Ellen & James White comment on
The Battle for James’ Health

“While at Paris, Maine, I was shown that my husband’s health was in a critical condition, that his anxiety of mind had been too much for his strength. When the present truth was first published, he put forth great exertion and labored with but little encouragement or help from his brethren. From the first he has taken burdens upon him which were too taxing for his physical strength.

“These burdens, if equally shared, need not have been so wearing. While my husband took much responsibility, some of his brethren in the ministry were not willing to take any.

“When we overtax our strength, and become exhausted, we are liable to take cold, and at such times there is danger of disease assuming a dangerous form. We must not leave the care of ourselves with God, when He has placed that responsibility upon us.

“Some ministers among us fail to bear all the responsibility that God would have them. This lack throws extra labor upon those who are burden bearers. . . .” Testimonies, Vol. 3, pp. 9-13.

“Many years ago [in 1865], while my husband was bearing heavy responsibilities in Battle Creek, the strain began to tell on him. His health failed rapidly. Finally he broke down in mind and body, and was unable to do anything. My friends said to me, ‘Mrs. White, your husband cannot live.’ I determined to remove him to a place more favorable for his recovery. His mother said, ‘Ellen, you must remain and take care of your family.’

“‘Mother’, I replied, ‘I will never allow that masterly brain to fail entirely. I will work with God, and God will work with me, to save my husband’s brain . . . .’

“Constantly I kept my husband working at little things. I would not allow him to remain quiet, but tried to keep him active. This is the plan that physicians and helpers in our sanitariums should pursue. Lead the patients along step by step, keeping their minds so busily occupied that they have not time to brood over their own condition.

“‘I made him exercise his mind. If he had not been made to use his mind, in a little while it would have completely failed.

“Daily my husband went out for a walk. In the winter a terrible snowstorm came, and Father thought he could not go out in the storm and snow. I went to Brother Rood and said, ‘Brother Rood, have you a spare pair of boots?’

“‘Yes,’ he answered.

“‘I should be glad to borrow them this morning,’ I said. Putting on the boots and starting out, I tracked a quarter of a mile in the deep snow. On my return, I asked my husband to take a walk. He said he could not go out in such weather. ‘Oh, yes, you can,’ I replied. ‘Surely you can step in my tracks . . . .’ That morning he took his usual walk.

“In the spring there were fruit trees to be set out and garden to be made. ‘Willie,’ I said, ‘please buy three hoes and three rakes. Be sure to buy three of each.’ When he brought them to me, I told him to take one of the hoes, and Father another. Father objected, but took one. Taking one myself, we began work; and although I blistered my hands, I led them in the hoeing. Father could not do much, but he went through the motions. It was by such methods as these, that I tried to cooperate with God in restoring my husband to health.

“And oh, how the Lord blessed us! I always took my husband with me when I went out driving. And I took him with me when I went to preach at any place. I had a regular circuit of meetings. I could not persuade him to go into the desk while I preached. Finally, after many, many months, I said to him, ‘Now, my husband, you are going into the desk today.’ He did not want to go, but I would not yield. I took him up into the desk with me. That day he spoke to the people. Although the meetinghouse was filled with unbelievers, for half an hour I could not refrain from weeping. My heart was overflowing with joy and gratitude. I knew that the victory had been gained.

“After eighteen months of constant cooperation with God in the effort to restore my husband to health, I took him home again. Presenting him to his parents, I said, ‘Father, Mother, here is your son.’

“After his recovery, my husband lived for a number of years, during which time he did the best work of his life.” Selected Messages, Book 2, pp. 306, 307.

continued on Insert p. 2
Ellen & James White comment on the Battle for James's Health

continued from Insert p. 1

"The hand of God in his restoration was most apparent. Probably no other one upon whom such a blow has fallen ever recovered. Yet a severe shock of paralysis, seriously affecting the brain, was by the good hand of God removed from His servant, and new strength granted him both in body and mind." Testimonies, Vol. 1, p. 104

"I have given you this brief recital of personal experience, in order to show you that I know something about the use of natural means for the restoration of the sick.

"God will work wonders for every one of us if we work in faith, acting as we believe, that when we cooperate with Him, He is ready to do His part.

"... he had worked so hard to build up:"

"... he had a chill, which left him unconscious. At 5 p.m., Sabbath, August 6, 1881, he quietly breathed his life away, without a struggle or a groan." Ibid., p. 109-110.

"... we were planning to return to the Pacific Coast and dedicate their time to writing;"

"... he had a chill, which left him unconscious. At 5 p.m., Sabbath, August 6, 1881, he quietly breathed his life away, without a struggle or a groan." Ibid., p. 109-110.

"... he had a chill, which left him unconscious. At 5 p.m., Sabbath, August 6, 1881, he quietly breathed his life away, without a struggle or a groan." Ibid., p. 109-110.