

April 2010

ADVENTIST WORLD



Johanna's Long Journey



SPECIAL FEATURE

WHEN *the* NUMBERS
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On the cover: CROSSING DIVIDES: Johanna de Castro Arce stands overlooking the historic city of Heidelberg. Her story links continents, world views, and — most important — people.



WORLD VIEW

Lifted and Carried

The message light on my cell phone blinked persistently as I hurried off the jet and through the airport. I could feel the irritation rising as I dodged between the food vendors and the waiting lines of passengers. Why had all these callers chosen that one hour to leave their messages, and how long would it take to handle their business? I had just 45 minutes to find something to eat, send several e-mail notes, and find my new departure gate.

In an almost-quiet corner I pressed the phone to my ear, determined to make short work of my messages. Several were predictable, quickly noted, and deleted: call the office; send the report; adjust the day of the committee. But then came one that warmed and gladdened my harried heart: “Bill, I don’t know where in the world you are just now, but I just wanted to leave a word to say that I’ve been praying for you each day, and asking God to give you a sense of His presence with you in what you’re doing.”

I turned my head to hide the tears welling up in my eyes and to whisper a prayer of gratitude for the friend who

left the welcomed words. Yes, it was a sign of his affection for me—an old and prayerful friendship stretching back nearly 25 years. But it was also an explanation for the remarkable things that had occurred on that trip. I had noted the unusually receptive listeners in the churches where I preached; the easy agreement among colleagues on the matters we discussed; the difficulties smoothed by a powerful but unseen hand. No other account made sense of the last few days save that I had been lifted and carried, not only by a jet but by the prayers of those who love me.

A century ago, Ellen White reminded us: “It is a part of God’s plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 525). And I believe this promise to be especially true when we intercede for those the Spirit calls to mind, even while I confess I don’t fully understand the manner in which He accomplishes the good we seek for them. In faithfulness we pray for each other, trusting in the greater faithfulness of Him who holds all things in His powerful hands.

— BILL KNOTT

WORLD REPORT

Adventist Outreach Yields Gains in São Paulo

■ São Paulo is Brazil’s most populous state, and it has a very diverse population. Immigrant groups include Italians, Portuguese, Amerindians, Africans, Arabs, Germans, Spanish, Koreans, Chinese, and Japanese, among others. These groups have a variety of cultures and traditions, making it difficult to do outreach.

Targeted evangelism has a more than 50-year track record in the state, however, particularly among groups of Japanese, Arabs, Jews, Koreans, and Hispanics. The earliest work with ethnic minorities began about 1959 with efforts to reach the Japanese. The first meetings took place at the time, but it was only in 1970 that the



ETHNIC PASTORS: Leaders of ethnic-themed congregations meet in São Paulo, Brazil.

CENTRAL BRAZIL UNION PHOTOS

first organized church of Japanese Adventists, now called Community Nipo-Brasileira, was formed.

In 1964 the Korean community began to hold its first meetings. Currently, within the Adventist Church

headquarters in downtown São Paulo, two Korean congregations meet.

Work in the Jewish community was inaugurated in 1997, followed in 1999 by work in the Arab community. Both now have strong leadership

WORLD REPORT



HISPANIC BELIEVERS: Congregation of Hispanic believers in São Paulo, Brazil.

CENTRAL BRAZIL UNION PHOTO

and resources that already justify the establishment of individual congregations. Finally came outreach to the Hispanic community. According to statistics, there are more than 700,000 Hispanics in the state of São Paulo, with most in the capital, the city of São Paulo.

David Sabbag always believed in God, but was not a church member. However, for some reason he kept the Sabbath, and eventually found the Seventh-day Adventist Church. “My baptism in the Arab [congregation] strengthened this conviction. I am baptized in a state of grace . . . in the spirit of being closer to God,” he says.

Alfred Fogel is part of the Jewish

Adventist community, which has a number of interesting ceremonies that are part of their worship, such as *Kabbalat Shabbat*—the traditional Friday-evening Jewish worship service and fellowship that welcomes the Sabbath. —Reported by Suellen Timm, Central Brazil Union Conference.

South Pacific Division’s *Record* Changes Format

■ In February the South Pacific Division’s official magazine, *Record*, launched a new look and plan for the future in order to widen its readership. David Gibbons, director of communication for the Adventist Media Network (AMN), says, “We

want to reach a larger audience. Young people and people living in developing countries of the South Pacific also want to be disciplined through being informed, educated, and nurtured with good news, stories, and features.”

The iconic division magazine, printed for more than 100 years, has been provided weekly to members as a 16-page, black-and-white news magazine, with a balance of church news and devotional articles. The magazine will now be distributed fortnightly with 24 full-color pages. Distribution will be increased to cater to the English-speaking populations in urban areas of the Pacific Islands, which, until now, have only received a copy with *Adventist World* once a quarter.

The AMN communication team uses an integrated model of communication for church members by also producing a weekly half-hour television news and current affairs program, *Record InFocus*, and overhauling its Web sites to match the magazine’s striking orange-and-blue new look. *Record InFocus*—as seen on Hope Channel—has recently been picked up by Australian Christian Channel, a free channel on Australia’s pay-TV networks Foxtel, Optus, and Austar, and will be played during prime time



ADVENTIST MEDIA NETWORK

Left: NEW TEAM: *Record* staff include, left to right, Theodora Amuimuia, Kent Kingston, David Gibbons, Pablo Lillo, Tracey Bridcutt, Gilmore Tanabose, and Jarrod Stackelroth. **Below: NEW LOOK:** *Record*, the 100-year-old paper of the Adventist Church’s South Pacific Division, has relaunched as a biweekly magazine.

Friday evenings. The program will be available free-to-air on community TV in Sydney and on EM TV and Port Moresby's Channel 8 in Papua New Guinea. The program will also broadcast in New Zealand on Shine TV.

New features in the magazine include a column Record Rewind, dedicated to Adventist history in the South Pacific region; a recipe; health tips; and other segments designed to share testimonies and profile local churches. The new *Record* is designed to be more interactive, with members encouraged to send in photos of events at their local schools and churches, an online opinion poll, and daily news updates on the Web site.

The change has not been without its challenges, though. The editorial team moved from the Signs Publishing Company in Victoria to be based at the Adventist Media Network headquarters as part of the SPD Communication Department office in Sydney in November.

"I am excited about our new team," says Pablo Lillo, director of news and editorial, who is in charge of integrating the different elements of communication. "We have a professional, young, energetic team who are passionate about sharing strong stories and content with all of our 410,000 members across the Pacific. It is always challenging to change something so well-read and supported by our church members so suddenly. But the response has been overwhelmingly positive."

—Reported by Jarrod Stackelroth, Record assistant editor.

MONGOLIA: Youth Ministry Expands, Helps Church

■ Almost 85 percent of the Adventist membership in Mongolia consists of young people, so a strong youth ministry is vital. Last summer Adventist pastor HaShik Kang and his



SINGING CONTEST: Some of Mongolia's young Seventh-day Adventists participate in a music contest.

NSD PHOTO

family arrived in Mongolia, following a lengthy delay in obtaining a visa. In the ensuing months Kang and church members have carved out a niche for young people in the church.

During the past few months the Youth Department organized several activities and programs. In August 2009 it held its first interchurch gospel-singing contest. Eight churches joined the Eternal Sound contest. Talent was found in each of the four categories: free song, a capella, church hymns, and creative/motion songs. The Youth Department plans to make this an annual contest.

After the Youth Ministry orientation in November 2009 with Pastor Joshua Shin, the first AMiCUS (Adventist Ministry to College and University Students) in Mongolia was organized, aimed at reaching college students on secular campuses. December 2009 saw the first AMiCUS festival in Mongolia. Eighty students packed into the Ulaanbaatar Central church to enjoy the Christmas-themed program. Eight AMiCUS groups prepared special presentations. Some groups sang, some read poetry, some presented dramas, and some held fun activities. The most exciting part was the musical drama presented by each group. They contextualized biblical stories into the lifestyle and culture of Mongolia, using the melodies of popular songs for the conversational parts. The lyrics had been revised to fit

the stories. It was fun and interesting. The AMiCUS program is designed to reach many non-Adventist students in Mongolia. AMiCUS seeks to meet the spiritual, intellectual, and social needs of Seventh-day Adventist students on secular campuses worldwide.

