



Visitor

C O L U M B I A U N I O N

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Maranatha in Maryland

Miracles happen in Middletown

Adventist Review follows page 8

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Number 5

A careful study of the overall perspective and themes of Matthew's gospel reveals an overriding concern for the life of the church. Not only is Matthew the only gospel to use the term "church" (ecclesia), but in both its content and structure, there is a strong interest in providing guidance for the identity and integrity of the church as a community formed around Christ.

Biblical scholars conclude that Matthew wrote to a church struggling to understand its mission. This was probably a Jewish-Christian community in transition. In light of their faith in Jesus, Matthew sought to enable his community to interpret their Jewish past, to formulate a new self-understanding, to create a new framework from which to view their changed situation and to choose more effective patterns of behavior.

An emphasis on learning

The entire book of Matthew is educational in character and intention. Jesus "taught them as one having authority" (7:29). Followers of Christ are called "disciples" or learners. Matthew understands learning as not simply the consumption of information. Learning involves a call to submit to the will of God as revealed in the words and deeds of Jesus. Thus, discipleship is not simply right doctrine. It is right practice; the right way of doing and living and dying.

Within Matthew's model of mission, learning is taken very seriously. "It is no less than the evangelization of each generation, learning together the way of the kingdom, in a community of disciples, at each stage of life and throughout all of the experiences of life, and in each particular context. Disciples are not born, they are made, and it takes a whole lifetime, with no graduation in sight." (Mortimer Arias and Alan Johnson, *The Great Commission: Biblical Models of Evangelism*, page 20)

The nature of discipleship

The theme of discipleship is central to Matthew's gospel and to its understanding of the church and its mission. The verb "to make disciples" occurs only four times in the New Testament, three times in Matthew and once in Acts.

In Matthew, "discipleship" is following Jesus and participating in His ministry. The disciples are the privileged companions of Jesus. They share in His ministry of service. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ."

The norms of Christian life are shaped not only by words, but also by the life of the one who utters them. Thus, the mark of Jesus is to be visible in the lives of His disciples. As described by Matthew, these marks of discipleship include: to live humbly (18:1), to love (25:31) and to serve (20:20).

Christ's last commission

As members of Christ's church, we have been redeemed by grace, set apart to be a redeeming force in the world today. Involvement is a necessary function of Christian living. We need to open our hearts and ears and listen to the voice of God who calls His people to go out into the lost and lonely world.

Too often, the "Great Commission" is used out of context. It can too easily be reduced to a mere slogan or used to justify an agenda. The call to "make disciples" is not about adding members to the institutional church. As Ellen White wrote, "It is in doing Christ's work that the church has the promise of His presence. ... To neglect this work is surely to invite spiritual feebleness and decay. Where there is no labor for others, love wanes, and faith grows dim." (*The Desire of Ages*, page 825)

Learning to be followers of Jesus involves helping others celebrate God's transforming grace. Learning to be followers of Christ means participating in a new way of life: living by faith, yielding oneself completely to God, seeking God's will, loving one's enemies, practicing social justice, giving and receiving forgiveness, engaging in reconciliation.

The church is to be a missionary community that communicates to others this new way of life by both proclaiming and embodying the Gospel. Discipleship is not simply a matter of individual salvation, but of participation in Jesus' mission to "make disciples of all peoples" (28:19). The church exists for the sake of God's mission. *Think about it!*

Dr. Harold L. Lee is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the eight-state region served by the Columbia Union Conference.



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Help for the "holiday blues" at Christmas

The local congregation is the central focus and driving force of the Adventist Church; therefore, the energies of the conferences and union will be directed toward making it successful as a spiritual, educational and evangelistic center.

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without family members who have died. It could be the pain of broken relationships, the insecurity of job loss, or the weariness of ill health. This can be especially painful in the midst of the celebrations of others. For these reasons, the Tazewell, Virginia, congregation offered a special "Longest Night" to their community this past December.

The worship service lasted about 45 minutes. The theme of the simple service was: "God's Word comes to shine light into the darkness." It included sharing and hearing prayers, Scripture and music that acknowledged that God's presence is for those who mourn and struggle. The service was followed by a time of light refreshments and fellowship. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of), was invited.

Everyone who participated said that they were blessed and comforted by the service. All of them encouraged a repeat next year. The members of the community ministerial association were enthusiastic about the service, and most announced it to their respective congregations. Without exception, these pastors said that the community has a need for this type of worship service, and they felt attendance will increase next year. The Tazewell congregation plans to repeat the "Longest Night" service on December 21, 1999.

Your congregation can offer a similar event in your community. The Tazewell church has about 10 active members. Four of them decorated the church and conducted the worship service. Two others baked cookies. The choir director and organist were borrowed from a local Christian church to provide music. That church also provided a soloist. It was a successful event.



Marcie Sayers distributes aloe vera segments to participants.

Write to us!

We want to hear from you...

The affects of NET '98 are still being felt throughout the Columbia Union. How was your church involved? What was the outcome? Send your stories (200-600 words) and photos to Kimberly Luste Maran, *Columbia Union Visitor*, 5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, Maryland 21045; send by E-mail to 104315.2145@compuserve.com; or send a fax to (410) 997-7420. Deadline: May 30.

Other topics the *Visitor* will be addressing:

Pastor Appreciation
Church/school Choirs
Adventist HealthCare

Deadline: April 19
Deadline: May 30
Deadline: June 30

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A large, urban church where people

The largest Adventist congregation in the District of Columbia. A flagship church in the Allegheny East Conference. The Dupont Park church, located in the southeastern area of the city, has become a symbol of faith and steadfastness over the course of its long, rich history. At the same time, it struggles with issues that arise from its success.

One of the first African-American congregations in the denomination, the Dupont Park church has enjoyed consistent growth and prosperity. Because of the commitment of its founding members to preserve its history and the dedication of later generations to keeping its original fervor alive, the congregation celebrated its 95th anniversary this past November around the theme, "Roots: We Have Come This Far by Faith."

The members of Dupont Park understand that a church should be more than just "church-going people" who are inactive in the neighborhood. It's their

desire that the community in which the church is located be a better place because it's there.

This is a congregation that's attempting to balance both the pressure for change and the resistance to change. The members have embraced as their mission "to prepare for ministry



in the 21st Century by drawing on the best of the old and the best of the new."

The people's church

Originally known as "the People's Church," the congregation began in 1903 with only 25 persons who met in members' homes from Sabbath to Sabbath. The congregation now consists of more than 1,600 members who meet in an impressive facility on Massachusetts Avenue that includes worship and Bible study space, a gymnasium and a school plant.

The members of the Dupont Park church established an elementary school because of their commitment to Christian education. The school has been a tremendous tool for meeting the needs of member families and children in the community. The development and mainte-

nance of a quality school has become one of the church's greatest outreach ministries.

This is a congregation made up of long-term families, many of whom are direct descendants of the founding members. When asked why they've stayed at Dupont Park even when they no longer live in the

neighborhood, members point to family ties and the investment of their highly respected seniors. There's a tremendous sense of loyalty and commitment to the congregation that has been fostered over the years.

Members who don't have family roots at the Dupont Park church mention that the warmth of the people and the family-like atmosphere are what attracted them. In fact, when asked what they like most about the church, most members say that it's the friendly, hard-working people who aren't afraid to show they care. Dupont Park is a church traditional in style, yet warm in personality. Despite its size and the potential for people to get lost, the members are committed in their efforts to make all who come through the church doors feel at home.

Positive presence through community service

In addition to the ministry of the Dupont Park church school, the members of the congregation have worked to create a positive, active presence through community service. They operate a food pantry for families in crisis, as well as a clothing program. Dupont Park Adventist Community Services also aids senior citizens by providing them with grocery items. During the course of this past Thanksgiving and Christmas season, volunteers delivered more than 280 baskets of food to the less fortunate. The Adventurers club (children in grades one through four) regularly pick up



are about people

trash not only on the church grounds, but also in the nearby public park.

The pastors and members of the Dupont Park church feel they haven't done enough in outreach ministries. They're constantly seeking ways to make themselves more relevant to the surrounding community. Senior Pastor Jonathan Thompson and Associate Pastor Lisa Smith Reid both say that the key to effective, successful outreach is the development of more programs geared toward issues relevant to the community. They list issues and needs such as drug abuse, teen pregnancy, crime, literacy, health care and quality education.

In December, the congregation sponsored a bone marrow drive. The mother-and-daughter team of Anna and Avis Buchanan spearheaded the campaign after the loss of their husband and father, Herbert Buchanan Sr., to leukemia early this past year. Members of the Dupont Park church rallied around the Buchanans, and 60 members volunteered to be donors. This is the type of community activism that Dupont Park's leaders hope to see more of in the future.

Building bridges between generations

One of the major challenges of many congregations in the 1990s is attracting and holding on to "twenty-something" members. The Dupont Park church understands the complexity and significance of this challenge. It has been blessed with many senior members who've been central to keeping the church going over the years. These seniors have invested their material and spiritual gifts and, as a result, the Lord has honored their faith and dedication, and a strong foundation has provided the congregation with stability and consistency. The challenge has been to build a bridge between these seasoned members and younger generations.

Pastor Thompson has introduced an innovative plan to encourage greater involvement of young adults in church operations. Within the first few months after his arrival in October of 1998, Thompson met with key representatives from every age group represented in the church, seeking to identify trends and commonalities among the demographic segments. Each group worked with the pastor to determine their needs and values. The information gathered from these meetings is being used to develop a balanced, inclusive program that bet-



ter represents "the best of the old and the best of the new," in keeping with the overall vision of the church.

Another strategy the congregation is implementing to foster greater young adult involvement is the appointment of a younger person to a leadership role in every department in the church, along with the established leaders of earlier generations. These younger officers are assigned mentors who'll help prepare them for church leadership and effective ministry. It's hoped that the participants will emerge from these experiences prepared to uphold the high standards that have been set in place by the trailblazing senior members of the Dupont Park church.

In this major metropolitan area, where there are more than 30 Adventist congregations from which to choose and it isn't uncommon for churches to experience some degree of "coming and going" among members. Dupont Park church members refuse to be discouraged by this phenomenon. They recognize that the strength of their congregation is its committed membership. They are "quality members," says Pastor Reid, people who are truly, honestly dedicated to the Lord. It's the quality of its members that makes this one of the great congregations of the Adventist Church. It's their goal to continue striving to create a place of hope as they look forward to the Second Coming of Christ.

Amber Lee is a contributing writer for the Visitor and an attorney.

Maranatha—changing lives

Volunteer organization helps members build church

Give a man a lemon, and he'll make lemonade. Give the members of the Middletown Valley church and Maranatha Volunteers International some lumber, nails, hammers, hardware tools and supplies, and they'll build a church.

Maranatha Volunteers International is a non-profit Christian organization that coordinates the construction of urgently needed buildings with volunteers who desire a short-term mission experience. Its primary purpose is to spread the Gospel through construction. Now celebrating its 30th year of operation, this organization has constructed more than four million square feet of buildings with the help of 35,000 volunteers in 59 countries. "If you were to pay our volunteers minimum wage, the value of their service would be worth over \$10 million," said Jessica Gilbert, vice president for communication at Maranatha.

Volunteers to the rescue!

When the members of the Middletown Valley congregation in Frederick County, Maryland, started planning to build a church, they immediately thought of Maranatha. "For nearly four years, we've been planning for Maranatha to come," said Karl Bahr, chairman for the building committee. Prior to the construction of the new building, the 55-member congregation had been renting from the Christ Reformed Church. "After being in existence for more than eight years, we thought that it was time to build our own," he commented. The land was purchased in 1991, and members started envisioning their own church home.

Seven years later, on September 14, 1998, the members of the Middletown Valley church, in conjunction with the willing workers of Maranatha Volunteers International, began the construction of a new church for this Chesapeake Conference congregation.

Project coordinators Melvin and Karen Hatch, members of the Eastwood church in Columbus, Ohio, arrived



with 53 volunteers ranging from middle-aged persons to senior citizens. These volunteers represented 18 states, including California, Washington, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Ohio and Iowa. Melvin, a professional building contractor, learned of the project directly from Maranatha. He and his wife, Karen, try to volunteer on two projects per year.

Church members, as well as some persons in the community, opened their homes for volunteers who were staying in trailers. However, some residents were worried about the ages of the volunteers. They wanted to know how "gray-hairs" could possibly do construction work. "You'd be surprised at what our older volunteers can do," said Karen. "I think these projects are what keeps them young. Many of them are so agile."



through construction



Columbia Union Conference President Harold Lee stops by the construction site to lend a hand.

Interested in Maranatha?

How do people become interested in Maranatha? Some people find out through mailers, word of mouth and even schools. Jason Borkowsky, a member of the Christian Missionary Alliance faith from central New Jersey, first found out about Maranatha trips over the Internet. "I used to do a lot of repair work for elderly people," he said. After stumbling across Maranatha's World Wide Web page, Jason decided that he'd become a volunteer during his vacation. This trip to Middletown was his second Maranatha project. "There's no other volunteer opportunity like Maranatha!" he said.

After spending their honeymoon at a resort in the Bahamas that featured gambling and drinking, Virginia and Robert Jones decided to spend their first wedding anniversary doing something they really enjoyed—working with their hands. After searching on the Internet, she found Maranatha's web site and decided to come and help with the Middletown project. "This is a great opportunity for anyone to meet new people and further the Lord's work," commented Virginia.

Life-changing construction

Despite early mornings in the cool breezes, the volunteers still had smiles on their faces during the two-week venture. Even the comments of the nearest neighbor did not dampen the spirits of the workers. "He wasn't happy about having the church built in his back yard. He said he thought that a carnival was coming when he saw all of the trailers parked on the land," said Karen. Even though he daily showed his unhappiness, her husband and other volunteers kept encouraging the neighbor that everything would be alright. Who knows? Maybe the neighbor will decide to come and visit the church. Maybe his life will be changed through this construction.

George Johnson Jr. is communication intern for the Columbia Union Conference. Photos were taken by H. Mark Williams.

- Mission statement: Maranatha spreads the Gospel throughout the world as it builds people through the construction of urgently needed buildings.
- The name "Maranatha" comes from 1 Corinthians 16:22, meaning: "Come quickly, Lord Jesus."
- In 1969, founder John Freeman took 28 volunteers to Freeport, Grand Bahama, to complete the Eight Mile Rock church. This was the first Maranatha trip.
- In 1989, Maranatha Flights International merged with Volunteers International to become Maranatha Volunteers International. The new organization then set up its office in Sacramento, California.
- A board of directors governs Maranatha Volunteers International. Operations of the organization are staffed by about a dozen paid personnel.
- Members of Maranatha receive a quarterly publication called *The Volunteer*.
- The address for Maranatha Volunteers International is 600 Sacramento Inn Way, Suite 116, Sacramento, CA 95815. Their phone number is (916) 920-1900.
- You can find information on projects and even sign up to be a volunteer by logging on to their web page. Their web site address is www.maranatha.org.



In search of Peace

Takoma Park church hosts International Day



Various delegates (above photos), representing their countries of origin, take part in the international celebration at the Takoma Park church. Above: Featured speaker Martin Indyk delivers his address on the search for peace.

"In Search of Peace" was the theme for International Day at the Takoma Park, Washington, D.C., church on October 3.

Coordinated by Francisco de Araujo (who will be conducting peace concerts in Jerusalem to usher in the next millennium), this theme, emphasizing peace and unity among individuals as well as nations, was evident as youths, members and visitors, attired in national costumes, carried their country's flags in a processional through the sanctuary and up to the balcony, where the flags unfurled in a kaleidoscope of colors and designs.

Choral music was presented by La Camerata Nuove with accompaniment by the New England Youth Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Virginia Gene Rittenhouse and Brass Mosaic, directed by David Workman. Organist Dr. Dale Krider was also among the musicians.

Guest speakers included the Honorable Martin Indyk, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs at the U.S. Department of State and former U.S.

ambassador to Israel, and Dr. Robert Zamora, former chairman of the religion department at Columbia Union College and currently chairman of the Life Enhancement Institute in Los Angeles, California.

Indyk spoke on the search for peace, using several key scriptural references such as Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and Romans 16:23-24.

The special day concluded with Marcos Galvany, a young member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and composer from Spain, conducting soloist Karla Rivera as she sang one of his compositions entitled "Oh My Son."

A gala luncheon, consisting of dishes from different countries, was served. Jill Indyk, one of those who attended, described the occasion as "moving" and "one I will always remember with love."

Marjorie Kingston is an elder at the Takoma Park church in Washington, D.C.

ADVENTIST Review

Special Edition

in this age of shallowness...

Time to Go Deeper

BY WILLIAM G. JOHNSON

God invites us to live and abide in Him, to make Jesus first and last and best in everything, to grow into the image of our Saviour and Lord.

I confess: the world is too much with me. I find myself busier and busier and accomplishing less and less that really matters. I am inundated with information, but most of it is chaff. I am tempted to skim, to think in sound bites, to do instant analysis, to find quick solutions.

But the Almighty does not come at my summons. “Be still, and know that I am God,” He reminds me (Ps. 46:10).^{*} “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (Jer. 29:13).

Each of us desperately needs a closer walk with God. There are no exceptions—certainly not the clergy. Charles R. Swindoll tells of an encounter with a minister who, following Swindoll’s meeting with pastors, whispered to him, “Nobody around me knows this, but I’m operating on fumes. I am lonely, hollow, shallow, enslaved to a schedule that never lets up.” Swindoll embraced him and prayed with him as the minister wept with deep, heaving sobs. That encounter eventually led Swindoll to write his recent book, *Intimacy With the Almighty* (Dallas: Word Publishing, Inc., 1996).

It is time to seek the Lord. It is time to get our priorities in order. It is time to go deeper.

