

A D V E N T I S T Review

October 10, 1996

World Edition

David Schenkel:

A Mechanical Ministry



LETTERS

Sabbath Companion

I've just spent Sabbath afternoon in the company of the August 8 issue of the "new" *Review*. Thank you for this first experience of reading the *Adventist Review* from cover to cover.



William Johnsson's "With Jesus in the Boat"

spoke to my heart and soul. His way with words is very special.

—Enid A. Wiggins

PORTLAND, OREGON

Facing the Music

I was surprised, hurt, and embarrassed by Carlos Medley's "Divine Harmony" (Aug. 8).

Medley told of taking his children to a bluegrass concert, at which was played "foot-patting, hand-clapping, arm-waving music." This is certainly no place for a Christian at any time.

In 1961 I was converted and came back into the Adventist Church. At the time I had just left an international radio and television program and had a progressive jazz vocal group. When I was really converted I realized that worldly things must be left behind if I am to enjoy that close walk with Jesus, which will mean eternal life.

As I read the article I could not help thinking of all the young people who will read this and say, "If Carlos Medley can go to a bluegrass [jazzy] foot-stomping program, take his

family, and feel that he has the blessing of God, then why can't I?" Those young persons may never regain their fellowship with Christ.

—Al Webb, PASTOR

REDLANDS, CALIFORNIA

The Gift of Touch

I was excited to see "The Gift of Touch" (Aug. 8), by Jackie Ordelle Smith. I have been seeing more and more about touch and healing in my professional nursing magazine and in the public press.

I eagerly read the article to get a more "official" understanding of this topic, and was very disappointed to find that it progressed only to the information I had more than 35 years ago—all of which I firmly agree with. Its information on the "new" branch of "medicine" sounds more like a "spirit" thing than the "spiritual" that I'm wanting addressed.

—Leona R. Leonard

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

New Review (cont.)

I'm enjoying the new *Review*. The graphics are eye-catching, and I make time to read more of the articles (which means I skim less, and read more carefully). In my hectic life I have time to read only one magazine a week, so I've let my other subscriptions go in favor of the *Review*.

—Christy Robinson

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Before the "new" *Review* era I used to save my weekly copy for Sabbath reading. Now it is the first item of mail to be opened and eagerly perused (right outside the post office). After that it is shared with other family members, including a son who is an ordained pastor. The subscription rate in South African currency is five times what Americans pay, but it is worth every cent.

—Ingram F. Du Preez

KLEINMOND, SOUTH AFRICA

Gay Adventists? (cont.)

"Gay Adventists—The Ultimate Oxymoron?" (August NAD Edition) was very well done and will get people thinking about the un-Christlikeness of intolerant/judgmental attitudes toward people, regardless of how much we agree or disagree with their sexual orientation. How true is the statement "Our churches would be pretty empty on Sabbath morning if everyone with problems stayed away."

It truly is a shame that some people use truth "as a tool of imprisonment instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to convict and bring true freedom through a life with Christ." Let's hope more people come to "recognize that God is the ultimate judge and that He commands us to love, not to judge."

—Jan Radclyffe

VIA E-MAIL

I have sung the praises of the "new" *Review* whenever possible. However, I

am appalled that you would print such a hurtful article. Surely words written in such ignorance cannot be helpful and uplifting to anyone. It's time Ms. Brown became informed that "gay" and "homosexual lifestyle" are not synonymous. Gays are born as they are and cannot change themselves any more than someone who is born retarded. As church members they should be expected to refrain from a homosexual lifestyle, just as any other single person should be expected to remain celibate outside of marriage.

—**Judy Van Tassel**
REDMOND, WASHINGTON

My confusion is this—why are there different opinions on homosexuality in the church? The Bible is clear that this practice is a sin. Anyone professing to be a Christian must agree with that, or they are simply hypocrites.

The church should open its arms to homosexuals as it would to any sinner. However, the distinction must remain clear between repentant and unrepentant homosexuals. The same would be true of adulterers or alcoholics or the like. The church is full of repentant sinners. Those not repentant should not be in the church. If they are not glorifying God, they are glorifying themselves.

—**Karen M. Heermans**
AVONDALE, ARIZONA

Our heavenly Father's perfect love reaches out to us with two even hands. Both were nailed to Calvary's ugly cross. One was for the perfect justice of total hatred for sin, and the other was for His complete mercy for the sinner. Both call through His Word, the Bible: "If any man come to me, and hate not . . . he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26). "He that loveth not his brother abideth in death" (1 John 3:14). Perfect love for others includes perfect hatred of their sin.

However, there is another father

whose hands are not even. Jesus said of him, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do" (John 8:44).

—**Wayne Niemeyer, PASTOR**
PERRY, FLORIDA

All sinners are welcome to attend Seventh-day Adventist church services, but they should not be baptized and take the church's name only to continue living in their sins. Are we trying to fill buildings with bodies rather than to fill heaven with souls?

—**Edna Canaday**
COLLEGE PLACE, WASHINGTON

The Bible calls homosexuality a sin. All sins lead to hell if there is no repentance and acceptance of Jesus' gift of salvation. The desire to change from a sinful lifestyle is the sign of this acceptance.

The problem with gay Seventh-day Adventists, or any other sinners, comes when they have no intention of overcoming their sins.

Many homosexuals say that they were born with this trait, so it is natural and therefore OK. Does that mean that the "straight" person who "can't" be monogamous or the person who is sexually attracted to children is natural and therefore OK too?

Homosexuality used to be considered a sin until modern psychologists in all of their wisdom declared differently. Give them another 10 years, and they will declare any kind of sexual deviancy to be normal.

—**Paula Nixon**
AUBURN, CALIFORNIA

ADVENTIST Review

COVER STORY

**8 And to Some . . .
Motorcycle Repair**
Everyone has a gift.
BY GARY PATTERSON

ARTICLES

12 The Power of Weakness
We prefer to be "in control." But being vulnerable is our passport to real prestige.
BY RICHARD H. HART

**16 If You Believe in What
You're Doing, It's Not
Sacrifice**
Come, meet some people whose main concern is not how to do with less, but what they could do with more.
BY JACKIE ORDELHEIDE SMITH

18 "Oh, for a Finished Work!"
It's not finished here until it's finished everywhere.
BY ROBERT S. FOLKENBERG

26 Never Enough Money
It seemed as if there was never enough money to go around. But there was love, and that was all they needed.
BY MARJORIE FELDER BREWER

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Letters**
- 7 Give & Take**
- 11 Bible Questions Answered**
- 19 Rx—The Doctor Is In**
- 20 World News & Perspectives**
- 25 Children's Corner**
- 29 Bulletin Board**
- 30 Reflections**

EDITORIALS

- 5 Dedicate a Pocket or Purse**
- 6 Can We Become Single-minded?**

ADVENTIST Review

"Behold, I come quickly . . ."

Our mission is to uplift Jesus Christ through stories of His matchless love, news of His present workings, help for knowing Him better, and hope in His soon return.

The *Adventist Review* (ISSN 0161-1119), published since 1849, is the general paper of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is published by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and is printed 40 times a year each Thursday except the first Thursday of each month by the *Review and Herald*® Publishing Association. Periodicals postage paid at Hagerstown, MD 21740.

Publishing Board: Robert S. Folkenberg, chair; Phil Follett, vice-chair; Lowell Cooper; William G. Johnson; A. C. McClure; Rose Otis; Martin Ytreberg; Robert Nixon, legal advisor

Executive Publisher and Editor William G. Johnson

Associate Editor Roy Adams

Associate Editor Myron K. Widmer

News Editor Carlos Medley

Assistant Editor Stephen Chavez

Assistant Editor Kit Watts

Assistant to the Editor Andy Nash

Editorial Assistant Ella Rydzewski

Administrative Secretary Chitra Barnabas

Editorial Secretaries Mary Maxson, Jean Sequeira

Art Director Bill Kirstein

Designer Byron Steele

Design Assistant Alan Forquer

Desktop Production Stephanie Kaping

Ad Sales Melynie Tooley

Subscriber Services Steve Hanson

Director, Periodical Sales Ginger Church

Consulting Editors: Robert S. Folkenberg, Matthew Bediako, Phil Follett, Robert J. Kloosterhuis, A. C. McClure, Jan Paulsen, Leo Ranzolin, R. F. Rawson, Calvin B. Rock, G. Ralph Thompson

Special Contributors: Bryan Ball, M. E. Cherian, P. D. Chun, L. T. Daniel, Ulrich Frikart, Lee Huff, Israel Leito, Ruy H. Nagel, L. D. Raelly, Bertil Wiklander

To Writers: We welcome unsolicited manuscripts. (Please query before submitting long articles.) Include address, telephone number, and Social Security number, where available. Address all editorial correspondence to 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600. Editorial office fax number: (301) 680-6638.

E-mail: Internet: A1111AREAT@attmail.com; CompuServe network: 74617,15; Prodigy network: VRUN29B

Subscriptions: US\$38.97 for 40 issues, US\$50.97 for 52 issues. Add \$10.20 postage for addresses outside North America. To order, send your name, address, and payment to your local Adventist Book Center or *Adventist Review* Subscription Desk, Box 1119, Hagerstown, MD 21741. Single copy, US\$2.50. Prices subject to change without notice.

Subscription queries and changes of address: Call 1-800-456-3991 or 301-791-7000, ext. 2439.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Adventist Review*, 55 West Oak Ridge Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

Scriptures credited to ICB are quoted from the *International Children's Bible, New Century Version*, copyright © 1983, 1986, 1988 by Word Publishing, Dallas, Texas 75039. Used by permission. Texts credited to NIV are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers. Bible text credited to Phillips are from J. B. Phillips: *The New Testament in Modern English*, Revised Edition. © J. B. Phillips 1958, 1960, 1972. Used by permission of Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc. Bible texts credited to RSV are from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1946, 1952, 1971, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. Verses marked TLB are taken from *The Living Bible*, copyright © 1971 by Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Ill. Used by permission.

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.
Vol. 173, No. 41

H.M.S Richards Remembers

Twenty years ago, near the end of his lifetime of ministry through radio, books, and crusades, Voice of Prophecy founder H.M.S. Richards was interviewed by Bob Spangler of the Ministerial Association.

Richards talked about . . .

- his family heritage of preaching
- his early failures and successes
- hearing Ellen White in person
- what Ellen White said about using her writings in sermons
- tips on finding and using illustrations
- what the church should be doing
- what will finish the gospel work



\$10 for the set of 4 cassettes, postpaid

(U.S. dollars; orders outside NAD add \$2; California orders add 7.25% sales tax)

Order from:

Voice of Prophecy Services • Box 2525 • Newbury Park, CA 91319

THE Adventist Pocket Planner...

Pastors have appreciated this 96-page "little black book" for decades. This year, you can also get a copy. And why not share it with others? Order enough for church elders, clerk, treasurer...all your church officers!

FEATURES:

- Full Page for Each Week
- Special Days and Offerings (NAD)
- Daily Devotional Bible References
- Frequently Called Adventist Numbers.