In December 2009 Mongolia had its first Bible olympiad. Various churches started preparing for the event a month ahead of time. Fourteen teams from seven different locations arrived to join the olympiad. The one who came the farthest traveled 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) to get to Ulaanbaatar. In all, 88 participants from 14 churches took part. The Bible olympiad covered the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Mongolia has only one Pathfinder Club, at the Ulaanbaatar Central church. Club membership totaled 50, with nine leaders. Kang has since met with all the teachers and reorganized the club into six camps.

Inspired by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division's (NSD) Golden Angels group, the Youth Department recently decided to organize its own Mongolian Golden Angels team. Following the same principles as the NSD, Mongolian young people are given the chance to dedicate one year of their lives to God. The purpose of the Mongolian Golden Angels is to support and empower local churches. —Reported by Northern Asia-Pacific Division Staff.

WORLD REPORT

Haiti's Earthquake Survivors Pick Up *the* Pieces

By LIBNA STEVENS,
Inter-America Division, reporting from Port-au-Prince, Haiti



Left: ESCAPING TRAGEDY: Milourdes Richars points to where she was sitting seconds before part

of the ceiling of the Adventist Bible Auditorium fell when the earthquake hit Haiti January 12. **Right: ALL HE CAN DO IS SERVE:** Jacques St. Vil (left) focuses on bringing comfort to others, even after his house collapsed—killing his wife and son—during the January earthquake. Elie Henry (right), a vice president for the church in Inter-America, translates his story.

LIBNA STEVENS/IA D

Milourdes Richars is a survivor. Just like the millions who were spared by the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that crumbled buildings and homes on January 12, 2010, in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, Richars, an active Seventh-day Adventist, wants to tell her story.

Richars was among a group of 50 church members who were gathered at the Adventist Bible Auditorium Church in downtown Port-au-Prince when the earthquake struck.

“I was sitting there,” she pointed at the pew near the back of the church where chunks of the cement roof still lie on the floor. “I was compelled to move

closer to the group as we were about to kneel to pray. We began to pray and we felt and heard the church shake. We kept saying, ‘Jesus, Jesus, save us,’ and asked the Holy Spirit to be near us.”

Minutes later she saw where a piece of concrete had fallen on the spot where she had been sitting.

Richars, 55, remembers the painful moments after the quake.

“It was like labor pains,” says Richars, a mother of five grown children. “We were all shaken, and soon after, injured people came into the church grounds. I had dying people in my arms.”

A Seventh-day Adventist for 33 years, Richars, who has been the personal ministries director at her

church, says every day since the quake she praises God and thanks Him for sparing her life and the lives of her husband and five children.

“This has put me closer to Jesus,” she testifies.

Her house destroyed, she now lives on the grounds of the church along with nearly 1,000 others who take shelter there. She offers words of encouragement to those around her. She is active in the worship services held daily and every Sabbath.

“Jesus has been so good to me, and I just want to continue serving Him,” Richars says.

For Jacques St. Vil, serving is all he can do now. Before the earthquake he was a math teacher at the Adventist school on the campus of the Adventist university in Diquini, but now he visits different churches with Bible in hand and speaks to those taking refuge.

His is a sad story.


“My wife and son were killed when our home collapsed on them that night of the earthquake,” says St. Vil, head elder of the Cedon Adventist Church in Delmas, a region not far from downtown Port-au-Prince.

St. Vil had just left his home seven minutes before the earthquake hit to run an errand. “Now it’s just me.”

St. Vil clings to serving the church. With no news about when he’ll be able to return to teaching, St. Vil focuses on offering hope to anyone who will listen.

“We have to always stay strong for Jesus and keep moving forward,” says St. Vil.

Richars and St. Vil are not alone. There are thousands of stories still untold.

More than 27,000 Seventh-day Adventists have lost their homes, and many of them are mourning the loss of family members. Yet they cling to God and serve the church as they look for ways to rebuild their lives. 

WINDOW

Into Rwanda

By HANS OLSON

Rwanda's hilly terrain earned the country the moniker "the land of a thousand hills." But this small, landlocked nation in the Great Lakes region of eastern Africa is better known as the country that suffered one of the worst genocides of the past century.

Hutus and Tutsis settled in what is now Rwanda sometime around the time of Christ. In general, Hutus were farmers whose communities dotted this fertile land. Tutsis were cattle ranchers who moved their livestock around looking for suitable grasslands. Over time the Hutus and Tutsis developed a common legal system to resolve conflict, and a common language in which to conduct business.

In 1884 Germany colonized a large portion of eastern Africa—including Rwanda. During World War I, Belgian troops, stationed in what is now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, invaded Rwanda. Following the war, the League of Nations granted Belgium control of Rwanda. Belgium united Rwanda with Burundi, another former German colony, and renamed the joined countries Ruanda-Urundi. Belgium did little to change the existing class system in Rwanda, which favored the minority Tutsis over the majority Hutus.

In 1959 a group of Hutus overthrew the Tutsi king. This action sparked the first widespread violence between the two tribes. Some 150,000 Rwandans fled to nearby countries. There was talk of a new government that would allow Hutus and Tutsis to share power, but in the end Belgium decided to split Rwanda from Burundi and started the process of giving both countries their independence.

Rwanda enjoyed relative peace, although ethnic tensions simmered under the surface until 1990 when some of the

descendants of those exiled in 1959 formed the Rwandan Patriotic Front and invaded Rwanda. The ensuing civil war lasted for three years. In 1994 Rwanda's Hutu president was killed when his plane was shot down over Kigali. This incident is widely blamed for sparking the ethnic violence that led to the genocide of nearly 1 million people, and sent some 2 million refugees fleeing for their lives to other countries.

Adventists in Rwanda

Despite the unrest through the years, the Adventist Church continues to grow. Today it has one of the best ratios of Adventists to population of any country in the world: one Adventist for every 22 people. Rwanda is home to seven Adventist hospitals and clinics, dozens of Adventist primary schools, two Adventist secondary schools, and the Adventist University of Central Africa.

Not only did many Adventists die during the 1994 genocide, but a considerable amount of church property was destroyed. One of the losses was the original campus of the Adventist University of Central Africa. Fortunately, the Adventist Church secured a plot of land in the heart of Kigali from the Rwandan government on which to build a new campus. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help complete a large multipurpose building that will serve the university as a lecture hall and church.

To learn more about the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in Rwanda, visit www.AdventistMission.org.

Rwanda is one of 10 countries that make up the East-Central Africa Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This division is hosting "Follow the Bible" this month. Sponsored by Seventh-day Adventist churches around the world, "Follow the Bible" is an initiative meant to encourage Adventists to take a deeper interest in daily Bible reading. The traveling Bible started its journey in the Philippines during the fall of 2008 and will finish at the General Conference session in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A., in June.



RWANDA

Capital:	Kigali
Official languages:	Kinyarwanda, English, French
Religions:	Roman Catholic, 56%; Protestant, 37%; Muslim, 5%; other, 2%
Population:	9.6 million*
Adventist membership:	445,556*
Adventist-to-population ratio:	1:22*
Church growth in the last year:	5%

* General Conference Office of Archives and Statistics, 146th Annual Statistical Report—2008.



