



Newsletter

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Credentials

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God's Names: Adonai - Lord

Wouldn't it be strange if you were drawing a tree, and the crayon jumped out of your hand and said, "I don't want to draw a tree! I want to draw a boat!" It would be VERY strange because crayons don't talk. But it would also be strange because you are the owner of the crayon. You are in charge, and you get to decide what it will draw. The Bible uses the same kind of strange thing to show how foolish and wrong it is to think we should be in charge instead of God. Read in Isaiah 45:9 what the Bible says. Clay doesn't get to decide what kind of pot is made with it. The owner of the clay decides everything about the pot. God made us and the whole world, so He owns everything. He gets to decide what to do with everything in His world. "Lord" is a title that shows someone is the owner of something. God is Adonai, Lord or owner of everything. God is a good owner. He loves us and gives us what we need. He takes care of us and the world.



Taken and adapted from: Michael S., "God's Names", P&R Publishing, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, USA, 2011



Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com

Be a mentor: give your personal testimony

If I go fishing in my church life memories, what do I find? I remember two or three special events organized for the church... Of course, I can't forget the Bible verses to memorize, during Pathfinders' activities; they still are very useful in my life and I regret not having learned more of them! The things that I really can't forget about are not the topics covered by the Sabbath School lessons; of course, those have definitely settled progressively, building my faith step by step and convincing my heart about God's love and His plan for my life but... I must confess that I don't remember a single Sabbath School subject from my past! But what I clearly remember are my leaders, who spent time with me. I remember one of our Sabbath School teachers who often invited us to lunch on Sabbath or, sometimes, to go to his house on Sunday, for a special day. One summer he took our entire group on vacation with his family! I remember when my Sabbath School teachers took the time to sit down and ask me how I was doing. In particular, I remember two episodes when their loving intervention to advise me on some aspects of my life was strategic. Their advice were effective and I followed them, because they came from someone who was not condescending to reproach me or teach me what I should do, but by a

trusted friend and who I knew had a real interest in my spiritual life, shown through a constant and meaningful relationship. It is known that productive learning environments are characterized by supportive and warm interactions throughout the class (Fraser, 2007; Wubbels et al., 2006), so relationships are indispensable. They were more than Sabbath School leaders: they were mentors and helped me to connect to God and to the Church. I want to profit to thank them and say that we, CHM or Sabbath School leaders, have to ensure that the CHM programs are well made and that Sabbath School is well done, but we don't have to forget to exhort teachers and leaders in local Churches to cultivate a relationship with children and teenagers under their care. We don't have to perform a perfect one-hour program, but to be disciples. If this has always been important in the past, how important is it today? Yes, today, in the period of liquid modernity, as the sociologist Zygmunt Bauman calls it, where individuals are isolated and alone because the pattern of community ties has dissolved and membership in a group has took a back seat, and is characterized by a weak bond where, if the group does not give me gratification, it's easy to give up and look for another one.

Continue reading on page 2



CHM in the North American Division

How many children are listed in your Division?

58,014

How many countries/Unions belong to your division?

United States, Canada, Guam, Bermuda

Which activities are you doing for/with children?

VBS and Go Fish

What are your challenges?

So much to do ... so little time.

Which dreams and plans do you have?

Our initiative/campaign for the next several years: #sayyestojesus

Which products did you produce?

Cactusville Vacation Bible School, Children's Bible Studies, Stewardville, Children's Sabbath curriculum, Children's Evangelistic curriculum

What is your program for 2016/2017?

Children's Evangelism, Toddler Bible Studies, Certification training online, Spanish DVD Sabbath School training, Go Fish (Children's Spiritual Gift curriculum)

Do/Did you have special event(s) that may inspire other Divisions/Unions/Conferences/Churches?

VBS Training, Certification workshops

Which books would you recommend for reading?

Donna Habenicht: *Teaching the Faith*, Catherine Stonehouse: *Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey*

Sherri has served as Children's Ministries director for the North American Division since 2016. She has worked in various areas of children's ministries for over 30 years, including daycare administrator and writing for faith-based preschool curricula and most recently working with the North American Division Early Childhood Education and Care Team writing Faith-based Daycare/Preschool curriculum.

