

## **SOP Day Children's Story 2022**

### **Follow Me**

By Arthur L. White

Mrs. Ellen White, one of God's special messengers, had more than 2,000 visions and dreams. The visions that were given to Ellen White were always given to help people to come to know Jesus and do what is right. God wants us to do right.

Many years ago while Ellen White was spending some months in New Zealand in the early days of the Adventist movement, she held some meetings in the large city of Wellington. These meetings extended over several days, and Mrs. White was quite weary when the series was completed. There was a young woman present who had just become a Seventh-day Adventist, and she invited Ellen White to come to their home on Paremata Bay for a few days of rest and relaxation.

When this young woman returned to her home and told her mother that she had invited Ellen White to come and stay at their home, the mother was not very happy. She had not been an Adventist for very long and she felt she was unprepared to entertain God's messenger. Then too, there were a number of teenaged children in the family who were not members of the church and naturally, they were doing things that Seventh-day Adventist Christians generally would not do. But the invitation had already been given, so on the afternoon train Ellen White arrived at Paremata. She was taken to the home located on a large farm overlooking the bay. She was cordially received and as she was quite weary, Sister White went to bed early. In fact, she went to bed before she had met all of the members of the family that hosted her.

### **Vision in the Night**

That night a vision Ellen White received a vision from God. At four o'clock in the morning she got up, dressed, and began to write what had been shown to her. The message was addressed to the mother of this family, for in the vision she had been shown the experience of some of the members of the family.

In the letter to the mother of the family, Sister White told about the vision. She said, "The angel of God said, 'Follow me.'" Then she seemed to be in a room in a rough building. She saw several young men playing cards there. They seemed very interested in the card game and they did not seem to notice that anyone had come into the room. Ellen White also saw girls there. They were watching the card game. As Ellen White listened to the conversation in the room, she was almost ashamed to be there. She could feel that the atmosphere in the room was not the kind that ennobles the mind or and strengthens character.

Then Sister White turned to the angel and asked, "Who are these young people, and what does this scene represent?"

The angel said, "Wait—."

Then she seemed to be in another place. But here were the same young people. They were drinking beer and other alcoholic drinks. She saw what the young people did and heard what they said while they were under the influence of these drinks. Their words were impure, boisterous, and boastful. Again, she asked the angel, "Who are these young people?" The angel answered, "These young people are a portion of the family where you are visiting." Then the angel went on to say that Satan, the great adversary of souls, the great enemy of God and man, was there and in charge of what was going on. Satan and his angels were leading these young people to their ruin.

Then in the vision, Ellen White saw the angel step over to one young man and place his hand upon his shoulder and call him by name. As the angel spoke the name, Ellen White recognized that it was the name of the family with whom she was staying. The angel pointed out the dangers of cardplaying, gambling, and of drinking. The angel pled with this young man to turn from these things and to give his heart to the Lord. All this, Sister White wrote to the mother that early morning hour, even before she had met these young people.

Ellen White had planned to spend only two or three days at this home, but there came heavy rains and landslides which blocked the railroad tracks, so that she could not leave for a week to ten days.

The earnest, faithful life which Ellen White lived while with this family made a deep impression on the children in the family. They saw that she was not extreme or fanatical. Her advice was wise and very helpful. The kids soon wanted their lives to be like hers. She encouraged them to accept Jesus as their Savior and to take their stand for Him. Nearly all of the children in this large family accepted the truth and became loyal, earnest Seventh-day Adventists.

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Arthur L. White, adapted from *Campfire Junior Stories from the Days of S.D.A. Pioneers*. This story is based on Ellen G. White's letter to the mother of the family, and Arthur White's conversation with some of the children and grandchildren of the family.