☐ Please send me _____ copies of the Adventist Pocket Planner for 1997.
My check or money order for \$ _____ is enclosed.

1-4 copies \$3.50 each
5-9 copies \$3.00 each
10 or more only \$2.50 each

All prices are U.S. dollars and include postage. (California orders add 7.25% sales tax; outside North America, add \$2.00 each book for airmail postage.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE/PROVINCE _____

ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____

Send coupon and payment to:

The Voice of Prophecy

Pocket Planner • Box 2525 • Newbury Park, CA 91319

Dedicate a Pocket or Purse

As I waited for a flight at San Francisco International Airport last July, a young man came up to me. "Sir, do you travel a lot?" he asked timidly.

"Well, um . . . a fair bit," I responded—puzzled and a little bit suspicious.

"Can you use this?" he said, handing me a \$25 travel voucher he'd just received from United Airlines as compensation for a flight delay or cancellation. (Evidently he couldn't foresee having any use for it.) After a brief pause I accepted the gracious gift, thanked him, and went back to my reading.

Do you realize you'll never see this guy again? a voice within me spoke. *Why not give him something also?*

I had no doubt what that "something" might be, and went searching in my briefcase for it. But there was none. No missionary tract, no evangelistic magazine, no gift edition of *Steps to Christ*. Nothing. All I had was the back copy of the *Adventist Review*—a magazine not really targeted to the general public. But at least the particular issue carried an editorial (on a not specifically Adventist topic) under my name, which I used as a point of contact, autographing it and adding my telephone number.

Every Adventist, I suspect, can identify with the predicament I just described. We've all known times we wished we had some cutting-edge tract or magazine to put into the hands of someone with whom we'd had some special contact in our travels.¹

I'm not calling here for the kind of cheap, flimsy, throwaway newsprint stuff produced by certain fly-by-night storefront outfits, confronting all and sundry with the question "Are you saved?" But I do envision something simple. Prepared for modern people on the run—business-people, professionals, ordinary working people.

We produce a lot of materials for internal consumption. But do we have a sufficient quantity and variety of readily available, inexpensive witnessing materials for use by those who travel? How appropriate it would be, for example, after a discussion on the origin of life, to put something on the Creation in the hands of a fellow passenger. Or after a discussion on the present state of society, to give them a balanced, no-nonsense, hope-filled

article on current events in the light of Bible prophecy.

I guess what keeps me coming back to this is the memory of the role played by Adventist literature in the life of this former

Anglican boy. I will never forget the big book that some Adventist colporteur had left in the home of my Roman Catholic cousins, where I often went to play as a kid. Kept as a decoration on the center table in the living room, that silent messenger, whose title I cannot now remember, was the first Adventist influence in my life. Even before I could read the words, I read the pictures. Only eternity will reveal how many lives have been changed by millions of these quiet witnesses left in hands and homes across the years.

The late Adali Esteb used to admonish his students to dedicate their pockets to the Lord, using them to carry "truth-filled literature" for witnessing. One day I ran into him on the streets of Toronto and (mischievously) tested whether he practiced what he preached: "Are you a stranger in town, sir?" I asked him as I came up from behind.

"Oh, yes," he said, not knowing he was speaking to a fellow Adventist or to someone who knew him.

"So what brings you here?" I continued. He explained that the Seventh-day Adventists were holding their Annual Council at the Royal York Hotel down the street.

"Seventh-day Adventists?" I asked him. "Do you have any information about your group? What do you folks believe?" Immediately his hand went into his breast pocket, and out came a piece of literature for me.

If you're like me, the fewer the items in your pockets, the better. But wherever we carry things—whether pocket, purse, briefcase, glove compartment, or duffel bag—that's where we need to keep something spiritual to give away.

Said Ellen White: "More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications."²

¹ I do not mean to imply that nothing exists now, but that rather the kind of variety we need today is not yet in place. Until then, of course, we must use what we have.

² *Evangelism*, p. 693.



Can We Become Single-minded?

There are more single people this century than last century. A lot more. In the United States, for example, singles once made up 3 percent of the population. Today they are 30 to 40 percent of it.¹ Having 10 times as many singles around is an interesting fact. But it is more than a fact. It is a challenge for the church.

First, we must rethink what is "normal" as well as what is "biblical." Most of us think it's normal to grow up, find a mate, get married, have children, and live together ever after. But it doesn't always happen. Does that mean that single people, by definition, are *abnormal*?

Marriage is good; the Bible tells us so. But surprisingly, the Bible does *not* say that marriage is the only appropriate lifestyle for adult Christians. Jesus, Paul, John the Baptist—all were single. In fact, one important difference between the beliefs of Jews and Christians in the New Testament revolves around marriage. For Jews, marriage was vital; remaining single was dysfunctional. Paul, however, taught that marriage is good but not required.²

This broke with centuries of tradition. In Judaism salvation had always come through the family (via the tribe and nation). But for Christians salvation comes by individual choice—not nationality. In other words, single is biblical; marrieds and singles are equal in Christ.

This is an important viewpoint as we consider how the ratio of marrieds and singles has changed so dramatically and the many factors that contribute to this trend. Some factors are tragic (increased divorce rate). Others are positive (a desire to gain more education before marriage).

Life expectancy is also a factor. Even 100 years ago it was quite "normal" to die before 50 or 60. If you were going to marry and have children you did so at puberty. Today, with greater life expectancy and better health care, young people often put off marriage until age 30 or 35.

Second, we must recognize that not all singles will marry, and many marrieds will become single. As Adventists, we first became organizationally aware of the need to minister to families in 1919, when the General Conference created the Home Commission.

This important work had been foreseen and endorsed by Ellen White. Arthur W. Spalding nobly carried on the work for 20 years. But when he retired, the Home Commission was

abolished. Not until the 1970s was the work revived in the Home and Family Service. More recently, the church has also endorsed the work of Adventist Singles Ministries.

But in all honesty, the spiritual and theological dilemmas that many singles face are tough. Most Adventists shy away from thorny issues such as divorce and remarriage.

Third, we must seek to discover how God would minister to singles.

In real life, some marriages succeed and some marriages fail. This is difficult for us to accept. We hold a high view of marriage based on Scripture. How should we relate to broken homes? In the past our actions

have placed divorce and remarriage on a par with the unpardonable sin.

Does God's grace extend to someone who has made a mistake? What about those who are divorced against their will? those abandoned? abused? What about couples who find out that they are incompatible? (Incompatibility is overdone in divorce courts. But the best pastors and counselors know that there are couples whose personalities and characters make an explosive combination. Reconciliation is impossible.)

Fourth, we need to be realistic as well as idealistic.

Focusing on "the ideal" of getting married is not always helpful. Marriage simply is *not* possible for everyone. Statistics alone show that there are more women than men in the population. In most Adventist churches female members far outnumber males. Furthermore, we instruct members not to marry outside the faith.

When we showcase marriage as the *only* lifestyle that brings happiness and fulfillment, we set some people up for disillusionment, pain, and despair.

The challenge is great. We must discover how to help people be healthy and happy—as singles. In our expectations and attitudes, our theology and our ministries, our publications and our prayers, it is time for Adventists to become more single-minded.

¹ See Carolyn A. Koons and Michael J. Anthony, *Single Adult Passages* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991), pp. 15-18.

² 1 Cor. 7.

Are single people abnormal?



GIVE & TAKE

ADVENTIST LIFE

When my children were very young I tried to set an example for them by conducting our morning worship and leading in prayer to start the day. I also led our evening worship, but then *they* said the prayer.

As with most Adventist families of that era, my prayers always included the "missionaries in the foreign fields."

Imagine my consternation one evening when my son very seriously prayed for "the missionaries in the corn-fields."

—Helena Reid, Paradise Valley, Arizona



YOU KNOW YOU'RE AN MK (MISSIONARY KID) WHEN . . .

- . . . you can't answer the question "Where are you from?"
- . . . you speak two languages, but can't spell either.
- . . . you flew before you could walk.
- . . . you have a passport, but no driver's license.
- . . . you have a time zone map next to your telephone.
- . . . your life story uses the phrase "then we went to . . ." five times.
- . . . you think in grams, meters, and liters.
- . . . you sort your friends by continent.
- . . . you know how to pack.
- . . . you watch National Geographic specials and recognize someone.

—excerpted from a list compiled by Andy Kerr and Deborah Renaud



ALERT! ALERT!

Guess what, kids! We just received word that Herald the *Review* angel will not appear in this week's *Review*, as scheduled. Apparently Herald's flight has been delayed. (The good news is that readers of September's NAD Edition will have more time to send in their postcards.) Look for Herald—and the hidden trumpet—in next week's *Review*.

In the meantime, any kids who dress up like Herald and send us a photo might find themselves pictured soon on this page. Ready . . . Go!

THE GREAT OUTDOORS



IN GREEN PASTURES: Who says a Sabbath school class has to be held in a Sabbath school room? While working at the University of Eastern Africa in Kenya, Leslie and Helen Lee joined dozens of students and teachers who walked, rode their bikes, or drove their cars into the bush to conduct Sabbath school and church programs. Here, Helen uses a Picture Roll to tell children the story of another child who used to sit in the grass hundreds of miles north, the shepherd boy David.

WE NEED YOU

Give & Take is your page. Send your "Adventist Quotes," top-quality photos, "Adventist Life" vignettes, "Readers' Exchange" items, and other short contributions to: Give & Take, Adventist Review, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904; Fax: 301-680-6638; CompuServe: 74532,2564.

And to Some . . . Motorcycle Repair

Some spiritual gifts require a good socket wrench.

BY GARY PATTERSON

THE NAME ITSELF—Cottage Grove—does not lead one to thoughts of world travel or international intrigue. In fact, most

people probably would never have heard of this small central Oregon town (population 7,402) if Interstate 5 didn't happen to pass through it.

Cottage Grove, though, is where David Schenkel grew up—the beautiful valley bounded to the west by the Pacific and to the east by the snowcapped Cascade Mountains, where he spent his childhood, school days, and youth. David never traveled much beyond his own little community. Why should he? In Cottage Grove he was comfortable with both the people and his trade—motorcycle repair.

Always interested in motorcycles, David watched his hobby evolve into a vocation. In Cottage Grove he became known as a master mechanic—a master mechanic whose clients didn't yet include God.

Enter: the spring of 1995 and a new North



ROAD WARRIORS: Most of the East African pastors (above and right) had never ridden a motorcycle, let alone fixed one.



ALL PHOTOS BY DUANE MCKEY

American Division evangelistic venture dubbed NET '95, whose message would be broadcast from Chattanooga, Tennessee, throughout the continent—even to remote central Oregon.

Having been invited to attend these “electronic evangelistic meetings” in the local Seventh-day Adventist church, David was steadily drawn by the call of God to this community of believers. On September 30 he was baptized into the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Not long after, Pastor Randy Croft, seeking to involve and secure the new members in faith and community, preached on the importance of using one's gifts in the service of the Lord. Attending the worship service with him, David's friend Connie kidded him about his “gift” of motorcycle repair.

“Now,” she said, “just how is God going to use that gift?”

