

Some Highlights of the Life of **William Warren Prescott** (1855-1944) ([www.APLib.org](http://www.APLib.org))

See "W. W. Prescott, Messenger of God's Invitation, 'Come, for all things are now ready...'," *Lest We Forget*, Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 1-8 & No. 2, pp. 1-8

<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Event</i>
1855/09	0	Born in Alton, New Hampshire, to an extended family that joined the Advent Movement in 1837 after J. V. Himes preached in Concord, New Hampshire; his father, James, was a cobbler and self-supporting preacher among the Adventists
1858	3	His family became Sabbath-keeping Adventists
1872	17	Baptized by J. N. Andrews at the Massachusetts camp meeting
1877	22	June: Graduated from Dartmouth College with a B.A. (qualified for M.A. after three years of work); became a school principal in Vermont
1880	25	Married Sarah Sanders; bought a newspaper publishing company in Maine with his brother Charles, and moved there (to 1882)
1882	27	Bought another newspaper in Vermont, and moved back there
1883	28	Heard Ellen White and G. I. Butler preach at the camp meeting in Montpelier
1884	29	Discussed his burden to work for the church with Uriah Smith at the 1884 Burlington camp meeting
1885	30	Sold newspaper, became Battle Creek College President (to 1894); beginning of 52 years of work for the church

He traveled extensively, recruiting students, almost doubling school enrollment in the nine years. Led a building program, paying for 10% of costs himself. There was a struggle to implement principles of education reform (manual labor, restrictions on entertainment, ban on courtship, elimination of sports).

1887	32	Became GC Education Secretary (to 1897)
1888	33	Appointed to Book Committee; first of 52 EGW letters; Minneapolis Conference

[Post-Minneapolis Week of Prayer in Battle Creek was extended for one month. EGW:] Professor Prescott arose and attempted to speak, but his heart was too full. There he stood five minutes in complete silence, weeping. When he did speak he said, "I am glad I am a Christian." He made very pointed remarks. His heart seemed to be broken by the Spirit of the Lord. {3BIO 421.4} [Ms. 25, 1888]

1889	34	Organized first five-month Ministerial Institute (would continue periodically to 1896); delegated college administrative duties to a principal and committee
1891	36	Put on the GC Committee; GC Session (Ministry); Harbor Springs Educational Convention as teachers' training institute (making SDA education more Bible centered); Union College opened with Prescott as president; son Lewis born
1892	37	Endorsed (along with ATJ) Ana Phillips as new messenger, then accepted EGW's rebuke {1888 1240, 1241}; Walla Walla College opened, Prescott as president
1893	38	GC Session presentations (Holy Spirit, Sabbath, report on Bible in education); compiled <i>Christian Education</i>
1894	39	Asked to oversee the church's schools and their development full time
1895	40	GC Session presentations (Word of God, Divine-Human Family, Education, Holy Spirit); trip to Australia to help set up Avondale; Armadale camp meeting talks (EGW described them in terms reminiscent of Acts 2)

[EGW October 19, 1895 to son Edson, unreleased:] I know that since coming to this place he has had the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, his lips have been touched with a coal from off the altar. We know and can distinguish the voice of the shepherd. The truth has been poured forth from the lips of the servant of God as the people had never heard it before; unbelievers turn pale and say, "that man is inspired." The people do not stroll about the grounds, but go immediately into the tent and listen as if spellbound.

1897	42	Compiled <i>Special Testimonies on Education</i> ; sent to be head of work in England (to 1901); lived next door to E. J. Waggoner
1901	46	Became member of Emmanuel Missionary College Board (to 1902), and Secretary of Foreign Mission Board (to 1903; 183 missionaries sent out in 2 yrs); assisted with move of College from Battle Creek to Berrien Springs

...Thirteen years ago at Minneapolis, God sent a message to this people to deliver them out of that experience. What has been the history of this people and this work since that time? Where do we stand now with reference to this message? How far has that truth been received—not simply assented to, but actually received?—Not far, I tell you. How far has the ministry of this denomination been baptized into that Spirit?—Not far, I tell you. For the past thirteen years this light has been rejected and turned against by many, and they are rejecting it and turning from it to-day.... [1901 GC Bulletin, p. 321; compare 8T97, 98, 104-106]

1902	47	Named first Vice President of GC (to 1905); Editor <i>Review and Herald</i> to replace Uriah Smith; "The Forward Movement" emphasis on health and gospel united; began exposing Kellogg's pantheism; R&H Publishing House burned 12/30
1904	49	Lake Union Conference session at Berrien Springs: pantheism addressed by EGW, WWP, ATJ, and JHK. WWP parted with EJW over the issue.

[WWP to EJW 11/14/04] I did not have the least idea that in your teaching about the revelation of God in nature you intended to set forth the same things as are set forth in that book [*The Living Temple*]. When therefore both you and Bro. Jones sided with Dr. Kellogg in the controversy over that teaching and openly sustained the book, I was terribly shaken up.

1906	51	New R&H Publishing House in Takoma Park; overwork led to near collapse, so an overseas trip to China, India, Europe was planned for him [reported in 21 editorials in <i>Review</i> Jan. 24 to July 25, 1907]
1908	53	Meeting at Elmshaven on "the daily" with no resolution, but much conflict

[EGW to WWP 6/24/08:] If the Lord has seen fit to let this matter rest for so many years without correcting the same, would it not be wisdom on your part to refrain from presenting your views concerning it? I advise you not to present your ideas before our churches, but to let this matter alone, because at this period of our history the enemy will be served by an attack made on us regarding our disagreement on this point if it is made prominent, and this will lead to a worse issue. {12MR 225.1}

1909	54	GC Session affected by "the daily" controversy; EGW appealed to GC Committee to free WWP to do evangelism; began <i>The Protestant Magazine</i> (Rome had declared in 1908 the USA to be a Roman Catholic Christian nation)
1910	55	Wife Sarah died; WWP devastated, took 6-weeks off, then trip to India; multiple letters from EGW on "the daily" (now not the time to resolve it; not vital; don't use my writings to settle; evangelize cities); submitted 105 changes to the 1888 GC for revision; controversy over how the gift of inspiration operated
1911	56	Married Daisy Orndorf (24 years younger; had helped care for Sarah)
1915	60	Appointed the first GC Field Secretary; trip to South America to organize Division; <i>The Protestant Magazine</i> stopped; death of EGW and of his father

[WWP to WCW Spring 1915:] After giving the best of my life to this movement, I have little peace and satisfaction in connection with it and am driven to the conclusion that the only thing for me to do is to do quietly what I can do conscientiously and leave the others to go on without me.

1917	62	Trip to China
1918	63	Son Lewis lost in World War I (had left Adventism in late teens)
1919	64	Major Bible Conference; <i>Source Book for Bible Students</i> documenting beliefs
1920	65	Published <i>The Doctrine of Christ</i> to present doctrines with Christ as center
1921	66	To Avondale and Australia; brought Lynn H. Wood to lead educational program
1924	69	To Union College to save the college (to 1928); succeeded in turning it around; taught 2 yrs; pioneer an hour-long religious radio broadcast
1929	74	Published <i>The Saviour of the World</i>
1932	77	Appointed head of Theology Department, EMC; asked to resign in 1934
1933	78	Wrote <i>The Spade Confirms the Book</i>

Final decade spent in writing, research (assisted L. E. Froom), preaching, critiquing, flower gardening, visiting. Surgery in 1939 made him an invalid with restricted activities.

1944/01/21	88	Died at Washington Sanitarium of pneumonia after contracting influenza in December
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