Jim next turns his attention to the prophecies of Daniel 8 and 9, and cites evidences linking them, which we accept.

On page 24, Jim again savagely attacks 1844, and tells us the problem is the day-year interpretation.

“This belief of a day for a year has put nearly every prophecy Jesus mentioned for this final generation of time, far back in past history and has totally destroyed Jesus’ prophecy for these last days.”—pages 24-25.

Jim writes like a trained Jesuit. It is good Jesuit teaching to turn our eyes from the papal apostasy, and place it on a crisis later on;—even though the truth is that it was the Catholic apostasy in past centuries which will laid the Sunday sabbath foundation for the final cri-

sis! It is Jesuit casuistry which says that Daniel 7:25 (read that verse again!) does not teach the papal attempted change of the Sabbath and persecution of God’s people for 1260 years,—but instead applies to Antiochus in 170 B.C. and/or to some later “antichrist” who will arise, three -and-a-half years before Christ’s Second Advent.

Jim, you could not say it clearer if you were trained in a Jesuit seminary. Let us quote it again:

“The overwhelming majority of the prophecies of Daniel will not be fulfilled until probation closes for the entire world.”—page 15

“This belief of a day for a year has put nearly every prophecy Jesus mentioned for this final generation of time, far back in past history and has totally destroyed Jesus’ prophecy for these last days.”—pages 24-25.

And another, later statement by Jim:

“They [the Adventists] have also placed the making war against God’s saints of Revelation 13:7, back in the Dark Ages between 538 and 1798.”—page 29.

That is the Jesuit way of doing it: put all the “antichrist,” “little horn,” and “man of sin” prophecies to after the close of probation—and not before.

Jim next attacks our historic beliefs on Revelation 11, and then turns his attention, as Charles likes to do, to getting rid of the 1798 date for the close of the 1260 year prophecy. As usual, Jim overturns a historic belief simply by laughing at the idea, and then passing on to another point.

We know that the papal institution—the entire Vatican—nearly came to an end in 1798 when the pope === was taken captive by the French general Berthier (Jim calls him “Bernhea” p. 27). But Jim says that the prophecy was only and completely fulfilled when Pope John Paul II was wounded in 1981, and hospitalized for several months thereafter. As usual, his proof is his say-so.