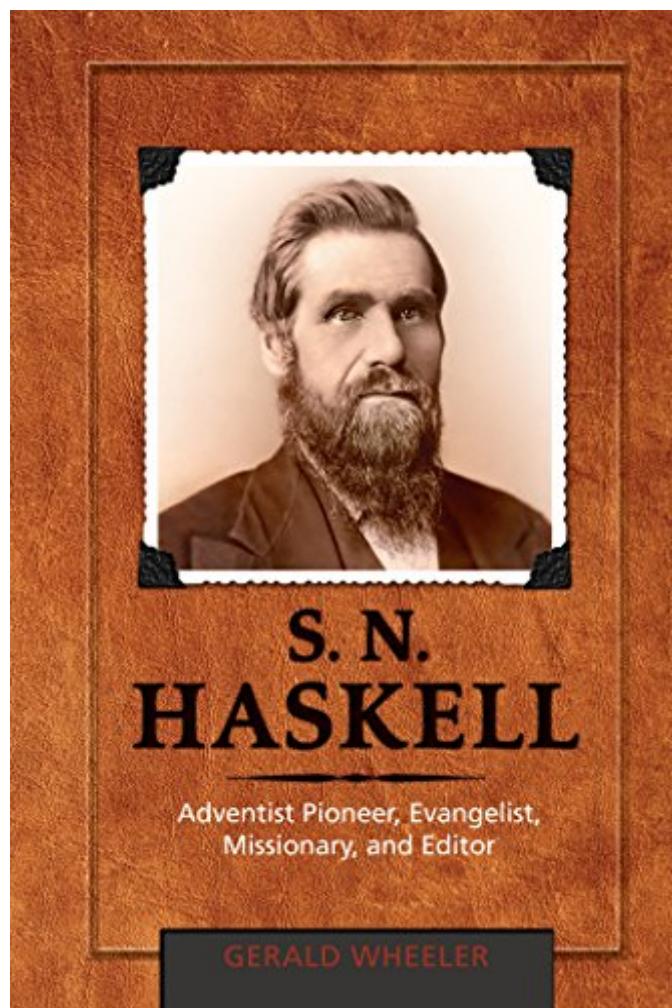


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# S. N. Haskell: Adventist Pioneer, Evangelist, Missionary, And Editor



## Synopsis

“The last tribute of his brethren will not be paid to the memory of Elder Haskell until the work is finished. his message of faith and trust in God and in the triumph of the work of God will live with us to the end.”<sup>1</sup> William A. Spicer Those words, written shortly after Stephen N. Haskell’s death seemed highly improbable when, at the age of 17 to honor the request of his dying employer, Haskell married Mary Howe, a woman 21 years his senior who was considered a hopeless invalid—a decision that might have destroyed his future. Yet he would go on to make substantial contributions to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, shaping its structure and outreach for more than half a century. Haskell was a self-made man in the truest sense of the word. Couched in the social, political, economic, and religious culture of the day, author Gerald Wheeler paints a picture of Haskell as a formidable force in the early Adventist Church. In early manhood, he recognized the call of God and he responded to that call with all his heart, particularly giving himself to the study of God’s Word. Through the years he grew with the Adventist movement serving as a preacher, organizer, executive, author, publisher, world traveler; but above all as a leader of the lay forces of the church in literature, correspondence, and personal missionary work.<sup>2</sup> Ultimately he led hundreds, if not thousands, to Jesus Christ. As Haskell taught throughout his life, Adventism must never forget that the Word of God is central to its mission—and His kingdom is its goal. The Word must retain its primacy. Above any historical or doctrinal tradition, Scripture must always be first. If Haskell were alive today, that would still be his overriding theme. And it must remain the focus of the church he helped pioneer.

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## Customer Reviews

This is an important new work by Gerald Wheeler about the life of Stephen N. Haskell, a stalwart pioneer of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. For those who have an interest in Adventist Studies, this book is a rich addition to the Adventist biography series. It is especially strong on providing the wider historical context for many of the events and themes found in Haskell's life. In this respect, this is a major contribution to Adventist historiography. The most significant chapter of the book is the section on the inspiration of Ellen White's writings where the author deftly navigates between Haskell's constant defense of the prophetic gift and how at times he could undermine that same gift by pushing toward inerrancy, a hermeneutical problem that concerned the lasting authority of Ellen White, even after her death. The most fun chapter of the book is "Proposing to a Prophet" in which Wheeler explores Haskell's failed marriage proposal to Ellen White--which alone is worth the price of the book. As an Adventist historian the book is carefully researched, written in an engaging manner, so I highly recommend this book.

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