WORLD VISTA

LESSONS *in* LEADERSHIP:

A Personal Testimony

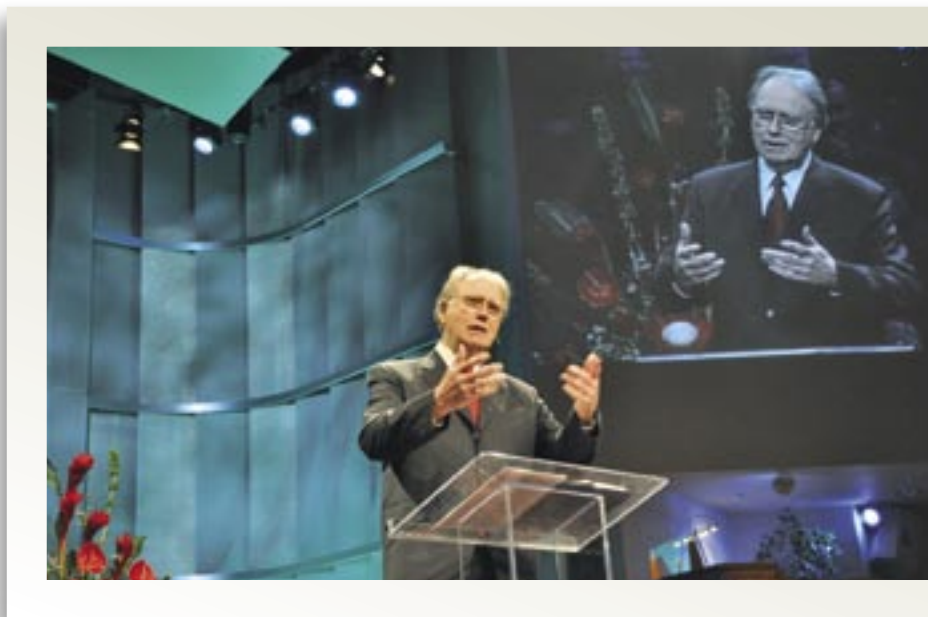
By
JAN PAULSEN

Eight things I've learned about being an effective leader

When I reflect on years past, it's amazing what experiences come to mind. Looking back on my earlier days, I see some parallels with two giants of God's kingdom. Like King David, I was a shepherd boy. I cared for sheep in the hills of northern Norway during the difficult years of war and occupation, and I did it for the promise of three full meals a day. Like Moses, I struggled with a speech impediment, one that cost me some time and effort to overcome. And there ends any similarities with these two great men of faith.

Personal testimony has a rich tradition within Adventism. In years past we held "testimony meetings." We came together with the community of faith to share moments from our spiritual walk; to remember both difficult times and good; to find strength and purpose in recalling the faithfulness of God.

As I look back on my own journey, I see that often the most valuable experiences in my life—experiences that have taught me the most—have been moments of failure rather than success. And after 35 years in various leadership positions in the church—



RAJMUND DABROWSKI

from college president, to division president, and, now, at the General Conference; in Africa, in Europe, and for our global community—I have had my share of these "learning experiences." From these I've discovered you can find honor even in failure if you're prepared to accept its lessons, then get up and move on.

Leadership within our church, in

any capacity, can be immensely fulfilling, or enormously frustrating. It can give you a wonderful sense of inner peace, or—if you let it—it can eat you alive. It can help you rest well at night, or it can rob you of any rest—night or day. It can energize you and sustain you for a lifetime, or it can set you searching for the first available exit.

What determines how someone

responds to the demands of leadership? I can speak only from my own testimony and from lessons I've learned along the way—lessons that I've often had to learn and relearn, then relearn yet again.

A Foundation for Leadership

In Christ we find the master model for all those who serve in leadership roles within His church, and in His ministry I see two values of critical importance.

First, Christ shows us that it's nobler to serve than to be served. He teaches us that leadership means serving people in a genuinely disinterested manner, with no need to rule and without an eye to kickback benefits that may accrue along the way.

Second, Christ demonstrated His constant awareness of the presence of the Father. For me this is hugely important, for it signifies both supervision and support. "Your heavenly Father watches over you" is, for any leader in this church, an awesome awareness—one that is absolutely essential to serving God's cause with commitment and compassion. Hence, the strength and warmth it brings me when someone I have never met comes up to me and says, "Pastor, I want you to know that I pray for you every day. I mention you by name to God every day." It's impossible to describe how much that means to me.

So, against the backdrop of these two Christ-modeled perspectives—the nobility of service, and the awareness that "your heavenly Father watches over you"—I ask myself, "What have I learned through these years?"

Eight Lessons

1. *I've learned that in God's "business" I'm a hired hand, not the owner.* Some

may ask, "Isn't this a cop-out? A way of avoiding responsibility?" No. For me this describes the essence of Christian leadership and I forget it at my peril. As a hired hand I am neither ruler nor sovereign. I exert no personal dominion or power. My position is one of trust; and in everything, large and small, I am accountable to the Owner.

What does the Owner expect of me? The answer is really very simple: *Faithfulness*. He doesn't require perfection—that's far beyond me. But He does require loyalty—a fidelity to Him and His cause that won't be sold out at any price.

I've learned also that worrying about success is pointless. As Christ's hired hands, we measure our success not in accomplishments, but by *how* we serve. Have we done what we think is right? Have we kept our heart pure? Have we given it our best shot? Then we can sleep well at night, find rest in our soul, and have the energy to carry on.

2. *Since the business I'm engaged in is a spiritual one, I've learned the vital importance of staying close to Scripture—to consult it and take time to study it.* Yet at the same time I've also learned not to become too arrogant in my own private interpretation of God's Word, for maybe, it's just possible, I have it wrong.

How do I test my rightness or wrongness? I read and I pray; then I talk with my colleagues—more or less in that order.

3. *I've learned to accept the reality of change.* Regardless of how you feel about change, it *will* come. It will come because our church is a dynamic, growing community. It will come simply because we live in a world of constant change.

To resist change, simply for its

own sake, is not helpful. But you must approach change with open eyes, looking constantly ahead to see where it will take you. So I've learned to ask the critical question: "Will the changes being considered be destructive to the personality, identity, and values of our church, or will they help the church function more effectively as an instrument of mission?" If I'm convinced that it will harm the church, I will fight it. The life, the witness, and the unity of the church are of primary importance, and *change must always serve those objectives*.

When it comes to change, I've learned how important it is to pray, to communicate, to consult, to carry people with you, so that you don't outpace the very community you are there to lead. You need the humility to accept that you won't see everything yourself.

4. *I've learned that people are both your greatest assets and your most complex challenges.* They'll test and try you, and sometimes take you to the brink, but you cannot function without them. So, as a leader, value your fellow workers highly, place them where their talents and gifts will find maximum scope for creative expression, then help them to do well.

I have seen time and again the truth of Ellen White's warnings about a leader who "gains the idea that he is in a position of supreme authority, and that all his brethren, before making advance moves, must first come to him for permission to do that which

Jan Paulsen is president of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. This article is adapted from a sermon preached by Pastor Paulsen on January 23, 2010, at the Loma Linda University church.

WORLD VISTA

they feel should be done. Such a man is in a dangerous position. He has lost sight of the work of a true leader among God's people. Instead of acting as a wise counselor, he assumes the prerogatives of an exacting ruler. God is dishonored by every such display of authority and self-exaltation" (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 491).

I've also learned that you don't have to pretend that you didn't make a mistake. What's the point? Everyone makes mistakes. It's what happens afterward that matters.

6. *I've learned the critical need to give attention to our church's diversity—of culture, gender, and age. In these matters you never get it right,*

they serve, have a responsibility to their broader spiritual family. You may have been elected by a few in a local constituency, but you serve in the interest of the many. You may live in California, but you are bonded to Calcutta. You may spend your days in London, but you will impact life in Lagos. We have no congregational mind-set, for we are one large international family. So when I contemplate leadership decisions, I must never forget my geographically distant siblings, for as in a family, the words and actions of one affect all.

8. *I've learned—I'm learning—to understand the immeasurable worth to Adventist leadership of vision, humility, and integrity.*

Vision is keeping a clear view of where you are going; humility defines the climate in which you are going to make the journey; and integrity is what defines and shapes all your actions along the way.