Sherri has a heart for mission, serving in Guam and Palau with her pastor husband, Bob, developing curricula for the children's outreach program, "Kids in the Park," as well as child evangelism programs for use in Nicaragua and the Philippines.

Sherri is an alumna of Southwestern Adventist College and has a masters in Children and Family Ministry from Bethel Seminary.

Sherri and Bob are proud parents of two children and eight grandchildren.

A simple question is, do our kids know how I met Jesus? Or something more about my life? Ellen G. White says: "Thousand can be reached in the most simple and humble way. The true honest expression of a son or daughter of God, spoken in natural simplicity, has power to unbolt the door to hearts that have long been closed against Christ and his love" (COL 232.2). Although children's hearts are soft for Christ, these words tell us how important it is for us to speak of God not only in terms of the transmission of information and knowledge of the Bible, but above all sharing our personal experience. Let me add some words in italics to this quote of the Spirit of Prophecy: "*CHM leaders, as witnesses for Christ, we are to tell our students what we know, what we ourselves have seen and heard and felt. If we have been following Jesus step by step, we shall have something right to the point to tell to our children concerning the way in which He has led us. We can tell them how we have tested His promise, and found the promise true. Teaching the lesson, we can bear witness to what we have known of the grace of Christ. This is the witness for which our Lord calls, and for want of which the world and our youths are perishing* (DA 340.1).

During the lesson or in any other moment when we interact with our children, share what God has done for us about the topic of that day. The transmission of the biblical content is important, but if it is not accompanied by our personal testimony, there is a problem. I make a proposal to us all. Right now, after reading this article, let's take the time to write our personal testimony. It is important that it contains four parts:

1. How was my life without Christ or before Christ

2. How Christ came in my life
3. How my life changed with Christ, after I met Him.
4. Choose a Bible verse to close your personal testimony.

And don't forget

- to speak short and simple and to relate with the child or kid we are talking to;
- that it has to be Christ centered and
- that we have to share it being convinced of the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven's chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old; but that which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience. We are witnesses for God as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine. Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs. God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked by our own individuality. These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christ-like life, have an irresistible power that works for the salvation of souls." (DA 347.3).

Sometimes it is good not to forget that children are not only our students, but our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, our Savior.



Mariarosa Cavalieri
Children's Ministries Director
Italian Union

Jesus wants
all of me



Called by God
People need to know about God's love. And God wants them to know. Someone should probably tell them! But who should it be? Whom has God picked? He has picked someone very special. He has picked me. He wants me to tell people that God loves them.

"Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?"
Then I said "Here I am! Send me."

Isaiah 6:8

Out of the mouths of babes...



The junior form was doing a project on the Creation.

George, aged seven, wrote: "God made the first man and called him Adam. Then God made the first woman and called her Madam."

Taken from Watts M., "Children on the Loose", Mill Hill, London, 2001

In Synergy Global Children's Day

by Corrado Cozzi - EUD Communication Director

With the slogan "Involve your Children in ministry and service" the Children's Ministry (CHM) department of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists invited all children to give their contribute at the Global Youth Day (GYD).

Inspired by the command of Jesus "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31) and "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31), the children were encouraged to follow their "senior brother" in activities according to their age.

Following the live broadcasting of GYD that lasted for all 24 hours from Fiji to California on March 18, 2017, it was amazing to see these little "volunteers" in action.

Most of the groups gave them the task to distribute items like food, flyers, messages, or simply follow the program made by the youth according their age and size. In some places, children have been included in games with their peer, or animate some programs in the elderly homes in front of charmed grandparents. They were proud to do what they did.

Voted at the GC Executive board, the purpose to include this year the children into the GYD impact, was

following the intention to create an intergenerational context. Also the adults and the elderly enjoyed the pleasure of the social contribution, giving this intergenerational imprint/watermark to all program.

Ellen White wrote: *Whole armies of Children may come under Christ's banner as missionaries, even in their childhood year. Never repulse the desire of children to do something for Jesus. Never quench their ardour for working*

in some way for the Master. (E. G. White, *That I May Know Him*, p. 42).

Actually all CHM director at Division level had the possibility to suggest to their Youth Ministries colleagues to "Get Kids Involved". In each local set where the children have been involved, this has made the difference. More than the words, the images will give you the glimpse of this extraordinary partnership. Enjoy.



