

Beginnings

Dorchester Vision 1848

In 1848, Elder and Mrs. White traveled to Maine to meet with other believers.

This was the Topsham conference, where the brethren began praying that a way might be opened for publishing the truths connected with the Advent message.

A month later, they were in a different meeting in Dorchester. They had gathered to study and to pray for God to guide them in understanding the Sabbath truth.

Publishing Ministry p.15

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Dorchester Vision 1848

“You need not go to the ends of the earth for wisdom, for God is near. It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you. We need to have far less confidence in what man can do and far more confidence in what God can do for every believing soul. He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him. He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in spiritual matters. He can sharpen the intellect. He can give tact and skill. Put your talents into the work, ask God for wisdom, and it will be given you.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 146

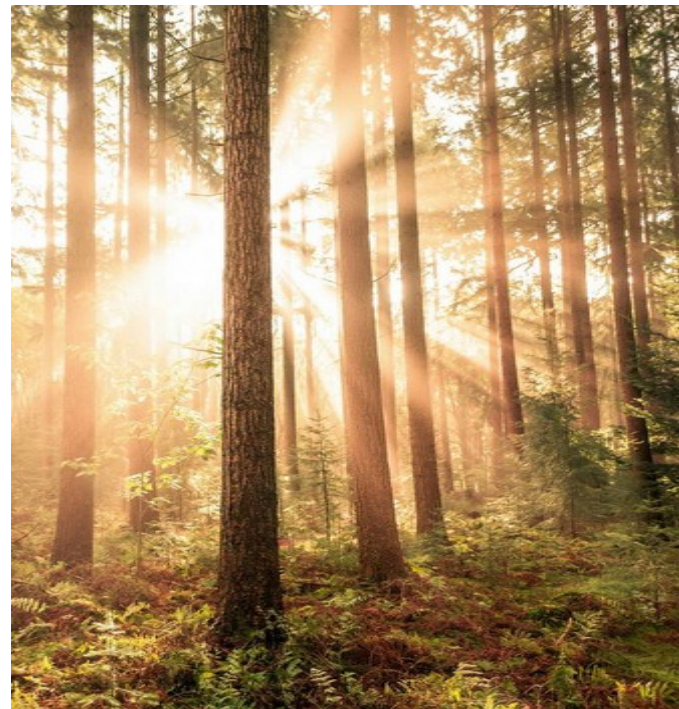


Beginnings

Dorchester Vision 1848

James White recounts what happened:

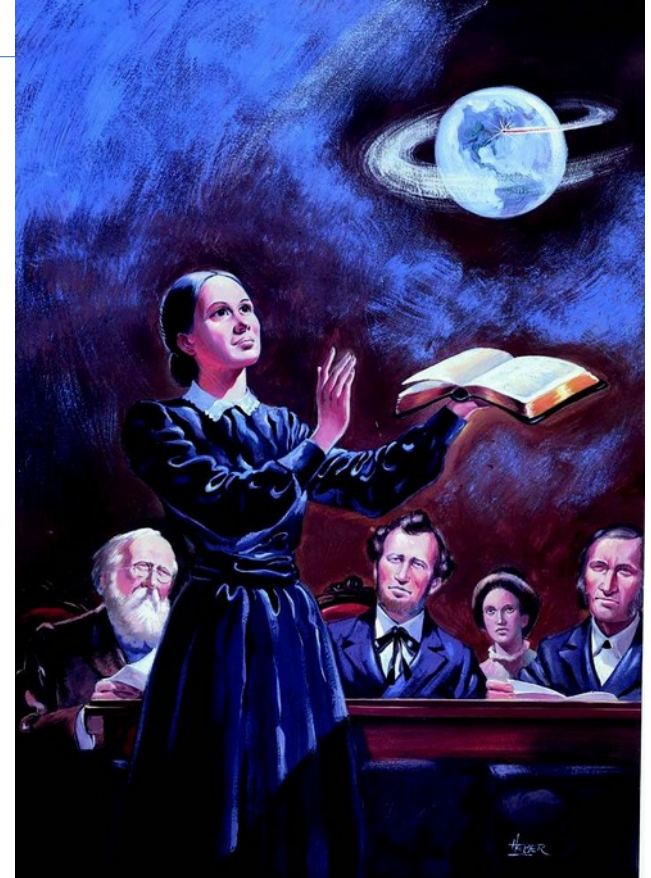
“Ellen was again taken off in vision. She then began to describe the Sabbath light, which was the sealing truth. Said she: ‘It arose from the rising of the sun. It arose back there in weakness, but light after light has shone upon it until the Sabbath truth is clear, weighty, and mighty. Like the sun when it first rises, its rays are cold, but as it comes up, its rays are warming and powerful; so the light and power has increased more and more until its rays are powerful, sanctifying the soul; but, unlike the sun, it will never set. The Sabbath light will be at its brightest when the saints are immortal; it will rise higher and higher until immortality comes.’” *Publishing Ministry* p.15