Jesus is coming soon! We do not know how soon, but the gathering intensity all around us suggests that the glad day of His appearing cannot be far off. When He appears in the clouds and all our systems crash—when the computers fry and the vast world network devoted to getting and spending, buying and selling, and amusing and being amused goes up in smoke—what then? “Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?” (2 Peter 3:11).

Whether our Lord appears this year or whether He tarries a little longer, our personal day in the sun will soon run its course. When my heartbeat stops—which is the effective day of the Second Coming for me—what then? With my last breath, will I be able to affirm, like Paul: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing” (2 Tim. 4:7, 8)?

I will be glad at last just to be safe in my Father’s home. Simply to make it into His presence and to be with Jesus forever will be enough—that will be glory for me. I will be a brand plucked from the burning, a Saviour’s grace trophy, as will be every other redeemed person.

Yes, there is a heaven to win, a hell to shun. But God offers us much more. He invites us *even now* to know “joy unspeakable and full of glory” (1 Peter 1:8, 9, KJV), “eternal pleasures at [His] right hand” (Ps. 16:11). We don’t have to wait until Jesus comes back to enter into the “heavenly realm.” *Right now* we may sit with Christ right there (see Eph. 2:6); *right now* we may know His love that surpasses knowledge and be filled to the brim with the “fullness of God” (Eph. 3:19).

It is time to go deeper.

Going deeper starts with a passion to know God better, a passion to go deeper.

Listen to Paul’s hunger for God: “Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing

greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things" (Phil. 3:7, 8).

God's searchlight rakes my heart, and I have to ask: Do I have my priorities in order? Do I count knowing Christ the supreme goal of my life? Am I prepared to lose position, reputation, possessions, whatever—anything and everything, if God so wills—in order that Christ may be all in all?

And Paul goes on: "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead" (verses 10, 11). To know Christ better and better, to walk with Him in joy and in suffering, to be so closely bound in fellowship with Him that the masks fall off and the shallowness disappears and Christ lives in me—this is what it means to go deeper.

You may wonder, dear friend, if this spiritual quest can be realized only by shutting ourselves away from the world and devoting ourselves to lives of contemplation. Not at all! Paul, who so hungered and thirsted to know Christ better—this Paul was no monk. He lived a busy, active life, working with his hands making tents to support himself as he went from city to city preaching the good news about Jesus.

Jesus showed us the pattern for life in this world. Our Lord's days were packed with helping others—healing, feeding, teaching, blessing, preaching. We cry out, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God" (Ps. 42:1), but we find God as we give ourselves to others. We best follow Jesus as we seek to serve as He served.

This special issue of the *Adventist Review* is for people of all ages who want intimacy with God, who want to go deeper.

Some of you who read these pages are new Christians: maybe you found Jesus as your "forever friend" through Pastor Dwight Nelson's meetings last year. Others of you will be longtime followers of Jesus. Whatever your past, the way of intimacy with God is the same for all of us, and it is simple:

1. Take time to commune with God. Talk to Him and wait long enough to allow Him to talk to you.
2. Take time to feed on His messages—the Bible primarily, but also His counsels in the Spirit of Prophecy (I especially commend the book *Steps to Christ* to you for further reading).

3. Abide in Him by living for others as you share the good news and give yourself in loving service.

All the articles and testimonies that follow fall under these three categories: prayer, study, and service. All the writers share from the heart as they tell of their walk with Jesus.

Assistant editor Steve Chavez worked hard to gather the materials for this issue, and I am grateful to him. But most of all I thank our wonderful Lord, whose invitation still bids you and me: "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water'" (John 7:37, 38, RSV). ■

* Unless otherwise indicated, Bible texts are from the New International Version.

William G. Johnsson is executive publisher and editor of the Adventist Review.

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Richard W. O'Fill

Transforming Prayer

Praying
to become
rather than
to receive

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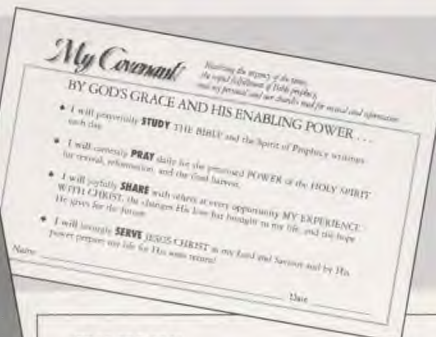
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Showers of Blessing

Why be satisfied with a few sprinkles?

BY RANDY MAXWELL

WHAT COULD GOD DO WITH PEOPLE committed to prayer? What scenes of salvation and power would we witness if we were to humble ourselves, seek God, turn from our wicked ways, and pray?

I believe that praying people will witness divine activity "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Eph. 3:20, NIV), because I witnessed one such move of God at a conference-sponsored prayer rally in London, England. What transpired that night in October of 1997 will forever stand out in my mind as an early shower preceding the pouring out of God's Spirit in end-time power.

The setting was the Advent Centre Seventh-day Adventist Church in central London. I had come at the invitation of Pastor Hamilton Williams, expecting a fairly typical prayer conference schedule of events. But God had other plans for us. He wanted to give us a glimpse of what happens when His people pray.

After leading the congregation in several seasons of prayer, Pastor Williams unexpectedly called for 40 "brave volunteers" to go out into the streets surrounding the church, give away *Focus* magazines (the British equivalent to *Signs of the Times*), and invite whomever they encountered to come inside the church to have their needs prayed for.

Pastor Williams then turned to the members of the youth choir and asked them to position themselves on the front steps of the church and lift their voices in spirited a capella singing, to create an air of excitement and curiosity among those passing by.

Those remaining in the church were instructed to pray for the teams going out and to be ready to pray for those who would be coming in from the streets. The Holy Spirit had impressed Pastor Williams with this impromptu plan, and I had learned of it only a few hours earlier on the ride from the airport. Only a handful of people knew what Pastor Williams intended to do. The choir and congregation were taken by complete surprise.

A feeling of expectancy filled the air as we watched the 40 volunteers, arms burdened with *Focus* magazines, leave the sanctuary and disperse into the night. The sound of our prayers on behalf of the volunteers and those they would encounter mingled with the sound of praises being sung from the choir just outside the front door. What would God do?

Within minutes the doors at the rear of the sanctuary opened, and people began coming in. The numbers were small at first, but slowly more and more people came, until we could barely keep pace with the prayer needs.

People responded readily to a simple invitation to come and be prayed for. "Prayer scouts" would bring the persons seeking prayer into the sanctuary and introduce them to the members standing by to pray. Someone from the prayer group would then ask the persons what they wanted prayer for, then prayer team members would surround the seekers, lay hands on them, and pray for their need. Afterward the seekers were invited to stay for the rest of the meeting or leave if they so desired; there was no pressure. As Pastor Williams said: "Our purpose is to present these people to God, seek His favor and blessing on their behalf, and in so doing, introduce them to Jesus Christ, the lover of their souls."



A young man concerned about his grades in college, a father worried about his 18-month-old daughter's recovery from eye surgery, two business partners wanting to close a deal successfully, a weeping grandmother who couldn't find words to express her deep need, a young woman looking for happiness and peace, a couple requesting prayer for their infant son—these are a sampling of the souls who crossed over the invisible but often formidable barrier that so often shuts off the church from the world around it, and received a touch from God.

Later when the choir and prayer scouts finished their ministry and returned inside, the prayer conference resumed, but it certainly wasn't "business as usual." Once again the Holy Spirit preempted the planned program. I took the platform to speak, but instead felt impressed that God wanted an appeal for salvation made right then—before I spoke.

Several "street people" had remained, and Pastor Williams invited those who wanted to acknowledge their need of God and receive His gift of salvation to come to the altar. While the congregation sang, six or seven responded.

Some came sobbing, as did a young man with long blond hair, smelling of alcohol, sitting with head buried in his lap as he sat on the altar steps, crying out for God to come into his life. God granted me the privilege and honor of praying with this young man and his brother. In their brokenness I was given a glimpse of God's glory, and as I led these young men to Jesus, I realized that I was standing, with them and everyone else in that building, on holy ground.

The conference continued until nearly 11:00 that evening, yet no one seemed to mind. God's hand had been seen in the events of the evening. Jesus had been exalted and had placed His seal of approval on the prayer gathering by bringing the attendees into close personal contact with people who had real needs. Dozens of people who had no prior contact with the church came in and opened their hearts to God and to His praying people. That night God showed me once again that He is real and that He stands ready to respond to the prayers of His people.

Can we expect to experience revival in our lifetime? Yes. But God's revival power is not limited to corporate prayer gatherings. God is in the micro as well as in the macro aspects of life. True revival begins one person at a time—you and me on our knees before God, seeking more grace, more awareness of need, and more faith to believe that with Him all things are possible.

Now is the time to get closer to God by establishing a consistent prayer life. Write your prayers to God in a journal, sing praises to Him in your car, worship Him in silence, and experiment with the countless forms of prayer that will add freshness and vitality to your relationship with God.

Can it happen? Ask yourself: Why not here? Why not me? Why not now?

The place of prayer is where the action is. Get involved. It's beginning to "rain." ■

Randy Maxwell is director of creative advertising at Pacific Press Publishing Association in Nampa, Idaho.

Like an Open Book

My most vivid memory of prayer is from a Sabbath afternoon in March 1982. I was almost 13 years old, begging God to spare my father's life. I promised to be a better daughter, Christian—whatever—in order to strike a deal that would enable my father to be with us once again. When I had no more tears to cry, I got up feeling certain that my father would be fine.

When we went back to the intensive-care unit, I learned that my father had passed away the very moment I felt my prayers were being answered. I was heartbroken.

Over the next 10 years my prayer life reflected my feelings of disappointment and abandonment, with a few scattered moments of closeness and sincerity.

At the seminary I realized how angry and hurt I was: angry at God for having allowed my father to die, and hurt because I had lost all confidence in His ability to give me what I needed in life.

In a class on spiritual formation I learned to truly listen to God, to be comfort-

able being alone with Him. Previously I was so mad that I didn't want to talk to God. I had nothing to say to Him. But I finally allowed myself to express my feelings openly. I told Him exactly how I felt; I held nothing back. And I finally got to hear what God had to say for Himself for having hurt me so deeply.

When I finished, my instructor, Delcy Kuhlman, asked me to do something very strange. She asked me to visualize myself in the hospital the day my father died, and in my imagination picture Jesus there also. It was difficult, but I began to see, hear, and feel Jesus' presence on that terrible day.

I imagined that His arms had been around me. "I'm so sorry" was all He could say. I realized how much I meant to Him, how He had been trying to reach me, but I had not been listening. My faith in God was restored, and I felt embraced and loved. My prayer life, my spiritual life, was changed forever.

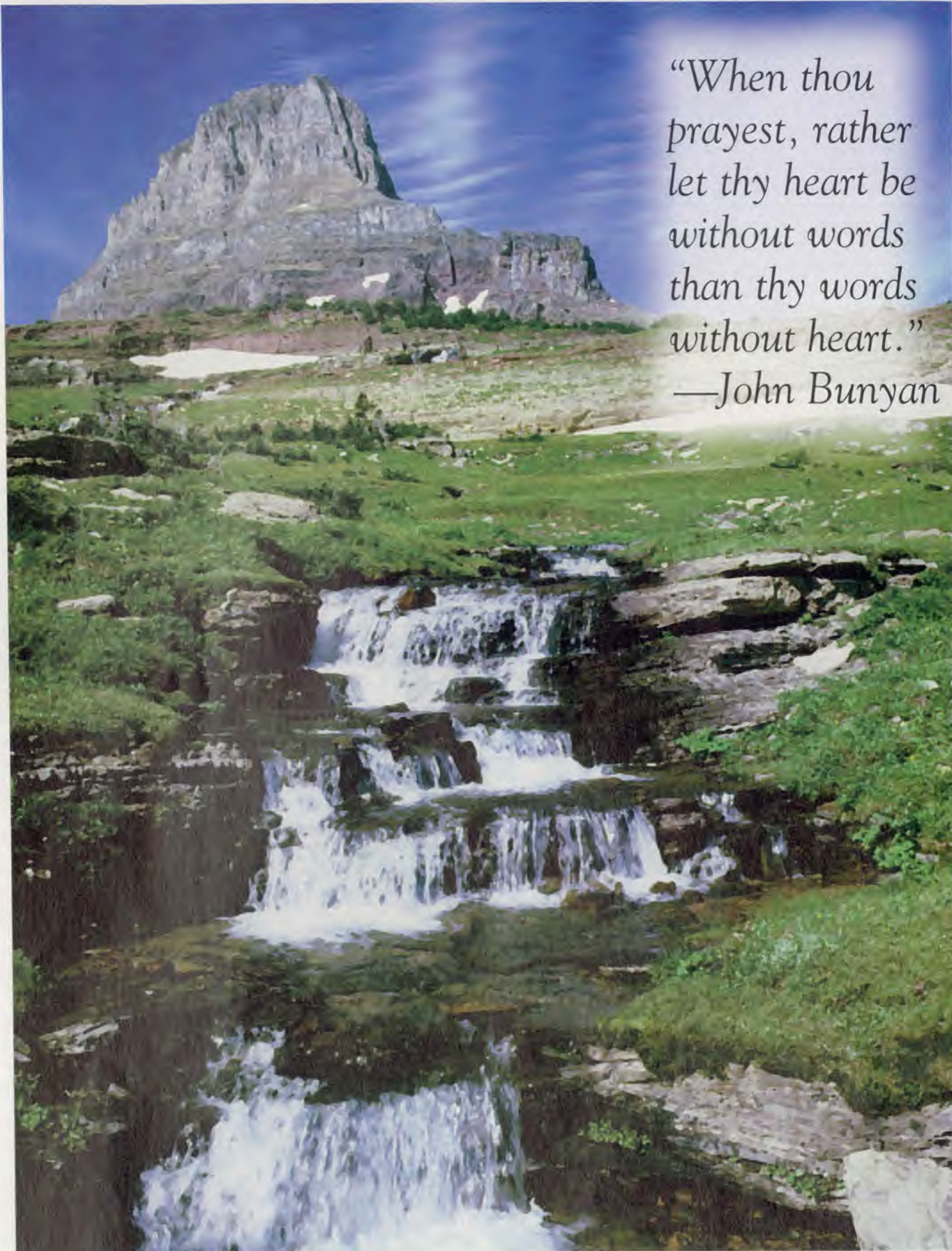
I now listen to what God is trying to tell me. I try to see how He has been working in and around me. I'm able to feel His love for me even when I think I'm unworthy. My life is a constant prayer. I talk to Him everywhere I go, and I listen to what He says.

I'm an open book with God, and this includes my many faults, weaknesses, and failures. Yet in spite of all the negatives in my life, He still loves me, and this knowledge frees me to have an open and honest prayer life with my wonderful God.

I've learned to allow time for silence (see Ps. 46:10) so that God can share Himself with me. My happiest and most peaceful times are when I'm spending time alone with God. My journey has not been a perfect one, but it's been a rewarding one. And I thank God for it. ■

By M. Carmen Ibañez, an associate pastor of the Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Loma Linda, California.





*“When thou
prayest, rather
let thy heart be
without words
than thy words
without heart.”
—John Bunyan*

Forward on Our Knees

Eight years of prayer preparation, eight months of weekly prayer agendas, divine worship prayer services on four different dates, 24-hour prayer vigils, and 12 to 25 pray-ers pleading with God each night even as Pastor Dwight Nelson preached to the world—this is the news behind the news of NET '98.

The Pioneer Memorial church prayer circle swelled around the world to some 7,600 sites by faithful prayer warriors who believed that nothing is more beneficial than the “effectual fervent prayer” of the righteous (James 5:16). Here are a few highlights.

We were serving the postmeeting meal to the 40 translators, whose languages ranged from Afrikaans to Zulu, when the report came in that the signal wasn't going out for the whole Central time zone of the United States and Canada; hundreds of sites had blank screens. Immediately several prayer warriors dropped everything and went into the Adventist Communication Network (ACN) command center and prayed. Troubleshooters worked deftly, telephone operators answered frantic calls, and prayer warriors interceded for divine intervention. Scarcely had we finished praying when the good news echoed, “We're back on line!” Then, “Praise God!”

In Papua New Guinea crowds surged to more than 100,000 as prayer power obtained promises, filled stadiums, and controlled weather for the honor and glory of God. Elsewhere attendees were counted by dozens instead of tens of thousands, but still God was there.

Miracles of faith are still being written. By faith lightning felled a mighty oak in Goettingen, Germany, clearing the way to bring the satellite signal without interference.

When lightning knocked out the electricity for the city of Bloemfontein, capital of Orange Free State, Republic of South Africa, the lights remained on in only one place—the crowded Seventh-day Adventist church that was airing NET '98.

A woman in Romania, disabled with a nerve and muscle disorder, was brought to the NET '98 meeting. She responded to the invitation to accept Jesus as her personal Saviour and returned home without assistance, rejoicing in her spiritual and physical healing.

When the local organizers in a U.S. city had difficulty tuning in to the satellite, they heard a voice say, “Your system needs to be recalibrated.” Sure enough, it did. When the technician called to report this to Coral Jannsen of ACN, she responded, “There's nothing in your system that would audibly tell you that your system would need to be recalibrated.” Then she added, “It must've been an angel.”

Hanging high over the front left entrance to the sanctuary of the Pioneer Memorial church is a beautiful banner. In the background is a picture of Jesus. Written in large golden letters is the congregation's motto: “Forward on Our Knees.” It's a reminder not only to ask God for His mercies, but to praise Him for the miracles that He has, and is, accomplishing around the world. As the curtain is drawn on the final drama on Planet Earth, by faith we go “forward on our knees.” ■

“If we want great things to happen in our life, we must make great effort to ascend the mountain and pray.”