Looking to Jesus as the master model of leadership, the words of John the Baptist come back to me when he said, "He must become greater; I must become less" (John 3:30, NIV). This isn't easy, for we all come to our various leadership assignments with a flawed humanity, and our natural self-interest clouds our vision. But we try, and we remember that when all is said and done, all He really asks of us is that we've been loyal and faithful, and that we gave it our best. That's all.

I pray that in my service I might be able to lift Him up. That would be the ultimate honor. He reminds me at every intersection of the road not to forget "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with [my] God" (Mic. 6:8, NIV).

RAJ MUND DABROWSKI



Leaders within our church have a responsibility to their broader spiritual family.

5. *I've learned that I don't have to be right—at least not every time. I don't have to have every answer. The image of invincibility is not only unreliable; it's also very stressful to sustain. It's good for a leader to acknowledge that "maybe there's a better way to do it." Dogmatic declarations and bombastic statements have their limitations. In difficult matters you often have to work within small margins that call for compromise, and I've learned the value of looking for solutions that work. If something doesn't work, it will die.*

and it's probably the one challenge that I've found most difficult to resolve. But as a leader you have to demonstrate that you're aware of the size of the challenge and make a genuine effort to correct the flaws or wrongs, even if all that can be done for now is to signal directions for the future. Each member of the global church family has the right to an equal sense of belonging, legitimacy, and participation.

7. *I've learned the importance of keeping a global perspective. Leaders within our church, no matter where*



Migraine HEADACHES

By ALLAN R. HANDYSIDES
and PETER N. LANDLESS

I am 45 years old and suffer from regular, almost daily headaches. They became worse and more persistent after my children entered their teens seven years ago. A close friend of mine died of a brain tumor; could I have the same problem?

We cannot give a definite diagnosis without taking a full history and performing a thorough clinical examination and needed tests. So we advise you to see your health-care professional and have a thorough neurological checkup.

You ask specifically if the headaches may be tumor related. This is possible but not very likely as they have been present for seven years and occurred at the same time as the stress and challenges of raising a family increased. If the headaches were caused by a growth or cancer, other symptoms would have shown themselves by now.

There are a number of different kinds of headaches, and your particular pattern probably fits into the type we term “tension headaches.” This is the most common form of headache. It occurs more in women than men and may start as early as the teen years. There does not appear to be a strong genetic component to this particular problem. When these headaches occur more than 15 days in any one month, they are then called chronic daily headaches of the tension type.

Although the name “tension head-

ache” seems to imply that the actual cause is known, this is not the case. The pain itself is related to an interaction of muscle, blood vessels, and nerve elements resulting in discomfort—which can be severe. Many pills and potions are available that can dull or eradicate the pain. It’s very important to note, however, that the most common cause of aggravation of chronic headaches is the overuse of analgesics and/or anti-inflammatory medications. These are often combined with caffeine. Withdrawal of the pain medication can often, but not in all cases, result in an improvement in the headaches. This does not mean that one should not take pain medicine, but rather that one should take the least amount only as frequently as needed.

Migraine is the next most common type of headache. It also affects women more than men. There seems to be a genetic component in migraine, which has been confirmed in studies of identical twins as well as in the general population. Some studies indicate that migraine occurs more frequently in more intelligent individuals.

Migraine can be of two main types: with or without an aura (about 85 percent of cases are without). The aura is a feeling or symptom that occurs before the actual migraine attack and may include visual disturbances, such as seeing flashing lights or stars. Other nervous system-related symptoms include weakness, dizziness, loss of balance, and the feeling of “pins and needles” either in a limb or on the face. If the migraine affects the blood supply of the portion of the brain involved with balance, it is termed “basilar migraine.”

Triggers for migraine headache vary from person to person. For some it’s a specific food, for others a lack of sleep. Changes in weather and environmental temperature may also precipitate an attack. It’s very important to identify the specific trigger—if it exists—and avoid it or modify lifestyle to minimize the attacks.

The medications prescribed are aimed at preventing or reducing the constriction (spasm) of the blood vessels of the brain and the subsequent dilation, pounding pain, and associated nausea. Newer formulations are absorbed from under the tongue, making it possible to take them even when nauseated. Consult your physician on what is best for you.

Wellness Hints

- Regular exercise produces the body’s own natural painkillers called endorphins.
- Avoid sleep deprivation by taking adequate rest in a well-ventilated, dark, quiet environment.
- Avoid stimulants, exotic foods and drinks (e.g., alcohol, caffeinated beverages, foods rich in tyramine), and tobacco.
- Headaches are not a frequent symptom of uncontrolled blood pressure, and their absence does not imply blood pressure is normal in those suffering from high blood pressure. *Know your actual numbers!*
- Meditation on God’s promises and His gracious faithfulness help keep stressors in perspective.



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“Grandma, do you want to see a really pretty rock?” Six-year-old Bryce brought his hand from behind his back with a flourishing sweep. Five sandy fingers spread open, and there lay a very common rock—gray, toad-sized, with no particular sparkle.

No grandma wants to spoil the magic, and because anything done by a grandchild comes prepackaged with its own sparkle, I happily admired his find. His next words made me want to giggle. “You can buy it if you want,” he suggested all in good faith, and with a slight hesitation about giving it up for a common quarter.

Well, I paid 25 cents for a rock similar to a thousand others I could have picked up at no cost from the lake-shore that day. Seven years later, it is still somewhere in one of my drawers. Not only that, it has three “friends,” also purchased for a quarter apiece. I’ve always suspected that numbers 2, 3, and 4 might have come with more

mercenary motivations.

Was I conned? I don’t think so. To Bryce those rocks were fascinating finds, each unique and special. No doubt he was happy to have earned a dollar from his research digs, but he was quite sure he had provided value for the money. He did. It wasn’t in the rocks, though.

Kids like rocks. If we reach far enough back into the misty memories of childhood, we understand why. Rocks are fascinating. We can’t bite them or break them, though we try. We learn early that the really tough, dependable things in life are “like a rock.” With a little help from a dad or brother, we can learn to skip them. Even without help, we can throw them, using them to measure our own strength and agility. Yet, there is something more. We see things in them—butterflies, animals, faces, hearts. We look and look, and see more and more. Bryce saw wondrous things in those rocks.

By
PATRICIA A.
GROSS

Of Rocks & Stones

*A boy’s little
gesture taught
this grandmother
a big lesson.*





It'll Be a Secret

There is another rock that I eagerly expect to be given one of these days. I've been reading about it for years, and the thought of it has lit my darkest moments. It will not be large, smaller still than Bryce's gray toad rock. It will fit into the palm of my hand, and I'd be able to tuck it into my pocket and carry it wherever I go. But I will not show it to anyone else. There will be no need to, for no one else could understand it. It will have encoded on it my new name. People will call me by that name but have no idea what it means. Only Jesus will know its significance.

I find this all in Revelation 2:17: "To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

When I first read this message, I was astounded. The hidden manna? The bread of life? The Word of God? Immediately my mind flashed to Moses and Israel in the desert; to the miraculous, life-sustaining power of that manna. Then it fast-forwarded to Jesus on a grassy Galilean hillside. Baskets of fresh crusty bread, multiplied fishes, a sea of awestruck faces hardly disguising the thoughts behind them: *Oh, what a king he would make for Israel!* Sly grins, hands rubbing together in anticipation.

Recognizing the hidden danger to His mission, Jesus explained that they shouldn't look for a king who would feed their armies with physical bread. "I am the living bread which came down from heaven," He said. "If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world" (John 6:51).

So here I am 2,000 years later looking at a text in Revelation that promises me the hidden manna if I overcome. That manna is Jesus Himself. Hidden in my heart, He is this Living Bread that nourishes me, transforms my soul, and makes me an overcomer.

What an amazing concept! But there is more.

The Revelation passage says: "I will give him a white stone."

