

northpoint

NORTH NSW CONFERENCE NEWS


SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH

The Pinnacle Challenge visiting a StormCo team in Gwabegar, outback NSW

JUL
09

Don't Forget the Gift

It is funny what holds value in our lives. I remember as a kid, the way I valued my black BMX. It was beautiful.

And most importantly, I paid for it. I sacrificed for it. I took every cent (\$80) out of my bank account and I bought my bike.

That bike was ridden mercilessly for years. I went through hundreds of tyres (I was particularly good at skids). The frame was re-welded by Dad when jump after jump took their toll. The handlebars were bent back into shape a few times, often after I had sailed over them only minutes before. My bike was used for everything from towing friends on skateboards to dragging the wheelie-bin to the gate.

I paid for it. I could see it. I could touch it. I loved it.

In Deuteronomy, the Israelites were challenged by Moses to consider what they held most valuable. Chapter 24 verses 19 to 21 contain instructions that the Israelites were to leave some of their wheat behind in the field, or to leave some olives in the trees after harvest.

The crops left behind were to sustain the homeless, the orphaned and the refugees.

If given today, such an instruction would challenge many, just as it probably did then. Isn't it unfair for Moses to expect his people to leave some of their crops behind? After all, they had worked hard for them. They had sacrificed. They toiled and earned whatever grew. Why should someone else benefit from their efforts?

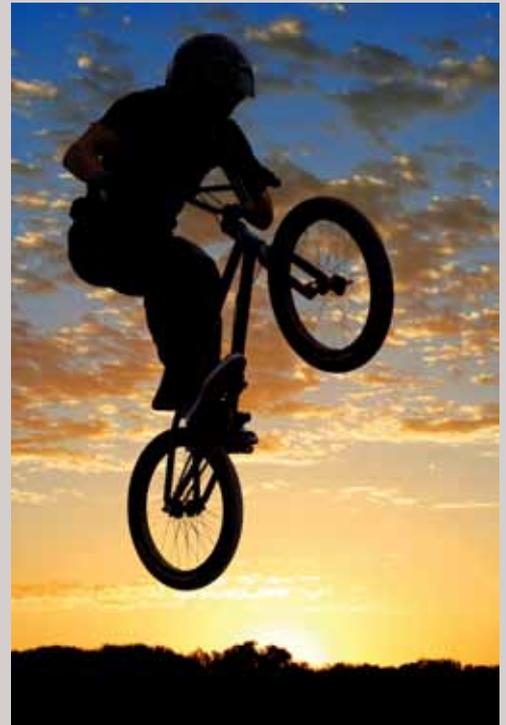
But Moses doesn't let the instruction end in verse 21. Verse 22 goes on to say "You lived in poverty as slaves in Egypt until the Lord your God rescued you. That's why I am giving you these laws" (CEV). Moses knew that over time, the Israelites would become independent and successful in their way, and that independence and success could lead to forgetfulness. The act of sharing with those less fortunate served as a constant reminder to the Israelites that they hadn't always been free. At some point in their past they were the less fortunate. They received the gift of freedom.

Living in 2009 I can't help but think of our independence and success and wonder whether

time has led to forgetfulness. The things that we value can often be those things we have earned. Houses, cars, investments, careers and more. We have worked hard for these things. We studied, saved, learned and earned, and eventually, we were able to accumulate these things. We need them to live. Why should someone else benefit from our efforts?

Thinking back to that bike, I now realise I didn't really earn it. Mum and Dad paid for it because they gave me the \$1 or \$2 that I put in my bank account each week, (and I don't think \$80 was nearly enough to cover the purchase price). As a child, I valued it because I thought I earned it.

But really, it was a gift.



God, through Moses, reminded the Israelites what they needed to do so they didn't forget the gift they had received. Do we today need that same sort of reminder so we don't forget the gifts we have received?

**Nathan Hawkins,
Director of ADRA and Health
NNSW Conference**

**ADRA Appeal >
2009**

The ADRA Appeal is an annual nation-wide doorknock campaign rolled out across Australia. This year the ADRA Appeal will be running from 1 to 15 August 2009.

For more information or to make a donation visit www.adra.org.au or call 1800 242 372.



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OUR SENIORS

Shades of Grey

Rain and stormy weather did not deter more than 280 enthusiastic 'seniors' from attending the first-ever Grey Nomads Camp at the Stuarts Point Campground during the final week of May.

An initiative of the NNSW Conference, the camp was a special 10-day event for retirees, providing an excellent opportunity for seniors to meet and fellowship together.