—John Michael Talbot



By John and Millie Youngberg, prayer coordinators at the Pioneer Memorial church on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

What If . . .

It had been a rough evening in my college class. My coteacher, a first-time college instructor, had thoroughly frustrated the class by giving an assignment so vague that none of us could figure it out, including me. Feeling the rising tension in the room, I heard some rude muttering going on behind me that was calculated to reach the contract teacher's ears in tone if not words.

After class the students left with "little black clouds over their heads." A few stopped by to talk to my coteacher. Suddenly there was a thundering roar from the hallway outside: *Stomp, stomp, stomp!* and then a wordless roar of frustration. I couldn't investigate at the moment, but I knew it had to be the three malcontents who had been sitting behind me.

I tried to maintain perspective as I talked over the assignment with the contract teacher and gave her some pointers about clarifying her expectations, but as time wore on, I got angrier and angrier at the rudeness demonstrated by my students. Soon they would be student teaching and then dealing with superiors in their first jobs; as professionals they would not be able to stomp around and yell when they got mad. Before leaving my office for home at 10:00, I sent a terse e-mail to the three, asking that they stay to meet after their next class with me. Then I went home and grumped.

The next morning I realized during my worship time that I was still angry at the students. "Lord," I prayed, "this anger makes me an ugly person, and I don't like how I feel. I'm sorry. I need wisdom to talk to those three students with kindness."

How do you know it was those students? The impression hit me like a brick.

Who else? I wondered.

But the question persisted. I had opened up my life to God for this new day, handed over my anger, and now I needed to follow His leading. My mind's eye ranged across the faces of our class and suddenly stopped on a student who never

caused problems. *I'll call her, I thought, and see if she can confirm the identity of the stompers and yellers.*

And so it was that I was humbled yet again. I called my model student, asked if she'd seen the students who acted so rudely, and heard her say in deep embarrassment, "It was Jenny and me." It had not been my three "grumblers" at all!

What if I hadn't kept my daily appointment with God? What if I had not confessed my anger and asked God for wisdom that morning? What if I had told off the "grumblers" for something they didn't do? I shudder to think of the damage I could have caused. My deepest longing is that God will fill me anew each day, forgive my faults, and overrule my petty human nature to accomplish His work through me. ■

By Ginger Ketting, an associate professor in the Education Department at Pacific Union College, Angwin, California.



The Shepherd's Voice

Modern-day miracles—what are they? Why can't I ever remember seeing one? It's always been hard for me to carry on a conversation with God. I'm a social person; to have a relationship with someone I can't see takes more than a little faith.

In September 1997 God revealed Himself to me in a way that I never expected, revitalizing my walk with Him, enhancing it in a beautiful way. That's when I left the safety of a small town in Michigan to attend school in Spain. At the airport my family sent me off with tears in their eyes, but more important, with prayers in their hearts. As I sat in the plane, I felt an unexplainable calm wash over me. God seemed to say, "Don't worry, Katie. Everything will be all right. Just rely on Me."

The next morning we arrived in Madrid an hour late. My flight to Valencia was scheduled to take off in only 50 minutes. *How long can it take to get my passport stamped and find the right gate?* I wondered. As I got off the plane, I whispered a short prayer that everything would be OK, mentally reciting Psalm 23—my prayer for protection—in an effort to reassure myself.

Following the crowd to a small booth, I asked where the flights to Valencia were departing from. The man behind the counter pointed downstairs with annoyance. *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want . . .* I kept repeating inside my head. The girl in the next line was also trying to find the flights to Valencia, and we started off in the same direction.

"What are you doing in Valencia?" I asked the mystery girl.

"I'm going to study in a little town called Sagunto," she replied.

"Really!" I exclaimed with excitement. "That's where I'm going! Isn't God good?" *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want . . .*

I never actually said "Lord, help me!" but He knew. Krista, my God-sent companion, and I still recall that day with awe. After we went downstairs to the real passport line, we offered up a small prayer for guidance and protection.

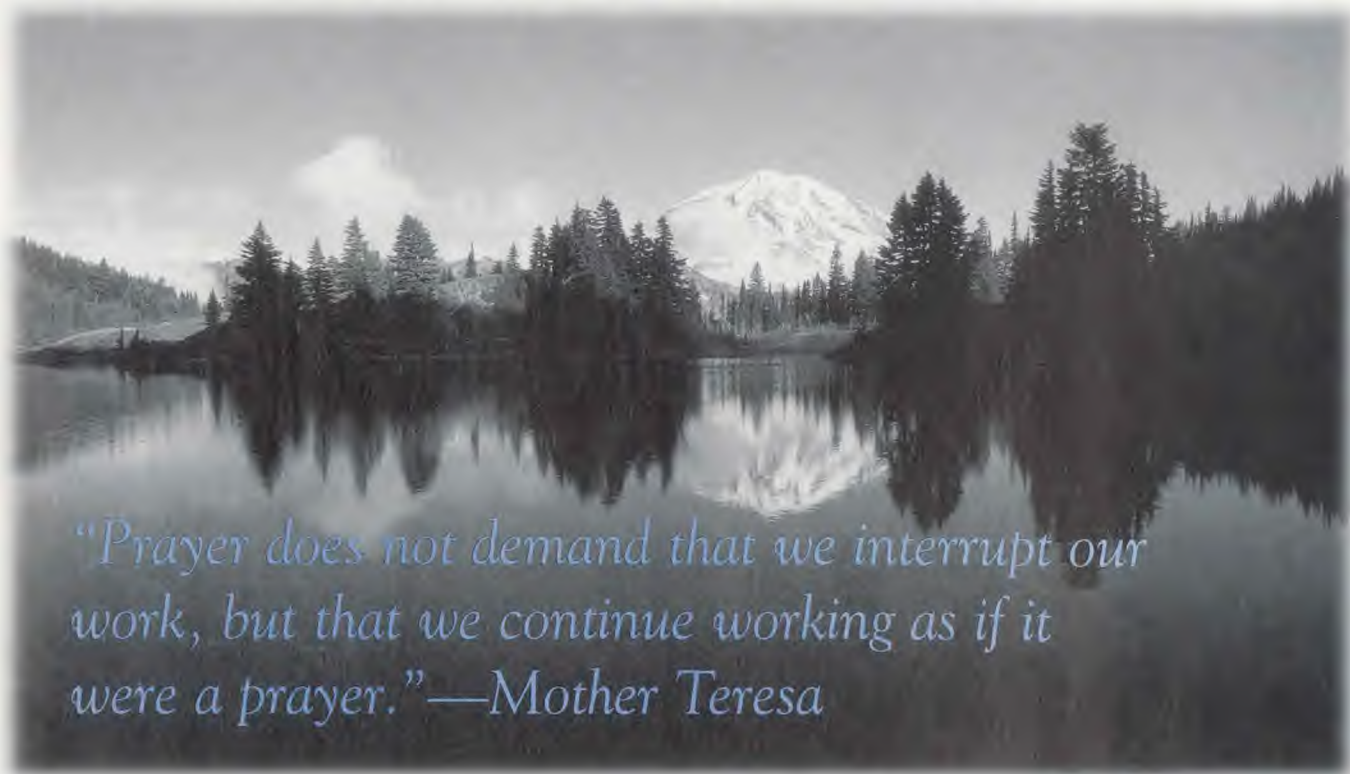
The Lord has promised: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20, RSV).

He not only kept us safe in the airport and made sure we had no more setbacks, but when we arrived in Valencia, we discovered that our luggage had beaten us, with some very important medical equipment I was concerned about. God took care of everything.

Modern-day miracles? I now know exactly what they are. They aren't necessarily flashes of lightning across the sky; they're things that seem small in hindsight, but in fact have God's fingerprints all over them.

I still get frustrated with my prayer life sometimes, but I have evidence that God hears me and knows when I am in need. *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. . . .* ■

By Katie Widner, a junior English major at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



"Prayer does not demand that we interrupt our work, but that we continue working as if it were a prayer."—Mother Teresa

Safe Passages

As the plane lifted into the sky, I leaned my head against the window and reflected on the past two weeks. Unexpected out-of-town company over the holiday weekend led into three full days of meetings at work that increased my working hours, all in the absence of my husband, who was away at a conference. Now this unanticipated trip was proving the proverbial straw weighing heavily on my back.

We banked to the left, and the sun shimmered off the Pacific Ocean. "Lord," I prayed, "please send Your angels to bear this airplane safely to our destination. And please make this a smooth flight, one without turbulence."

The words caught in my mind. That seemed to have been my prayer for months. Circumstances had caused my normally peaceful existence to be extremely turbulent over the past few months. "Lord, deliver me from these circumstances. Let me just be happy. Give me smooth sailing. Bring peace." But nothing seemed to transform me or the situations.

Maybe I'm praying the wrong prayer, I thought. Instead of praying for peace, perhaps I should be praying for strength to sustain me. Maybe instead of praying for a smooth ride, I should be praying for shock absorbers necessary to travel the road. Maybe instead of deliverance, I should be praying for understanding and growth. Maybe my prayers should have been "Thy will be done, Lord, not mine."

As we neared cruising altitude, I felt my body relax. My eyes closed, and I realized for the first time in a while that God had been carrying me all along. With that assurance I dozed in a peaceful sleep, confident that He would carry me into the future, whatever came my way. ■

By Becki Patten, a freelance writer and marketing specialist who lives in Chula Vista, California.

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For the Thirsty Soul

A personal retreat may be just the ticket.

BY ELLA M. RYDZEWSKI

"O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you" (Ps. 63:1, NIV).

I REMEMBER THE FALL DAY I ATTENDED MY first spiritual retreat. I don't mean the social time-outs by church organizations, I mean planned time to drink deeply from God's refreshing springs—to escape the "dry and weary land where there is no water" (Ps. 63:1, NIV) and seek a place of beholding His power and glory (verse 2).

Pastor Steve preached about times he spent alone with God—of how God gave him new insights or pointed out unnoticed sins. Even though I often felt God's presence, I thirsted for more of that kind of spirituality. I attended the first retreat that Pastor Steve held for members. Like Sabbaths, retreats are a sanctuary in time. But unlike Sabbaths, we leave the fellowship of family and friends to be alone with God.

Ever since then I've taken periodic personal retreats. Some have been spiritual highs and others flat. That doesn't matter. I don't take retreats to obtain good feelings. Not only would this be self-serving, but God often comes closer to us when we faithfully seek Him despite our feelings.

Spending time in this kind of intimacy with God precedes effective service and a victorious life. A personal retreat with our wonderful Saviour can change you and those you pray for.

Preparation

Pray for this retreat when it is just a seed in your mind. Recognize that God is inviting you to meet with Him. Put your retreat day on the calendar. Notify your employer of this "vacation day," arrange baby-sitting, plan supper (or eat out) so that you needn't hurry home. This appointment shouldn't be canceled for minor reasons.

Place

No matter where you live, get out of your house, with its distractions. A natural or park setting is best. You'll need a place for sitting, walking, and eating. (For those who are able, fasting is suggested, but not for your first retreat.) Many churches have camps or retreat centers that cater to those seeking solace and intentional communion with God.

Things to Take

I take my Bible. I also





like to have two or three favorite devotional books, pen and paper, and plenty of drinking water. If you're not fasting, take your lunch (don't eat out).

Structure

Time can be structured or unstructured. Personally, I need structure. I've been enriched by trying different retreat formats, but I find Jesus' answer to His disciples when they asked Him how to pray to be the most helpful. So I spend the day meditating on the Lord's Prayer recorded in Matthew 6:9-13.

"Our Father which art in heaven." Begin by addressing God, acknowledging His existence and your relationship to Him.

"Hallowed be thy name." Recognize His character, righteousness, and love. Turn to the Psalms and read them aloud. Sing psalms or favorite hymns. Praise God until you're ready to go to the next step. (You may need to set time limits on the various phases of your retreat.)

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done." Here we not only welcome God's kingdom into our hearts; we acknowledge the Second Coming. In asking that God's will be done, we choose to trust Him with everything. List the things you need to trust God with.

"In earth, as it is in heaven." God's will is always good. His will is not the sorrow, death, and pain that we know on the earth now; none of these things exist in heaven. We trust His will to be done in a new earth that is just like heaven. Think of how heaven might look and the people we will meet there.

"Give us this day our daily bread." We need food to function, as do our families and friends. We bring to God the loved ones we want Him to bless. Intercessory prayer can be difficult, for how do we know what to pray for when it comes to those God has put in our lives? But we've been told to pray for one another, to ask God to meet needs that are physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional. If you know of a specific problem, turn it over to God.

"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Next we admit to God our selfish mistakes. And then comes the hard part—"as we forgive." We go over our days to see if we find debts we haven't forgiven. Do we have grudges, resentments? Is there someone we think we can't forgive because the wound is too

deep? Even if they've never asked, can we forgive these debts?

"Lead us not into temptation." Giving in to temptation feels good momentarily, but the results can last a lifetime. Temptation includes addictions to a host of things—all bad habits.

"Deliver us from evil." Many of us tend to gloss over the evils that haunt us (or dwell too much on them). Maybe it's worry, depression, a child's drug habit, a dreaded illness (real or imagined). What is the greatest evil in our lives? Only God can deliver. We ask Him to protect us and lift our worries.

"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever." We acknowledge His mighty power. We think of how God has worked in our lives. This is the time for big dreams—of what we could do with and for God.

After the prayer I often read more of the Bible and/or a devotional book. You can read a book of the Bible, making notes as you go. You might paraphrase the book of John, as I did one day.

You can also visualize a Bible story, picturing scenes, sounds, smells, and textures. In *The Desire of Ages* Ellen White urged us to spend a "thoughtful hour each day" on the scenes of Christ's life, especially His trial and crucifixion.¹

The late Roger Morneau was the ultimate Adventist prayer warrior. He had a prayer tower of requests from all over the world. He read the Crucifixion story in Matthew 27 every day before praying, asking that Christ's blood cover the sins of those for whom he prayed.² To see "Christ, and Him crucified," as well as His resurrection has a place in every personal retreat.

These ideas are presented as springboards to plan a personal retreat. Retreats enrich and renew the spiritual life. Depending on how God works with you, the results may be immediate or gradual. The trust you have in Him will see you through good times and sad times. ■

¹ Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 83. (She encourages imaginative meditation here as well as in other places.)

² "A Talk With Roger Morneau," *Adventist Review*, May 29, 1997.

Ella Rydzewski is editorial assistant for the *Adventist Review*.

His Life, His Book

I was dissatisfied and adrift, but the Bible brought stability to my life and changed me forever.

BY JACK J. BLANCO

IT SEEMED LIKE A DREAM. I SAT STARING AT the open pages of a book—God’s Book. For a moment my mind drifted back to my mother. Single parent. Father gone. Chicago tenement housing. Catholic grade school. Germany. Caught in the Nazi war machine. Hunger. Loneliness. Beatings. Ovens. Where was God?

Then home again. Precious freedom. How good that Lady of Liberty looked in New York Harbor. Family. Friends. The church? Who needs it? Individualism. The university. The elated feeling of rationalism. Partying.

Then down and out. Jesus! And oh, yes, the Book. His Book. There I sat holding it in my hand, reading its precious pages.

What did the Book do for me? That’s really the wrong question, because it all began with a Man called Jesus. Then came the Book.

Dissatisfied with my life and with no sense of direction, I sat on the edge of my barracks bunk looking for something to fill my inner void. Where were the men of loyalty, honesty, and trustworthiness after whom I could emulate and model my life? Somehow I felt so all alone, adrift on a sea of meaninglessness.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, came what seemed an audible voice: “There is Someone like that. His name is Jesus.” My response—prompted by the Holy Spirit—was immediate: “Why didn’t I think of that? Yes! That’s right! He’s the one to follow!” And instantly peace flooded my soul.

How I longed to follow Him. If only I had lived 2,000 years ago. To walk with Him and talk with Him—what joy! As I mused about this instant insight, I thought dejectedly:

But that was then. Yet that same voice seemed to say to me: “He’s not dead! He’s alive! You can follow Him now.”

I again responded: “That’s right! He’s here! Yes, I will follow Him! I will!”

From this personal encounter Jesus led me to His Book. He wanted me to have something objective to hold on to, something solid, guidelines and rules on which to build our relationship. For I knew that there could be no meaningful relationship without some kind of rules.

It began in the military library. I was searching for a Bible, a book I had never seen. But there was *Bible Readings*. What I read made sense. I thought I was reading the Bible, but soon I found out that it had only been cataloged and labeled “the Bible.” Shipped to the Pacific, I was introduced to the Bible by a fellow soldier. It was in this Book that I found the story of Jesus and the rules a follower of His should live by.

What has this precious Book done for me? How has it changed my life? Completely. In Jesus’ presence smoking, drinking, partying, and use of foul language seemed incongruent with what I read about Him in His Book. Honesty, loyalty, obedience, and service for Him took priority.

From His Book I learned that He was the one who created all things, set apart the Sabbath, and gave us the Ten Commandments. I also learned from His Book the importance of diet, cleanliness, and modesty. My body was now His temple and was to be kept free from everything that would not bring praise to Him.



What else did His Book do for me? It increased my thirst for more. Total immersion—from Genesis to Revelation—became the driving force. Through His Book He led me to His church, followed by an overwhelming conviction of a call to ministry to share with others the good news of salvation. The Book propelled me forward. It was Jesus, I read, who had said, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62, NIV).

Now His Book is my life, my foundation, and my “friend” because it is His Book and it always tells me about Him. Through it He talks to me and tells me what happened in the past—because He was there. What happened to Him while He was here. What happened in Gethsemane and Calvary. He tells me that He loves me. That I have been forgiven and I belong to Him. That salvation is a free gift from God to me and that I don’t have to earn it, just not lose it. The conditions, He tells me, are simple: love Him and obey Him (John 14:15; 15:14).