Oh, there it is! Jesus, holding it in nail-scarred hands, brings it from behind His back and presents it to me. I can't bite it; I can't break it. I can only hold out my trembling hand and accept it. A quarter won't pay for it. A million quarters won't pay for it. Nothing I have can pay for it.

It's a personal gift to me from Jesus. As I gaze at it, all sorts of things appear—above all, Jesus' own heart!

Two Teardrops

From the very first time I read this amazing passage (really read it!) I understood that the white stone meant I

There is another rock that I eagerly expect to be given one of these days.

was no longer guilty. I saw it as a clear, pure, spotless stone, telling me that I'd been made perfect *in Jesus*, forever free from sin and temptation.

I look closely at this stone, and it tells me even more—the most beautiful truth of all. For in that stone there is a new name written, whose significance only Jesus and I know. He gives me an understanding wink, but there is a tear in the wink that exactly matches the tear in my eye. Only the two of us know the secret.

How many times have we yearned, during the really tough times here on earth—the hurting, grieving, discouraging, disappointing, despairing times—for someone to care, to listen, to understand, to counsel! Now it's clear that that Someone had been there all along, doing just that.

There is a story told about a young Indian at the threshold of manhood. In his tribe, for a young man to prove himself, he had to endure a night alone, in the forest, blindfolded. The youth's father led him out one night for the trial. As the black forest darkness settled down like the thick walls of a cave, and the owls began their night calls, the father sat the youth on an old tree stump, tied around his head the required blindfold, and said goodbye for the night.

Through the long and terrifying night, the young Indian sat stiff and alert. He could hear the soft rustle of creatures crossing and crisscrossing the meadow, and the not-so-distant scream of a cougar. With all of his might he fought the urge to tear off the blindfold and streak back to the village. But he remained on the stump until he detected faint rays of morning light. With relief he removed the blindfold and, to his amazement, saw his father sitting bolt upright and quiet on a nearby stump. He had been through the dreadful night with his son.

We have been assured that God will never leave us. And someday we will know this beyond question when we read the name written on that white stone. ●



Patricia A. Gross—a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother—taught high school history and English in southern California for many years.

ONE DOLLAR Love Call

By
JERRY KEA

A simple idea revolutionizes a church's mission outreach.

Sometime back I agreed to serve as Sabbath school superintendent of our small church in the hills of northern California (U.S.A.). What happened next changed my life forever.

While emphasizing the support of Global Mission in our Sabbath school ministry, I embarked on a journey to learn about the progress and challenges facing the Adventist Church in terms of mission. I wrote letters, phoned mission-supporting ministries, and studied a number of former and present General Conference *Bulletins* and the giving patterns they recorded.

The picture that emerged revealed that the worldwide church is witnessing its greatest soul-winning

CAN DO: Don Lane (left) was pastor of the Sebastopol, California, (U.S.A.), Seventh-day Adventist Church when "One Dollar Love Call" was launched. Lane, the author, and Larry Nakashima encouraged church members to donate US\$1 a week for missions. **INTELLIGENT DESIGN:** Rebecca Wong, a talented young church member, designed the label for the "One Dollar Love Call" can. **SO MUCH FOR SO LITTLE:** The believers in Banghan, Thailand, now have their own building in which to worship and from which to reach out to their community. It was the first "One Dollar Love Call" project.



opportunities since its founding in 1863. In the Americas, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, wherever darkness once held people captive, millions are accepting the gospel.

Challenges and Opportunities

This evangelistic explosion has given rise to unprecedented challenges and opportunities. I discovered that:

Almost half the world's population—3 billion people—still have not heard the name of Jesus.

An army of potential lay missionaries has emerged and stands ready to join their fellow lay members in moving this movement forward. All they lack is a few hundred dollars a year for basic necessities.

Furthermore, thousands of emerging congregations are creating a need for new places of worship. At the rate of today's membership growth, five new places of worship are needed *each day*. Notwithstanding the tremendous efforts of the church and its supporting ministries, we cannot keep pace with this overwhelming demand. Some estimates call for as many as 70,000 church buildings worldwide, with the number growing every year.

Amazingly, an entire church building can be built for a few thousand dollars. And it is critical to give church congregations a permanent "home." These buildings establish Adventism in their localities, minimize membership loss, and enhance church growth.

The North American Division generates approximately 60 percent of all contributions—tithes and offerings—donated to the worldwide church. So the potential for addressing present and future challenges and crises in missions tends to reside largely in North America.

Small Change to Change the World

As I contemplated these sobering facts it became clear that we could, and must, do more for missions. From this conviction was born the "One Dollar Love Call"—an invitation to give a single dollar a week to missions; using small change, as it were, to change the world. One hundred Adventists, giving at least one dollar a week for one year, could build a church and sponsor three full-time missionaries in many countries of the world.

I shared this idea with my friend Larry Nakashima. He generated the idea of using offering containers. We bought more than 100 paint cans with slots cut into the top, on which we wrapped a world mission label drawn by a talented young church member, Rebecca Wong. My wife, Sandra, and Larry's wife, Debbie, supported us and became our prayer warriors in the venture. Our congregation got on board with the idea, and in less than a year we had raised \$5,000.

In the middle of the campaign Sandra and I took a call to serve as missionaries in Thailand, and our California congregation decided to send the \$5,000 to us at Thailand Adventist Mission to build a needed church in Banghan. Since then the church has moved on to other mission projects in other parts of the world, including the Philippines, Ukraine, and Mozambique.

Now we send out a simple message from the offering cans and hearts of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sebastopol, California, with the prayer that congregations around the world will join us in fulfilling the holy purpose for which our movement was called into being. This is our commitment:

"We, of the Sebastopol Seventh-day Adventist Church, join our denomination in the solemn conviction that in a historic manner God's Spirit is being poured out on the face of the earth. Nations, which for generations have been closed to the gospel, are opening their doors . . . presenting unprecedented opportunities and challenges around the globe. As thousands of churches/schools are desperately needed at this present moment, and thousands of unfunded missionaries line up to be sent, their pleading hands reach out to 'The Land of Plenty.' With 60 cents of every dollar of church income coming from the North American Division, we hear God speak to our hearts, 'To whom much is given much is required.'

"We invite every brother and sister who bears the name of Jesus to share one single dollar each week. In 12 months our 100 members will generate \$5,000, enough money to sponsor three missionaries (at US\$500 each) and build an entire church (US\$3,500). Praise God! When the face of a perishing soul asks 'Who is my neighbor?' we can only answer, 'It is he who has mercy.'"

To meet Seventh-day Adventist missionaries and discover what's happening in mission around the world, visit www.AdventistMission.org.



Jerry Kea recently returned from mission service in Thailand, where he was director of the Ekamai International School and education superintendent of the Thailand Adventist Mission.

*Finding God in
cancer research—far
away from home*



Johanna's Long Journey

By GERHARD PADDERTZ

So far she had always suppressed the “creation or evolution” issue. Or she had explained matters to herself in such a way that God’s act of Creation must have consisted in the “creation” of evolution. As a faithful Catholic she believed in the truthfulness of the Bible—and thus in the Creation story. However, as a scientist she could not refute the prevailing opinion of her professional community. And they, after all, believed that life on our planet had developed by itself and over a very long time period. Since she had not really succeeded in harmonizing those two positions, she ultimately had decided to suppress the issue.

Questions—And More Questions

It worked quite well for many years—at least until late fall of 2001. For it was at that time that her then-13-year-old daughter studied about evolution in school. And that brought up a number of questions that she brought home to her parents. Johanna de Castro Arce, through her daughter, once again was confronted by this troubling issue. What was she to do? As a good mother and Christian she wanted to give her daughter a solid religious foundation. After all, in Colombia, her home country, she had attended a good Christian school run by the Catholic Opus Dei order.