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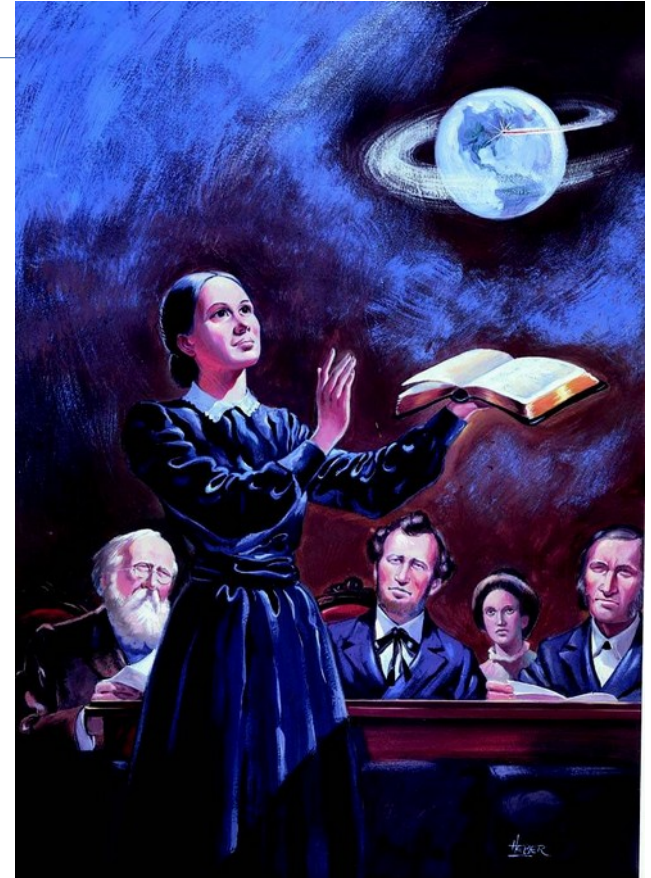
“After coming out of vision, I said to my husband; I have a message for you. You must begin to print a little paper and send it out to the people. Let it be small at first; but as the people read, they will send you means with which to print, and it will be a success from the first. From this small beginning it was shown to me to be like streams of light that went clear round the world.” *Publishing Ministry* p. 16



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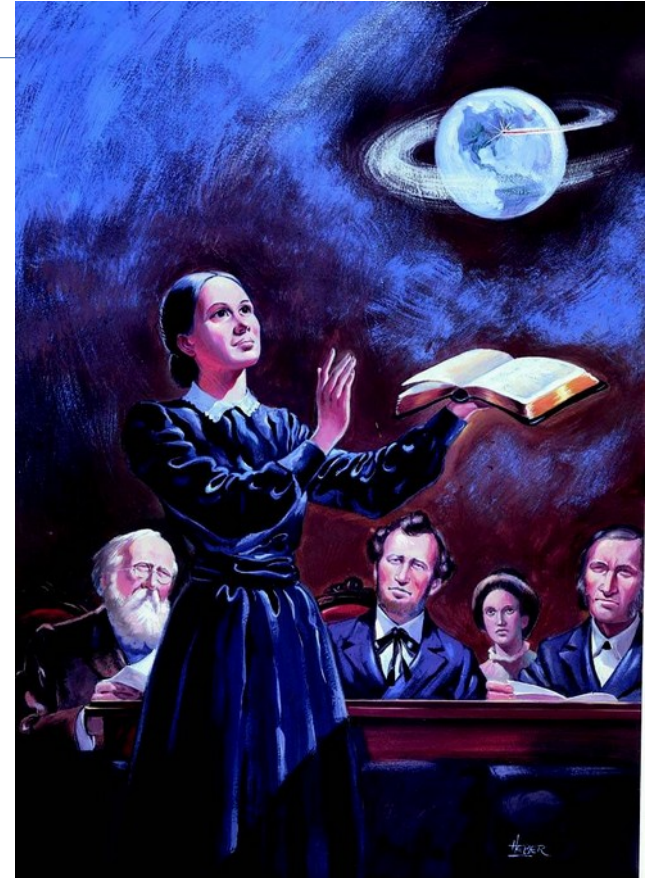
“Then she told them how the matter had been presented to her in vision. Sometimes the multitudes in our world, to whom is sent the warning message from the word of God that Christ is soon coming, were presented to her as enveloped in mists and clouds and dense darkness, even as described by Isaiah, who wrote, "Behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people." Isaiah 60:2.”