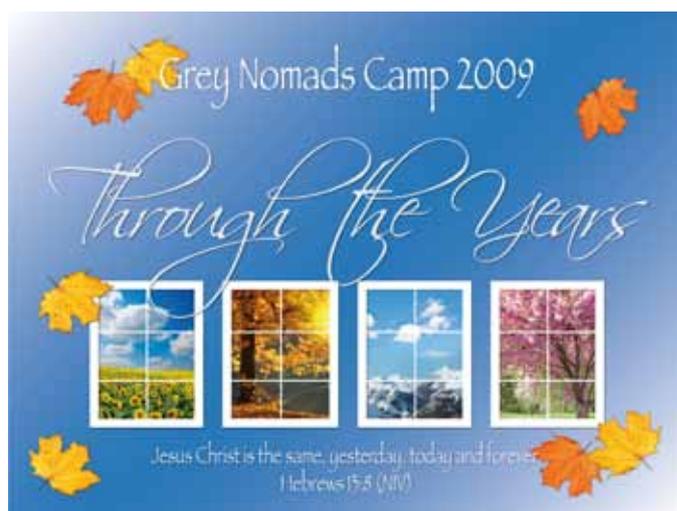
The event was open to people from across Australia and despite some delays due to the weather, attendees came from across the country with caravans, motor homes, trailers, campers and even tents.

Meetings were held in a tastefully decorated 'big tent' that withstood the wet weather and provided a lovely setting for the scheduled programs.

Each day presented a balanced program of meetings interspersed with ample free time for social connection. The mornings began with devotional thoughts from the book of Isaiah, presented by Pastor Gordon Smith. Group prayer sessions then preceded Pastor Owen D'Costa's in-depth Bible study on the Sanctuary, which emphasised the way in which the ancient ceremonies

typified the redemptive and intercessory work of Jesus. The afternoon workshops covered a range of practical topics such as cross-generational relationships, health preservation for seniors, financial planning and the making of wills, along with a practical sharing of hints for caravanners. Special thanks to Grey Nomad Dr Percy Harold, who stepped in to deliver a fantastic health presentation when the scheduled presenter was stranded by floodwaters. His interesting and informative lecture outlined how older people can adjust their lifestyle to result in a longer and more enjoyable retirement.

The evening meetings were very inspiring with spirited singing, illustrated reports from domestic and overseas missionary projects, and personal stories from campers who told of God's leading in their lives. This was followed by exuberant sermons from guest speaker, Dr Steve Cassimy of the Greater New York Conference, USA. His inspiring presentations emphasised that whatever happens to us 'Through the Years' (which was the theme for the camp), we have the



assurance that God's love will always uphold us.

South Pacific Division President, Dr Barry Oliver delivered a special Sabbath sermon on Saturday, 23 May, reporting on outstanding developments in many areas of gospel outreach throughout the Division.

A Trivia Night the same evening was a roaring success and provided great entertainment for all who participated.

On Saturday, 30 May, the Sabbath program was blessed by performances from the civic choir and band from Coffs Harbour, who supported Don Roy

and his music team in a spirited Hymnfest, and rendered a very enjoyable concert that evening.

The event received an overwhelmingly positive response from those who attended. Plans are underway for the next Grey Nomads Camp, which will be held at the Stuarts Point Campground from 30 April to 8 May, 2010. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Bob Dale, General Secretary, NNSW Conference on (02) 4951 8088 or email bobdale@adventist.org.au

Sharlene Guest and Brian Townend



OUR OUTREACH

Get the most out of LIFE

In today's modern secular society it is hard to talk with people about God, the Bible or spiritual themes. How can we reach out to the people around us to share with them about God and the joy that we have had in knowing Him and experiencing His love?

The All Power Seminar is one such way that will give the church members in Newcastle an opportunity to connect with people around them. Most folk these days want a life full of personal achievements and success. They have a strong desire to live life to the full and still accomplish something important. But even that cannot be accomplished unless one operates from good Biblical values and principles.

In the 15 presentations that Leo Schreven shares over one weekend, he teaches the attendees how they can be successful only as they apply Biblical principles and understandings into their life. The All Power seminar is designed for people who want to get the most out of life.