It was a project in malaria research that in 1997 had brought the young microbiologist and biochemist from Bogotá to Würzburg, Germany. But that was just a brief intermission. Two years later—after some detours that she

now sees as God’s leading—an opportunity was offered to her by the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg, Germany, to write a doctoral dissertation in the area of cancer of the uterus. Her main professor was Frank Roesl, a student of Professor Harald zur Hausen, who in 2008 won the Nobel Prize for medicine.

Finding Answers

How in the world could there be anyone in this stronghold of scientific research who could help Johanna solve her conflict—especially in secular Germany? Her chances seemed more than dim. But what about Ubaldo Soto? A native Chilean and Spanish-speaking like Johanna, Soto was a research assistant of her main professor and the person who was working with her most closely. She trusted him. And she knew that he was a professing Christian. He was always friendly and helpful. He liked to smile and always had a word of encouragement for everyone. He often talked about God and his faith in the Bible. The fact that this humble man belonged to a church called Seventh-day Adventists meant nothing to Johanna at that time. One day she mustered all her courage and asked him how he as a Christian and scientist would handle the biblical Creation story.

Ubaldo was happy to answer Johanna’s questions and gave her a book on evolution and creation. A little later he invited her and her family to his home. Ubaldo Soto and his wife left a deep impression on Johanna. She especially liked their Christian warmth and friendliness. They talked about

IMPORTANT PEOPLE: People played a major role in Johanna's journey to Christ. Ubaldo Soto [inset], currently assistant professor of Loma Linda University, was instrumental in carefully and patiently studying God's Word with Johanna and her family. Johanna's husband Fernando and their two children, Daniella and Andres, are a crucial part of her life and faith journey. Daniella and Andres were baptized in November of 2009—to the great joy of their parents.

the shortcomings of the evolution theory and how much faith one must have to accept it. In addition to that, they also addressed a number of practical questions about everyday faith issues. Whenever Johanna and her husband were facing a seemingly insurmountable problem, the Sotos' patent solution was "Let's pray about that." And prayer really did help.

Over time their acquaintance developed into a friendship. Their conversations soon were focusing not only on the evolution theory and questions of lived faith but other biblical subjects. At some point Ubaldo suggested that Johanna and her husband study the Bible with him and his wife every Saturday afternoon. Johanna was happy to accept. After all, she wanted some answers to her questions on science and faith. In addition to the Creation story and the Sabbath, they studied

about her faith—even though she had been well taken care of by the Opus Dei order. Together with the sisters of the order she and her classmates had cared for the poor. They had preached to them. She had served God in practical ways. She had even participated in many a spiritual and ascetic exercise. Often she had talked to the priest. But through it all she saw God as being severe. "God will be merciful to you if you behave right. But if you make mistakes He will punish you. He even waits for you to make mistakes. You will never be good enough to deserve His love." All attempts to read and understand the Bible on her own had failed. Johanna quite often had been desperate. She had always felt guilty and full of sin. "Is there no way out?" she had asked herself back then. There had to be something good and beautiful in life, something that would give her joy.

the biblical concepts of the soul, death, and resurrection, as well as the prophecies in Daniel and Revelation.

Strong Roots

A change of her church affiliation was no issue for Johanna at that time. She was proud to be a Catholic. All Protestants, so she had learned, would go to hell. Therefore, what a shock it was for her when she found out from the Bible that the beast in Revelation 13 could refer only to the papacy. "Is everything I have believed so far wrong?" she asked herself. "Could my entire family have been wrong? Could millions of lovable Catholics worldwide have been that wrong for hundreds of years?" When she was alone she wrestled with God in prayer, "Lord, take away this new insight!" And then, the next moment, "Lord, give me light!" Her struggle in between the Bible studies was tremendous. And the conflict just grew bigger and bigger. She wanted to study the Bible in greater depth because she firmly believed that the Bible was the Word of God and as such absolutely reliable.

What helped her in this situation and what motivated her to continue with the Bible studies with the Sotos was the fact that they never pressured her in any way. Whatever she did was left to her own free choice. It seemed to her that the Holy Spirit was calling her. "Might this be a sign?" she wondered. "Can it be that this really is the truth?"

In this situation she thought of the years when she was growing up as a young girl in Colombia. She now remembered that some things had always bothered her

Finding a Life Partner

Then she met Fernando. They fell in love and got married in 1988. Johanna was happy. However, it didn't take too long and her old feelings of guilt and unworthiness came back again. Her church's negative attitude toward the body weighed on her quite heavily. Had she not learned that all spiritual things are good and all physical things are sinful—that the good soul was imprisoned in a sinful body?

Time and again she had gone to the priest and had asked him for forgiveness, for absolution. But the conflict was not resolved in her mind. "Why should physical love be sinful?" she had protested. The answers she had received from the church had satisfied her less and less. As a consequence, when she had left Colombia for Würzburg to participate in the malaria research exchange program, she had stopped practicing her faith.

And now—in this believing scientist's Bible studies—all of a sudden all questions and doubts disappeared.



Gerhard Padderatz is a businessman, author, editor, and ASI Germany president, living in Switzerland. The current article appeared in *BWgung* in March/April 2009.

It was possible, after all, to understand the Bible. God does love us, even though we are sinners. And physical love between husband and wife is a gift from God. For Johanna it was a great relief. Now she was able to bring into harmony her intellect, her faith, and her feelings. She got to know a good and friendly heavenly Father who loved her unconditionally.

After several months of Bible studies with the Sotos and a severe inner struggle, Johanna finally felt happy and free. By the end of 2002 Ubaldo's wife suggested that she get baptized. In principle Johanna was ready for that step. However, she didn't want to rush into things. And she wanted to be fair—fair to a church that for so many years had meant so much to her and still was close to her heart. She wanted to give the Catholic Church one last chance.



Ubaldo, had found out from the Bible.

But Johanna's struggle was not quite over yet. The veneration of Mary was still an issue. But God sent her, as before, the right person at the right time. In this case it was a former Catholic from the Spanish-speaking Adventist church in Karlsruhe, Germany. He was able to answer all of Johanna's questions about this subject. The argument that convinced her most was related to Mary's assumed ascension—a belief held in high esteem by many Catholics. If Mary would have in fact gone to heaven—just as Jesus—so went this Adventist's logic, would that not have been recorded in the New Testament? Some of Christ's disciples outlived Mary. Would not at least John have reported such an important event in his Gospel or in one of his letters?

That convinced Johanna. Now everything was clear

NEW START: Johanna is baptized by Pastor Eli Diez-Prida in the Karlsruhe Adventist Church.

to her. "I found out that God is different from what I had thought—He loves me. I found answers to my questions about the final judgment—and about the state of the dead. Now I understand that the Old and the New Testament form one unit. And I am amazed by what is written in the books of Daniel and Revelation."

Digging Deep

So she traveled to Colombia—equipped with many questions for her priest from her school days. "How about the final judgment?" "How will the world come to an end?" "When and how will we go to heaven—right after death or when Christ comes again?" "How are we saved and why will many be lost?"

When she arrived in South America her priest was not there. So instead of talking to him, Johanna talked to a former classmate from her Opus Dei days. Back then and still now she was an involved and faithful Catholic and had continued to develop along the lines of the Opus Dei order. She did have an answer to each and every one of Johanna's questions. But in each case she referred to this or that papal encyclical or to some church council or to the tradition of the Catholic Church. It was not the Word of God on which she based her answers.

At this point it came no longer as a surprise to Johanna but was a confirmation of what she, with the help of

Stepping Out in Faith

In December of 2003 Johanna decided to get baptized. And one month later, in the Hispanic Adventist church of Karlsruhe, she stepped into the watery grave to come up on the other side as a new person in Christ. Her husband was baptized a little later in Switzerland, in July of 2005.

Professionally and academically Johanna was making good progress as well. Already in October of 2003—just prior to her decision to be baptized—she received her Ph.D. in Science from Heidelberg University. Today she works at the German Cancer Research Center in the area of gene regulation and epigenetics. Her job: Among other things, she mentors a number of international Ph.D. students. And Ubaldo Soto? He accepted an invitation to join the medical faculty at Loma Linda University (U.S.A.), where he serves as an assistant professor of basic sciences.