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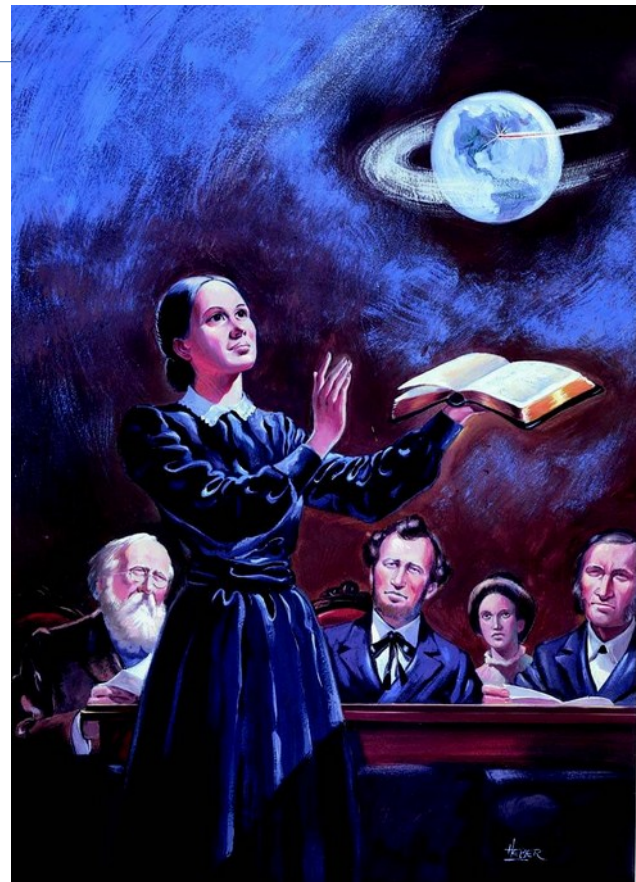
“As in the vision she looked upon this scene with intense sorrow, her accompanying angel said, “Look ye,” and as she looked again, there were to be seen little jets of light, like stars shining dimly through the darkness. As she watched them, their light grew brighter, and the number of lights increased, because each light kindled other lights. These lights would sometimes come together as if for the encouragement of one another; and again they would scatter out, each time going farther and lighting more lights. Thus the work went on until the whole world was illuminated with their brightness.”



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Dorchester Vision 1848

“In conclusion, she said: "This is a picture of the work you are to do. 'Ye are the light of the world.' Matthew 5:14. Your work is to hold up the light to those around you. Hold it firmly. Hold it a little higher. Light other lights. Do not be discouraged if yours is not a great light. If it is only a penny taper, hold it up. Let it shine. Do your very best, and God will bless your efforts." *Publishing Ministry* p. 39



Beginnings

Reflections and Analysis

- The publishing work was established through:
 - Prayer
 - Bible study

Beginnings

Dorchester Vision 1848

James was deeply impressed and convicted to write and print. But he had no money. Those who had money refused to share it.

So he looked for a field of grass to mow to earn some money.

Ellen had another vision, showing that if James cut the grass, he would get sick, and that James should devote his time to writing.



Beginnings

Dorchester Vision 1848

“He must write, write, write, and walk out by faith. He immediately began to write, and when he came to some difficult passage, we would unite in prayer to God for an understanding of the true meaning of His word.” { PM 16.3}