Surprise, Surprise

Meanwhile Duane McKey, Ministerial Association director of the North Pacific Union, felt a special burden for East Africa. Having devoted several years of ministry to that area, Duane often let his thoughts wander to his fellow pastors there who covered 10 to 20 churches—and as many as 20,000 members—without any transportation other than their feet or an occasional bicycle.

I wonder, he mused, if there are people here in the Northwest who have motorcycles sitting around unused that



MASTER MECHANIC: To Cottage Grove residents, no one twisted a screwdriver as well as David.

they would be willing to donate for such a project?

By the end of the summer of 1995, 14 motorcycles in various states of repair—or disrepair—were slated for transport to East Africa. Still, a dilemma remained: fixing them.

About this time one of Duane's cohorts remembered a newly baptized master mechanic in Cottage Grove. “Maybe David would help us,” he suggested.

The motley collection of used motorcycles was hauled to David's shop, where just weeks later they became a sleek fleet of “missionary motorcycles.” As the shipment was prepared, a startling thought occurred to Duane: *the pastors who will receive these motorcycles not only don't know*

how to maintain them; they don't even know how to ride them.

From Cottage Grove to Zimbabwe

Answering the call once more, David rejoined his motorcycle fleet in Harare, Zimbabwe, where he provided a motorcycle care and usage program for 14 eager pastors. The details of the training session remain sketchy—a few unconfirmed reports of a half dozen out-of-control pastors riding in the wrong direction.

But one thing is for sure: this Sabbath 14 East African pastors will more speedily reach and, in turn, minister to their multiple congregations thanks to David's willingness to use his talents for the Lord.

“There are different kinds of gifts,” wrote Paul, “but the same

Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men” (1 Cor. 12:4-6, NIV).

And wasn't it Paul who also said, “He gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some motorcycle mechanics” (Ephesians 4:11—or somewhere near there, anyway)? ■

Gary Patterson, a general field secretary of the General Conference, is director of the Office of Mission Awareness.



Facing a Fearful God?

ANGEL MANUEL RODRÍGUEZ

Revelation 14:7 calls the human race to “fear God,” but I’m not sure I understand that phrase. What does it mean to fear God? And how do I know that I fear Him?

Fear is perceived by some as a negative emotional experience that should not play any particular role in our relationship with God. It is certainly true that fear is a strong emotion, which creates deep anxiety and tends to paralyze the individual, often making him or her ineffective. But fear is also an internal reaction that is followed by a specific course of action on the part of the individual who experiences it.

Obviously, no one would want to relate to a God perceived as a threatening, destructive being. Nevertheless, the Bible provides several reasons for fearing the Lord. I will mention only three of them.

1. God’s Majestic Presence. The fear of the Lord is based on the fact and recognition of the greatness and singularity of God. He is indeed a fearful being, a terrifying presence. His *theophany*, that is, His visible manifestation, inspires fear, even terror, among those who experience it, because their lives seem to be endangered (e.g., Deut. 7:21; 10:17; Gen. 16:13).

This is a natural reaction to God’s majestic presence. His unique holiness is beyond our comprehension, and we fear that which we do not understand. For instance, the disciples “were exceedingly afraid” after witnessing Jesus’ transfiguration (Mark 9:2-6, RSV).

To help eliminate anxiety, God says “Fear not” (e.g., Gen. 15:1; Judges 6:23). This is an invitation to trust the Lord, to come closer to Him, to find in Him loving concern rather than intimidation. Thus the phrase “fear of the Lord” expresses in the Scriptures the idea of trusting the Lord. The reaction of an individual to God’s fearsome presence is submission to Him.

2. God’s Powerful Deeds. God is active in history, and His powerful actions make those who witness them afraid. During the exodus from Egypt the Lord miraculously delivered His people from the Egyptians. As a result “the people feared the Lord” (Ex. 14:31). Jesus’ healing miracles (e.g., Luke 7:16; 8:35), as well as His power over nature (Mark 4:41; John 6:19), inspired fear in the hearts of the people. This is the fear that results from being confronted by the incomprehensible.

Since God’s actions are of a salvific nature, the fear that they

elicit results in praising and worshiping Him. Thus to fear the Lord is to praise and trust Him; and those who do so are the ones who fear the Lord (Ps. 40:3; Luke 7:16). They are also the ones who rejoice in the Lord (Ps. 64:9, 10).

3. God’s Righteous Judgments.

This is closely related to God’s powerful deeds, because His judgments are actualized within history. His judgments against the nations create fear and terror among them (Ps. 9:19, 20). But those who fear the Lord in the sense of trusting Him find in His judgments a manifestation of His righteousness and His saving power,

and they worship Him (Rev. 15:3, 4).

There is in the concept an element of dread motivated by the majesty and greatness of a God who is beyond our comprehension in His being and in His actions. But those who fear Him discover that they can trust Him, that He is not a threat to their existence, but the exclusive source of their salvation. They do not run away from Him terrorized and anxious; rather, their reaction is one of submission to Him in obedience to His loving will.

The Bible defines the individual who fears the Lord as a person who obeys God’s will and praises and worships Him (Deut. 8:6). The emotional element is never totally eliminated, but the reaction to it is one of submission and fellowship with a God who is greater than any of us, who yet speaks to us and says “Fear not, trust in me.”

In Revelation 14:7 the call to fear the Lord is given in the context of a conflict between God’s followers and the forces of evil. Humankind is invited to recognize God’s majesty and the great salvation that He provides for us through Christ, and to submit willingly and obediently to His loving will.

The verse goes on to add that fearing God is extremely important because “the hour of his judgment has come” (RSV). The implication is clearly that those who fear the Lord do not have to fear the final judgment. They know God as their loving Saviour.

*We fear what
we do not
understand.*

Angel Manuel Rodríguez is an associate director of the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference. He is a widely traveled speaker and author.





ILLUSTRATION BY RON BLALOCK

The Power of Weakness

This legacy of Jesus flies in the face of a culture of position and power.

BY RICHARD H. HART

WE HAD JUST spent several delightful hours wandering through the picturesque Yugoslavian city of Dubrovnik. It was some years ago, before the current conflict that has destroyed much of the city's historical charm. Driving south from Dubrovnik in our used Volkswagen camper, we soon left the rugged Adriatic coastline and twisted up multiple switchbacks to reach a plateau scattered with family farms.

It was late July, and the first cutting of grass was under way. As we drove by, an elderly Yugoslavian woman was raking her hay with a traditional wooden rake, pulling it into bundles to dry. We paused out of interest, got out of the car, and stepped into her field. As vehicles were not frequent, she had already noticed and started walking toward us. Suddenly she stopped, turned, and walked over to another part of the field. Bending over, she picked something up and came over to us.

As she approached, we weren't sure what to expect. But her weather-hewn face broke into a smile as she held out her hand to our toddler daughter, Chandra, offering her a small turtle. She had obviously noticed Chandra, remembered the turtle from earlier in the day, and knew it would be of interest. The picture still echoes in my mind—our golden-haired girl, secure in the arms of her new farming

friend, sharing the wonders of nature as they communicated in ways known only to children.

Several years later I was working for the U.S. State Department in the country of Tanzania. My responsibilities in helping to develop a national maternal and child health program took me on many safaris throughout the fascinating rural areas of East Africa. On one particular trip my wife and two daughters were with me, Briana having joined Chandra the year before. Driving our VW camper, we ran out of daylight before reaching our destination and decided to spend the night along the road. We had not seen any people or villages for the past hour, and felt safe as we settled into our usual sleeping routine.

But early the next morning, before the baobab silhouettes were clearly discernible, we awoke to a

timid but persistent knock on the door of the camper. Through the window we could see an old man, appearing very benign and pleasant. I slid the door open from the bed and greeted him in Kiswahili. He smiled, nodded, and held out an old tin cup full of warm goat's milk. Obviously he had been close enough to hear our baby cry during the night and knew babies needed milk. He had gone out early that morning to milk his goat and was bringing assistance to these complete strangers from another land.

As the years have gone by and isolated incidents like these have accumulated, I have reflected often on the influence of an unsolicited act of kindness. These acts seem particularly powerful when given to total strangers, with the certain knowledge that they will never cross one's path again. Such simple acts, given from the commonness of

I WISH ABOVE ALL THINGS THAT YOU BE IN GOOD HEALTH

3 John: 2

The Creator, God, has entrusted to us the care and development of our bodies in which He desires to dwell. To love Him is to respect that which was created in His image and by His hand.

Lifestyle Center of America is a preventive care provider operated by Seventh-day Adventist Christians, whose professional lives and talents are dedicated to helping you keep and protect the highest of all God's creation - The Human Body.

We are here to help you prevent, and in many cases reverse, heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, obesity and stress related illnesses. 19, 12, 6 and 1 day programs are available in this state-of-the-art, world-class facility.

LIFESTYLE CENTER OF AMERICA
A Preventive Care Provider

**CALL NOW FOR A
FREE BROCHURE
800/213-8955**

In the Arbuckle Mountains of Southern Oklahoma, 2 hours north of Dallas/Fort Worth • Route 1, Box 4001 • Sulphur, Oklahoma 73086 • Visit our Internet website at <http://www.lifestylecenter.com>

everyday life, from the “weakness” of rural poverty, carried such power in the giving.

The power of weakness is not a concept often considered in today’s world. Power walks, power lunches, power ties, and related ideas in the Western culture imply that power is a commodity to be sought and developed. Leveraged negotiations are a desired position, with power being exerted in both overt and subtle ways.

But power is a relative thing, implying that one side must be stronger than the other, and that an even stronger person or position may threaten tomorrow. Notable giants of history, led by Christ Himself, exerted their influence through a position of servanthood, a position of weakness. They did not maneuver events to gain an upper hand, but let the moral force of a right idea carry its own influence. Christ’s unwelcome advice in Luke 6 to love your enemies and turn the other cheek seemed to turn common sense upside down. And throughout His acts and parables, He repeatedly denied pressure or force as a methodology, offering instead the power of weakness, the strength of servanthood.

Paul developed this thought further in 1 Corinthians 4:9-13. He described himself and the other apostles as being at the “end of the procession,” as “the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world” (NIV). Certainly this is not a message that attracts others naturally. Human nature resists being dominated or used by another. And certainly Christ would want us to maintain our dignity, our self-esteem. But as Paul so eloquently pointed out, our value as individuals comes through our identity with Christ, not through our relative position among people. Our tendency to adopt the world’s systems, at which we can become very good, easily leads us to perfect our power game rather than adopt the principles of servanthood.

*Power walks,
power lunches,
power ties, and
related ideas in
the Western
culture imply that
power is a
commodity to be
sought and
developed.*

Several summers ago I was with a large group of students from Loma Linda University working with Mother Teresa’s programs in the city of Calcutta. She operates a variety of services in the slums of Calcutta (as well as in other cities of the world), including homes for the dying, orphanages, and clinics. We were staying in an Anglican guest house on a busy thoroughfare, with trucks and horns roaring, and with mosquitoes serenading through our mosquito nets every night. In this part of the city, walking down the street was an emotional challenge, as one stepped over garbage, encountered beggars, and detoured around homeless families.