He also tells me about the future, what will happen in the time of the end. And I believe every word He says. Sometimes our conversation is long, sometimes short. His Book is the satellite dish through which we communicate. To talk with Him is to know Him, and to know Him is life eternal (John 17:3).

Without His Book I would once again be adrift, not this time on a sea of meaninglessness, but on a sea of relativity and relational religiosity. His Book has been a “lamp unto my

feet, and a light unto my path” (Ps. 119:105). In matters of morality it gives me more “understanding than all my teachers” (verse 99) and leads me in all the “right paths” (Prov. 4:11). In one sense my continuous walk with Him is no different from our initial meeting—from Him to His Book and back again. That’s how it was and continues to be.

Easy? No! Delightful at times but not always? True. Important? Yes! But how do you put into words an intimate relationship with someone and what it is doing for you? Multiply adjectives? Add superlatives? Yes, you could, but such a relationship grows as silently and mysteriously as the trees in the forest. Yet they are there, and they do grow. How do they grow? By taking in the moisture and the sunshine that God provides.

To seek Him and find Him in His Book has anchored our relationship and created in me a desire, an intense longing, to personally meet the One who loved me and gave His life for me before I ever knew Him. I love Him more than anything. Yes, more than anyone or anything else. I want to continue to do so, because someday I will see Him face-to-face, and what an awesome moment that will be. And my heart will sing forever. ■

Jack J. Blanco is dean of the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

It Grows on You

All my life I've struggled with spiritual exercises. Having grown up in an Adventist home, I don't have one of those amazing "I found God" stories. Whenever someone tells that kind of story, they're always so passionate. I always wanted the passion they had.

To find that passion, one has to grow closer to God. And to get closer to Him, I needed to spend time with Him, reading the Bible and praying. Yet even though I knew it, I couldn't stick with it. I'd decide to read a chapter of the Bible every morning, but it never lasted. I'd just lose interest.

My life began to change when I came to Walla Walla College. A month into the school year I met Daniel, a friend of a friend. We started spending time together, and our friendship eventually developed into a romantic relationship.

Though our relationship progressed emotionally and mentally, we found our spiritual development lacking. We wanted to do something about it, but we didn't know what to do. We tried to read the Bible together a few times, but the awkwardness of sudden spiritual intimacy left us feeling anything but refreshed.

During summer vacation we e-mailed each other almost every night. Being separated allowed us to gain a better perspective of each other. We decided that we wanted to meet daily and spend time with God. When we saw each other at the end of the summer, we made a point to get up early and read the Bible together. At first it was still awkward, especially praying. But as time went on, we became more comfortable.

We now meet faithfully every morning before 8:00 classes. It's important to us. Why? We're looking forward to a happy future together, and we don't want

to do it without God.

I'll tell you something you already know: find someone to study with or be accountable to. I'd heard it too, but I always felt too embarrassed to reveal that part of me to another person—perhaps because I felt deficient. Until I realized just how important God is in my life, I wasn't willing to share. I felt like hiding.

But Daniel and I committed ourselves to being passionate about God anyway, and it's been worth it. Our relationships with God and each other have improved. We now seek God's will for our lives every day. We've found a key to happiness, just as God intended. ■

By Sarah Kramer, a sophomore studying graphic design at Walla Walla College in College Place, Washington.



Falling in Love Again

Ezekiel did it. As I read his thundering curses on nations, with God—his cosmic Mr. Clean—wiping inhabitants off the geographical tabletop, I slammed the book shut in a rage. “What’s the point?” I fumed. “Who will know what You did when You’re done?” The latter was aimed at God.

I angrily tapped the back of the Bible with my forefinger, glaring at the troublesome Book. This latest intrusion on the canvas of my God portrait was most uncomfortable. I have puzzled over many hard-to-explain acts of God. At times I’m confused, fascinated, skeptical, or angry. Why give life to a corpse dropped on Elisha’s bones? Or use a witch to render sentence on a wayward king? Or close up the wombs of a nation’s women to get a liar out of trouble? I felt like arguing with God.

Yet a Bible mite is voracious. Examine one, and dozens begin to crawl about. They are tiresome yet compelling, so I continue to look, but to no useful end. Mites are far removed from real living. I’ve worn myself out trying to beat them out of my life.

Until today.

A close friend stopped by. He needed to talk. We sat on the porch, each holding a cold soda. Married less than a year, he lamented the end of his honeymoon. His case was well prepared: he listed her faults, venting about all those petty annoying things she did, flinging his glass back and forth vigorously, spilling soda as he drained his emotions. A dirty sock had grown into a reason for divorce, or, as he saw it, virtual annulment.

The catharsis ended, and he was exhausted. I began talking about things we’d done a year ago, places we went, things we did. Slowly I included his then-fiancée. He responded with a chuckle at first, then a laugh; soon he was reliving his own tales. Then he mused quietly, “Those were fun days, weren’t they? What’s happened to me?”

“Less than a year ago she was the most wonderful and gorgeous woman you’d ever seen,” I replied. “You couldn’t imagine life without her. You just forgot.”

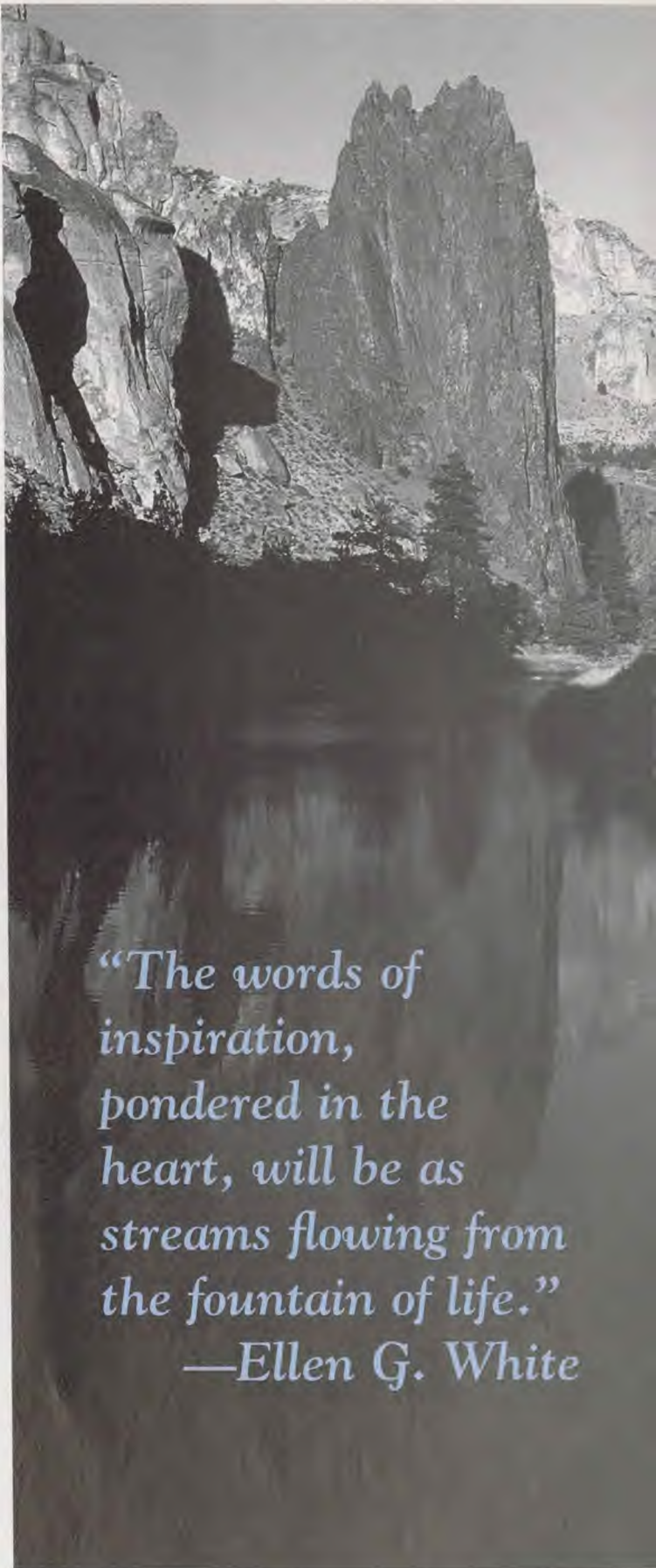
“You’re right, I did. She is. Wow! Hey, later, man.”

“Later.”

I waved him off, realizing that I too needed to refocus. Overwhelmed with prattle, piffle, and polemics, involved in controversies in which I have no business, I’d forgotten—forgotten that in spite of Bible mites, Jesus is.

I’ve determined to look away from the mites and behold the Lamb. Jesus was right: “On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you” (John 14:20, NIV). And it is here, all spiritually entangled, that I’ve fallen in love again. ■

By Mike Peterson, a freelance writer who lives in Citrus Heights, California.



“The words of inspiration, pondered in the heart, will be as streams flowing from the fountain of life.”
—Ellen G. White

Making the Most of It

So much of life is about attitude. It's true that "life is what you make it." That applies to our spiritual lives as well. Think about the words "Bible" and "study" for a moment. For some those words conjure up feelings of joy and comfort; for others, thoughts of dryness, boredom, and obligation.

So how can we overcome those barriers to Bible study? Well, it all comes down to attitude, and that's really what God looks for anyway. In God's eyes, *why* you do something is probably more important than *what* you do.

Sure, it's good that you read your Bible for 30 or 60 minutes, but more important is to ask: What happens during that time? Are you just reading and taking in information? Or are you spending time with the One who inspired those words? Dwight Moody is credited with saying, "The Bible was not given to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives."

Let me share some ways I've found to get myself in the right attitude to get the most I can from reading God's Word:

1. Expectancy. One of the first things I try to do is begin with some anticipation. If God wants to communicate with me and the primary way He does it is through His Word, then by being eager I'm putting myself in the best position for Him to speak to me.

We normally get what we expect. If you go to a social gathering expecting to have a good time, you probably will. If you don't think you will, you probably won't. David had an attitude of expectancy when he wrote: "O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you" (Ps. 63:1, NIV).

2. Reverence. In our fast-food, fast-paced lives, sometimes we aren't very

reverent. One of the best ways I've found to adjust into the right attitude is to not rush into God's presence.

I stop, take a deep breath, and let a quiet, restful moment clear away all of the thoughts racing around in my mind. The prophet Habakkuk touched on this attitude when he wrote: "The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him" (Hab. 2:20, NIV).

3. Alertness. Here's a handy tip: if your study time is first thing in the morning, don't be "quiet" too long. Get wide awake first. Remember that you're meeting with God, the Creator, the maker of heaven and earth. He deserves your full attention.

4. Willingness to obey. This attitude is crucial. Don't come to your study time with an attitude that you'll choose what you will or won't do. Rather come with the purpose of doing anything and every-

thing God wants you to do. Jesus said, "If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own" (John 7:17, NIV). Meet the Lord with the attitude of having already chosen to do His will—no matter what.

We all need an "attitude adjustment" from time to time, a deliberate choice we make to be open, honest, and ready to meet the One who loves us and wants to spend time with us. ■

By Michael Speegle, senior pastor of the Central Seventh-day Adventist Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado.



Fifteen Minutes With God

A Plan to Get You Started

1. Relax. (one minute)

Be still and quiet. Slow down and prepare your heart. Take a few deep breaths and wait on God. If it's the first thing in the morning, don't relax too long.

2. Read. (four minutes)

Read a section systematically, aloud, in a modern translation with no notes (yours or anyone else's). Begin by reading where you left off the day before. Read until you feel that God has told or taught you something; it might be a chapter or only a few verses. The point is not how much you read (coverage), but what you hear God saying (application).

3. Reflect. (four minutes)

Think about what the passage means to your life. Write down your thoughts. Part of reflecting includes memorizing verses that speak to you in a special way. A number of handy methods for reflecting can be found in books on applying the Bible to life.

4. Record. (two minutes)

Write out a personal application statement that is practical, possible, and measurable. If you can't say it or write it, you haven't thought about it enough. If you can write down an answer to the question "What am I going to do?" then you're a step closer to being a doer, and not just a hearer of the word (James 1:22).

5. Request. (four minutes)

Conclude your time in study by talking to God about what He has shown you and asking Him to help you put it into practice.

She Keeps Me Reading

If you've read the Bible, the Voice you hear when you read Ellen White's books may be familiar.

BY ESTHER F. RAMHARACKSINGH KNOTT

MOST OF THE BOOKS HAD A MAROON cover, some were black, but all had gold lettering. Each of us high school students was handed one of these books as we walked in the door of Brian Townsend's apartment. He was our physical education teacher, and his love for teaching and for his students even extended to Sabbath afternoons.

So here we were, seated in whatever space was available, all with a different book written by the same woman, Ellen White. Our first meeting with these books began when we wanted to understand better what Communion was all about, particularly the foot-washing service.

Then week after week the routine was simple: we'd all agree on a topic, look it up in the index of the book we had on our lap, and take turns sharing with the group the wisdom found in our particular volume.

As you might guess, our early interests included such topics as recreation and dress. We were thrilled to find "ammunition" to share with our parents. I'm sure they were amused when we came home quoting Ellen White to support our side of an argument.

I found Ellen White to be so balanced; just when my independent nature wanted to challenge some of

her counsel, I'd read something else with which I totally agreed. I'd be forced to think through my motives and find that God's servant did have a message to guide me. Thus began a devotional journey that has continued into my adult life.

As a freshman at Andrews University I remember sitting on the steps of Smith Hall. There a friend asked me what I had learned about God that day. The implication was that I would share something from my morning worship. In fact, I was struggling to make my devotional life a priority, but I found something to share after all: God was an important part of my life.

But as I made plans for the summer I realized that if my relationship with God was really to be a priority, I had to read His messages to me. My conversation with God went something like this: "God, I love You. I know I should spend time reading Your Word, but I find it difficult. I'm going to give You 30 minutes each day and ask You to work a miracle in my life. Please help me want to read Your Word. Let it make a difference in my life."

I fully expected God to answer instantly. For a week I struggled. I read my Bible, but in my youthful impatience and lack of contemplative and reflective skills I often missed the application. Then one morning I picked up





a book that my Smith Hall friend had given me. It had a black cover with gold letters, *The Great Controversy*. I decided to give it a try. As I read each chapter, I faithfully looked up all the texts that were referenced. Over the next few weeks I found my devotional time sometimes stretching to two hours. As I looked up the texts, I found myself reading longer portions of Scripture. With that came the disciplines of reflection, meditation, and listening for God's voice and His message for me.

Later that summer came the gift of *The Desire of Ages*. It seemed that God had shown Ellen White the original videos of the familiar Bible stories, and now she was sharing with me the behind-the-scenes subtleties, the hidden motives, and the ever-present hand of God moving on behalf of those He loves. I wanted more.

Fifteen years ago my spiritual journey took me to Washington, D.C., where I worked as the director for a special project in the Education Department of the North American Division called Catch the Vision. The goal was to educate K-12 students about our movement's early pioneers and how our church got started. Not having a natural interest in history, I had a lot of catching up to do. Paul Gordon, who at that time served in the White Estate, gave me lots of material to read. My first few months were spent absorbing information. But I soon found that my reading was not about information, but about transformation.

A pivotal moment came when I was reading about one of Ellen White's visions. It had come while she was traveling without her husband, James. Because he was very ill at home, Ellen was distressed about his condition. Then God gave her a vision in which she saw that James was all right.

As I sat at my desk, tears welled up in my eyes. For months I had been reading about many of Ellen White's visions—visions that have greatly impacted the church for

decades. But here was a vision that affected one woman for a brief moment of time. God cared about her anxiety, her distress. He loved her. That translated immediately into "He loves me." I felt an overwhelming sense of how special we are to God. This was the message that was being revealed in the pages of Mrs. White's book. I had to keep reading.

A few years ago a friend made the comment "Wouldn't you hate to be stuck in an elevator with Ellen White?" Somewhat puzzled, I asked her to explain. She felt that if she had some one-on-one time with God's prophet, God would take the opportunity to deliver a personal message to her, revealing all her sins.

The more my friend talked, the more excited I got about how great it would be to be stuck in an elevator with someone so close to God, and that perhaps God would have a special message for me, because He loves me so much and cares most about me being with Him forever. I longed for such an encounter.

As I read the inspired messages of Ellen White, I see that God does have a personal message for me. There's always something I can apply to my life, maybe not at that very moment, but there, stored in memory, waiting to be retrieved when I need it the most.

The greatest gift has been how Ellen White keeps me reading God's Word. The way I would sum up my devotional journey with Ellen White's writings is to borrow a quote from William Miller. When he reviewed his life and his journey from being a deist to a Christian he said: "The Scriptures became my delight, and in Jesus I found a friend." ■

Esther F. Ramharacksingh Knott is an associate pastor at Pioneer Memorial church, on the campus of Andrews University.

Good Counsel

I'm overwhelmed by God's love. Jesus' words, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him [including me] shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NIV) fill me with joy.

But this knowledge becomes even more precious when I read these words from God's messenger, Ellen White: "The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 100).

That's mind-boggling—almost inconceivable. How can God, with a complex universe to care for, be concerned with me and my relatively insignificant needs?