It was Soto's unassuming friendliness and accessibility that encouraged Johanna to ask him for advice in regard to questions about science and faith. It was his willingness—and that of his wife—to open his home and invite

Johanna and her husband to study the Bible with him, so that they, too, would be introduced to the God who loves them unconditionally and who is more than willing to answer His children's prayers. The scientific inquisitiveness of a young scientist who was used to getting to the bottom of it all that, in the end, made a decision independent from tradition and majority opinion.

Thinking and acting contrary to tradition and majority opinion was the trademark of Professor Harald zur Hausen, as well. He was the head of the research center where Johanna had been working since 2000. It was for that very reason that zur Hausen suspected a virus as the cause for cancer of the uterus—a suspicion that turned out to be

true. It was this breakthrough in cancer research that led him to win the Nobel Prize.

Perhaps Johanna de Castro Arce is carved from the same wood—the wood that Nobel Prize winners are made of. But even if she never wins a Nobel Prize, her thoroughness and consistency can serve as an example for all those who want to win an even greater prize: the prize of eternal life.

“I was prepared for many things when I came to Germany,” says Johanna, beaming with joy and happiness as she talked to us in the lobby of the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg, Germany, “but I had never thought I would find God in Germany.”

What Has Happened in Your Life?

BY
GERALD A.
KLINGBEIL



Adventist World associate editor Gerald Klingbeil interviewed Johanna to find out what has happened since her long journey began. Here are some excerpts of the interview.

Johanna, more than six years have gone by since your baptism. Tell us about these years.

I have had a lot of personal challenges and my faith has carried me on many occasions. Sometimes I have felt my strength is reaching the limits, but our Lord has always been next to me, even when I was thinking He had forgotten me.

How did your immediate family react to your becoming an Adventist?

We started all together the Bible studies. However, each one of us has had their own time frame in order to make the

decision. I was a little impatient because I could not understand why they [my husband and our two children] did not jump into the decision with me at the same time. But God helped me to understand that everyone needs the time to change—it is a matter of the heart. Our children were baptized on November 28, 2009.

We understand that Ubaldo Soto is now working at Loma Linda University in the U.S.A. Are you still in contact with your spiritual mentor?

Yes, it is impossible not being in contact with him. Ubaldo is the kind of person who makes everyone believe that the world can be a better place. All of his acts and words reflect his convictions, and the love that he exhibits for his neighbors can only be the result of his strong relation with the Lord.

How did you integrate into your local Adventist congregation?

This has been one of the challenges I mentioned in my first answer. We first worshipped in the Hispanic church in Karlsruhe, but unfortunately never felt

embraced by the Adventist (German-speaking) church in another city. Right now we belong to the German church in Mannheim and hope to start a Latin-American group in our area where part of the service would be in Spanish.

Do you have any specific suggestion as to how local congregations can minister more effectively to foreigners who are far away from home?

Show compassion and tolerance to foreigners. Remember, we are all foreigners on this planet. Our citizenship is in heaven. Church is not a social club, but a mission and service center.

What would you like to leave with our readers?

God is in control of everything—even in those cases in which we believe He is not. If you are having problems of any kind, put them in the hands of God and be patient. I have learned that our faith grows only when exercised. If you are looking for answers, go to the Bible and try to be quiet to be able to listen to the Lord. He is always looking after us.

NUMBER 9 .

Amazing GOD-MAN

By
JAIRYONG
LEE

Essence of the gospel, core of our mission

The Son, a member of the triune God, came to this sinful world as a heaven-sent missionary to “save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21).¹ The everlasting God became a man to be humanity’s Savior! The Incarnation became a reality by the willingness of the Son and through the work of the Holy Spirit. In this magnificent event all three members of the Godhead worked together as a team from the foundation of the world. Thus, Jesus was born—the Savior of the world.

Christ’s Perfect Sinless Life

Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:18-21) and lived a Spirit-led life. He was perfect. He lived a perfect life. “Not only did He commit no act of sin, He had no sin in His being.”²

He was “without blemish or defect” (1 Peter 1:19). Jesus was able to lead a sinless life because He depended on God and did everything according to His Father’s will. Even while suffering extreme agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus cried out to God, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will” (Matt 26:39).

Jesus, through His perfect sinless life, gives humanity hope that we too can observe the law of God by relying on Him. It is thus that He destroyed Satan’s agelong insistence

that the standard and the requirement of God’s law is higher than any creature can attain.

Jesus is an example to all His followers. “As one of us He was to give an example of obedience.”³ That is why He took upon Himself human nature and went through our experiences. He diligently worked every day among the people. He was truly a man among us. Yet, at the same time He was fully divine. He accomplished much on behalf of others through the power of God. Not once did He use His divine power to benefit Himself. He was tempted in all points as we are, yet was without sin (cf. Heb. 4:15). He was the only sinless person who ever lived in this sinful world. It was His mission to demonstrate to us and the whole universe that we can obey God’s precepts through the power of the Holy Spirit. But that was not all.

Christ’s Death for Our New Life

Jesus came to this world not only to live a perfect sinless life as our example, but also to die for sinful human beings as humanity’s substitute. The death of Jesus endured for humankind, for you and me, was God’s design to save humanity from sin. The character of sin is so terrible that the only way to eradicate it for eternity and thereby liberate all under its yoke came through offering Himself as a sacrifice.

At the cross the innocent Man was condemned for you and me—for all humanity. He bore the sins of the world (John 1:29). He took upon Himself our sins and received the punishment that we deserved (Isa. 53:5). He died for all sinners, regardless of race, culture, and nationality. Just as He gave life to human beings at the time of Creation, Jesus gave new life to sinners at the cross. Anybody, anywhere, enjoys salvation as they accept His sacrifice on their behalf and make Him their personal Redeemer. Jesus died for all!



Jairyong Lee is president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists and lives in Ilsan-gu, Goyang City, Republic of Korea.

As soon as Christ died on the cross our new life began. When He pronounced on the cross, “It is finished” (John 19:30), He accomplished His earthly mission and died the second death that all sinners were supposed to face. Since Jesus already died the second death in our place, we, the redeemed, do not need to worry about it. Now humanity can enjoy eternal life in Christ.

By dying on the cross Christ has made a provision of forgiveness of sin for fallen humanity. “The whole mind, the whole soul, the whole heart, and the whole strength are purchased by the blood of the Son of God.”⁴ Therefore, in Christ, through His blood, we become a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).

Consummation of Christ’s Victory Over Sin

At the cross Jesus won a great victory over sin. He then rested in the tomb as He had rested on the Sabbath after creating the world. But what if Jesus had never woken up from His death? His victory over sin that He had achieved on the cross would have been nullified, and the plan of salvation would have ended in failure. “And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith” (1 Cor. 15:14).

But Jesus did rise again, and the resurrection of Christ was the consummation of His victory over sin, sealing the work of human salvation. Jesus has conquered death forever by His death and resurrection. His resurrection revived eternal hope in the hearts of the disciples who had been greatly discouraged at the crucifixion of their Master. Now seeing the risen Lord, however, they were more convinced than ever before that He was the Christ, the Son

of man and Savior of the world. With this conviction they went out and preached “the resurrection of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 4:33) to the people.

Christ’s resurrection is the assurance of the resurrection of the saints. He is our life and resurrection. Therefore, anyone who believes in Christ will live, even though they die (John 11:25). When we believe in Jesus, we become partakers of the victory He has won. As He was raised, all saints also will be raised. And as He lives forever, we also will enjoy everlasting life.

Christ Is the Gospel to Be Proclaimed

Jesus came to this world as a missionary. In fact, He was the greatest missionary that this world has ever had. As a missionary He preached the gospel message to the people and gave them everything He had, including His energy, time, love, and compassion; forgiveness; and, ultimately, His own life. He Himself was the good news.