How can I encourage spiritual growth in my volunteers and myself?

Taking care of your own relationship with God is the most important thing you can do for your ministry. If your spiritual tank is empty, you'll be unable to support the volunteers, children, and parents in your programs. But it's easy for children's ministry professionals to find themselves running on empty. Urgent needs pull in many seemingly impossible directions, and time with God is often the one need that remains unattended.

- **Attend the worship service.** Ask God to clear your mind so you can focus clearly on God and what he has to say to you. So many children's ministers skip the worship service because there is always one more person to talk to or one more room to check. Sometimes it's more important to attend the worship service than it is to check a classroom. Once you're in the worship service, concentrate on worship. As much as possible, don't think about the third-grade teacher who didn't show up or about what might be happening in the understaffed fours and fives room. Unless an emergency arises, stay in the worship service, remind yourself that God's in charge, and focus on giving yourself to God in worship for an hour. It will make a difference. Encourage your volunteers, especially your leaders, to attend worship services.
- **Take time during the week to spend alone time with God.** Spend time reading the Bible and just being with God. If you exercise during the week, use that time to talk to God. If you can manage it, plan retreat days that allow you a whole day away just to spend time with God. Encourage your volunteers to spend

time with God. Model it for them through your behavior.

- **Ask for God's help.** Ask God to walk beside you through every conversation with a volunteer, through every conflict with another staff member, and through every recruiting call. Don't forget that ministry is really about teaching people how to have an intimate relationship with God. You need to be experiencing that relationship to effectively influence other people for Christ. Don't give up your own relationship with God in the hope of having more time to help others find that relationship.



Taken from Beckwith I., *Quick Relief for Children's Ministry Leaders*. Group Publishing Inc., Loveland, Colorado, USA, 1998

They [parents and teachers] should teach the children that God is their heavenly Father, that His love is expressed to them in the gift of His only-begotten Son... If these lessons are presented in love and tenderness, they will leave a lasting impression upon the minds and hearts of the youth.

- *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 107



Giant Killer

What do giants, lions, and bears have in common? David! Read 1 Samuel 17:4-11, 23-51 to find out how teenage David knew he could beat Goliath because God had helped him kill wild animals.

Think About It

- David did not need Saul's armor to protect him. He trusted God instead. Name some things (such as your own skill, your big brother) that you don't really need if God wants you to do a big job.
- What big problems can you overcome if you have the faith that God is with you? (for example, doing well in sports, making friends)



Prayer Starter

Think of some BIG jobs that need to be done. Pray that God will give you the faith to tackle them, and help you do them.

Facts and Fun

David's sling was probably made from a small leather patch with two long straps. The shepherd placed a small rock in the patch and swung the sling over his head. Letting go of one of the straps sent the rock flying at more than 60 miles an hour (nearly 100 km/h) to hit a target 50 yards (45 meters) away.

Go deeper

Read 2 Samuel 21:15-22 to learn how David killed more giants. Read 1 Corinthians 1:27; Hebrews 13:6.

Taken from: Dall, J. et al.: *My Time with God*. Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois, USA, 2000

CHILDREN'S QUESTIONS + ANSWERS

Question: Will my pet go to heaven when it dies?

Answer: We don't know what happens to animals after their death, but God knows it, and we know that His plan is perfect. Sometimes we can have the impression that animals think and understand like we do. But God created the animals different than human beings. Animals don't have a soul and they don't think like we do. So they cannot, like us, enjoy God's presence. Here on earth, we can have a lot of fun playing with animals and watching them. Only God knows if there will be animals in heaven.

Key Text

"God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

Genesis 1:25-27

Additional Texts

Isaiah 11:6-8; 65:25

Additional Question

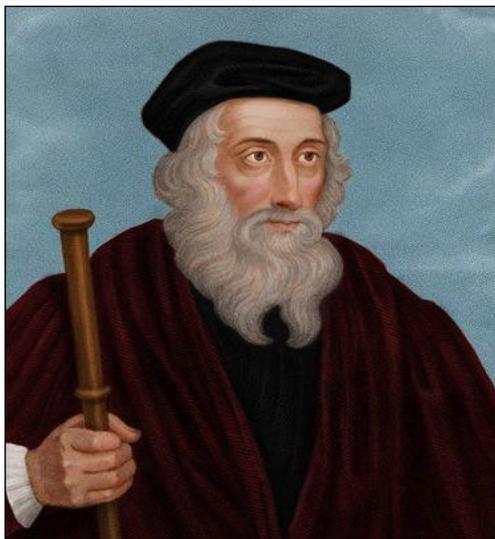
What happens to animals when they die?