As the days went by, the culture shock started taking its toll on our students. The emotional stress of feeding and bathing a dying person, even across a cultural boundary in

which one could not verbally communicate, was considerable. Playing with orphaned children, who at least represented the future, was more appealing. The clinics were crowded, with limited medicines and equipment, offering only the simplest of health care.

A few students gradually withdrew from their dreams of service, finding a variety of excuses to remain in the guest house. Others were typical Americans, offering recommendations on how to make everything work better. They had solutions to organizational issues, suggestions on supplies to obtain, and an increasing frustration with the daily routine. Only a few students caught the real essence of Mother Teresa’s work—that the simple power of human love and caring was far more powerful than any antibiotic or surgery. Those students would spend hours caring for the basic human needs of a wasting body, without the benefit of a common language, and feel the knitting of human souls and kinship that is the power of love.

While traveling in Australia several years ago, I noticed the title of a book that I never had a chance to read—*Dancing With a Limp*. It was a story of Jacob after his struggle on the riverbank with God. The concept is the same. It is our weakness, our limitations, that can be combined with the power of God to make us strong, even powerful.

The power of weakness is one of those unique qualities that elude us if pursued, yet come freely when we are in a position of servanthood. The power of weakness is found in the joy of service.

Dr. Richard H. Hart is dean of the School of Public Health, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California.



If You Believe in What You're Doing, It's Not Sacrifice

BY JACKIE ORDELHEIDE SMITH

Jackie Ordelleide Smith is coordinator for Global Mission Pioneers.

On November 9, Adventists around the world will give to the Annual Sacrifice Offering. Many will contribute a day's or even a week's wages. We call it a "sacrifice" offering, but if you believe in what you're doing, it's not sacrifice.

Look at the following Global Mission pioneers, and you will understand what I mean. Here are frontline workers who don't give a day's or a week's wage—they give their very selves.



Names: Valery and Lida Yaganov

Target: Budennovsk, Russia

Baptized Members: 20

Church Building: No. They are meeting in a rented hall.

Less than a year ago this city was ravaged by Chechen soldiers, who killed more than 200 civilians and police and took hospital patients hostage. After an evangelistic campaign in February 1996, 10 people were baptized. In June another group of 10 was baptized. Now there is a Seventh-day Adventist congregation in that war-torn city.



Names: K. J. and Lissy Joy, and Lejo (9) and Tejoky (5)

Target: Kottaiyur, India

Baptized Members: 36

Church Building: Land and materials have been purchased.

They go visiting together; she ministers to the wife and he, to the husband. Many people in the congregation used to drink. After talking to them about health and praying with them, they have convinced them to stop drinking. They encourage those with family problems to take their problems to Jesus.

After a long day of visiting, Lissy had some terrible pain. She discovered that she had a contracted heart valve and needed surgery. She is discouraged by the setback and afraid of the surgery, but she and K. J. still have plans to visit neighboring villages when she recovers.



Names: (front, left to right) Cho Eun Hee, Lana Malapad, Heo Seo Haeng; (back) Joshua M. Balder, Alan Chen, Ed Rivera.

Target: Talim Island, Philippines

Baptized Members: 15-plus

Church Building: Yes

After training by the 1000 Missionary Movement, they have been participating in various outreach efforts, including evangelistic meetings, health seminars, and Vacation Bible Schools, to establish an Adventist presence on this small island.



Names: Oksana Kornienko and Galina Kazakor

Target: Vorkuta, Russia.

Baptized Members: 5

Church Building: No

Together these women have conducted a series of evangelistic meetings and led Sabbath services. As a result of making several friends in the community, they are now giving Bible studies and shepherding a congregation of 22 people.



My name is Sem Waine, and I'm a Global Mission pioneer working in a village of 18,000 people in Papua New Guinea. I have been working now for three years to start up a new congregation. I've had to leave my wife and two children at home because food is hard to find in the bush and living conditions are primitive. It's an 18-hour walk from my home, where my wife and children live, to my post. I'm happy to walk the distance, because I love my family and I know I need to share the gospel with the people in this village.

I have had a lot of opposition since coming here. When I first arrived, I met a man named Sheep Sheep. One night he approached me with a machete and said, "You've come to wreck our beliefs, so I have come to cut you into pieces." The principal of the school overheard him and stopped him. Later, when the members were building the church, Sheep Sheep came and started throwing stones at me. Church members grabbed him and threw him out of the village. Sheep Sheep returned again and urinated on the work we had done on our church. The next day he became very sick. Somehow the Lord changed his heart, because he decided to stop fighting me.

While I was leading out in a branch Sabbath school one day, a man came in and took the Sabbath school Picture Roll from me and threw it into a nearby fire. I pulled it out quickly and put out the flames. Picture Rolls are hard to come by.

Another time, while I was at the market, some bandits grabbed my Picture Roll from me and broke it. Although it angered me, I didn't retaliate. I know God is in control, and He will provide for me. Three men with guns and machetes even tried to kill me. They slashed my stomach and stole my money. I went to the church members for help, and they cared for me.

My wife recently came and spent six months with me. Since I left home my mother has died and my father is getting old. I have five brothers out of the church. God has given me an understanding for this work. I ask God for help to know what to do, and He gives me the tools I need. As the firstfruits of my labor the Holy Spirit has given 10 baptisms, and 16 more people have responded to an appeal to be baptized. Sheep Sheep is even coming to my meetings. I believe that this year the gospel will go forward in this village and the surrounding area.

Sem Waine

"Oh, for a Finished Work!"

BY ROBERT S. FOLKENBERG

Good news—once again mission is capturing the attention of our church.

So much has happened since 1990, when Global Mission was launched. Instead of looking inward, Adventists are looking and reaching outward. Global Mission has brought together personnel and financial resources and opened previously unentered areas. Large numbers of people from different lands have come to know Jesus Christ. Last year more than 2,000 new congregations were established and 659,899 men and women became our spiritual brothers and sisters. In China alone 114 churches were established in areas, each with a population of 1 million people, where in 1990 we did not have even one member.

For much of this new work the Holy Spirit has used lay-people known as Global Mission pioneers—men and women, often young, who volunteer themselves for service among unreached peoples. (See a report on Global Mission pioneers on pages 16 and 17).

A major factor in making Global Mission possible has been the generous giving of our people. Many years ago the Annual Sacrifice Offering received widespread support, but over the years it fell into decline. In 1995, however, church leaders introduced a significant change—all funds collected from this offering would go to Global Mission. That year the offering increased from \$2.8 million in 1994 to nearly \$4 million. With those funds we implemented 700 evangelism plans and sent more than 3,400 pioneers to unentered areas.

I praise the Lord for His leading and the response of our people. Our giving shows we still believe in mission and frontline evangelistic outreach.

Your gifts to the Annual Sacrifice Offering in 1996 will fund a major portion of our worldwide frontline evangelism for 1997. It is critical that you consider a sacrificial pact with the Lord. Consider setting aside a day's wages for this year's Annual Sacrifice Offering. Perhaps the Spirit will impress you to contribute even more.

If just 282,000 Adventist households in North America would give a day's wage, an average of \$100, we would have more than \$28 million to reach unentered areas. In many places we can establish a new Seventh-day Adventist congregation in an unentered area for just \$3,500. At that rate, under the

direction of the Holy Spirit, we could begin thousands of soul winning activities and establish more than 8,000 new groups of believers!

Today 1,561 groups, each with approximately 1 million people, are waiting to hear the gospel. Through the power of the Holy Spirit—and with your prayers and financial support—we can reach those men, women, and children who need to know about the love of Jesus. That is our sole purpose and privilege.

Ellen White has written, "When the wealth of earth shall perish, he who has laid up treasure in heaven will behold that which his life has gained. If we have given heed to the words of Christ, then, as we gather around the great white throne, we shall see souls who have been saved through our agency, and shall know that one has saved others, and these still others—a large company brought into the haven of rest as the result of our labors, there to lay their crowns at Jesus' feet, and praise Him through the ceaseless ages of eternity. With what joy will the worker for Christ behold these redeemed ones, who share the glory of the Redeemer! How precious will heaven be to those who have been faithful in the work of saving souls!" (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 90, 91).

The Annual Sacrifice Offering will be collected in your local church on November 9. Please pray about your contribution. After having planned a faith partnership with the Lord, mark your tithe envelope "Annual Sacrifice Offering."

Oh, for a finished work!

Robert S. Folkenberg is president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

33,000 Page SDA Pioneer Library

Words of the Pioneers, 2nd Edition (1995)

CD-ROM, each word indexed with Folio™

search & retrieval software (Windows or Macintosh). Priceless, mostly out-of-print writings, 1840's onwards. \$195.00, plus \$2.50 S/H. (CA residents add 7.75% sales tax).

Complete bibliography upon request.

Contact your local ABC or reach us directly:

Adventist Pioneer Library

☐ Dept. MN1

P. O. Box 1844

Loma Linda, CA 92354-0380

☎ Phone/Fax: (909) 824-1361

☐ E-mail: apl@netbox.com

Web: <http://www.andrews.edu/other/APL/>



Repeat the words of the pioneers in our work, who knew what it cost to search for truth as for hidden treasure, and who labored to lay the foundation of our work.

(RH 5/25/05)

Recommended by the Ellen G. White Estate and the G. C. Ministerial Association

About
1/2c per
page!

Worried Sick

BY SAMUEL L. DESHAY, M.D.

Is there any known cause for Alzheimer's disease?

Alzheimer's is a disease characterized by a progressive deterioration of brain cells. It usually occurs after age 65, but it has been known to occur in people younger than that. Women seem somewhat more prone to this condition than men, and it is estimated that this affliction affects one out of every 175 people in North America. There is a 50 percent chance of being so afflicted if Alzheimer's has been a part of a family's medical history.

The cause of the disease is unknown. There have been suggestions that it could be caused by a slow-spreading virus or by the use or proximity to certain types of trace minerals and metals (such as aluminum); or it could be just a normal by-product of the aging process.

Many symptoms have been associated with Alzheimer's, including amnesia, anxiety, loss of speech, depression, intellectual decline, restlessness, sleep disturbances, apathy, confabulation, impaired spatial perception, etc. And because these symptoms occur in connection with other syndromes as well, it is often difficult to diagnose Alzheimer's disease accurately.

A wholesome diet, which includes fruit, vegetables, nuts, and unrefined grains, may help to prevent this heartbreaking disease.

I was told that I have lichen planus. Just what is this? And what can I do about it?

Lichen planus is an inflammatory skin disorder, characterized by small, flat, oblong, purplish-colored spots that often itch. A skin biopsy is advisable for anyone who believes he or she might have this condition.

Some medical professionals believe that exposure to certain drugs or chemicals may be a factor in causing this and the condition known as *lupus erythematosus*.

Another factor often present prior to the outbreak of

this condition is the presence of unusually high emotional stress.

A visit to a physician will help to relieve the itching, but learning how to reduce stress is also recommended as a possible long-term solution to dealing with this disease.

How can I get a handle on worry and stress?

One major factor in worry is trying to "go it alone."

