

Children's Story SOP Day 2017

How Did She Know? By Chantal J. Klingbeil

It was an awkward meeting. James and Ellen White had arrived in Washington, New Hampshire, and the members of the very first Sabbath-keeping Adventist church were called to a meeting with the Whites and it didn't get off to a very good start.

This little church had been happy and active but after their pastor had been called away to preach in other areas, the church members started fighting and arguing and many had stopped attending church altogether.

James and Ellen White spoke to the members, trying to help them work through their disagreements. Along the way Ellen White also spoke to different members involved about the things in their lives that were keeping them from Jesus. During one of her visits to the home of the Farnsworth family, a young Eugene Farnsworth sat in rapt attention as Ellen White spoke with his father.

The Farnsworths were a very big family. Father William Farnsworth had twenty-two children, and he had been a leader in the little church. As Eugene sat there listening to Ellen White he realized that he knew something that no one else knew. His father loved to chew tobacco, but he had told many people that he had given up the habit. Eugene knew better. One day while working with his father in the woods, he noticed little brown spit splatters in the snow. His father had tried to cover them up, but Eugene saw them.

Eugene knew that his father had secretly started chewing tobacco again. *Now if Ellen White is really God's prophet*, he thought, *she would know about that*. No sooner had Eugene thought this than Ellen White turned to William Farnsworth and said that he was a slave to tobacco and "the worst of the matter is that he is acting the part of a hypocrite, trying to deceive his brethren into thinking that he has discarded it, as he promised to do when he united with the church."

Eugene was shocked! How did she know? Young Eugene realized that God must have told her. Happily, William Farnsworth admitted his problem and, with God's help, gave up his tobacco habit. This incident left a big impression on Eugene who grew up to be a minister. He never forgot the moment that he realized that with God there are no secrets.

You can read more about this story in Ellen G. White: The Progressive Years: 1862-1876 (vol.2), p. 215-219.