

Preliminary draft.

This could change slightly after further analysis.

Letter TBA, 1905

“Elmshaven” Sanitarium, Cal. Feb. 22, 1905

Dear Sister [Nettie] Irwin,¹

You have been so faithful in writing to me I will write you a few lines. I am pleased with your letters and the letters coming from Brother and Sister Kress² for I am deeply interested in you all and the work in which you all are interested and are acting a part, if we meet with some disappointments and heartaches we need not be surprised. I have reason for gratitude to God that my life has been spared to see two more Sanitariums established in Southern Cal.³ One at San Diego a beautiful location and after obtaining a full supply of water the very best pure and soft as silk we have reason to praise God. I have had the evidence that this would [be] if we would work by faith and the digging commence[d] and the it be would work by faith and the digging commence and the curbing eighty feet down then a resovoire⁴ [sic] ten feet across to retain all the water possible. The house is furnished painted calsimined⁵ [sic] and [is] all done except bath rooms was fitted up and water closets in the building the bath preparations must go out of the building. We all know from the first that this must change must be maid [sic] but so many were seeking the privileges of the Sanitariums that we had to say come but the Steam from the built rooms as they are located are not wholesome in the rooms that change must be made the house is now I think every room taken and another house hired is for the accommodation of the nurses and the helpers, wonderful cures have been

wrought [to] the Senators and Judges and members of parliament have been the guests and patients. Now this does me good for I leave monies so earnestly to secure the building had to hire three thousand dollars at 7 percent interest but the hired money for less as soon as possible Sister Gotzen⁶ and I clasped hands over my writing table that we would be responsible for the purchase of that grand building, for five thousand dollars, thank the Lord we say praise his holy name. I will praise him who is the health of my countenance and my God,⁷ I was the first patient.⁸ I worked so hard in various places in speaking in tents and in chapels that I gave myself not sufficient favor and speaking to hundreds and over and over and over again standing with ventilated tents and meeting houses the sickness came upon me and I was much afflicted have not fully recovered but work in night hours every night or morning while others are sleeping. I have oft times in the night awakened with deep earnest impressions and then no more sleep for me for weeks it has been at one o'clock I build my fires in fire place and then go to my writing. I have seen many things presented and the most blessed things of the future the Lord will take means off to humble and prove us. Never is there more gracious love than when our Saviour takes his own means to save us from greater trials to humble us to prove us bringing us out of ourselves our livings our ways our methods and presents his _____ take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly of heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls for my yoke is easy and my burden is light,⁹ Praise the Lord. I know what this means, and I will follow the good sheep of my Redeemer and I will walk in his footsteps. Only believe only trust is as if spoken to me and I am at rest. Well I think I have written about all you will care to read. Our mail now is closing and I must get this in the hands of Maggie¹⁰ just as it is I must send it without copying.

Your Sister in Christ,

[Signed] Ellen G. White

Transcribed and annotated by Michael W. Campbell, January 19, 2004.

¹Nettie (Johnson) Irwin (1849-1919). Wife of George Alexander Irwin who was a farmer, minister, missionary, administrator, and General Conference president (1897-1901). Mrs. Irwin first became acquainted with Ellen White when Mrs. White wrote them a series of letters from 1890-1891 (Lt 15, 1890; Lt 16a, 1891; Lt 17, 1891; Lt 18, 1891). The Irwins frequently counseled with Ellen White. Nettie was active in the Women's Christian Temperance Union heading up the department in 1900 after the death of S. M. I. Henry. From 1901 to 1905 the Irwins lived in Australia where G. A. Irwin was serving as president of the Australasian Union Conference (having replaced A. G. Daniells who became chair of the General Conference committee in 1901) at the time when Ellen White wrote this letter.

²Kresses. (brief biographical statement).

³Two more sanitariums established in Southern California. Paradise Valley Sanitarium and Glendale Sanitarium.

⁴Reservoir.

⁵calcimine: "a white or tinted liquid of whiting or zinc white, glue, and water, used as a wash chiefly for plastered surfaces." Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition (New York: Prentice Hall, 1986).

⁶Gotzian (brief biographical statement).

⁷Scriptural reference to Psalm 42:11.

⁸Ellen White was the first patient at the Paradise Valley Sanitarium.

⁹Scriptural reference to Matthew 11:29.

¹⁰Bree, Maggie (Hare) (fl. 1891-1908). Literary assistant to Ellen White. The daughter of Edward Hare whose family greeted Ellen White upon her arrival to New Zealand in 1891. Later, Maggie would attend Avondale College where she worked for Ellen White as one of her secretaries. When Ellen White returned to the United States in 1900 Maggie accompanied her, and stayed until about 1906 when she returned to Australia. It was while she was back in Australia that she married Harold Bree. Ellen White wrote to her several times expressing appreciation for her faithful work, extending an open invitation for her to return to America to work again, which she did about 1910. As Mrs. White's literary assistant, she was in charge of compiling articles from Ellen White's writings for church periodicals such as the *Review and Herald* (6Bio 340).