Over the weekend 7-9 August we want you to enjoy the All

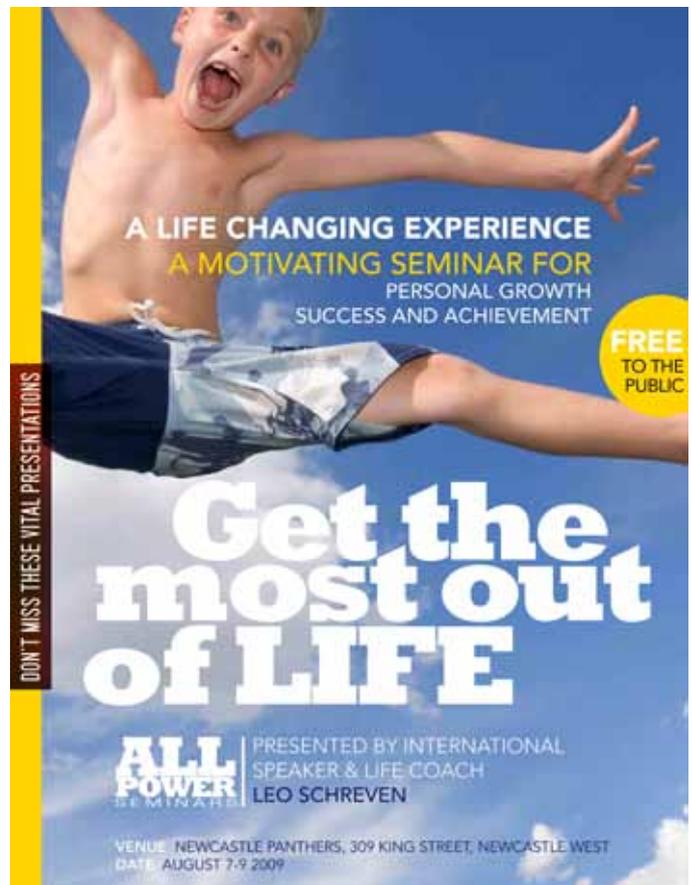
Power Seminar experience and for you to invite your friends, neighbours, or workmates to attend and enjoy the blessing as well. Those who have attended the seminar have been glowing in their responses as to what they have learnt and discovered in living life in the way that God designed it to be lived and enjoyed.

Leo is an entertaining presenter who uses his humour and skill to take the attendees on a journey of discovery that is life-changing.

The All Power Seminar is being presented free to the public, but it is essential that you make reservations for the number of people who will be attending. Plan now to attend and book early.

As Leo presents, there is also a workbook that you can use to take notes to remember the main points and it includes easy-to-follow directions on how to implement what one is learning. The workbooks will be available at the seminar.

The Newcastle Panthers large auditorium has been booked as the seminar venue. This venue at 309 King Street, Newcastle is a place that the general public relate to as a venue where professional seminars are held and where significant social and cultural activities are



conducted. It is a neutral place where community folk will feel right at home. The main auditorium seats 2,000 people and we would love to see the place as full as possible.

Following the All Power weekend, Leo will be staying on in the Newcastle area to do a second seminar, All Power 2. This seminar will unlock the secrets of the spiritual life and will be for those who want to explore the Bible in a deeper way. We pray that many will desire to do that and really start to develop their spiritual life further.

Advertising brochures will be available later this month for you to share with friends and neighbours.

Booking details:
Call 1300 306 776 or go online to www.mic-tix.com.au

**Pastor Kevin Amos,
All Power Seminar
Coordinator**

The All Power Seminar is being presented free to the public, but it is essential that you make reservations for the number of people who will be attending.

Call 1300 306 776
www.mic-tix.com.au

OUR GIVING

ADRA Appeal 2009

Residents of North NSW have the chance to dig deep to help others in their local community and overseas this August. The annual Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) door-knock appeal will be running from 1 to 15 August.

"Donations are used in a variety of ways," said Nathan Hawkins, Director of ADRA Services in North NSW. "For example, one of our major projects in the Northern Rivers is a family refuge that provides sanctuary and support for families in crisis, such as those escaping domestic violence and abuse.

Similar projects are funded in the Hunter region and other projects include youth resilience programs and community

centres, just to name a few."

"It is so rewarding to hear the stories of lives improved by our projects and volunteers," said Jonathan Duffy, Chief Executive Officer of ADRA Australia. "One young mum told our team that one of the refuges we support saved her life. Without it, she and her children would have not been able to escape the clutches of a violent husband. It is great to hear that donations really can change someone's life for the better," he said.

ADRA Australia also works overseas, tackling poverty through projects such as microbusiness training, sustainable farming and water purification projects.