Beginnings

Humble Beginnings

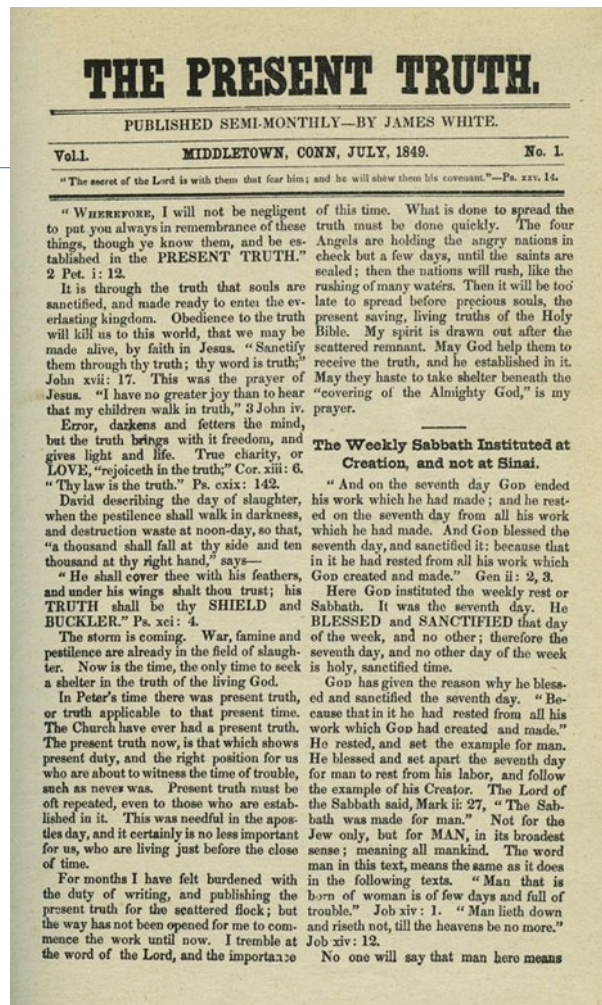
“One day in July, my husband brought home from Middletown a thousand copies of the first number of his paper. Several times, while the matter was being set, he had walked to Middletown, eight miles (~13km), and back, but this day he had borrowed Brother Belden’s horse and buggy with which to bring home the papers.”
{ PM 16.4}

Beginnings

Humble Beginnings

“The precious printed sheets were brought into the house and laid upon the floor, and then a little group of interested ones were gathered in, and we knelt around the papers, and with humble hearts and many tears besought the Lord to let His blessing rest upon these printed messengers of truth.” { PM 17.1}

“When we had folded the papers, and my husband had wrapped and addressed copies to all those who he thought would read them, he put them into a carpetbag, and carried them on foot to the Middletown post office.” { PM 17.2}



Beginnings

Humble Beginnings

"In conclusion, she said: "This is a picture of the work you are to do. 'Ye are the light of the world.' Matthew 5:14. Your work is to hold up the light to those around you. Hold it firmly. Hold it a little higher. Light other lights. Do not be discouraged if yours is not a great light. If it is only a penny taper, hold it up. Let it shine. Do your very best, and God will bless your efforts." Publishing Ministry p. 39



Beginnings

Challenges

- Contending with professed Adventists who were advocating error.
- James became ill with cholera. Ellen laid her hands on his head and prayed for him. “ A change came immediately. The natural color of his face returned, and the light of heaven beamed upon his countenance. We were all filled with gratitude unspeakable. Never had we witnessed a more remarkable answer to prayer.” { PM 19.1}
- The following day, they were to travel to the city to read proof sheets for the paper being printed. James received strength.

Beginnings

Challenges

- After returning home from reading the proof sheets: “That night we were awakened by the screams of our little Edson, who slept in the room above us. It was about midnight. Our little boy would cling to Sister Bonfoey, then with both hands fight the air, and then in terror he would cry, “No, no!” and cling closer to us. We knew this was Satan’s effort to annoy us, and we knelt in prayer. My husband rebuked the evil spirit in the name of the Lord, and Edson quietly fell asleep in Sister Bonfoey’s arms, and rested well through the night.” { PM 19.3}

Beginnings

Challenges

- Then James was again attacked by disease and was in much pain. Ellen again prayed for him and he found some relief, but was still weak.
- “We were expected at Auburn that day to receive the first number of the paper. We believed that Satan was trying to hinder us, and my husband decided to go, trusting in the Lord. Brother Harris made ready the carriage, and Sister Bonfoey accompanied us. My husband had to be helped into the wagon, yet every mile we rode he gained strength. We kept our minds stayed upon God, and our faith in constant exercise, as we rode on, peaceful and happy.” { PM 20.2}

Beginnings

Challenges

- “We were willing to live cheaply, that the paper might be sustained. The friends of the cause were few in number and poor in worldly wealth, and we were still compelled to struggle with poverty and great discouragement. We had much care, and often sat up as late as midnight, and sometimes until two or three in the morning, to read proof sheets.” { PM 21.2}
- James wrote in 1852: “Wednesday night we worked until two o’clock in the morning, folding and wrapping No. 12 of the Review and Herald; then I retired and coughed till daylight. Pray for me.” { PM 22.4}

Beginnings

Challenges

- Story of Bates and the York shilling

Beginnings

Challenges

Until now, James was owner and manager of the publishing work. As the work grew, it became too much for him and he urged the church to organize and take responsibility of the publishing work.