Note for Parents

This question can be asked to test the reality of heaven. The world of a child is linked to his/her pet, and the death of a pet can naturally lead them to ask what will happen after their death. If you are not sure how exactly to answer this question, don't hesitate to say that you don't know. The answer may not be as important as to help your child face his/her pet's death. When we're in heaven, God will give us everything we need in order to be happy.



Taken from: Veerman, D. et al.: *101 Questions que les enfants se posent au sujet de Dieu*. Éditions Bérékia, Montréal, Canada, 1998



John Wycliffe: The “Morning Star of the Reformation”

John Wycliffe (also spelled Wyclif, Wycliff, Wiclef, Wicliffe, Wickliffe; c. mid-1320s-1384), was an English scholastic philosopher, theologian, Biblical translator, reformer, and seminary professor at Oxford. He was an influential dissident within the Roman Catholic priesthood during the 14th century.

Wycliffe attacked the privileged status of the clergy, which was central to their powerful role in England. He then attacked the luxury and pomp of local parishes and their ceremonies.

Wycliffe was also an advocate for translation of the Bible into the vernacular. He completed a translation directly from the Vulgate into Middle English in the year 1382, now known as Wycliffe’s Bible. It is probable that he personally translated the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; and it is possible he translated the entire New Testament, while his associates translated the Old Testament. Wycliffe’s Bible appears to have been completed by 1384, with additional updated

versions being done by Wycliffe’s assistant John Purvey and others in 1388 and 1395.

Wycliffe had come to regard the scriptures as the only reliable guide to the truth about God, and maintained that all Christians should rely on the Bible rather than on the teachings of popes and clerics. He said that there was no scriptural justification for the papacy.

Theologically, his preaching expressed a strong belief in predestination that enabled him to declare an “invisible church of the elect”, made up of those predestined to be saved, rather than in the “visible” Catholic Church. To Wycliffe, the Church was the totality of those who are predestined to blessedness. No one who is eternally lost has part in it. There is one universal Church, and outside of it there is no salvation. His first tracts and greater works of ecclesiastical-political content defended the privileges of the State. By 1379 in his *De ecclesia* (“On the Church”), Wycliffe clearly claimed the supremacy of the king over the priesthood. He rejected the concept of purgatory, and disapproved of clerical celibacy, pilgrimages, the selling of indulgences and praying to saints.

So far as his polemics accord with those of earlier antagonists of the papacy, it is fair to assume that he was not ignorant of them and was influenced by them. It was Wycliffe who recognised and formulated one of the two major formal principles of the Reformation—the unique authority of the Bible for the belief and life of the Christian.

In the 1380 *Objections to Friars*, Wycliffe calls monks the pests of society, enemies of religion, and patrons and promoters of every crime. He directed his strongest criticism against the friars, whose preaching he considered neither scriptural nor sincere, but motivated by “temporal gain”. While others were content to seek the reform of particular errors and abuses, Wycliffe sought nothing less than the extinction of the institution itself, as being repugnant to scripture, and inconsistent with the order and prosperity of the Church. He advocated the dissolution of the monasteries.

In 1384, Wycliffe died due to a stroke while saying Mass.

28 years later, in 1412, many teachings of Wycliff were condemned as heresy, and 3 years later, the Council of Constance ordered to burn all writings of Wycliffe. On May 4, 1415, Wycliffe was declared heretic, and in 1428, his bones were exhumed, burnt, and thrown into a river.

Source: www.wikipedia.org

Main Dates & Facts

- mid 1320s:** Wycliffe was born in England
- 1379:** Wycliffe claimed the supremacy of the king over the priesthood
- 1380:** writing against monasteries
- 1382:** New Testament translation into Middle English completed
- 1384:** Wycliffe’s Bible translation completed
- 1384:** Wycliffe’s death
- 1415:** Wycliffe condemned as heretic
- 1428:** Wycliffe’s bones exhumed and burnt

2017 - Year of Reformation (500 years)
Special Material for Children’s Sabbath is being prepared and will soon be available.
If you are interested, please contact us.