The next 12 months in particular will be a financial challenge to many Australians. The community service sector, including ADRA Australia, is already being overloaded with many more people seeking assistance in comparison to previous years. ADRA Australia is calling on everyone who can to dig deep and donate to help those who may not be doing so well.

All over Australia, ADRA Appeal volunteers will be knocking on doors to collect funds. Donated funds will be used to support Australian and International projects. If you miss the collector knocking on your door, you can donate to the ADRA Appeal directly by calling 1800 242 372 or by visiting www.adra.org.au



The ADRA Appeal is a nation-wide doorknock campaign rolled out across Australia from August to December. Last year, the ADRA Appeal raised more than \$1.1 million for projects in Australia and overseas. ADRA Australia is a humanitarian agency engaging in sustainable development programs and emergency management for people in Australia and overseas. The world-wide ADRA network has a presence in 125 countries.

iGeneration

The ADRA Appeal is coming in August and we need 16-30 year-olds to help. If you raise \$50 or more you can receive a free iGeneration t-shirt, free entry into our iGeneration concert in Sydney and you will go into the running to win some fantastic prizes (iPods, xbox and more!).

For more information check out www.nnswyouth.com/igen.html

So what can \$50 do?

- Provide farming tools for farmers in Zambia
- Help HIV women start a business
- Secure clean water for a family.



A flood of help in time of need



When heavy rains caused severe flooding in northern New South Wales last month, ADRA Australia provided immediate support to those affected, through the activation of its disaster recovery teams as part of the NSW Government's Disaster Plan.

Working from numerous evacuation centres throughout the region, ADRA's teams worked with their disaster recovery partners to provide support for persons and

travellers stranded by the floods. ADRA organised emergency accommodation for approximately 500 people from Lismore, Grafton, Ulmarra, Cabbage Tree Island and surrounding areas.

"The coordinated response to this terrible disaster meant that residents who'd had to leave their homes, and travellers who were stranded, were supported and cared for," said ADRA Australia's Disaster Recovery Coordinator for NSW, Bruce Prince.

"These people have had to deal with a lot over the past few months, so it's great to be in a partnership that can bring some comfort during such a challenging situation."

ADRA Australia's disaster response is part of a formal arrangement under the NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS), along with other agencies such as Australian Red Cross. Under this arrangement, each agency provides a specific welfare service during a disaster or crisis, with ADRA Australia coordinating emergency accommodation.



OUR SCHOOLS

Tweed Valley College Year 12 WOSE

Tweed Valley College (TVC) students were inspired once again by their Year 12 peers, who hosted the annual Week of Spiritual Emphasis (WOSE) from June 22-26.

The theme for WOSE this year was 'The Difference', in which the Year 12 students encouraged their peers to make a difference in the lives of others, and understand that Christ is 'The Difference'



in our lives. The Year 12 class completely organised the entire week's program. They wrote a drama, facilitated the worship music, painted a backdrop and presented talks to their peers. All aspects of the program were absolutely amazing, and the



students at TVC caught a real vibe of God's love. The speakers were passionate and shared honestly about their journey with God, and how they have come to discover that He makes the difference in their lives. The Year 12 group acknowledged that it is so easy to flow along the same as everyone else in society without ever making a stand or owning our uniqueness. This year they encouraged us to make a stand for Christ, be different, and be counted for His call and His purposes in life.

Well done TVC Year 12. It is awesome to see our young people standing for Christ and sharing with their peers about His love. The impact of a student lead WOSE is phenomenal and something we look forward to each year at TVC.



Creative Arts Showcase

Creative Arts were showcased recently at Central Coast Adventist School (CCAS) through a combined initiative of the Creative Arts and Languages (CAL) and the Technological and Applied Sciences departments. Both departments wanted to provide an opportunity for the students who study subjects such as French, Drama, Music, Textiles and Art to showcase their creative ability to the larger school community.

On Thursday evening, 18 June, the school's first annual Creative Arts Night was held in the Naomi Frew Memorial Hall.

The evening featured displays and presentations from students in Years 7-11. The main program featured music and drama performances, concluding with two numbers by the secondary school stage band.

Catering for the evening was by the Year 12 students who will be participating in this year's Make a Difference (MAD) Trip to Fiji. The students will put the proceeds from the night towards their fundraising efforts.

The MAD Trip is a positive alternative to the traditional schoolies week celebrations.



Central Coast Adventist School

Caring for their tomorrow... today.