William Ewart Gladstone, a former prime minister of England, maintained a calm serenity so profound that people often asked his secret. He replied that on the footboard, at the bottom of his

bed, he had penned the words "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee" (Isa. 26:3).

There are at least three elements involved in learning to experience this divine solution to worry and stress:

Prayer. Communicating with God is a wonderful way to "vent" the emotional pressure that builds up from day to day. Having someone to confide in helps to remove worry and stabilize the mind.

Bible study. Finding and claiming God's promises strengthens the mind and directs the thoughts toward positive desires and actions.

Confession of sin. Acknowledging our failures (and forgiving those who have wronged us) unburdens the mind from negative thoughts and liberates the soul to experience the peace and joy of the Lord.

*Finding and
claiming God's
promises
strengthens
the mind.*

Samuel L. DeShay is a practicing physician in the suburban Washington, D.C., area. For many years he was director of the General Conference Health Department.



Church Growth Abounds in Romania

The Adventist Church in Romania comes of age.

BY LEO RANZOLIN, A GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

From a humble beginning in 1870, in the city of Pitesti, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Romania has grown significantly to more than 1,000 churches and 66,299 members. This is indeed a showcase for Adventists in Europe, where the church is struggling with secularism and materialism.

Since the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, Adventists in Romania have been busy trying to catch up with the rest of the world—and they've made tremendous progress. The literature evangelism work started a few years ago, and we already have 391 literature evangelists working side by side with 265 active ministerial and



WATERY GRAVE: Ninety persons were baptized in a recent evangelistic series in Ploiesti.



STANDING ROOM ONLY: Hundreds of people attended outreach meetings at the Zion Adventist Church in Ploiesti.

Bible workers. We have 250 students enrolled in correspondence courses and 126 new seminary students.

Spreading the Word

Another example of the growth in Romania came during an evangelistic series in the city of Ploiesti, an hour north of the capital city of Bucharest. All five churches in Ploiesti were involved in the preparation of persons for the 10 night meetings held in new Zion Adventist Church this past spring.

The church seats about 500 people, and it was full to capacity each night, with a 60 percent non-Adventist attendance. The local church leaders had hoped to baptize 40 persons from the meetings, but by the time the meetings ended, 90 persons were baptized and another 30 prepared for

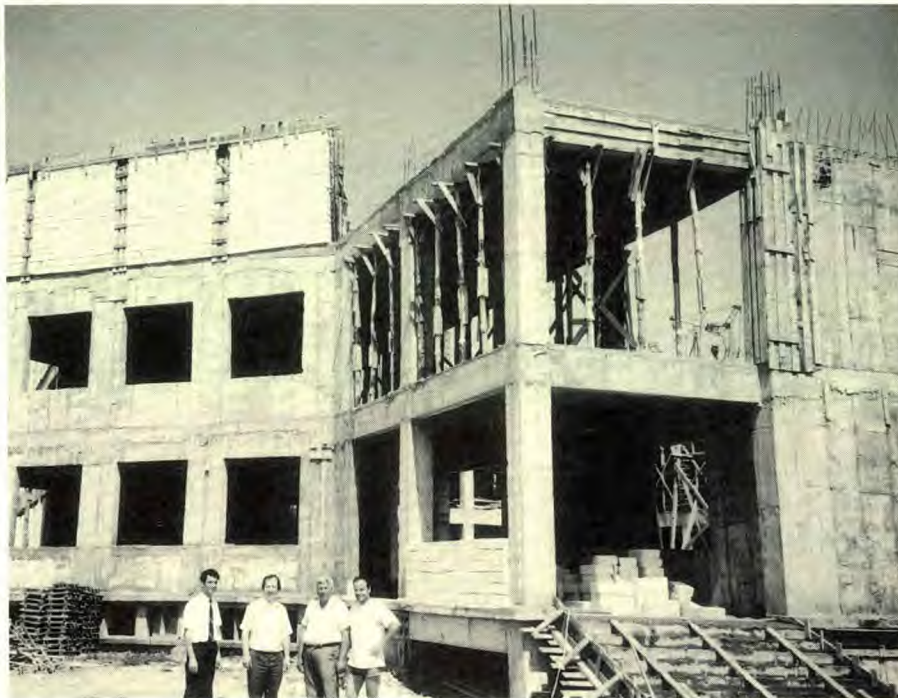
baptism with further Bible study.

Pastor Adrian Bocaneanu, president of the Romanian Union, is enthusiastically preparing the Romanian Adventists for participation in NET '96. Two hundred churches have signed up and will receive the messages by Mark Finley via satellite from Orlando, Florida. Altogether, about 5,000 churches worldwide are expected to participate in NET '96.

New Churches

A great challenge in Romania is preparing new workers. A new seminary has recently been built to house 120 students. New churches are under construction all the time, and a great demand exists for new ministers to care for the congregations.

One of the highlights of the visit was to see the new church being remodeled to house some members from the Maranatha Adventist Church



PREPARING FOR MINISTRY: Another symbol of growth for the Romanian church is the new seminary building now under construction.

NEWS BREAK

Dickering With the Constitution

Whether or not the proposed "religious equality" amendment to the United States Constitution comes to the floor of Congress for a vote, it is worth noticing. First of all, there is a well-developed free exercise and nonestablishment case law jurisprudence, including more than a century of Supreme Court rulings.

A religious liberty amendment, no matter how well-intentioned, will inevitably call in question the current religious liberty arrangement that has served the U.S. admirably.

Second, the problem with the proposed amendment is not with what it says right up front but what may lie beneath the benign wording and how it might be "misused." Some church-state observers are concerned that it might be used to change church-state separation law radically and open widely the legal door for government funding of religious activities and benefits, especially of dominant churches or faiths.

Here is the current wording of the proposed amendment (HJR 184):

"In order to secure the right of the people to acknowledge and serve God according to the dictates of conscience, neither the United States nor any state shall deny any person equal access to a benefit, or otherwise

discriminate against any person, on account of religious belief, expression, or exercise. This amendment does not authorize government to coerce or inhibit religious belief, expression, or exercise."

The primary intention is quite clearly to strengthen the religious liberty rights ("free exercise") of all Americans. The key phrase that arouses legitimate questions for church-state separationists is: "Neither the United States nor any state shall deny any person equal access to a benefit." Here the word "person," of course, includes also institutions.

On the face of it, these words provide what many really want—equal access to all government benefits, regardless of one's religious or philosophical stance. Some, however, see in this amendment an attempt to open government coffers for support of religious schools.

The actual wording does not authorize or require the government to provide money for religious groups—a specter that prophetic interpretation sees in the eschatological future. At this point, the possible fallout of the suggested amendment is really conjecture, though not wild speculation, especially in view of the August 1996 Welfare and Medicaid Reform Act, which includes the Ashcroft provisions, allowing states to outsource directly to churches social welfare services to the poor.

There are two Supreme Court cases in which Adventists



HOUSES OF FAITH: New church buildings are springing up throughout Romania. This one is located in Campina, about 14 miles from Ploiesti.

in Ploiesti, the petroleum city of Romania. The church building was confiscated by the Communists and turned into a movie theater. It has been returned to the Adventist Church and is being renovated to accommodate the great increase of members in the city where all the churches are filled to the seams.

A Pathfinder program has been started under the name Explorators, and it already has 1,000 participants. Church leaders are now stressing ministry to senior youth, because the church in Romania is a youth church and there is increased demand to accommodate and care for their needs. The youth are actively involved in the activities of the church and will play a tremendous role in finalizing the preaching of the gospel in that country.

NEWS BREAK

have been interested, the first very favorably and the second with equal disfavor. In the *Sherbert v. Verner* (1963) case, the High Court held that you may not be denied a generally available government benefit (e.g., unemployment compensation) because of conduct mandated by sincere religious belief. The *Sherbert* case set a very high standard for religious free exercise protection for some 25 years, but in 1990 this was considerably undermined by *Unemployment Division v. Smith*.

In *Smith* the Court held that if a law was facially neutral and generally applicable, it applied to everyone with no religious exemptions. The Religious Freedom Restoration Act, passed by Congress in 1993, tried to undo the *Smith* decision, but it is only a law, and there are currently challenges in court to its constitutionality.

The proponents of the religious equality amendment seem to want, in effect, to constitutionalize aspects of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the *Sherbert* decision. With that support of free exercise, Seventh-day Adventists can be comfortable. However, many would

object to any effort to tinker with the Constitution, weaken church-state separation by financing religion, or dismantle the nonestablishment clause.



If passed, the religious equality amendment will change the foundation upon which the U.S. Supreme Court has interpreted the law of religious freedom.

What of the near future? The amendment will in all likelihood not even come up for a vote this fall. If it does, many feel it probably will not muster the required two-thirds vote. Should it pass both the House of Representatives and the Senate, it must then wait for the long and contentious process of getting, within seven years, the legislatures of three fourths of the states (38) to ratify it. Only then would it become the law of the land.

Today our task is the Jeffersonian one of "eternal vigilance" as the price of continued religious liberty, carried out with wide-awake Seventh-day Adventist sober honesty, without somber histrionics.

By Bert B. Beach, general secretary of the General Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department's Council on Interchurch Relations

In Waco's Shadow . . . Still

BY JEANNE EDWARDSSEN, MEDIA CONSULTANT, PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA

It was one of those wonderful mornings. I was in my very own bed after being on the road with the Olympic torch for four months. A cable station was airing a special on famous news stories. Today's show: Waco, Texas.

The program began with a flashback of Connie Chung on the evening news in the spring of 1993.

"Today in Waco, Texas, the Branch Dividian cult, an offshoot of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, began a standoff at their compound . . ." You know the rest.

Not until I was hired to coordinate Adventist involvement in this summer's Olympic torch relay had I ever worked for the church. As a sixth-generation Adventist I was eager to contribute something professionally. *How hard can this be?* I figured.

Harder than I thought.

NEWS COMMENTARY

In conference after conference I found that many of our communication personnel had no media contacts in their cities. Some didn't even know how to write a press release—nor were they interested in doing so. In many cases church communications meant little more than fighting for space in the *Adventist Review* or a union paper. Getting a message into a secular publication? Sorry; we pass.

Who's to blame for this? We all are, I suppose. Too often Adventists like playing it safe. By venturing into the secular media, we lose control. But by doing nothing, we stand to lose a lot more.

Hiring consultants like me will be necessary unless we start making communications both a financial and an educational priority.

Until then, it will be a while before Waco goes away.

NEWS BREAK

Religious Intolerance in Mexico

Many Adventists in Mexico are suffering persecution and some have died for their beliefs, reports Robert S. Folkenberg, General Conference president.

The persecution stems from activities of rebel forces, which control portions of southern Mexico. "Many of our believers have been expelled from their properties, some have been beaten, and several killed," Folkenberg says. "Please pray for our believers in Mexico during this trying time."

Sanitarium Health Food Undergoes Changes

Officials at Sanitarium Health Food Company in Australia are restructuring the firm's distribution operations to enable the institution to increase its financial support of the South Pacific Division.

SHF expects to increase its contributions to the church by US\$9.4 million. The restructuring plan includes closing two of the eight manufacturing plants and reducing staff by 20 percent.