Ellen White on John Wycliffe

In the fourteenth century arose in England the "morning star of the Reformation." John Wycliffe was the herald of reform, not for England alone, but for all Christendom. The great protest against Rome which it was permitted him to utter was never to be silenced. That protest opened the struggle which was to result in the emancipation of individuals, of churches, and of nations.

Wycliffe received a liberal education, and with him the fear of the Lord was the beginning of wisdom. He was noted at college for his fervent piety as well as for his remarkable talents and sound scholarship. In his thirst for knowledge he sought to become acquainted with every branch of learning. He was educated in the scholastic philosophy, in the canons of the church, and in the civil law, especially that of his own country. In his after labors the value of this early training was apparent. A thorough acquaintance with the speculative philosophy of his time enabled him to expose its errors; and by his study of national and ecclesiastical law he was prepared to engage in the great struggle for civil and religious liberty. While he could wield the weapons drawn from the word of God, he had acquired the intellectual discipline of the schools, and he understood the tactics of the schoolmen. The power of his genius and the extent and thoroughness of his knowledge commanded the respect of both friends and foes. His adherents saw with satisfaction that their champion stood foremost among the leading minds of the nation; and his enemies were prevented from casting contempt upon the cause of reform by exposing the ignorance or weakness of its supporter. (...)

When Wycliffe's attention was directed to the Scriptures, he entered upon their investigation with the same thoroughness which had enabled him to master the learning of

the schools. Heretofore he had felt a great want, which neither his scholastic studies nor the teaching of the church could satisfy. In the word of God he found that which he had before sought in vain. Here he saw the plan of salvation revealed and Christ set forth as the only advocate for man. He gave himself to the service of Christ and determined to proclaim the truths he had discovered. (...)

Wycliffe was a keen detector of error, and he struck fearlessly against many of the abuses sanctioned by the authority of Rome. While acting as chaplain for the king, he took a bold stand against the payment of tribute claimed by the pope from the English monarch and showed that the papal assumption of authority over secular rulers was contrary to both reason and revelation. The demands of the pope had excited great indignation, and Wycliffe's teachings exerted an influence upon the leading minds of the nation. The king and the nobles united in denying the pontiff's claim to temporal authority and in refusing the payment of the tribute. Thus an effectual blow was struck against the papal supremacy in England.

Another evil against which the Reformer waged long and resolute battle was the institution of the orders of mendicant friars. These friars swarmed in England, casting a blight upon the greatness and prosperity of the nation. Industry, education, morals, all felt the withering influence. The monk's life of idleness and beggary was not only a heavy drain upon the resources of the people, but it brought useful labor into contempt. The youth were demoralized and corrupted. By the influence of the friars many were induced to enter a cloister and devote themselves to a monastic life, and this not only without the consent of their parents, but even without their knowledge and con-

trary to their commands. (...)

Wycliffe began to write and publish tracts against the friars, not, however, seeking so much to enter into dispute with them as to call the minds of the people to the teachings of the Bible and its Author. He declared that the power of pardon or of excommunication is possessed by the pope in no greater degree than by common priests, and that no man can be truly excommunicated unless he has first brought upon himself the condemnation of God. In no more effectual way could he have undertaken the overthrow of that mammoth fabric of spiritual and temporal dominion which the pope had erected and in which the souls and bodies of millions were held captive. (...)

The papal thunders were soon hurled against him. Three bulls were dispatched to England,—to the university, to the king, and to the prelates,—all commanding immediate and decisive measures to silence the teacher of heresy. (...) These measures pointed directly to the stake. It appeared certain that Wycliffe must soon fall a prey to the vengeance of Rome. But He who declared to one of old, "Fear not: ... I am thy shield" (Genesis 15:1), again stretched out His hand to protect His servant. Death came, not to the Reformer, but to the pontiff who had decreed his destruction. Gregory XI died, and the ecclesiastics who had assembled for Wycliffe's trial, dispersed. (...)

But the greatest work of his life was to be the translation of the Scriptures into the English language. (...) At last the work was completed—the first English translation of the Bible ever made. The word of God was opened to England. The Reformer... had placed in the hands of the English people a light which should never be extinguished.