Year 12 Care Packages

Recently, the Year 12 students at Avondale School were showered with support from their peers. With Trial exams only a few weeks away, stress levels are mounting and work loads build up to a climax of assessments for the end of Term 2.

A 'care package' was put together by year 8 students and given to each of the HSC students. Each package consisted of a beautifully wrapped collection of home-made biscuits which was accompanied by an encouragement card.

The consideration of the younger students for the Year 12's was greatly appreciated. The school would like to thank the Year 8 students for their demonstration of thought and care at a time when pressure is being felt by lots of members of the school community.



OUR CHURCHES

Baptism at Dora Creek

Glenn Savige, pictured in the photograph below with Pastor Wilf Pascoe, has been attending Dora Creek Adventist Church for

over 40 years. He was recently baptised during the Church Service at Dora Creek and was warmly welcomed into fellowship.



Baptism at Maclean

Saturday, 30 May was a special Sabbath at Maclean Church when Leah Gale became the newest and youngest member. Pastor Justin Lawman baptised Leah after studies conducted by Pam Osmond as part of the NNSW Conference Lay Training program.

Family and friends filled the church to witness Leah's decision to commit her life to Jesus.

(PHOTO L to R): Pam Osmond, Leah Gale, Pastor Justin Lawman, Paul Richardson.



Teens in Charge at CCCC

When the teens took the church service at Central Coast Community Church (CCCC) on 27 June, they proved that the church of tomorrow is in safe hands. More than that, they showed they can take charge of the church of today! Tara and Erin McIntosh hosted "Bible Trivia" by asking three "volunteers" (Pam Coafield, Charmaine Butler and James O'Neill) questions from the Bible. A wrong answer resulted in a "truth or dare" question. Pam ate a bowl of cream without using her hands and James stood on one leg whilst holding his breath. During the "My time with God" segment, Tiwana Grant shared how losing her friends enabled her to find new friends. The sermon was taken by Jeremy Grenfell, entitled "Wanting Something Different" based on the Big Idea theme of discontentment. Jeremy delivered an inspiring presentation. He likened God to a pen pal whom we haven't seen yet, but will one day. He also shared how six

months ago his world was turned upside down when he changed houses, school, even families, and broke up with his girlfriend. He hadn't realised how discontented he actually was, until his life was forced to change — for the better. Jeremy said it was the best thing which could have happened, because it allowed him to grow. Full credit to James O'Neill for his encouragement and advice and for being such a wonderful role model to Jeremy and to all of our young people.

While Jeremy was talking, in the background Jordan Grant drew an amazing cartoon, depicting discontentment. To cap off an awesome church service, teens Marcus and Liam presented an inspiring rap dance. Special thanks must go to Naomi Coafield for coordinating this memorable day. Her leadership over the past year has unified our teens and enabled them to display their maturity and love for God.

Kids' Church turned seven!

Central Coast Community Church celebrated Kids' Church's 7th Anniversary last month, with great joy for all that God has done! It is important to remember how He has lead us in the past because that gives us strength to continue into the future. Memories also help knit us together as a community of faith. Some of the highlights over the past seven years have been: Golden Tickets, a Rainbow Easter, a Totally Unexpected Christmas, Lovely Jubbly, Making Kids eat "Dogfood", Cardboard Prayer Kids, Swap Cards, Deal or No Deal,

Men in Hot Pink Wigs, and the object lesson we do every year — Plaiting a Strong Cord!

Trish Williams, Central Coast Community Church



Radio at Dorrigo



In May this year Dorrigo church installed and started transmitting 3ABN radio in Dorrigo. The signal covers the entire town and some of the surrounding areas. It will be a blessing to those members who can't attend church due to age or health. The Dorrigo members also fervently pray that others will be lead to listen to it and thus accept Jesus as their Saviour in these last days. Appropriate advertising will also be put into the local paper telling the community that Christian radio is available for them to hear.

Dorrigo Community Outreach

The Dorrigo Church ran a community seniors luncheon on Thursday, 14 May. The luncheon was held at the church hall. There were 25 seniors from the community who attended.

The local primary school came and sang four songs and were very well received.

Four members of the Coffs City Choir came and presented several songs including some community singing.

Everyone enjoyed the items and the sing-a-long. A birthday cake was cut by one of the seniors who had just had her 91st birthday!

The lunch was excellent and was a full meal with vegetables and tasty savouries. It was a huge effort for such a small church group to cater for so many. Everyone enjoyed the meal and entertainment and they expressed their heartfelt appreciation.



