

Ellen White: Centennial Prayer | BY JIM PEDERSEN

Prayer offered at the 100th anniversary of the exact hour of Ellen White's death at her Elmhaven home, St. Helena, California.

Dear Lord,

AT THIS HOUR, at this moment, on this ground that is truly made sacred by your presence, we gather to remember your servant, your messenger, Ellen Gould Harmon White, who lived her final years here. One hundred years ago at this time she entered her rest.

Lord, we come today, grateful that on this spot, in this place, your servant lived and shared her ministry, not just with people of her own years and days, but coming down to us today, and beyond.

Lord, we are grateful for your messenger, a young lady who was chosen after a couple of gentlemen said no; someone who was willing to follow your leading, to be part of your mission. Someone who by your calling served you well and helped to establish your church, that we know as the Seventh-day Adventist Church, whose members continue to work to spread your message of prophetic urgency—the three angels' messages of a soon-coming savior. We are grateful for the way that she was willing to be used by you; to be touched by you to share those words, those thoughts, those messages with us. We are grateful for the way that they have touched our lives and the lives of others. I pray that we will continue to be touched, to share those messages with others.

Forgive us when we have not paid attention to those messages from you that have come through her.

Forgive us when we have not shown the kind of respect for her writings that we should have.

Forgive us when we have relegated her to the past, to something that is in our history, but of very little consequence to our life today. May we continue to share her messages in the spirit that she gave; to the spirit which she pointed and that was to Jesus, our savior. As the focus

of her ministry, she kept showing us and pointing us to her friend Jesus. May we cherish that message as part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with love, grace, and in the way that she herself did in the best sense of the word, in a progressive way.

Forgive us when we have used her writings in a way that she never intended.

Forgive us when we have made her into something that she was not.

Forgive us when we have looked to her instead of to Scripture for our own study.

Forgive us when we have used her writings to prove a point that agrees with us, merely us.

Forgive us when we have used her writings to create a box to put ourselves, our children, and anyone else in, when that is not what she had in mind. She kept pointing us to Jesus.

Lord, keep us looking forward. Keep us in the spirit of what she has written. Keep our eyes on the Jesus that she loved, the Jesus that she longed to see. And as we stand here on this sacred ground, ground that was visited on numerous occasions by angels from your heavenly throne more times than we can understand, that this place is sacred; we are special in your eyes, because your son died for us.

We thank you Lord for the ministry of Ellen White. May it prove to be a blessing to us and to the world around us as we share the love of Jesus and the precious promises found in the Bible.

In Jesus' lovely name, I pray, Amen.

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