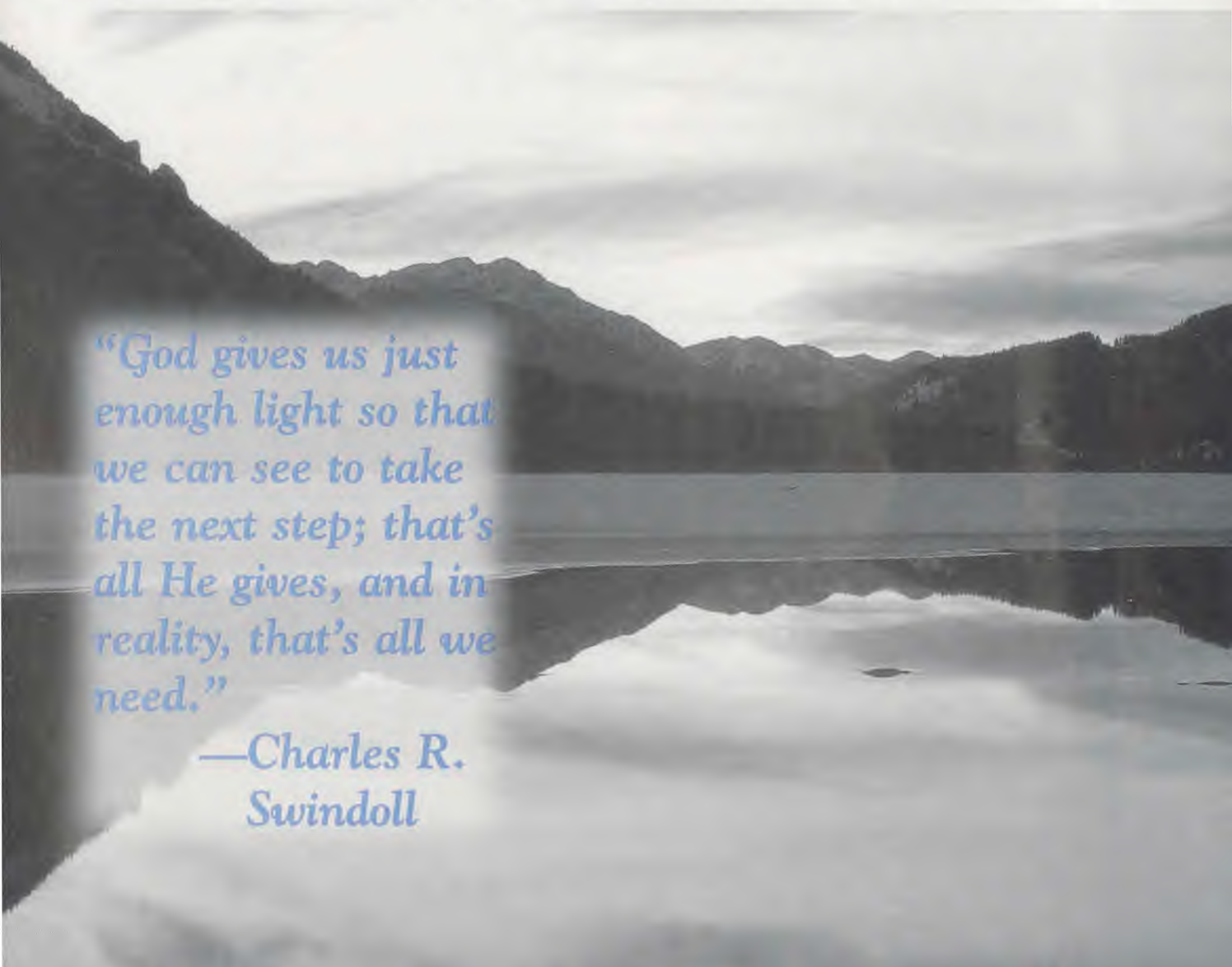
Yet I know He is. The full force of these words was made very plain to me one Friday night in June 1939.

My brothers and sisters and I grew up in New York City's concrete jungle. Thoughts of open fields to run in or horses and cows to care for and feed were only imaginary. Family finances on the heels of the Great Depression didn't provide for trips to the country. Still, I decided to ask God to make it possible for me to attend camp in the

Southern New England Conference (the Greater New York Conference didn't yet have a camp).

I might as well have asked for the moon. The camp was being held in Massachusetts—two whole states away from Brooklyn, New York. Still, propelled by the assurance I had received from reading that God cared for me "as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare," I knelt by my bed and asked God to make it possible, if it would be in harmony with His will for me.

As I prayed, a knock sounded on our apartment door. My mother



"God gives us just enough light so that we can see to take the next step; that's all He gives, and in reality, that's all we need."

—Charles R.
Swindoll

answered and was met by one of the young adults from the Washington Avenue church, who announced, "Our young people's society has just voted to use some of our funds to send Alice to junior camp in the Southern New England Conference."

From my bedroom I overheard the entire conversation. As my mother thanked the young man and closed the door, I ended my prayer with a big "thank You" to the God who had said, "Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear" (Isa. 65:24, NIV).

Jesus told His disciples that He wanted their joy to be full (John 15:11). Although the great controversy between Christ and Satan still rages, God's people can rejoice and be joyful. Notice these encouraging words from Ellen White: "Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. . . . Nothing that in any way concerns our peace [our joy, our happiness] is too small for Him to notice" (*ibid.*).

As I reflect over six and a half decades of reading the Bible along with Ellen White's books and articles, I can think of

many decisions and actions that were directed by what I read. Those decisions have directed my life to this point and enable me to continue living for Jesus each day. ■

By Alice R. Voorheis, retired director of education for the Gulf States Conference, who lives in Collegedale, Tennessee. She serves as volunteer president for Adventist Heritage Ministry.

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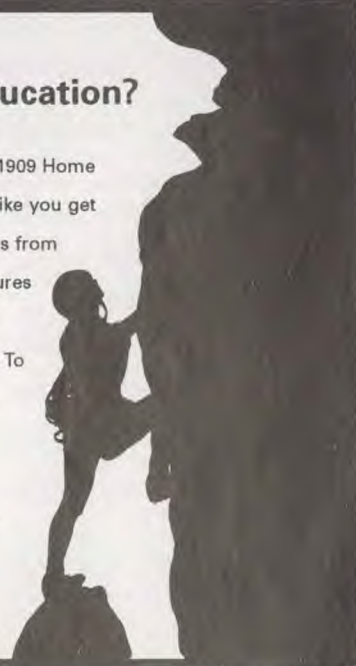
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THE

LOMA LINDA REPORT

Two hundred patients treated daily at Proton Treatment

Loma Linda University Medical Center's department of radiation medicine recently increased the number of patients treated to 100 proton therapy and 100 photon therapy patients per day.

For the physicians, physicists, engineers, and computer scientists who helped build the facility, reaching 200 patients per day was a significant achievement.

At an event held to mark this milestone, Jerry D. Slater, MD, associate professor of radiation medicine and clinical director of the department, recalled the years when treating such a high volume of patients with precision proton therapy was considered impossible.

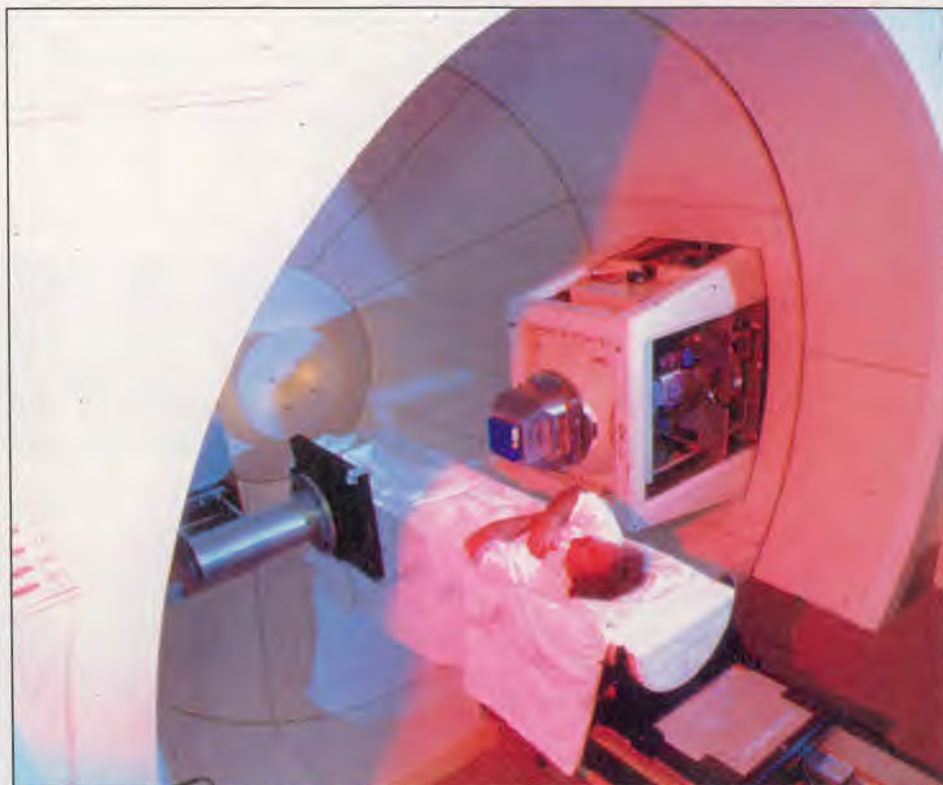
"By treating 100 proton patients and 100 photon patients per day at Loma Linda, we have reached a goal that was set many years ago. A lot of people were skeptical that it could be done, but we did it," said Dr. Jerry Slater.

James M. Slater, MD, FACR, chair, department of radiation medicine and head of the Proton Treatment Center, thanked the staff for its efforts.

"You made it happen. None of this could have been achieved without the hard work of every single one of you," Dr. James Slater said.

The rising patient numbers reflect the increased efficiency of proton therapy at LLUMC. Treatments that once took half a day now take 20 to 30 minutes. In the first full year of operation, the department treated 53 proton patients; last year 760 proton patients received treatment.

Rapid patient treatments make



Health-care personnel at Loma Linda University Proton Treatment Center now treat up to 200 patients per day in the facility.

patients more comfortable, and allow more people to benefit from proton therapy. In addition, efficiency enhances the cost-effectiveness of the modality, which may encourage construction of new proton facilities worldwide, a development which would bring the benefits of proton therapy to a wider population.

Protons now target lung cancer

More than 170,000 Americans were expected to be diagnosed with lung cancer in 1998. Despite technical advances in surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy, long-term survival rates remain discouragingly low (14 percent at 5 years). Chances of a cure are particularly low for patients too sick to undergo surgery.

The best results are obtained in

patients whose tumors are small enough to be surgically resected. However, because of heart, lung, and other medical problems, only about 20 percent of patients can be treated with surgery.

At the Proton Treatment Center, a clinical study is now under way to treat many such patients using proton radiation therapy. The clinical study, begun in 1994, gives patients with early-stage, medically inoperable lung cancer an alternative to conventional radiation therapy.

Conventional radiation therapy (x-ray or photon therapy) is frequently used in these cases, but injury to normal lung tissue often results. The potential consequences of radiation injury to normal tissues are amplified by the patients' poor health. Many have

Information for this section is supplied by the Loma Linda University Medical Center office of public affairs.

"FULFILLING THE VISION"

Please turn to next page

emphysema and other medical problems, and routinely suffer from breathing difficulties, severe coughs, chest pain, weight loss, and fatigue.

"Many of these patients are very sick," says David A. Bush, MD, assistant professor of radiation medicine at Loma Linda University School of Medicine and a radiation oncologist. "It is critical to minimize lung tissue damage, and protons allow us to do that."

Proton therapy offers a distinct advantage over conventional photon therapy in that it can deliver high doses to a localized target area (tumor) and low doses to surrounding tissue. Photons (x-rays) deposit their maximum energy near the skin surface; delivering sufficient dose to a tumor embedded deep within the body requires that a significant dose be delivered to the normal tissue along the beam's path.

Protons, on the other hand, deposit maximal energy at a stopping region called the Bragg Peak. This peak can be spread to encompass the tumor volume. High doses can be delivered to the target without delivering high doses to normal tissue.

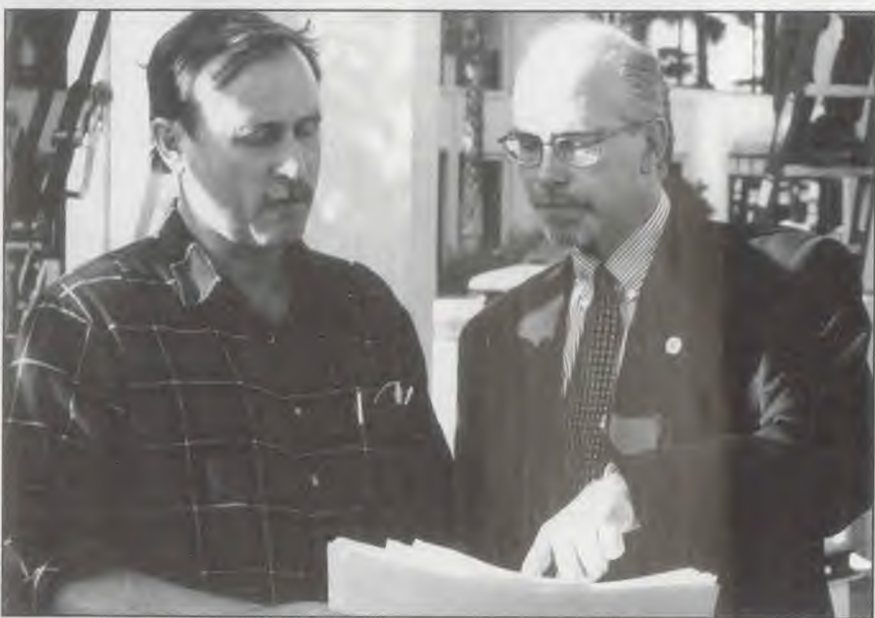
More than 40 patients have now been treated. To be eligible for the study, patients must have localized, early-stage lung cancer that can't be treated with surgery because of health problems.

The tumor must be limited to the lung, with no mediastinal lymph node involvement. An individual who enrolls in the study will be placed on one of two treatment arms, depending on degree of lung disease.

Currently, only a limited number of patients can be treated. However, it is hoped that the current research can be enhanced by expanding treatment in broader areas of lung and breast cancer as funds become available.

Long-term survival data cannot be reported until sufficient time has passed, but early results are promising: the three-year cancer-specific survival rate for stage I patients is 79 percent.

LLUMC selected as location for DaimlerChrysler TV commercial



Loma Linda University Medical Center was selected as the site for a television commercial featuring Chrysler's new minivan. After surveying 50 hospitals in Southern California, LLUMC was found to be best suited for Chrysler's commercial because the medical facility most embodied the high-tech appearance of the minivan. As part of the commercial, a temporary awning (top photo) was erected over one of the entrances to the Medical Center. In addition, trees—normally void of leaves during January when the commercial was shot—had imitation leaves wired to their branches to give the commercial a spring-like appearance. Coordinating the commercial shoot for Loma Linda University Medical Center was Jack Boren (bottom photo, right), director of special projects for LLUMC. Here Mr. Boren discusses filming details for the commercial with Bruce Boehner, location manager for the commercial producer.

Doing Windows

Letting your light shine: as simple as becoming transparent.

BY RON E. M. CLOUZET

SOME PEOPLE DON'T DO WITNESSING, just as some housecleaning services "don't do windows." It's just outside their job description.

Early in my professional life I decided that my pastoral call was to keep the flock. Buzzwords like *nurture* and *inreach* resonated with me. Being a pastor-evangelist was for people who were "gifted accordingly."

But then came the conversion of 1984. During the last stretch of our seminary experience my partner and I were given some 37 Bible study requests to follow up in the city of Joliet, Illinois. There was no comfort zone to run to. Talking with strangers, visiting neighborhoods I never would have chosen on my own, answering Bible questions I myself was unsure about—sharing my faith took on new significance.

For starters, it sent me to my knees: "Lord, please help Debbie get somewhere with her difficult husband . . . and Lord, please, help me know what to say to these people—they're so hungry for the Word, and I feel so empty." That fall 11 of the more than 30 individuals accepted Christ and became a part of His last-day church. And one Adventist preacher was converted.

The greatest little book I have read says that if we set out to win souls for Christ, we "will feel the need of a deeper experience and a greater knowledge in divine things," and that as a result of engaging in this work we

will "plead with God" and our souls will "drink deeper drafts at the well of salvation."¹ How true those words have become in my experience.

In a legal sense, a witness gives a firsthand report of the facts—what he or she has seen or heard. In English the word refers both to the content as well as the person; the witness bears witness. The ambiguity is helpful because it's impossible to separate the witness as a person from the content of his or her witness.

In the New Testament the word for witness, *martus*, is where we get our word "martyr." The martyrs were martyred because they knew the facts of the love of God and the Lordship of Jesus firsthand, facts so real that they couldn't deny them—even in the face of death.

Witnessing, then, is not the privilege of the uniquely gifted, but the outcome of a converted life, one that has seen and heard firsthand the overwhelming love of

God at work in one's life (see 1 John 1:1-4). Witnessing has more to do with *being* than with *doing*. It has to do with becoming rather than with technique or personality.

We've all seen certain individuals who are able to glibly strike up a conversation with a total stranger. Their success inhibits those of us who have a shade of shyness in our personalities. But in fact, practically everyone finds an excuse to share great news with others.



Early one evening I was the last teacher left in our building, working to finish an urgent project. Although I didn't notice at first, one of our readers came and eagerly started sharing something, to which I gave a mindless "uh-huh," without looking up from my computer monitor. My body language cried silently, "Not now, please; I'm busy!"

But she would not be deterred. She had just become engaged, and she just had to share the marvelous attributes of her promised beau with somebody, even an uninterested professor. I gave up trying to ignore her, not in defeat, but in wonder. She was so clearly excited about what she shared that it truly became contagious. I pushed away from my desk, leaned back in my chair, and listened with rapt

attention. How could I do otherwise? This was as real as it gets. It became interesting to me because it was so obviously real to her.