From: Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, Chapter 5

Worldwide International Convention

IN A NUTSHELL

- What:** Worldwide International Convention for Children's, Family, and Women's Ministries
- When:** May 10-13, 2017
- Where:** Budapest, Hungary
- Organizer:** CHM / FM / WM of the General Conference
- Registration:** <http://gcchildmin.org/resources/budapest.html>



Object Talk:
The real thing

Theme: Authentic Christians

Object: Two similar plants, one real, one fake

Text: "Lord, tell me your ways. Show me how to live. Guide me in your truth. Teach me, my God, my Savior."

Psalm 25:4, 5



Application

I have two plants with me today. They look a lot alike. If I were to go on vacation, I'd have to leave careful instructions for my friends because my fake plant (*point out each*) might get watered right along with my real one.

It's not always easy to tell real things from fakes. In fact, sometimes the fake looks the best. This fake plant never gets brown, or drops leaves when it's dry.

Often we must decide what is real and what is phony. Life is full of fake things. We can easily be tricked by what people say, or how they look. A smooth-talking person may say things that we *like* to hear, but someone who loves us will say the things we *need* to hear, even if they are hard to hear.

Just as my note would have helped my friends to tell the real plant from the fake, God helps us through his Word to know what it means to be a real Christian. He teaches us how people who love Jesus should act. If we know what the Bible says, we will be able to sort out right from wrong. God not only wants us to know what a genuine Christian is, he wants us to *be* a genuine Christian!

Prayer

Help us Lord, to understand what it means to be a real Christian, and help us to be real. Amen.

Taken from: Kokmeyer, V.: *Object Talks for any day*. Standard Publishing, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, 2001

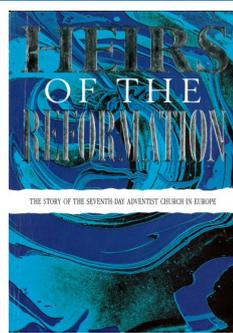
Upcoming events

2017 - Year of Reformation (500 years)
Special Material for Children's Sabbath is being prepared

April 21-24, 2017
National Spiritual Congress for the Italian Union
"Back to Jesus"
Intergenerational program with workshops for children

May 10-13
Worldwide International Convention for Children's, Family and Women's Ministries
Budapest, Hungary

October 15-19, 2017
CHM Leadership Training Course
postponed to 2018



Heirs of the Reformation
Martin Luther did not intend that the Reformation should begin and end with him. This book represents an account, for a popular readership, of the story of that movement - the Seventh-day Adventist Church - in every country in Europe.

Special for German Speaking People

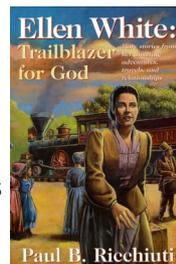
A series on Reformation started on Friday, February 3, 2017. Every Friday (18:00), Saturday (14:30), Sunday (9:30) and Wednesday (18:00), one episode will be broadcasted. The themes are about the Waldensians, John Wycliff, John Hus, Martin Luther and others. Episodes can be watched online on www.fribos-dachboden.de



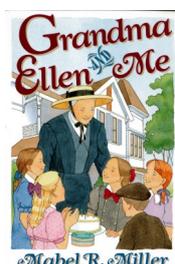
Last but not least: books worth reading



Ricchiuti, P.: Ellen White: Friend of Angels and Trailblazer for God
Author and historian Paul Ricchiuti presents Ellen White as real human being - one



who got sick, had pain, cried, laughed, and had close friends and bitter enemies. Yet she was loving, kind, thoughtful, and dedicated to her work. She also was a courageous woman who followed God's path even when it led her through suffering. "It is my hope," says Ricchiuti, "that we will relate to her today as a friend, knowing that God can use people like us to do His will."



Miller, M.: Grandma Ellen and me
Imagine having a grandma who lived in a big, beautiful house in the country, wrote books for God, talked with angels, and - most of all - loved children! Mabel had a grandma just like this, and her name was Ellen White. In this book, Mabel shares true stories from her childhood about her great-grandmother. Early readers will love these stories about birthday parties at Elmshaven, buggy rides with Grandma Ellen, singing in the bathtub, and Grandma Ellen's laughter at baseball games.