ABC Outreach at Dorrigo

Dorrigo Church invited the Adventist Book Centre display to come to Dorrigo. As there are not enough members to make the trip financially worthwhile to the ABC, we decided to make it an outreach effort and advertise the display in the local paper. It was advertised for four weeks before the display. We also put posters on the local noticeboards.

On the day, Sunday, 21 June, it was pouring with rain and we wondered if anyone would come. Nevertheless, 13 non members came and they all purchased religious books.

One lady said she had put an advert in her church bulletin about the Christian book display at the Adventist church! All who came really appreciated the huge effort made by the ABC in bringing and displaying so many books. Some even asked if they would be coming again!

The Dorrigo Church really appreciated the ABC coming as an outreach to the community, even though they knew there would not be a big turnover. The effort was really worthwhile though as it was a successful witness to the locals in the small town of Dorrigo.



Forster-Tuncurry Church cooks up a storm

February and March saw a flurry of activity at the Forster-Tuncurry Church. Barbara O'Neill, nutritionalist from Misty Mountain Health Retreat presented six community talks on healthy eating, how to get more energy and eating for diabetes. The last session was presented in the Sabbath morning church service, followed by a healthy lunch demonstrating to the visitors how tasty healthy food can be!

On the last evening session, 19 community members attended, with others attending separate nights during the week.

Following on from the nutrition talks, Sharon Pannekoek

and her team from the Taree church presented two cooking demonstrations with 63 people from the community attending. After both demonstrations, the recipes were available for tasting, and recipe sheets were available to take home. Attendees were amazed at the ease of cooking and great taste of the recipes.

Marcia Kosmeier also presented a demonstration of how to make great sourdough bread.

Forster is now fighting fit and jumping out of their skins, with their second youngest member (three years old) starting in his first triathlon soon after!

POSITION VACANT

Secretary to the Youth Department

The North NSW Conference is seeking the services of a Secretary to the Youth Department. This is a busy department involving planning for Summer Camps, Pathfinder and Adventurer events, StormCo. and Youth Rallies.

The successful applicant will possess the following attributes: well organised and self-motivated, willing to participate in youth events, well developed people skills, particularly with young people, committed to the teaching, values and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The successful applicant will be proficient in Microsoft Office and preferably have a knowledge of InDesign.

For further information contact the Director of Youth Ministries, Pastor Jeff Parker, PO Box 7, Wallsend NSW 2287; email: jeffparker@adventist.org.au; tel: (02) 4951 8088.



Applications close 31 July, 2009.



Homecoming

August 28-30, 2009

HONOUR YEARS

1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1984, 1989 and 1999



HOMECOMING CHOIR

Calling all singers! This is your invitation to sing (again) in one of Alan Thrift's choirs. Join the Homecoming Choir during the worship service on Saturday. It just won't be the same without you.

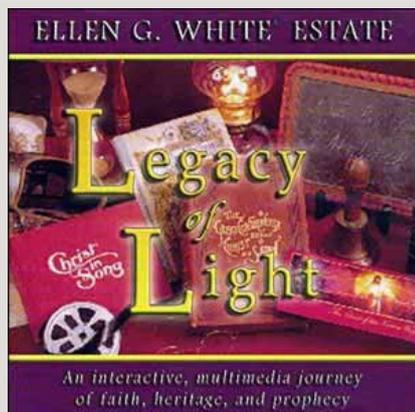
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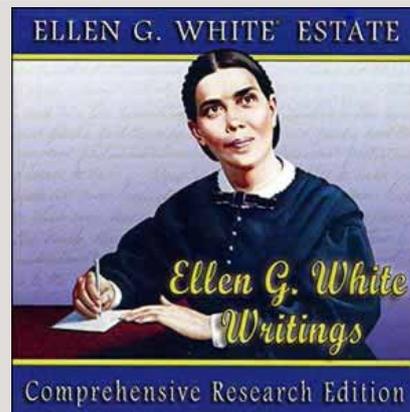
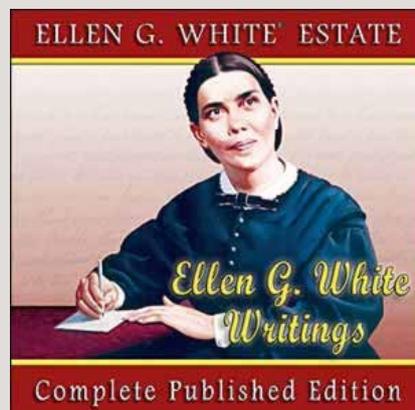
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