Witnessing is a "within thing." A pregnant woman is said to have a healthy "glow" about her because she has a healthy life growing within her. In the same way, my witnessing is noticed by those outside when Christ is in control of my life, when I allow Him to live within me (see Gal. 2:20). His character simply oozes out. The genuine experience of truly good news cannot be contained (see John 14:16-20).

I once sat next to a literature professor from the University of Southern California on a flight to Los Angeles. She was bright, private, an ex-Christian very much turned off to organized religion—afraid of a God who would burn souls forever.

I had seen, heard, and tasted of the goodness of the Lord that very morning. With unusual sensitivity and insight the Spirit used me as a conduit to lead her to accept the possibility that the Bible just might be the story of One who



loves us above all. As we parted she said, "Thank you for sharing what you did with me. I look forward to reading [the Bible], I guess, for the first time."

I had no fear of witnessing. My reluctance to be bothered with other people did not exist that day. Everything within me longed to see her—a total stranger—happy and saved.

What makes this work? Experience in soul winning and even proper training will not hurt; they usually help. Truth is, however, nobody can really witness effectively. Only God can. But He looks to find those through whom He can spread His gracious love (see 2 Chron. 16:9).

That's why I let Him witness to me first thing each morning, for I need to hear Him before I can

speak of Him. I have found consistently that no matter whom I meet on a given day—whether planned or unplanned—the word received from the Lord that morning is often the very word they need me to share with them. The very insights received in a divine-human engagement at dawn apply to the human-to-human encounter at dusk.

Some call this the law of the second witness.² You are never the first one approaching somebody for Christ; you are always the second one, for the Spirit was there first. He was first with them in that God led them to meet with you. He was first with you before you were with them.

I don't try to do windows anymore. By God's grace I'm becoming one. ■

¹ Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1956), p. 80.

² Dennis F. Kinlaw, *Preaching in the Spirit* (Grand Rapids: Francis Asbury Press, 1985), pp. 81, 82.

Ron Clouzet is professor of ministry and evangelism at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

My Reluctant Witness

Witnessing. Such a scary word. A group activity? A way to gain salvation? Something to keep retirees busy?

Young people often take classes designed to help take the *fear* out of meeting strangers and sharing Christ. Others find opportunities in clown ministry, hospital and nursing home visitation and singing, mission trips, or even Christian drama groups.

Yet seldom do these exciting ministries prepare participants for that agonizing day when suddenly you know that witnessing wasn't meant as an occasional trip or group activity—that it must become a way of life.

For me that knowledge hit full force when I was in my mid-20s. That's when I realized that keeping my love of God to myself hindered my Christian growth and kept me from blessing others. Yet serious questions flooded my mind: *How do I share Christ without being obnoxious? Whom do I tell? Where do I get the courage to talk to complete strangers?*

Then Mary, a Christian neighbor, became ill. *Would she want me to visit? What would I say?* Despite my feeling awkward, Sabbath afternoon found me in the hospital. Tucked safely out of sight in my purse were three small books—stories of miracles and God's leading.

The visit went as well as could be expected. She lay dreadfully sick in that sterile room. But as we visited, my hand . . . it just wouldn't unzip my purse. *Why share?* my mind demanded. *After all, she's already a Christian.* A battle raged inside my head. Minutes dragged by.

I prayed with Mary and left the room. Guilt washed over me. How could I?

An about-face found me back in Mary's room. "I forgot to leave you these," I stammered.

She closed her tired eyes and graciously accepted the books.

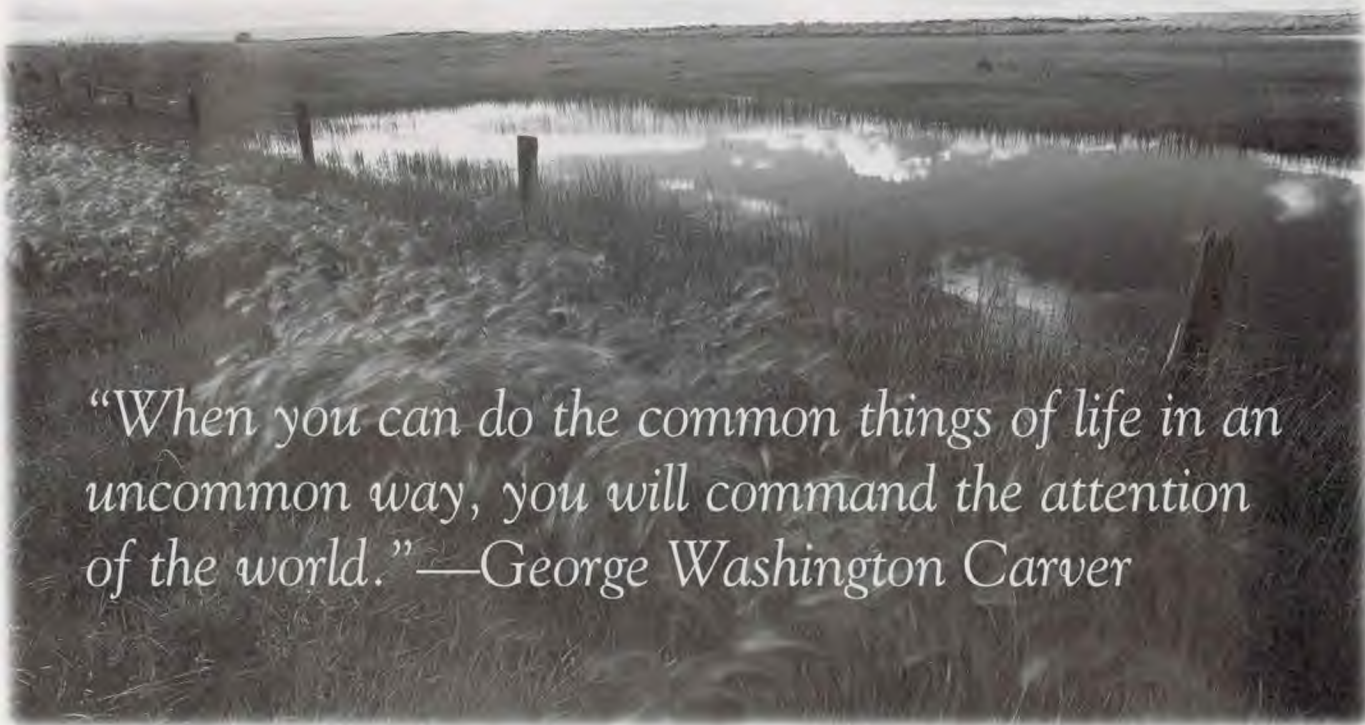
Three days passed. Again I found myself seated in Mary's room. She'd had a close

brush with death. "The books you left"—Mary gestured to the small stack—"you won't believe what happened. I felt too sick even to pick them up. That night around midnight a nurse entered my room. She walked directly to my tray and in a shaky voice said, 'I need your books.'

"I nodded and she disappeared. Around 6:00 the next morning she returned the books and thanked me profusely." Mary recalled that the nurse's next words shocked her. "'I'm from another building,' she said, 'and I don't know how I found my way to your room. The books on your tray gave me the courage to keep living. They saved my life. Thank you.'"

Through the years I've come to realize how often God searches for lights to shine in a dark world. With this realization the words "Lord, use me" come more easily each day. ■

By Ginger Church, director of periodical sales and women's outreach at the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Maryland.



"When you can do the common things of life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world."—George Washington Carver

Isn't God Good?

Witnessing is a natural experience that flows from an intimate relationship with the Saviour. It's a personal experience as normal as breathing, following the directive of Jesus in Mark 5:19: "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you" (NKJV).

This truth first dawned on me while Audrey and I were pastoring a district that included the Bethel church in Lansing, Michigan, in the late 1970s. Prior to our coming, several members of the Johnson family had been baptized into the church by Pastor Leslie O. Anderson. One of them was Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Jr., the former superstar of the National Basketball Association.

Before he signed his \$25 million contract with the Los Angeles Lakers, members of the church asked me to visit him and try to persuade him *not* to sign. Feeling quite apprehensive, and despite my better judgment, I went to the Johnsons' home.

Magic had four sisters who regularly attended church with their mother, Mrs. Christine Johnson. Two of his sisters had attended Oakwood College—Pearl and Kim. When I arrived, I met Magic's father and two of his brothers, who were

deeply engrossed in a sporting event on television at the time. Magic wasn't home.

While I sat and waited for his return, I scanned through a college yearbook that one of his sisters had brought home from Oakwood.

While doing so, I shared with her the joy I experienced at Oakwood—how my conversion was facilitated and how I never regretted giving my life in service to the Lord and His church. I shared how happy I was to be a Christian. When I glanced up from the yearbook, I noticed all three men staring at me. They were listening to my "witness" about what God had done in my life.

I never did meet Magic, but I believe my witness to the goodness of God stayed with his family members. I didn't share anything spectacular or sensational; I only shared that joy was a component of my life since I met and surrendered control to Jesus.

People may debate our logic and argue doctrine, but I've never had anyone deny my witness—not even friends who claim to be agnostic. As I've shared my unique experience with God, no one has refused to listen, and some have responded positively. One day the Lord may touch that memory and use my witness—and that of others—to His glory.

In the meantime I've been blessed to recount the adventures God and I have shared thus far in my life. Repeating events to friends—believers and nonbelievers alike—has strengthened me. My commitment has been invigorated, my joy has been refreshed, and my zeal for the Lord renewed by telling others of our compassionate and great God.

Witnessing is simply saying to others, "Taste and see that the Lord is good" (Ps. 34:8, NIV). ■

By Ricardo Graham, secretary of the Northern California Conference in Pleasant Hill, California.



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Fifteen Minutes a Day

It was early morning in the hospital, and as the shifts were changing, nurses were busy taking reports from one another and assessing the needs of each patient in the critical-care unit. Coming on for the day shift, I noticed another nurse preparing to leave after a long and weary night. "What are you reading?" I asked.

"A book about Adam and Eve," she answered.

My curiosity was piqued; after all, I was a third-generation, Choplet-eating, no-jewelry-wearing, *Story of Redemption*-reading Adventist. I knew *everything* about Adam and Eve (or so I thought).

"Can I see your book?" I asked eagerly.

"Sure," she said.

As I flipped through the book, nothing looked familiar. As the days and weeks passed, we discussed her book. I started to pray for my newfound friend, with whom I spent about 15 minutes a day.

One morning, after several conversations about the book and other spiritual things, I asked her, "How would you like to come over to my house and spend some time reading the Bible and discussing your book?"

"I'd love to," she said. And with that we began a beautiful friendship.

Week after week we compared her book against the Bible. She was sharp; after all, she was working nights as a nurse only to finish her law degree. My husband and I soon found that we had "our hands full." After several months she was convinced. God's Word reigned supreme, and she found the truth. She was baptized, and she and her daughter became a part of God's church.

She who was taking care of patients was spiritually healed herself. The one who gave water to critically ill patients found the One who is the Water of Life through a daily 15-minute witness of a coworker. ■

By Gina Spivey Brown, a freelance writer in Mitchellville, Maryland, who is currently completing a doctoral degree in nursing.

A Nudge in the Right Direction

Her name was Liz. She was a member of our adult Sabbath school class—a typical group that met weekly for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer in the balcony of our local church.

One morning Liz came to us with an idea. There was going to be a vacancy soon, on the third Sunday of each month, for a group to volunteer at the soup kitchen in a neighboring town. She suggested that we needed to do more than discuss our faith each week—we needed to do something to share our convictions in a practical way. Volunteering at the soup kitchen was one way to do it.

After a lively discussion we decided to accept the invitation. Our responsibilities at the soup kitchen included purchasing the food, transporting it to the site, preparing the meal, serving 100-200 hungry people, washing the dishes, cleaning the kitchen, and finally, locking the doors. We volunteered, with breaks for summer vacations, for almost four years.

Our efforts at the soup kitchen inspired us to try other projects. We have organized car clinics for single parents, sponsored a community beautification project, and helped with various other initiatives in our town.

Liz moved west several years ago. Since that time the class has grown and divided to form two classes. Other members have come and gone, but our interest in volunteer service has been an enduring theme that has enriched our fellowship, intensified our prayer agenda, and enhanced our understanding of God's will for community ministry as an integral and legitimate part of Global Mission.

From a personal perspective, God used Liz and our class's journey into community outreach to reshape my thinking, redirect my life's purpose by discovering a new profession in church-based community development and service, and experience often the joy of Christian service.

It's been almost 10 years, Liz, since you nudged our Sabbath school class into doing something tangible to demonstrate God's love, but you remain in my heart as one person

whom God used to change my life forever. Wherever you are—thanks. ■

By Jim Hopkins, a professor at Andrews University and director and coordinator of the Community Partnership Initiative.



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The Lord Said “Baltimore”

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BY MYRNA TETZ

OF COURSE I'VE DONE THE Ingathering thing. You know, asked total strangers for money for the poor and needy. I've donated clothes I no longer could wear or wanted to wear, prayed for the less fortunate, given money when inspired, sympathized (some) for those whose food came from the garbage bins, and applauded the saints who did the soup kitchen thing. Sometimes there was personal involvement. But not very often. It didn't seem to be my thing.

I guess I assumed that the way I lived my life was pretty much acceptable to the Lord. But times, places, and people change, and upon reflection, I understand better what I didn't understand before.

My husband and I moved to Silver Spring, Maryland, a couple years ago. I had a job. He did not. Because he couldn't come when I did, he said he'd wait to look for work. But not much developed in the way of permanent employment for a couple months after he arrived.

We had time to evaluate area churches, deciding which one we'd like to join and why. For the music? the preaching? the friendliness? On Sabbath afternoons we'd eat, have a nap, read some, take a walk, relax. We religiously obeyed the command "Come apart and rest awhile." It was ideal.

Just when it seemed that

denominational employment was not an option, my husband received an invitation to pastor a congregation in Baltimore, Maryland, and direct the city's Adventist Community Services Center. Members of this downtown church had left other churches in the area several years ago for one reason—they were determined to serve.

Jungle is probably the best existing descriptor for certain areas of the largest cities of the world. Just traveling through these concrete mazes en route to some other destination makes me covet the tranquillity that comes when we are safely past.

But *jungle* did not seem a strong enough word to describe portions of Baltimore. Miles of row housing. People walking aimlessly in one direction and then another. Coarse laughter. Harsh yelling. Individuals who could care less about the nutritive value of whole-wheat bread or the spiritual reason, never mind the physical reasons, for not smoking, drinking, or doing drugs; those who've never experienced a home with a father, mother, and legitimate children; those who don't know that bringing babies into the world through sexual conquest may be for the babies a fate even worse than death before their birth.

However, the Lord had said "Baltimore," and one Sabbath morning, with nothing to explain my presence other than the fact



that my husband was the pastor, and with more than a little trepidation, I entered the front door. The building houses both the church and the center, and is located in an appropriate, if not-so-nice, neighborhood.

Initiation came quickly. Learn the sandwich-making routine. Assist where needed in the food van, from which sandwiches, soup, and baked goods (donated by a couple bakeries) are distributed two Sabbath afternoons a month. Observe the members' involvement and commitment, and attempt to emulate it. Then wonder why, in the grand scheme of things, I'm in the van and not on the street.

On another Sabbath afternoon we worship with several dozen Spirit-filled prison inmates. Their singing is so energetic, they look so happy, their testimonies are so touching, that at times I'm moved to tears.

"I'm so glad I'm here," volunteers the man who plays his guitar and smiles as he sings, "for otherwise I'd be dead and would never have known the Lord."

Another refers to seven years on death row. Another sings praises to God after he tells of the depths of despair he experienced when at two court hearings his parole was denied. I leave wondering just who is captive and who is free.

Our jungles need more forests" was the caption above a pen drawing of a horde of houses on a hill in a Canada Tree Foundation advertisement. However grand this foundation's goals, I believe our city-jungles need *more* than trees. They need me, but more important, I need them. It's not enough to give my money (even large amounts, if I'm rich), to give my old clothes, to pray for the poor, to hurt because some are hungry, to stir the soup; no, a thousand times no. My hands must be the hands of Jesus. I must be there. With Him. Personally.

Because our Baltimore members disregard the "Sabbath rest idea," I've had to eliminate my Sabbath afternoon naps, quiet dinners at home with special friends, jaunts to the mountains. Instead, I join others and take trips to the city's lowlands with food and clothing, encouragement and love. I have learned about the fast the Lord has chosen: to share my food, clothe the naked, provide shelter for the homeless (see Isa. 58:6, 7). I've asked "Just what does the Lord require of me?" and I've heard His response: "To do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God" (Micah 6:8).

Often new meanings are discovered through circumstances and people we did not seek. Thankfully the Lord knew my needs. And as I've had the privilege of attempting to make my hands His, I have been blessed far more than anything I have done to bless others. My prayers have changed from a sometimes rote "Now I lay me down to sleep" to conscious gratitude for my personal comforts. My focus has changed from disappointment that I cannot accomplish what I want for myself and my family to an "others need me too" kind of spirit. My confidence in His presence has given me assurance. I wouldn't exchange any of this for anything less. ■

Myrna Tetz is managing editor of the Adventist Review.