News Notes

✓ **Albania's Adventist youth** recently gathered in Korca for the first major Adventist youth outreach

meeting in the formerly Communist country.

The two-week event included Bible studies, prayer meetings, missionary activities, and training programs. Two Adventist youth teams from Switzerland worked with 50 young Albanians to organize the event.—*Adventist News Network*.

✓ **U.S. News and World Report** ranks Pacific Union College sixth among the top 10 Western regional liberal arts colleges in the United States. This is the third consecutive year that PUC has been listed in the top 10 schools in its category.

✓ **Correction.** Jeff and Michelle Roderick, parents of the conjoined twins who were separated at Loma Linda University Medical Center, were teachers at the Adventist school in Calexico, California, not the location mentioned in the July 18 Newsbreak.

What's Coming!

Oct. 1-10	General Conference Executive Committee Annual Council in Costa Rica
Oct. 6-12	Health Emphasis Week
Oct. 12	Sabbath School Guest Day
Oct. 12	Community Relations Day
Oct. 19	Voice of Prophecy Day



Test Your Global Mission IQ

1. In a little-known European capital, Elista, Adventist work was begun in 1991 by Pastor Samuel Kerdivara from Moldova. Now a church building, erected largely with Global Mission funds, stands high in this chess capital of the world. Among its 83 members are eight former Buddhists, whose Mongolian-rooted language is shared across Asia. Elder Seftor Elzarov, a former Muslim and petroleum engineer, performed the latest baptism on June 15, 1996. This Buddhist republic occupies what is claimed to be the only sand desert in Europe. What is this republic's name?

- A. Kalmykia B. Bulgaria C. Mordovia
D. Udmurtia

2. In a growing world church, five church divisions have memberships of more than 1 million. What division do you think is the closest to becoming the next one?

- A. Euro-Africa Division B. North American Division
C. South Pacific Division

3. Global Mission pioneers are indigenous volunteers who commit at least a year of their lives to establishing a new congregation in an unentered area. The division with the largest goal for 1996 is Inter-America. What is their goal?

- A. 1,000 pioneers B. 5,000 pioneers
C. 10,000 pioneers D. 20,000 pioneers

4. People groups are usually thought of in ethnolinguistic terms, but are also conceived of as any group with a common bond of identification. SDA members who belong to such a group have their own mission field for which they are uniquely qualified. A Global Mission project called "Deep-Sea Fishing" targeted "professionals in the capital city," and Pastor Jose Moran saw a fellow minister and 12 of his members join our church. What was that capital city?

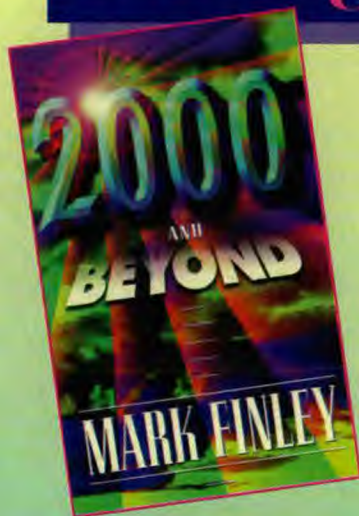
- A. Lima, Peru B. Tegucigalpa, Honduras
C. Zaragoza, Spain

Answers:

1. A. Kalmykia. (A, C, and D are associate republics within the Russian Federation.)
2. B. North American Division. It had 839,847 members at the end of March 1996. Euro-Africa had 437,835, and South Pacific had 287,650.
3. D. 20,000. Sergio Moctezuma is the division Global Mission coordinator.
4. B. Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

1997

Sharing Book of the Year



Now, you can share the Bible's exciting predictions about the future with friends and neighbors who need good news. This year's sharing book, *2000 and Beyond*, takes us directly to God's Scriptures to learn how we can live successfully today and into the future without being led astray.

In fact, God's Word tells us that this old world won't last much longer. But isn't that good news to those of us who believe? We know that our Saviour is coming soon to take us home to heaven.

Paper, 128 pages. US\$1.99/Cdn\$2.89.

Available at your Adventist Book Center
or call toll free 1-800-765-6955.

©1996 Pacific Press Publishing Association 336/80700



Pacific Press Publishing Association

Creating the future of Adventist publishing

Visit us at <http://www.pacificpress.com>

Sleeping

ROSY TETZ

Have you ever seen an aquarium? An aquarium is a container of water in which people keep fish. You might even have one at your house. Fish make nice pets.

The next time you see an aquarium, look inside and see if you can find any fish that are sleeping. It won't be easy. It's hard to tell if a fish is sleeping because fish don't have any eyelids. They have to sleep with their eyes open, so their faces look the same whether they are awake or asleep.

Because of this, some people think that fish never sleep, but they do. All animals must rest by sleeping, or they will get so tired and weak that they will die.

You may not like to admit it, but even *you* need to sleep. When you were a baby, you slept about 15 hours a day. (Your parents may not remember it being that much, but it's probably true all the same.) As you get older you need less sleep, but even grown-ups need about eight hours of sleep at night.

You need to sleep because your body needs to rest. You keep busy all day long. Your muscles get tired from all that running and playing. Your brain gets tired from all that thinking and learning. Your energy gets all used up.

While you sleep, your muscles and insides get to relax and take a break. Your body stores up more energy so you can be busy again tomorrow. Your brain gets to sort out all the things you discovered and thought about during the day.

Some people don't like to go to sleep. Some people put off bedtime as long as they can by begging for just one more story or by getting up for another drink of water or by thinking of one more question to ask.

Maybe they are afraid they'll miss something while they sleep. Maybe they are afraid of the dark.

Here is a good thing to remember just before you go to bed: God doesn't sleep. All day and all night He takes care of you.



The Bible says, "Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord. He made heaven and earth. He will not let you be defeated. He who guards you never sleeps. . . . The Lord will guard you as you come and go, both now and forever" (Ps. 121:1-8, ICB).

Sleep tight.

ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN

Close to Home
A DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WOMEN BY WOMEN
ROSE OTIS, EDITOR

Prayers from the heart of Ellen White
Here I Am, Lord
RUBY RATZLAVE, COMPILER

NEVER THIRST AGAIN
A Woman's Guide to Creative Bible Study
DOROTHY EATON WATTS

CLOSE TO HOME
These daily devotionals for women by women touch close to home. You've faced many of the same struggles. Felt the same longings that fill their hearts. Their stories bring joy and inspiration to your walk with God. And His leading in their lives reminds you of His promise never to stop guiding your own. Rose Otis, editor. Hardcover, 416 pages. US\$14.99, Cdn\$21.49.

CLOSE TO HOME JOURNAL
Lightly lined matching journal. Hardcover, 160 pages. US\$5.99, Cdn\$8.49.

NEVER THIRST AGAIN
Dorothy Eaton Watts shares ideas for creative Bible study that bring a greater sense of God's presence. Hear God's voice speaking to you through Scripture. Get to the heart of the Bible author's meaning. Delve into Bible promises that meet your unique needs. Paper, 127 pages. US\$8.99, Cdn\$12.99.

HERE

I AM, LORD

A beautiful collection of prayers from the heart of Ellen White. Makes a lovely gift or keepsake. Paper, 112 pages. US\$9.99, Cdn\$14.49.



These Review and Herald books are available at your Adventist Book Center. Call 1-800-765-6955.

Canadian prices do not include GST and may change according to currency fluctuation.

Never Enough Money

When the father left home, what was a mother of 10 children to do?

BY MARJORIE FELDER BREWER

NOW THAT I THINK BACK on it, our large family had to deal with the lack of money in ways I hardly understood as a child. But this lack of resources for many of our necessities became a teaching device. It didn't take long for me to learn the value of planning and saving.

My first recollection of money is a happy one, centering on my grandfather's regular visits with us. He always had a pocketful of change, mostly quarters. As he was ready to say goodbye, he would stand up and literally turn his pockets inside out.

Quarters would roll onto the couch, the floor, and into the hidden corners of the living room. We children would scramble around, squealing with delight whenever we found one of the precious coins.

I remember my father saving change in a jar that he hid way up on the top shelf of a clothes closet. Learning from his example, I started my own little bank. In a discarded oatmeal box I began depositing nickels and dimes that I earned by collecting soda bottles. I stowed the coins away for future needs.



STRONGHOLD OF FAITH: Eva Felder (1912-1982) was a rock of ages for her 10 children.

The idea of putting money aside for something special or important was reinforced when I was in the fourth or fifth grade. The church school I attended encouraged all of us students to begin a "savings plan." We started putting nickels, dimes, and quarters in a neighborhood bank. We made weekly deposits, no matter how small. I became the proud owner of a bank passbook—and an account.

I was the second child in a family of 10 and grew up in Harlem. When we did have money, it was Mama who decided what to do with it. There never seemed to be enough money for shoes, clothes, toys, or other necessities. (I, like most children, definitely thought toys were a necessity.)

Mama's Vision

Mama had become an Adventist when she was 17 after attending an evangelistic meeting. Daddy, however, was not a church member. He did like us to attend church school, but it was up to Mama to figure out how.



THE DAUGHTERS: At a family reunion in 1995, nine of the 10 children of Eva Felder gathered for an informal snapshot. From the left the five sisters are: Anita Hazell, Helyn Ghiocel, Alicia Cain, Marjorie Brewer (the author), and Deborah Felder. Another sister, Geraldine, is deceased.

There was tuition to be paid—no small thing for a large family. We also had to buy tickets on a city bus to get back and forth to school (about four miles away). A pass for each child cost 50 cents a week; it all added up. And then there were extra expenses, such as the times Johnny or Geraldine or Henry appeared in a school play and costumes had to be bought or made.

Mama went without many times so that she could meet our needs. Yet she always gave a faithful tithe and offerings at the Ephesus church, where we were members. Instead of diminishing the money, her faithfulness seemed somehow to increase it.

We did not always have the material possessions that other children had. Our home was not as well appointed as those of some of our friends. Yet our home was filled with love and laughter. Mama seemed to manage to get enough food on the table for the family and also to invite someone home for Sabbath dinner.

Our home was always filled with other people's children. They liked being around us. When too many of us

got underfoot, she would send some of our friends out, saying, "Go home and worry your own mother." But they knew Mama loved them. They would come back within the hour.



THE SONS: The four brothers, from the left, are: Richard Allen Felder, William D. Felder, Jr., John H. Felder, and Henry F. Felder.

On Her Own

The day finally came when Daddy felt he could no longer support his burgeoning family, and he left home. Mama was on her own.

She worked in a factory pressing clothes; she did domestic work caring for other people's homes. And she prayed a lot.

William and Henry sold *Message* and *These Times* magazines from door to door and operated a shoeshine stand. Henry even sold oatmeal cookies, three for a dime. I worked at the academy for 50 cents an hour to help defray the cost of my tuition. (My earnings were always credited directly to my account; I never saw

any cash.)

Just when the money seemed about to run out, the church people came to our aid with donations of good clothes, a Thanksgiving basket or two, and

yes—money. Somehow we all made it through high school.