The Seventh Day Adventist Publishing Association was established in 1861 in Michigan.

Beginnings

Challenges

“In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.” { PM 25.3 }

Beginnings

Reflections and Analysis

- The publishing work was established through:
 - Prayer
 - Bible study
 - Enormous difficulty and challenges

Beginnings

Spirit of Sacrifice

“In the days when we were struggling with poverty, those who saw how wondrously God wrought for the cause felt that no greater honor could be bestowed upon them than to be bound up with the interests of the work by sacred links which connected them with God. Would they lay down the burden and make terms with the Lord from a money point of view? No, no. Should every timeserver forsake his post, they would never desert the work.” { PM 26.2}

“The believers who in the early history of the cause sacrificed for the upbuilding of the work were imbued with the same spirit. They felt that God demanded of all connected with His cause an unreserved consecration of body, soul, and spirit, of all their energies and capabilities, to make the work a success.” { PM 26.3}

Beginnings

Spirit of Sacrifice

“The publishing work has been founded in sacrifice; it has been maintained by the special providence of God. We started it in great poverty. We had scarcely enough to eat and wear... We had a large family, but we brought out expenses within our means. We could not purchase all that we desired; we had to bind about our wants. But we were determined that the world should have the light of present truth; and spirit, soul, and body were interwoven with the work. We worked early and late, without rest, without the stimulus of wages.... And God was with us. As prosperity attended the publishing work, the wages were increased, as they should be.” { PM 27.4 }

Beginnings

Spirit of Sacrifice

Everywhere the publishing work is established, it will be established through a spirit of sacrifice.

- He asks us for our time.
- He asks us for our energy.
- He asks us for our money.
- He may ask us to sell something we own and contribute the fund.
- He may ask us to reduce our expenses.

Beginnings

Spirit of Sacrifice

“In order that the gospel may go to all nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples, self-sacrifice must be maintained. Those in positions of trust are in all things to act as faithful stewards, conscientiously guarding the funds that have been created by the people. There must be care to prevent all needless outlay. In erecting buildings and providing facilities for the work, we should be careful not to make our preparation so elaborate as to consume money unnecessarily; for this means in every case inability to provide for the extension of the work in other fields, especially in foreign lands. Means are not to be drawn from the treasury to establish institutions in the home field, at a risk of crippling the advancement of truth in regions beyond.” { PM 31.3 }

Beginnings

Spirit of Sacrifice

“Many among believers have scarcely food enough to eat, yet in their deep poverty they bring their tithes and offerings to the Lord’s treasury. Many who know what it is to sustain the cause of God in hard and trying circumstances have invested means in the publishing houses. They have willingly endured hardship and privation, and have watched and prayed for the success of the work. Their gifts and sacrifices express the fervent gratitude of their hearts to Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. Their prayers and their alms come up as a memorial before God. No incense more fragrant can ascend to heaven.” { PM 32.2 }

Beginnings

Spirit of Sacrifice

“But the work of God in its wide extent is one, and the same principles should control in all its branches. It must bear the stamp of missionary work. Every department of the cause is related to all parts of the gospel field, and the spirit that controls one department will be felt throughout the entire field. If a portion of the workers receive large wages, there are others, in different branches of the work, who also will call for high wages, and the spirit of self-sacrifice will become feeble. Other institutions will catch the same spirit, and the Lord’s favor will be removed from them; for He can never sanction selfishness. Thus our aggressive work would come to an end. It is impossible to carry it forward except by constant sacrifice.” { PM 32.3 }

Beginnings

Spirit of Sacrifice

In 1852, Hiram Edison sold his farm to pay for the new press that cost \$650. The church members collected money to help repay Hiram. This was the first unified effort of the members in the publishing work.

In 1855, the press was moved to a new building in Battle Creek, Michigan. Two years later, a power press was installed. Printing became easier.

James was 36 years old, and Uriah Smith was 26 years old, others in their teens and early twenties.



Beginnings

Reflections and Analysis

- The publishing work was established through:
 - Prayer
 - Bible study
 - Enormous difficulty and challenges
 - A spirit of sacrifice

Beginnings

History

A new building was erected in 1861, next to the first building. The three buildings were eventually merged together to form one big building.

Newer equipment was much more efficient, and more tracts and books could be produced. The more sophisticated equipment required higher-trained workers.