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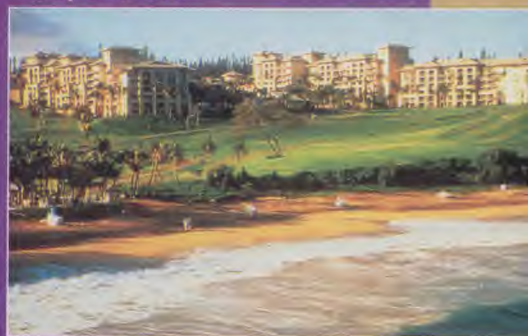
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World Church president resigns

Robert S. Folkenberg, president of the General Conference (GC) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, announced his decision to resign on February 8. Citing the controversy over allegations arising from an on-going lawsuit, Folkenberg said that this was "detracting from God's work" and so in order "to avoid pain and conflict to my family and the church I love I am removing myself from the controversy." As provided in the Church's working policy, GC Secretary G. Ralph Thompson will serve as acting president until a new president is elected by the GC Executive Committee at meetings beginning March 1.

The son of missionaries, Folkenberg was born in Puerto Rico and grew up in the U.S. and Cuba. He began working for the Adventist Church as a pastoral intern in 1963 and has worked as evangelist, missionary pilot and in a wide range of leadership roles. He was elected president of the Adventist World Church in 1990, at its executive session in Indianapolis, Indiana.

There has also been considerable coverage in secular news media such as the Washington Post, Baltimore Sun and Associated Press (AP) wire service, as well as a special issue of the Adventist Review, and much comment by independent publications. There has also been television news coverage on several major networks.

The Visitor is printing a summary of the events which led up to this unprecedented event.

In August, James E. Moore, a business entrepreneur from Sacramento, California, filed a lawsuit in the Sacramento (California) Superior Court that named as defendants, among others, the General Conference Corporation, the Inter-American Division, Robert S. Folkenberg and Walter Carson of the Church's Office of General Counsel.

In mid-October, Moore asked the court for an extension of the time limit during which he must serve the complaint on the defendants, and the court granted his request.

In November, Moore orally informed Folkenberg that he had filed a lawsuit, although he did not officially serve the papers. Moore pressed for settlement options. However, the Church never participated in any settlement discussions, nor did it offer

any kind of financial settlement with Moore. Upon learning of the lawsuit, the Church retained as legal counsel Phil Hiroshima, an attorney in Sacramento who is an Adventist Church member, to pursue a vigorous defense of the case. He reviewed thousands of documents during November and December and spoke with Moore. Attorney Hiroshima has concluded that the current suit filed against the Church is frivolous and without merit.

In late December, Moore served the complaint on the defendants. The Church filed a demurrer on January 27.

In the course of the review of documents, and in discussions with Moore, attorney Hiroshima discovered information and allegations that were not related to the suit but were ecclesiastical in nature.

Hiroshima presented a report to the General Conference secretary and treasurer on December 29. Folkenberg and his attorney also made a presentation. On the basis of this meeting, a Church review process was initiated. The GC officer group on January 7 heard a report from Folkenberg and his attorney, followed by a report from Hiroshima. That meeting resulted in the appointment of a special committee by the GC Administrative Committee (ADCOM) on January 13.

continued on page 10

Special committee members January 25-26, 1999

Niels-Erik Andreassen (chair), president of Andrews University
Maurice T. Battle, an associate secretary of the General Conference
Matthew A. Bediako, a vice president of the General Conference
Selma Chaij, guidance counselor, Takoma Academy
Lowell C. Cooper, a vice president of the General Conference
Laurie Evans, president of the South Pacific Division
William G. Johnsson, editor and publisher of the Adventist Review
Harold J. Lance, retired trial lawyer from Dunlop, Tennessee
Reuben Matiko, business executive from Victoria, British Columbia
Ruy Nagel, president of the South American Division
Ruth E. Parish, director of human resources at the General Conference
Jere Patzer, president of the North Pacific Union Conference
Juan R. Prestol, treasurer of the North American Division
Humberto H. Rasi, education director of the General Conference
Rick Remmers, pastor of the Atholton church in Columbia, Maryland
Calvin B. Rock, a vice president of the General Conference
Virginia Smith, children's ministries director of the General Conference
Max A. Trevino, president of the Southwestern Union Conference
Bertil Wiklander, president of the Trans-European Division
Robert W. Nixon (legal counsel), general counsel for the General Conference

World Church president resigns

continued from page 9

The special committee met on January 25 and 26. It first developed a process that was fair both to the Church and to Folkenberg. The special committee then deliberated for more than 20 hours during those two days, hearing reports from the Church's legal advisers and from Folkenberg and his attorney on the first day; and discussing the implications of the information on the second day. The special committee reported its findings to ADCOM on January 27. ADCOM voted to refer the matter to the full General Conference Executive Committee, which will meet on March 1 to consider final action on all issues.

The meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee will include all 268 members from all 12 divisions of the world field. This is the highest decision-making body of the Church between General Conference sessions.

.....
These official statements were released by the General Conference Communication Department.

Report of the special committee

The committee recognizes and affirms the visionary, energetic and mission-focused leadership which Elder Folkenberg has given to the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1990. Many and varied aspects of church life and activity have received a new sense of inspiration and purpose through initiatives he has introduced. His infectious enthusiasm and tireless travel have endeared him to Church members around the world.

With deep regret, the committee acknowledges that recent issues have surfaced and raise concerns in connection with Elder Folkenberg's personal business activities and the office of the presidency. The nature and gravity of these issues and their cumulative effect is such as to erode confidence in the functions of the president and to introduce doubts about leadership integrity.

Whereas, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, from its earliest days, has been firmly committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct for its leaders and subscribes to leadership principles as set forth in Scripture, the Spirit of Prophecy, the Church Manual, the Minister's Manual and the GC Working Policy, and;

Whereas, the Church is the object of God's supreme regard and its leaders at all levels are called to serve and to protect the best interests of the Church, and;

Whereas, the issues previously identified in this report seriously impact the good name of the Church and diminish members' confidence in the credibility and integrity of the office of the president, and;

Whereas, in the view of this committee, the magnitude of these issues calls into question Elder Folkenberg's ability to provide continued effective leadership as GC president, and;

Whereas, according to the GC Constitution and Bylaws, the GC Executive Committee is the only body which, between GC sessions, can deal with decisions affecting GC elected leadership, it is

Recommended that, at the earliest opportunity, the GC Executive Committee be convened to hear this matter and to express itself on a question of confidence concerning Elder Folkenberg's continued leadership.

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- Denise León Valenzuela is the Columbia Union's new director of communication services. She was recently an editor for the North American Division and Pacific Press and has worked for the NAD in marketing and the Southern California Conference in children's ministries, Sabbath school and church ministries.



Denise León Valenzuela

RANDY HALL
Visitor Assistant Editor

ALLEGHENY EAST

Youngsters shine at annual
science fair/spelling bee

Students from kindergarten to 12th grade in Allegheny East church schools recently attended the conference's first annual science fair/spelling bee, held at the Walnut Street church in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, under the direction of Education Superintendent Lolethia Kibble.

Varied and elaborate scientific experiments and displays were judged in the fellowship hall. Their creators flanked the displays to answer any questions.

The spelling bee was held in the main auditorium, where children also gave a variety of performances. Kerri Williams, lower grades teacher at the Pine Forge, Pennsylvania, elementary school, presented her students in a violin concert. A speech choir also made a presentation.

Winners received monetary awards for their efforts. For the spelling bee, first-place winner Jessica Johnson from the Dupont Park school in Washington, D.C., received \$75. Second-place winner Kristofer Murray, from the Sharon Temple school in Wilmington, Delaware, received a prize of \$50.

In the science fair, the displays in the secondary category (grades nine to 12) netted Tiffany Smothers and Sonnet Davis of Baltimore Junior Academy \$50. Melissa McWhirter of the Dupont Park school was also a \$50 recipient.

The middle school (grades six to eight) winners, Alexandria Alston and Precyous Harris from the Pine Forge elementary school, received \$50, as did Shiree Sanders of the Dupont Park school. Kristofer Murray from Sharon Temple won \$25.

For the intermediate category (grades three to five), Kevin Jackson of Dupont Park and Ricky Hamilton of Shirley Temple each won \$50, while Jarrod Odior of Baltimore Junior Academy finished with \$25.

In the primary division (kindergarten to second grade), three youngsters from the Dupont Park school received prizes: Alexandra Arnold, \$50; Michael Nicholson, \$35; and Shannon Samuels, \$25.



From left: Lolethia Kibble, Allegheny East education superintendent, congratulates winners in the conference's first annual spelling bee—Jessica Johnson, Monika Vines and Kristofer Murray.

Dr. Kay's Q&A

Exercise for more
energy

Question: Please say something in your column about the importance of exercise, and maybe my wife will read it. She stays cooped up inside with the kids all day and is so tired when I come home that she doesn't want to do anything with me. She's even too tired for sex.

Answer: Here are a number of reasons why exercise is important:

- Exercise makes your heart more efficient and lowers blood pressure. And with heart disease being a major killer, that's important.
- Exercise builds muscular strength and endurance. Plus, it increases your ability to participate in physical activity without undue risk of injury.
- Exercise increases the density of your bones being stressed, which helps prevent osteoporosis. For this reason alone, every woman should be on a good exercise program.
- Exercise increases your body's Basal Metabolism Rate, which means your body idles at a faster speed, thus using more fuel—or calories! That's why exercise helps you maintain or lose weight.
- Exercise makes you feel good and helps you to develop psychological strength to overcome obstacles. This is partially due to the release of chemicals known as endorphines, which give the body a natural high when you exercise.
- Exercise lowers stress levels. A physician friend of mine once said that she believed 90 percent of all the depression suffered by women would be alleviated if they just walked briskly outdoors for 30 minutes a day. And research has documented that people who exercise generally have less depression, greater efficiency, better concentration, better sleep patterns and more energy!

But I have a feeling your wife knows all this! There are probably three major reasons why she isn't exercising.

Excuse #1: "I don't have time to exercise." While it's true that adequate sleep is an important requirement to relieve fatigue, regular exercise is also beneficial. So for the person who says "I don't have time to exercise," one way to find the time is to take exercise time out of sleep time! Research suggests that if you exercise 30 minutes per day, you can get by just fine with 30 minutes less sleep per night, as long as you've been getting adequate sleep.

Excuse #2: "I don't like to get hot and sweaty." There's good news. Exercise physiologists now are saying that high-intensity exercise of long duration isn't necessary in order to reap the benefits of physical activity. The total amount of physical activity seems to be more important than whether it's continuous enough to build up a sweat. Five minutes every hour throughout the day will boost energy levels significantly: jump rope, walk up and down the stairs, Charleston every time a commercial comes on, exercise along with a workout video. It adds up!

Excuse #3: "I don't like to exercise by myself." Here's where husbands are important. Get up 30 minutes earlier and go bicycling or jogging together, play tennis and bowl with friends or just make a date for an evening walk before bed.

[Read more from Dr. Kay Kuzma in the Family Times newspaper. For a free year's subscription, write to: Family Matters, P.O. Box 7000, Cleveland, TN 37320; or call (423) 339-1144.]

ADVERTISING RATES

Minimum charge: \$15 for 50 words or less for ads originating in the Columbia Union and \$20 for all others. Additional words, 25 cents each in the union, 40 cents each outside the union. Ads must be placed at least four weeks before the issue date by mailing to: Classified Advertising, Columbia Union Visitor, 5427 Twin Knolls Rd., Columbia, MD 21045. The Visitor does not guarantee the integrity of any product or service advertised.

INDIAN RIVER FUNDRAISERS, INC.:

We care about you and your fund-raising needs by offering the best quality Indian River District citrus fruit available. Low 100 4/5-bushel minimum order, with no drop charge. For personal service, phone (800) 336-9647. (71)

ADVENTIST AUTHORS AND WRITERS:

Call for your free publishing and marketing guide. Complete printing, typesetting, design, warehousing and distribution of your book. Competitive prices and high quality. Call (800) 367-1844 Eastern Time. (121)

BED AND BREAKFAST, CABIN RENTALS IN GREENEVILLE, TN:

Fantastic mountain views, full breakfasts, picnic pavilion, jacuzzi, children's play area and campfires. Asheville, Gatlinburg, historical sites, antiques and fishing, with the Appalachian Trail nearby. From \$390/week, with daily rates. For a brochure or reservations, call (800) 842-4690. (121)

BOOKS WANTED FOR CASH PURCHASE:

Used Adventist books, hymnals, post cards, church directories and most Protestant Reformation books. Call (518) 358-3494 or visit our World Wide Web site at WWW.LNFBKBOOKS.COM. (3100)

ADVENTIST SINGLES FRIENDSHIP CONNECTION:

A great way to meet other people for friendships and lasting relationships. Record your ad FREE at (800) 944-7671. Hear ads by others at (900) 446-3400 (\$2 per minute). For more free information, call (800) 771-5095; write to P.O. Box 216, Gassville, AR 72635; or visit our World Wide Web site at www.adventsingles.com. (515)

FREE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS:

Private-sector funds are available for undergraduate/graduate students at accredited colleges and universities across the USA regardless of G.P.A., finances or age. Our database contains more than 300,000 scholarships. No repayment. GUARANTEED. Apply early. Member of the Better Business Bureau. For more information, send \$2 to: Scholarship Service, 29435 Dorsey St., Sun City, CA 92586; or visit our World Wide Web site at www.sdammall.com/fundcollege. (41)

TIRED OF BEING IN DEBT?

Learn how to become debt-free with the money you already make! Turn every \$1 of your debt into many \$\$\$ of wealth. Many thousands of people are being helped. For FREE information, call (800) 207-0873. (615)

MARYLAND SDA PODIATRISTS:

Dr. Scott Nutter and Dr. Michael Graham—both highly trained, experienced, board-certified and qualified—are available in several locations to help your foot/ankle problems, including arthritis, heel pain, spurs, diabetes, callouses, ingrown nails, sprains, fractures, warts, bunions, etc. Surgery, if it's needed, at Adventist hospitals. Laurel, MD: (301) 317-6800; Greenbelt, MD: (301) 345-5200; or Columbia, MD: (410) 531-6350. (1215)

WANTED:

Columbia Union College is seeking applicants for an undergraduate chemistry professor. Primary consideration will be given to individuals with strong backgrounds in analytical and/or physical chemistry. The successful candidate will be responsible for up to three chemistry courses each semester and other duties as assigned. To apply, please send a current CV and cover letter to Dr. Melvin Roberts, Columbia Union College, 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912. To obtain additional details on this position, send an E-mail to mroberts@cuc.edu or call (301) 891-4228. (315)

FOR SALE BY OWNER:

Three minutes from the General Conference. Contemporary, two-bedroom, two-full-bath condo. Living room with cathedral ceiling and fireplace. Large bedrooms with walk-in closets. Washer/dryer, dishwasher, security system, extra storage and beautiful wooded view. Perfect for singles, young families or retired couples. \$86,500. Call (301) 890-8675. (415)

ATTENTION, all Loma Linda University

School of Allied Health Professions alumni! Your Third Annual Allied Health Alumni Weekend will be held May 6-8. Take this opportunity to visit the LLU campus, attend continuing education seminars and see former teachers and classmates. Honor class reunions for the graduates of 1949, 1974 and 1989. For more information, please call (909) 558-4261. (31)

CANADIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

invites applications for a tenure-track, full-time faculty position in religious studies to begin teaching in September. Qualification: a Ph.D. in New Testament. A Ph.D. in a related field will also be considered. The applicant must be committed to excellence in teaching, to conducting research and must be willing to teach within the context of Seventh-day Adventist higher education. This position involves teaching in the fields of New Testament studies (including biblical Greek), church history, Christian beliefs and comparative religions. Send curriculum vitae to Dr. John McDowell, Vice President for Academic Administration, Canadian University College, 235 College Ave., College Heights, Alberta T4L 2E5. (415)

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXQUISITE ART?

Do you like to decorate your home with beautiful paintings by Dungill, Woodrum, Park, Poncho, Bibbs and more? If you're interested in free office or home consultation or would like to host a home art show, please call George Johnson at (410) 944-4990. (21)

A Career with a View of the Future

St. Helena Hospital is a 191-bed, state-of-the-art acute care facility nestled in the foothills overlooking the scenic Napa Valley in Northern California, approximately 75 miles Northeast of San Francisco. We currently have an exceptional career opportunity available.

DIRECTOR-WOMEN'S CENTER & HEALTH CENTER

Full-time position for an individual with a BA from an accredited 4-year college or university; Master's degree preferred. Requires prior experience in health and wellness program development and marketing and previous related experience in a hospital or community setting.

We offer competitive compensation and excellent benefits. Qualified candidates, please mail or fax your resume to: Human Resources, St. Helena Hospital, 650 Sanitarium Rd., Deer Park, CA 94576. Call us collect at (707) 963-6590. FAX (707) 967-5626. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Adventist Health

St. Helena Hospital

Spencerville Women's Ministries Invites You to Attend Their Fourth Annual Seminar

A Priceless Treasure



The Gift of Mentoring

Sunday, April 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Registration Deadline: Monday, April 19

Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church

16325 New Hampshire Avenue

Silver Spring, Maryland

(301) 384-2920

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST IN GREEN-BELT, MD: Immediate position available working for two Adventist doctors. About 20-25 hours per week. Receptionist experience required. Medical receptionist experience preferred. Salary commensurate with experience. Call Mrs. Miller at (301) 317-6800. (1215)

MOVING? Access Transportation recently combined resources with those of Air Van north American in Boise, ID. Air Van is committed to maintaining the same principles that Access Transportation has in the past. We want to continue to be "Your Friend in the Moving Business." Please call (800) 525-1177 to speak with an Air Van north American representative. (315)

WALLA WALLA COLLEGE announces a tenure-track position in mathematics beginning September 1999. Qualifications include a Ph.D. degree, excellent teaching and research and a commitment to Adventist education. For more information, write to: Ken Wiggins, Chair, Department of Mathematics, Walla Walla College, College Place, WA 99324; call (509) 527-2088; or send E-mail to wiggke@wwc.edu. (31)

FINANCING IS AVAILABLE NATION-WIDE for a) real-estate/mortgage loans: purchase, refinance and construction; and b) business loans: purchase, expansion and equipment leasing from \$1,000, etc. For more information, call Eric Charles at (800) 351-5601 or (954) 677-8394; send a fax to (954) 486-8818; or contact via E-mail to Gecctf@aol.com. (415)

FINISH YOUR DEGREE ANYTIME, anywhere through the Columbia Union College External Degree program. Bachelor's degrees are offered in business, psychology, theology, general studies and respiratory care. For further information, call (800) 782-4769, send E-mail to 74617.74@compuserve.com or visit our website at www.hsi.edu. Ask for the CUC External Degree Bulletin. (Managed by Home Study International.) (1215)

NEEDED: A MISSIONARY-MINDED TEACHER! A small church school in West Virginia needs a teacher for grades one through eight for the spring term of 1999. Current enrollment is four students. If you can work for a stipend, we need you! Please call (304) 846-2747 or (304) 647-5312. (315)

ARE YOU MOVING?