Then there was college. Mama's faith kept us going. Several of us received scholarships, and off we went. Often there was no money, and yet the Lord provided. That was our story—10 children, a faithful mother, and no money.

Some time after we children finished college, a few things changed. For one, Dad asked to come back home. Despite all we'd been through, Mama forgave him and welcomed him with open arms.

And Mama, who had spent so many years helping and encouraging us, now went back to school herself and earned a high school diploma. She was on her way to college when her life was cut short by leukemia. She was almost 70 when we lost her.

God blessed the family that never had enough money. Today, among those 10 children, three hold doctoral degrees, six master's degrees,

and eight bachelor's degrees.

Three serve in positions in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The others work in such service-related professions as education, government, and health care. (Geraldine, one of my sisters, is now deceased.)

Mama's 11 grandchildren and two of her nephews were also deeply influenced by her faith and vision. Among the grandchildren there are a law enforcement officer, carpenter, attorney, speech pathologist, and homemaker. Several are in high school or college. One of her nephews has been a missionary for 23 years.

The Scripture says that one person's decisions and influence can easily be felt "unto the third and fourth generation." In our case, that person's influence has not only been felt, but magnified many times over. We, the children of Eva Felder, can testify to this truth.

Today I realize the value of money,

but I am not in awe of money. I would like to have more (who wouldn't?) and be able to help others more. So much good can come from the proper use of money. And so much evil can come from its ill use. "The love of money is the root of all evil," according to 1 Timothy 6:10. Paradoxically, in Ecclesiastes 10:19 we are told that "money answereth all things."

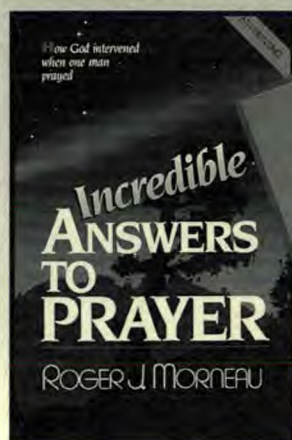
I want to have enough money to answer all my needs, but not so much that it will allow me to forget the legacy of my faithful mother.

One of the most important things Mama ever taught me she taught by her example: it is *faith* that moves mountains—not money. ■

Marjorie Felder Brewer, a former English teacher and college financial aid officer, holds an M.B.A. and is Trust Services management assistant at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

ROGER MORNEAU

◆ The Incredible Answers to Prayer Series ◆



ROGER MORNEAU is a man of incredible faith. When he prays, things happen. And it's exciting! As a result, he's received thousands of letters and telephone calls from people requesting intercessory prayer. He shares many of those requests in this series along with God's thrilling answers.

He also shows how you can walk more closely with God, share His power and love with others, and receive incredible answers to prayer.



These Review and Herald® products are available at your Adventist Book Center. Call 1-800-765-6955.

Paper, US\$7.99, Cdn\$11.49 each.

Also available on video.

US\$34.95, Cdn\$50.49 two-volume set.

Canadian prices do not include GST and may vary according to currency fluctuation.

Bulletin Board

They Still Go

The following persons left North America this spring and summer as part of the Adventist Volunteer Service.

Wendi Heather Achata, to serve as English/Bible teacher, Korea SDA Language Institutes, Seoul, Korea, of Nashville, Tennessee.

Luis Ruben Cadilla, to serve as family practice physician, Guam SDA Clinic, Tamuning, Guam, and Eva Cadilla, of Grand Terrace, California.

Marcus Reid and Deanna Maxine Dekle, to serve as pastor and health educator, respectively, Paata, Chuuk State, Micronesia, and four children, of Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Earl Lionel and Sharon Marcia Job Edwards, to serve as English-Bible teachers, Korea SDA Language Institutes, Seoul, Korea, of Brooklyn, New York.

Timothy Wayne Gleason, to serve as physician/anesthesiologist, Guam SDA Clinic, Tamuning, and Miriam Noemi Gleason, of Modesto, California.

David Leroy and Leona Grace Gouge, to serve as elementary teacher and English librarian/dean of girls, respectively, Mission College, Saraburi Province, Thailand, of Pocatello, Idaho.

Harry Thorlief Haugen, to serve as English/Bible teacher, Korea SDA Language Institutes, Seoul, Korea, of College Park, Georgia.

Jon A. Hawkins, to serve as computer technician, Ethiopian Adventist College, Shashamane, Ethiopia, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Andrew Paul Haynal, to serve as adjunct professor, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Philippines, of Battle Ground, Washington.

Alan Eugene Johlman, to serve as dentist, Adventist Dental Clinic, Bangladesh, and Arabelle Louise Johlman, of San Dimas, California.

Kathryn Gene Leon, to serve as English teacher, East Asia Association, of Topock, Arizona.

Frank Raymond Lynn, to serve as English/Bible teacher, Korea SDA Language Institutes, Seoul, Korea, of Dickerson Run, Pennsylvania.

Retha Dawn McCrain, to serve as English/Bible teacher, Korea SDA Language Institutes, Seoul, Korea, of Baker City, Oregon.

James Jinho Park, to serve as garden project leader, ADRA/Mongolia, of Highgrove, California.

John Lund Petersen, to serve as physician of internal medicine, Guam SDA Clinic, Tamuning, Guam, of Highland, California.

Heath Rowsell, to serve as general practice physician, Andrews Memorial Hospital, Jamaica, West Indies, and Reba Carolyn Rowsell, of Loma Linda, California.

Peter Skrla, to serve as laboratory technician, Malamulo Hospital, Malawi, Africa, of Calgary, Alberta.

Richard Lon and Ronda Suzanne (Potterton) Smith, to serve as English teachers, English Language School, c/o Peru Union Mission, Lima, Peru, of Sweet Home, Oregon.

Lewis Henry Stanton, to serve as English/Bible teacher, Korea SDA Language Institutes, Seoul, Korea, of Angwin, California.

Peggy Carolyn Swartz, to serve as English/Bible teacher, Korea SDA Language Institutes, Seoul, Korea, of Burkesville, Kentucky.

Leo Dwight Taylor, to serve as ADRA country director, ADRA/Sudan, Khartoum, Sudan, of Alvarado, Texas.

Michelle Elizabeth Wilson, to serve as elementary teacher, Jonesville SDA School, French Harbour, Roatan, Bay Islands, Honduras, and Dean Wilson, of Myrtle Point, Oregon.

Hyun Kil Yoon, to serve as dental technician, Adventist Health Center, Moscow, Russian Federation, of Surrey, British Columbia.

ADVENTIST Review Subscriber Services

- ☐ Please send me one year, 40 issues, of the *Adventist Review* for US\$38.97.
- ☐ Please renew my subscription.
- ☐ Please update my address. Enter new address at top of form. Copy previous address at bottom of form or enclose old mailing label.
- ☐ Please send a gift subscription to the address at the bottom of this form.

My Name _____
Current Address _____
City _____
State, Zip _____
Phone _____

Please enter previous address or gift address here.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State, Zip _____

Please enclose payment for orders. Mail to: Subscriber Services, P.O. Box 1119, Hagerstown, MD 21741.

Credit card orders: 1-800-765-6955

663-01-0

The cholesterol-reducing meat replacer, tested at the University of Toronto and now reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*!



Our 'Meats' Are So Real Some Vegetarians Won't Eat Them!™

Since our introduction of **Heartline Meatless Meats** in 1987, vegetarians around the world have grown to love the look, taste, and texture of our animal-free meat replacement products.

Easy to use, **Heartline** cooks up in about 15 minutes to satisfy a wide range of dishes—and yet many of our customers eat right from the bag! It comes "pre-cooked" so no refrigeration is required!

Heartline is made from pure defatted soy flour, yet does not have the soy "after-taste" found in many meat replacers. It's so delicious and fun to eat—why, eating is believing!

Best of all, **Heartline** offers so much good nutrition!

- ✓ **Lowers Cholesterol!**
- ✓ **100% Vegetable Derived**
- ✓ **100% Natural**
- ✓ **Low in Fat**
- ✓ **Low in calories**
- ✓ **Higher in fiber**

Better Than TVP!

Check Your Local Distributor or Retailer

Heartline Meatless Meats have been available in health food stores throughout the U.S. and Canada. However, as a special introduction to the fine family of Lumen products, we have put together a new **Introductory Sampler** we know you will enjoy. For just \$19.95, we will send you five 8 oz. **Heartline** samples: **Beef Fillet, Ground Beef, Canadian Bacon, Pepperoni, and Chicken Fillet**. Each package makes about one pound of "meat."

■ In addition we will send you two 12 oz. packages of our delicious **Heaven On Earth Milk Replacer**—enough to make one gallon of each: **Regular** and **new Carob Flavor**. ■ We'll also send you four 1.5 oz. samples of our incredible new vegetarian snack, **Stonewall's Jerquee**, along with our **Whole Earth Vegetarian Catalogue** with its "50 Reasons Why I'm A Vegetarian." ■ It's a great value for \$19.95, and we'll even cover the shipping and handling! ■ **So call today!**



Lumen Foods
409 Scott St., Dept. WS-495
Lake Charles, LA 70601

Yes, please rush me your **Heartline Introductory Package**, priced at only **\$19.95**.

____ Visa/MC/AmEx ____ Personal Ck ____ M.O.

No. _____ Exp. date _____

Please ship to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Orders: (800) 256-2253 • Inquiries Welcome!

■ Canadian Orders, Please Add \$5.00 S/H. * Call for free brochure on results of cholesterol reducing tests conducted at the Univ. of Toronto.

Losers or Winners?

BY RUSSELL H. ARGENT

A media mogul once earned his 15 minutes of fame by calling Christianity “a religion of losers.” When the hubbub died down, he exhibited a Christian virtue, repentance, and apologized! I think, however, I understand how he might have reached his conclusion.

Imagine a high-powered business tycoon, weaned in the dog-eat-dog world of high finance, who decides for the first time to learn about Christianity. Riding in his chauffeur-driven Mercedes, he leafs through a borrowed Bible and his eye catches the title “The Epistle to the Hebrews.” He starts to read.

Poor, Lazy Misfits?

Christians, he learns, “were exposed to the test of public mockery and flogging, and to being left bound in prison. They were killed by stoning, by being sawn in two. . . . They went about with nothing but sheepskins or goatskins to cover them. . . . They lost everything and yet were spurned and ill-treated. . . . They lived as vagrants in the desert, on the mountains, or in caves or holes in the ground” (Heb. 11:36-38, Phillips).

A success story? It hardly seems so. Our tough-minded secular business executive would hardly be impressed by a group of apparent failures, who had lost out in the struggle for existence.

He turns more pages and pauses at a letter of Paul, Christianity’s chief apostle. Doubts about his peculiar religion increase. Paul, after all, writes that “I have . . . been in prison . . . flogged . . . exposed to death again and again. Five times I received . . . the forty lashes minus one. . . . I was beaten with rods . . . stoned . . . shipwrecked . . . I spent a day and night in the open sea” (2 Cor. 11:23-25, NIV).

