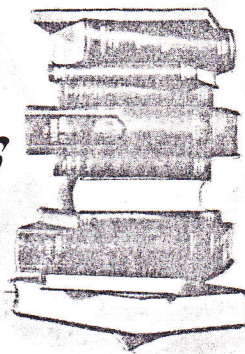


PROPRIETOR OF

ELLEN G. WHITE *Publications*



Office Address:

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
TAKOMA PARK, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20012

June 10, 1968

Mr. William T. Voyce
3123 Bowdoin Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

Dear Mr. Voyce:

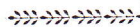
Your letter, addressed to us here at Washington D.C., has been handed to me with the request that I send you the information which you seek.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church had its origins in the great Advent Awakening of the early 1840's. For a number of years believers in the near-advent of our Lord, who also observe the Seventh-day Sabbath, did not form an organization, nor did they choose a name. In 1849 Elder James White, the natural leader of the group, began to publish a little journal which he called The Present Truth. Eleven issues of this were printed in 1849 and 1950, and then in November of the same year the paper was enlarged and its name to The Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald. This has been published as the church organ of the Seventh-day Adventist church from that day to the present.

Through the 1850's White published, and here and there throughout the country individuals espoused the teachings of the Sabbath-keeping Adventists. In referring to fellow-believers, James White in the Review and Herald and some others in their contributions used the term "church of God," in its very general sense as we would speak of the "children of God." With the growth of the movement there came a time when organization seemed imperative. This called for the choosing of a name. The matter came to a head in the conference, held in 1860, at which time it was agreed that some organization must be formed to hold the publishing interest of the church, and when it came to the choice of a name they recalled that such terms as "the brethren," "The little flock," "the remnant people," "Sabbath-keepers," and "church of God," had been used in referring to the believers. To some the term "church of God" seemed ideal as an official name in spite of the fact that it was already held by several bodies and in spite of the fact that it seemed to have a rather arrogant sound.

Others urged a distinctive name which would express their principles and beliefs and finally the name "Seventh-day Adventists" was proposed and adopted. It took a little time for some who felt that the title of "Church of God" would be the best to join their brethren in agreement in the name of Seventh-day Adventist, which was the only one officially adopted. There was some discussion of this in items which were sent in to the Review and Herald, as was the case

W. P. BRADLEY	R. S. WATTS	A. L. WHITE	D. A. DELAFIELD	PAUL GORDON
President	Vice-President	Secretary	Associate Secretary	Assistant Secretary



Mr. William T. Voyce, Des Moines, Iowa
June 10, 1968

--2

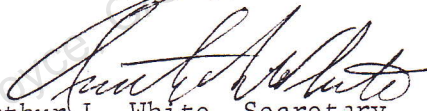
with the item you refer to, having appeared in the issue of April 9, 1861. In compliance with your request we made a photocopy of the item which you wish to see.

There were certain individuals in Iowa, who in the middle 1860's withdrew from Seventh-day Adventists on two points. One was the name, and the other was the position of the Seventh-day Adventists that God had chosen to speak through visions to Ellen G. White. They formed a group which they called the "Church of God." Later this group split into two sections: "Church of God Adventist," and the "Church of God Seventh-day."

Inasmuch as you have made inquiry on this point, I am sending to you a mimeographed document, giving some information and history regarding the Church of God. We have no desire to speak disparagingly of any other group, but at times information is called for and you'll find that such information is contained in this document.

If I can help you further, please feel free to write again. With the best of wishes I am

Yours very truly,


Arthur L. White, Secretary
ELLEN G WHITE PUBLICATIONS

ALW:egl
Enc.

Property of W & P
A. Peszavski