Help us keep the records straight so you can continue to receive the *Columbia Union Visitor*. Just send your new address, along with the mailing label that's attached to the back page of this issue, to your conference office at the address printed in the masthead on the left side of page 2.

HAVE YOU HEARD? Laurelbrook Boarding Academy, since the 1950s in conjunction with the Laurelbrook Nursing Home, has offered college, general and vocational training diplomas. Please call (423) 775-3339 or come and see us at 114 Campus Dr., Dayton, TN 37321; on top of the mountain with more than 2,000 acres. Only 45 minutes from Chattanooga and Southern Adventist University. Affordable board and tuition rates. (1215)

ADVENTIST SINGLES FRIENDSHIP CONNECTION: A great way to meet others for friendships and lasting relationships. Record your ad free at (800) 944-7671. Hear responses and ads by others at (900) 446-3400 (\$2 per minute). For free information, call (800) 771-5095; write to P.O. Box 216, Gassville, AR 72635; or check out our website at www.adventistingles.com. (31)

YOU'RE RETIRED, healthy and ready to enjoy life! Why not consider the state of Florida? Our conference-owned community has apartments, homes and rooms. Vegetarian cuisine in our lovely dining room; 13.5 acres, a church on the grounds and much more! Call the Florida Living Retirement Community at (800) 729-8017; contact by E-mail to shaschlipe@aol.com; or check out our website at <http://www.sdamail.com>. (415)

CAPE COD VACATION: An Adventist family will rent weekly, biweekly, etc., their lovely, fairly new, spacious and semi-contemporary vacation home on beautiful Cape Cod, MA. Three bedrooms, one and one-half baths, jacuzzi tub, washer/dryer, cable TV, dishwasher, microwave and a great room with a cathedral beam ceiling and skylights, an outdoor shower, a large deck and a fenced-in back yard with a small swing set and a sandbox on one-half acre just 900 feet from a great beach. Call (301) 596-9311. (91)

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ADVENTIST CONTACT

P.O. Box 5419
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(301) 589-4440

MISSIONARY-MINDED ADVENTIST FAMILY PHYSICIAN IS URGENTLY NEEDED to join a family physician and physician assistant in sunny southwestern Arizona. Enjoy a diversified practice in a near-perfect climate. Three hours from lovely San Diego. Three hours from the Phoenix metropolis. Thirty minutes from Mexico with its incredible missionary opportunities. Eight-grade church school and two English and two Spanish churches. Send curriculum vitae to: Ellis V. Browning, M.D., 11837 S. Cassidy Ave., Yuma, AZ 85367; or call (520) 782-3819. (31)

HOUSE FOR SALE IN SUMMERSVILLE, WV. Live upstairs and work downstairs in this garage/apartment-style home on approximately one acre. Two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, dining room and a full bath upstairs. Two-bay garage with a vehicle lift, an office, utility and a 3/4 bath downstairs. Wall-to-wall carpet, all appliances and heat/AC with an auxiliary wood/coal furnace. Beautiful views. Nice. Four miles to town and close to an Adventist church with an elementary school and a day-care center. \$80,000. Phone Mark Douglas at (304) 872-3260 or (888) 777-9591; or contact via E-mail to mdouglas@access.mountain.net. (31)

LOVE TO COOK? Turn your talent into a profitable business. Proven method with a business manual and wonderful recipes. All the information you need to run a business, advertise effectively and cook for profit. Turn a hobby or interest into real money. Call (800) 429-8020 and leave a message for more information. Serious calls only. (31)

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OR: www.sdaads.com

Shenandoah Valley Academy will be celebrating 90 years of history during Alumni Weekend April 16-17, and we invite alumni and friends to attend. Activities will include:

- Golf tournament on Friday, April 16 (registration required)
- Multimedia presentation of SVA's history from 1908 to the present day. The presentation covers both Sabbath school and church and begins at 10:30 a.m. in the gymnasium.
- SVA Choir Reunion Concert for the choirs of John Read (1954-61). Practice will be Sabbath at 4:00 p.m. and a concert at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday night talent show and tribute to retiring teachers Sarah Jane Liers and Clarence and Beverly Williams.

For more information, call Jan Strickland Osborne at (540) 740-3161, Ext. 213.

LEGAL NOTICE

Potomac Conference Mid-Term Constituency Session

Notice is hereby given that the mid-term constituency session of the Potomac Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 25, 1999, at the Vienna Seventh-day Adventist



Faculty Position:
Course Coordinator for
Medical Microbiology/
Infectious Diseases
School of Medicine
Loma Linda University

Loma Linda University School of Medicine Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics is recruiting a physician-scientist to coordinate the teaching of medical microbiology/infectious diseases to sophomore medical students. Experience in clinical and basic sciences of medical microbiology is highly desirable. Aptitude and experience in teaching and interest in curriculum enhancement, including computer-assisted learning, are essential. Approximately 60 percent of time is available for research or clinical practice. A generous allowance for research start-up is available in a progressive department that is well supported by extramural grants. Visit our web site at <http://www.llu.edu/medicine/micro/>.

Qualifications: Candidates should be Seventh-day Adventist, and have a PhD and/or MD degree and three years postdoctoral research training. A deferred appointment and support of infectious disease training may be considered.

Applicants: Applicants should submit curriculum vitae, a brief description of proposed research program and/or clinical goals, the names of three qualified references, and two to three research publications to:

Chair, Search Committee
Department of Microbiology and
Molecular Genetics
School of Medicine
Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, CA 92350
E-mail address:
bltaylor@com.llu.edu

Loma Linda University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. Women, minorities, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. The University does reserve constitutional and statutory rights as a religious institution and employer to give preference to Seventh-day Adventists.

Church, 344 Courthouse Rd. SW, Vienna, VA.

The purposes of this meeting are: (1) To take action on the recommendations from the constitution and bylaws committee; (2) Discuss financial recommendations from the Committee of Seven; (3) Discuss the Potomac Partners program; and (4) Transact any

other business that may properly come before the session at that time.

HERBERT H. BROECKEL, *President*
ROGER E. WEISS, *Secretary*

OBITUARIES

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ... Therefore encourage each other with these words." —1 Thessalonians 4:16, 18 NIV. The staff of the *Columbia Union Visitor* joins the rest of the Church family in extending heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost loved ones.

CARLETON, Eilene, born February 23, 1915, Plainfield, NJ; died April 9, 1998, Binghamton, NY. She was a member of the Montrose, PA, church. Survivor: daughter Carol Hartz.

FANAZA, Gertrude M., born March 6, 1912, Saskatchewan, Canada; died March 18, 1998, Lakeside, OH. She was a member of the Boardman, OH, church. Survivors: son Edward and sister Myrtle Fleishner.

FUNK, Sara B., born October 6, 1917, died November 8, 1998. She was a member of the Pottstown, PA, church. Survivors: husband Harry, daughter Constance Twomey, two grandsons, four sisters and four brothers.

GOMEZ, Luis A., born November 25, 1968, Fajardo, Puerto Rico; died August 30, 1998, Wilkes-Barre, PA. He was a member of the Lancaster, PA, Spanish church. Survivors: father Julio, mother Margarita, brothers Julio and Javier and sister Elizabeth.

HURTIG, Doris R., born June 4, 1921, Defiance, OH; died November 14, 1998, Bryan, OH. She was a member of the Defiance church. Survivors: husband Richard, daughters Sharon Wilson, Shirley Dawson and Darlene Repp, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

JACKSON, Hilda, born April 10, 1925, Gillett, PA; died October 21, 1998, Canton, PA. She was a member of the Canton church. Survivors: husband Charles, daughters Connie Baldwin and Marge and sons Charles Jr. and Eddie.

JONES, Donald B., born August 1, 1911, Waterloo, Quebec, Canada; died February 28, 1998, Takoma Park, MD. He was a member of the congregation in Luray, VA. Survivors: wife Edna, son Donald G., four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

PIERCE, Mary Wise, born August 28, 1904, Pisake, NJ; died September 23, 1998, Monongahela, PA. She was a member of the Charlevoix, PA, congregation. Survivors: son Leroy Wise, daughters Irene Zukow, Louise Forsyth and Loretta Grove, brother John Demchak, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

RENSTROM, Donald L., born October 14, 1926, Canton, PA; died October 23, 1998, Canton, PA. He was a member of the Canton church. Survivors: wife Anna and daughter Penny Overdorff.

RIVERA, Alejandro, born April 1, 1914, Laredo, Puerto Rico; died October 25, 1998, Lancaster, PA. He was a member of the Lancaster Spanish church. Survivors: wife Julia, son Gilberto and daughters Lydia, Delores, Zulma, Dorcas, Ramona, Naomi, Zaraida and Gladys.

RIVERA, Vicente, born April 25, 1924, Cayey, Puerto Rico; died October 18, 1998, Caguas, Puerto Rico. He was a member of the Lancaster, PA, Spanish church. Survivors: wife Evangelica, daughters Crucita, Violeta and Elizabeth and sons Samuel, Misquel and Abraham.

WHITEBREAD, Jean, born April 25, 1928, Drums, PA; died September 9, 1998, Danville, PA. She was a member of the Berwick, PA, church. Survivors: husband Floyd and daughters Nancy, Karen and Linda.

WILBER, Harry F., born December 6, 1911, Conklin, NY; died January 6, 1998, Montrose, PA. He was a member of the Montrose church. Survivors: wife Alice, daughter Joan Flynn and sons Gerald and David.

WOLFORD, Clair W., born March 29, 1919, Oxford Twp., PA; died December 8, 1998, Hanover, PA. He was a member of the Hanover church. Survivors: wife Thelma, daughters Linda Scott and Nancy Ashby, stepdaughter Rose Zepa, stepson Dennis Reigle, brother John, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All announcements and/or advertisements must be received by the *Visitor* office four weeks before the issue date.

Volunteers needed to help at Discover the Power camporee

Several individuals with special skills are being sought for the news and photo staff at the Discover the Power camporee, which will be held August 10-14 in Oshkosh, WI. Needed are: 12 photographers with their own 35mm cameras and lenses; four secretaries who can work with computers and printers; and four messengers with their own cars. If you can help, send your information to: Dick Downer, Box C, Berrien Springs, MI 49103; or call (616) 473-8200.

Chesapeake singles slate spring retreat

The Chesapeake Adventist Singles Ministries spring retreat will be held April 16-18 at the Mount Aetna Camp and Conference Center in Hagerstown, MD. Pastor Ed Reid, stewardship director of the General Conference and author of *Sunday Is Coming*, will be the featured speaker. During the seminar, he will discuss "God Is Right on Schedule," "Update on End Times" and "On Being Ready." Reid has also agreed to counsel people on financial matters. For more information, call John Arner at (301) 854-2221.

SUNSET CALENDAR

Eastern Standard Time

	Mar. 12	Mar. 19	Mar. 26
Baltimore	6:10	6:17	6:24
Cincinnati	6:42	6:49	6:56
Cleveland	6:29	6:37	6:45
Columbus	6:35	6:42	6:49
Jersey City	5:59	6:07	6:14
Norfolk	6:09	6:15	6:22
Parkersburg	6:30	6:37	6:44
Philadelphia	6:04	6:12	6:19
Pittsburgh	6:23	6:31	6:38
Reading	6:07	6:15	6:22
Richmond	6:13	6:20	6:26
Roanoke	6:24	6:31	6:37
Toledo	6:38	6:46	6:54
Trenton	6:02	6:10	6:17
Washington, DC	6:12	6:19	6:26



Assistant or Associate Professor,
Microbiology/Immunology/
Cell Biology
School of Medicine
Loma Linda University

Loma Linda University School of Medicine Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics seeks an individual who will establish a strong research program, preferably in an area of microbial virulence, immunology, or cell biology, including stem cell biology. Up to 75 percent of time is available for research. New faculty are expected to attain extramural funding within three years of appointment. Vigorous and varied research programs within the department provide a supportive environment for new investigators. The start-up package is competitive with major research universities. In addition to the above areas, future hiring may include molecular biology, gene therapy, genomics, cancer biology, or cancer genetics. Visit our web site at <<http://www llu.edu/medicine/micro>>.

Qualifications: Candidates should be Seventh-day Adventist, and have a PhD and/or MD degree and three years postdoctoral research training. Teaching loads are light to moderate.

Applicants: Applicants should submit curriculum vitae, a brief statement of a proposed research program, the names of three qualified references, and two to three research publications to:

Chair, Search Committee
Department of Microbiology and
Molecular Genetics
School of Medicine
Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, CA 92350
E-mail address:
bltaylor@com.llu.edu

Loma Linda University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. Women, minorities, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. The University does reserve constitutional and statutory rights as a religious institution and employer to give preference to Seventh-day Adventists.

Voice of Prophecy

Sunday, March 7

The Person God Forgot, Part 2

March 8-12

The Pendulum of Doubt

Sunday, March 14

A Spiritual Prescription, Part 1

March 15-19

Is Buddhism All Bad?

Sunday, March 21

A Spiritual Prescription, Part 2

March 22-26

A Cup and a Cracker

Sunday, March 28

Doing Worse When We Try

To find a radio station that airs these broadcasts in your area, call (800) 732-7587 or go to the Voice of Prophecy's World Wide Web site at www.vop.com.

ACN EVENTS

The Adventist Communication Network will broadcast the following programs live via satellite:

Sabbath, March 13

11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Adventist Worship Hour

Telstar 5, Channel 24

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Cross Training: Teaching Children to Love Each Other

Telstar 5, Channel 24

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Cross Training: Heartbeat '99

Training

Telstar 5, Channel 24

Sabbath, March 20

11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Adventist Worship Hour

Telstar 5, Channel 24

Sabbath, March 27

11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Adventist Worship Hour

Telstar 5, Channel 24

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Adventist Review Unwrapped

Telstar 5, Channel 24

The Adventist Communication Network is a service provided by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. For further information, call (800) ACN-1119.

Reporter's Notebook

Monte Sahlin



Y2K: an opportunity for outreach?

The closer we get to New Year's Eve, the more intense the speculation. Many who have had a lackadaisical attitude about faith are suddenly interested. Does this provide new opportunities for Christian witness?

Like any opportunity, Y2K has both potential and risk. Some Adventists have convinced themselves that Jesus must return in 2000 despite His statement that "No one knows the day" (Matthew 24:36) and clear admonitions against setting dates. Nothing will do more to destroy faith in the Second Advent than for us to make predictions that prove to be wrong.

To the extent that we may face a disaster due to widespread computer failures—not all experts agree on this probability—it's wrong to use the Bible as a crystal ball instead of a guide to our duty as disciples of Christ's compassion and saving purpose. Adventists are to be people of hope even at the end of the world!

Echoing survivalist groups and fundamentalist media won't forward the mission of Christ's true remnant. What can we do that's really Christlike and helpful?

1. Live hopefully in the face of the most dire predictions or circumstances. "Freedom from anxiety is one of the inward evidences of the kingdom of God," writes Richard Foster. This is the basis for any believable witness.

2. Be prepared to give a concise Bible study to anyone with questions. If nothing else, show that the point of Bible prophecy is to assure that God will accomplish His goals. (Matthew 24:13-14, Revelation 21:1-8) Prophecy really functions to warn and comfort, not satisfy curiosity about tomorrow's headlines.

3. Conduct a seminar on how to cope with disaster. Present practical prevention steps and spiritual resources. At the end, offer a small-group study on how to understand Bible prophecy.

4. Help organize an Adventist Community Services disaster response team. If your congregation is too small for its own team, collaborate with one or more neighboring Adventist churches.

An ACS disaster response team has access to an alternative communication system that isn't dependent on the power grid or computers, maintained by the Adventist Amateur Radio Association for ACS. It will carry accurate information in the event of any disaster that disrupts normal communications.

ACS disaster response teams are trained to handle emergency conditions. Even if Y2K proves to be "much ado about nothing," these same skills will become important if your town is hit with flooding, an ice storm, a hurricane or a toxic accident.

5. Show the community that Adventists care. Volunteer to help the elderly or sick during disasters. Offer your volunteer team to your local town government.

A Protestant church in Michigan is storing enough food for the entire town in case of Y2K problems. "Let's assume Y2K doesn't happen," says Pastor Chuck Missler. "It doesn't matter. We've communicated, tangibly, to the town that we love them."

If you'd like a list of "Y2K Seminar Resources" or information on "How to Form a Disaster Team," dial (800) 438-9600.



ABOUT THE COVER:

A worker from Maranatha Volunteers International does his part during the construction of the Middletown Valley church in Frederick County, Maryland, in this photo shot by H. Mark Williams. For more information on this life-changing building project, check out the story on pages 6 and 7.

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