It seems that Paul was a born loser. He spent a lifetime in perilous travel, often on a brutal schedule. Self-employed, with no steady salary, fringe benefits, or yearly bonus, he constantly lived on the edge of disaster.

What was his reward? His head was cut off in jail by a Roman soldier.

Puzzled, our unbelieving friend turns from Paul to Christ and reads a sermon that begins “Happy are the poor.” Baffled, he snorts in disapproval. If the executive thinks of the poor at all, it is as lazy misfits, who, unlike himself, have chosen to be

idle and give up the battle for wealth and prominence.

The tycoon’s disenchantment grows as he continues to read. Meekness is not a word in his vocabulary. He doesn’t like “bleeding hearts” and “do-gooders” who spend time in “showing mercy” and “making peace.” The “persecuted” he avoids. They aren’t good for business.

Who does the secular businessman admire? The steely-hearted, who have “guts” and stamina and will stop at nothing to win. But any talk about “the pure in heart” who refuse to compromise their integrity—he

regards that as a lot of idealistic nonsense.

This is not surprising. “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Cor. 2:14, NIV).

Upside Down

Christ’s followers, the Lord says, will think differently from secular unbelievers. At their best they will be loving, caring, praying, forgiving people. The world will not understand them. But it will notice them.

For Christ turns every worldly value topsy-turvy. The weak, not the strong, may win the battle of life. The first in this world may be the last in His kingdom. Even stranger, Christ says that “the man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life” (John 12:25, NIV).

I am convinced that this “religion of losers” will prove to be the “religion of winners.” For “God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong” (1 Cor. 1:27, NIV).

The day will come when in His kingdom the people of God “shall shine as brightly as the sun’s brilliance” (Dan. 12:3, TLB), when the ways of the world have long ceased to be.

*Christ turns every
worldly value
topsy-turvy.*

Russell H. Argent is a retired chair of the English Department at Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, Maryland.



VITA-MIX® "PENNY PINCHER"

Can Pay For Itself In Your Home

Factory processed foods cost up to 50 times more! If a farmer sells wheat to the mill for as little as 7 1/2¢ a pound, should we have to pay up to \$4.00 for the same wheat as cereal and bread? NO! With the Vita-Mix Total Nutrition Center process your own foods. Save over \$3.00 and have foods fresh.

VITA-MIX® "BEST JUICE"

Will let you say "Good Bye" to ordinary juice. Our Total Nutrition Center will let you make it **5 TIMES FASTER THAN OTHER JUICERS AND 400% MORE NUTRITIOUS.**

**FREE VIDEO!
CALL TODAY!
1-800-848-2649**



Save Nutrition, Time and Money with the Versatile NEW TOTAL NUTRITION CENTER

- Frozen Desserts In 60 Seconds
- Cook By Impact
- High Fiber Total Juice Made With Whole Foods
- Grind Whole Grains Into Cereals And Flours
- Mix and Knead Bread Dough In Minutes

PLUS FREE

with every Vita-Mix TNC you'll receive: Whole Food Machine Recipe Book, Step-By-Step Getting Started Manual, Quickstart Video and Whole Grains Booklet* (Super TNC only).

9 "Fast Foods" that reduce your fat and sugar intake up to 50% and doubles your fiber.

1. The Vita-Mix TNC converts frozen fruit into instant fruit sorbets, healthy frozen yogurts, & low-calorie ice creams in 30 seconds.
2. The TNC makes delicious fruit & vegetable juices in seconds from grapes, apples, peaches—even raspberries—with almost no trace of seeds. Vita-Mix "total juice" with the pulp is over 400% more nutritious than extracted juice.
3. TNC eliminates tedious hours required to peel tomatoes & remove tomato seeds for canning or cooking.
4. TNC cooks delicious soups from scratch in about 4 minutes. Use tomatoes, broccoli,

cauliflower, mushrooms, potatoes, onions, etc.

5. TNC turns tomatoes, peppers, chiles & onions into delicious salsas and picantes. You can process a 1/2 gallon in 5 to 10 seconds.
6. TNC chops whole zucchini in seconds for breads, pastries, soups & casseroles.
7. TNC converts tomatoes & other fresh vegetables into nutritious health cocktails.
8. TNC turns whole apples into creamy smooth applesauce in under 60 seconds.
9. TNC makes a dozen flavor-packed frozen fruit bars in 2 minutes in a variety of low-calorie flavors.

See For Yourself

Why Total Nutrition Center owners are "in love with the near miracles it can perform"

FREE VIDEO!
See before you buy!
See Vita-Mix juice, freeze, cook—FAST.
CALL TODAY!
1-800-848-2649

Vita-Mix® Makes Whole Foods Simple as One, Two, Three...

1. Put wholesome, unprocessed food in super-strong lexan container.
2. Flip lever for 37,000 RPM's of power.
3. Remove lid and pour...nothing wasted or thrown away!

Grind any Grain! MAKE BREAD!

Grind whole kernel wheat into cereal or flour and immediately **MIX & KNEAD** it into **BREAD DOUGH** all in one simple 5-minute operation, with precious vitamin oils and fiber retained.

* Super TNC only

Make Total Juice

The NEW Vita-Mix Total Nutrition Center uses a patented and revolutionary new method that juices whole fruits and vegetables without waste, unlike the old separate and throw-away extractor-strainer methods.

NOTICE: First 500 inquiries receive completely **FREE** Special Discount Coupon and **FREE** Special Report. When you buy you also receive **FREE** Whole Food Machine Book, **FREE** Step-By-Step Getting Started Manual, **FREE** Quickstart Video, **FREE** Whole Grains Booklet (Super TNC only) and **FREE** 7 Slow Poisons Report.

**Call Toll Free: 1-800-VITAMIX
(1-800-848-2649)**

☒ **RUSH** my Special Report, Discount Coupon, and Quickstart Video **ALL FREE!**



Write Or Call Today! Send This Coupon To:

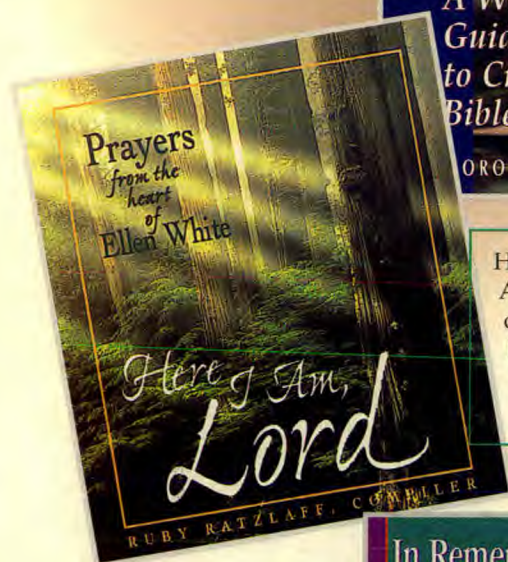
**VITA-MIX® Corporation, Dept. ADV1096,
8615 Usher Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44138**

Name _____
Address _____
Phone (_____) _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NEW For Your Spiritual Growth

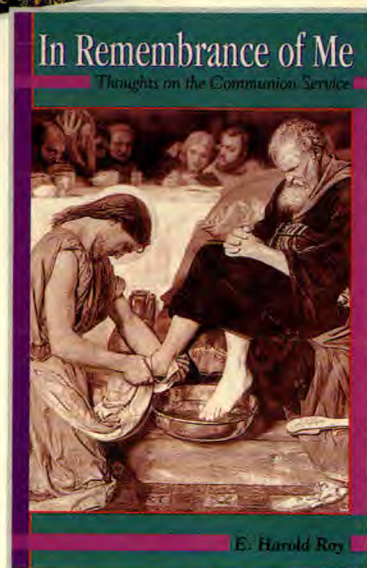
NEVER THIRST AGAIN

A woman's guide to creative Bible study filled with hundreds of ideas for making Bible study more meaningful and experiencing a greater sense of God's presence. By Dorothy Eaton Watts. Paper, 127 pages. US\$8.99, Cdn\$12.99.



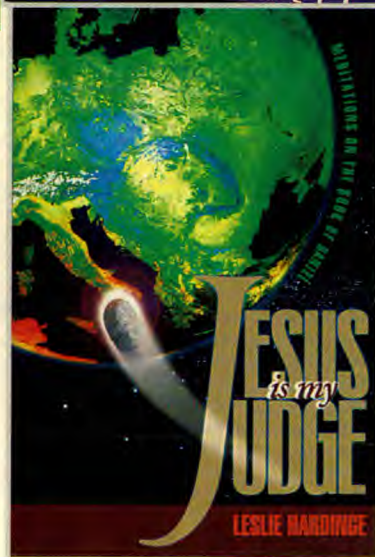
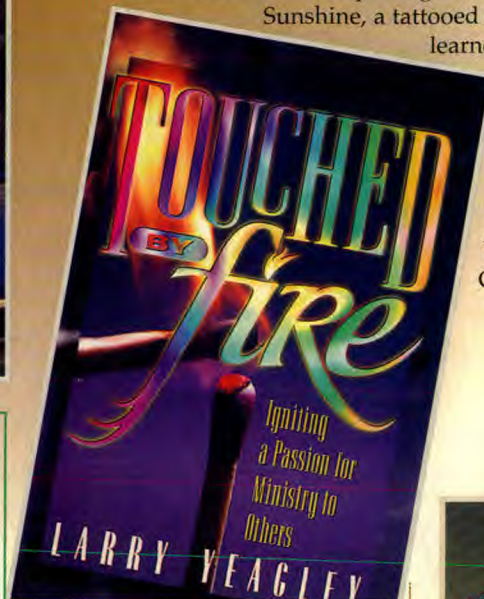
HERE I AM, LORD
A beautiful collection of prayers from the heart of Ellen White. Paper, 112 pages. US\$9.99, Cdn\$14.49.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME
E. Harold Roy explores both the spiritual and practical meanings of the Communion and foot-washing services, showing how these memorials to salvation can help us live in assurance and joy until the day when we partake of the Lord's Supper with Jesus in heaven. Paper, 89 pages. US\$7.99, Cdn\$11.49.



TOUCHED BY FIRE

Pastor Larry Yeagley shares experiences from what he calls the "most rewarding work in the world." Meet the man with the 16-gauge shotgun who asked for a "dunkin'," a despairing woman named Sunshine, a tattooed ex-convict who learned to care tenderly for his abusive father, and scores of other real-life people with real needs. Paper, 128 pages. US\$7.99, Cdn\$11.49.



JESUS IS MY JUDGE
In this study of Daniel, Leslie Hardinge offers in-depth, Christ-centered scholarship and practical application of prophecy to daily life. Paper, 285 pages. Distributed by Review and Herald. US\$14.99, Cdn\$21.49.



JOHN
Even if you've been through the Gospel of John a dozen times, you're in for a fresh experience when you open this expanded paraphrase from *The Clear Word*. Every text is worded to let the power of the original thought come through in today's language. Paper, 80 pages. US\$5.99, Cdn\$1.39.

These Review and Herald® books are available at your Adventist Book Center. Call **1-800-765-6955**.



Canadian prices do not include GST and may change according to currency fluctuation.