The confidence in God’s saving grace revealed through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ is what motivates His followers to tell the world about the good news of God’s infinite love toward fallen humanity. The Savior tells all His followers to be His “witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8), and to proclaim the soon coming of Jesus Christ. Now this is a solid foundation for our mission. ●

¹ Bible texts in this article are from the New International Version (NIV).

² Norman R. Gulley, *Christ Our Substitute* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Assn., 1982), p. 36.

³ Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages* (Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press, 2005), p. 24.

⁴ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers* (Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press, 1962), p. 130.

Life, Death, and Resurrection of CHRIST

In Christ’s life of perfect obedience to God’s will, His suffering, death, and resurrection, God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this atonement may have eternal life, and the whole creation may better understand the infinite and holy love of the Creator. This perfect atonement vindicates the righteousness of God’s law and the graciousness of His character; for it both condemns our sin and provides for our forgiveness. The death of Christ is

substitutionary and expiatory, reconciling and transforming. The resurrection of Christ proclaims God’s triumph over the forces of evil, and for those who accept the atonement assures their final victory over sin and death. It declares the Lordship of Jesus Christ, before whom every knee in heaven and on earth will bow. (John 3:16; Isa. 53; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 20-22; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 19-21; Rom. 1:4; 3:25; 4:25; 8:3, 4; 1 John 2:2; 4:10; Col. 2:15; Phil. 2:6-11.)



Close to His Heart

By ELLEN G. WHITE

The Lord of heaven is not regardless of us and our concerns, but is in communication with the fallen inhabitants of this world. Christ has not laid aside His human nature; He stands in the presence of God as our substitute and surety, our living intercessor. To Him is given all power in behalf of humanity, and all things have been committed into His hands, that He may complete the work of redemption, which was begun in such humiliation and at such an immense sacrifice.

The Lord is in active communication with every part of His vast dominions. He is represented as bending toward the earth and its inhabitants. He is listening to every word that is uttered. He hears every groan; He listens to every prayer; He observes the movements of every one; He approves or condemns every action. The hand of Christ draws aside the veil which conceals from our eyes the glory of heaven; and we behold Him in His high and holy place, not in a state of silence and indifference to His subjects in a fallen world, but surrounded by all the heavenly host,—ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, all waiting to go at His bidding on errands of mercy and love. . . .

Christ taught His disciples that the amount of divine attention given to any object is proportionate to the rank assigned to it in the creation of God. He called their attention to the birds of the air. Not a sparrow, He said, falls to the ground without the notice of our heavenly Father. And if the little sparrow is regarded by Him, surely the souls of those for whom Christ has died are precious in His sight. The value of man, the estimate God places upon him, is revealed in the cross of Calvary. . . .

In order to enlarge our comprehension of the benevolence and love of our heavenly Father, Christ reminds us that God sends His rain on the just and on the unjust, and “maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good.” Christ leads us forth into the open field of nature, and seeks to teach us the lesson that the Hand which upholds the world, and paints the lily of the field, and the flowers of varied beauty, is the hand of the great Master-Artist. It is He who gives to each its distinctive beauty. He tells us that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these simple, natural flowers, which He has given as an expression of His love for man.

Every drop of rain, every ray of light shed on our unthankful world, is

an evidence of God’s long forbearance and love. If the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; if the lovely flowers, which delight our senses, reveal such exquisite skill and care on the part of the great Master-Artist, we can not have exaggerated ideas of the regard and value which God has placed on the human beings made in His likeness. And He will not pass by a selfish, discourteous, or unkind action of one human being toward another. . . .

Who can measure or anticipate the gift of God? For ages sin had interrupted the flow of divine benevolence to man; but God’s mercy and love for the fallen race have not ceased to accumulate, nor lost their earthward direction. The inhabitants of the world, their reason perverted, have turned the earth into a lazar-house. But God still lives and reigns, and in Christ He has poured on the world a healing flood. In the gift of God’s dear Son, a definite view of His character has been given to the race that is never absent from His mind. His very heart is laid open in the royal law. That infinite standard is presented to all, that there may be no mistake in regard to that kind of people God would have compose His kingdom. It is only those who are obedient to all His commandments who will become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. These will be honored with a citizenship above, a life that measures with the life of God,—a life without sorrow, pain, or death throughout eternal ages. ●

This article was first published in the *Signs of the Times*, November 17, 1898. Seventh-day Adventists believe that Ellen G. White (1827-1915) exercised the biblical gift of prophecy during more than 70 years of public ministry.



When the Numbers Aren't So Great

By
REINDER BRUINSMA

I vividly remember how our local pastor told our congregation that the worldwide membership of the church had passed the 1-million-member mark! This was some 50 years ago. It had taken just over a century to reach that milestone. Today global membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church stands at roughly 16 million. If present trends continue, we are told by denominational statisticians, in another 15 years or so there may be as many as 50 million Adventists in the world.

Indeed, Adventism is a remarkable success story. Anyone who at one time doubted this but who has attended a General Conference session will forever be convinced of the vitality and vibrancy of the Adventist Church. And



Reinder Bruinsma is a retired church administrator living in the Netherlands, where he enjoys writing and teaching assignments.

those who regularly read the denominational journals such as the *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World*, who make it a habit to visit the news Web site of the General Conference, or who tune in to the Hope Channel, cannot help being impressed by the unprecedented growth of the church in many areas of the world. The pictures of mass baptisms, the glowing statistics, and the exciting stories of continuous advance will remain etched in their minds!

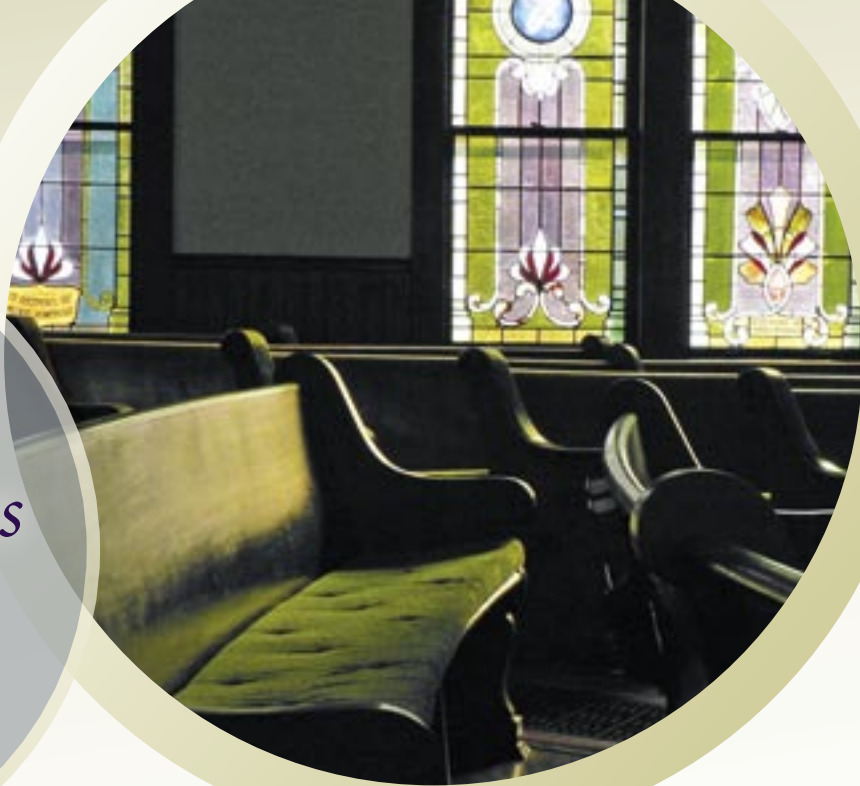
But this is not the whole story. The coin of Adventist progress has another side. Let me explain.

Where We Are Few or Very Few

I grew up in a village in the northwestern part of the Netherlands. Our family were the only Adventists in our community of some 1,500 people. We attended a small Adventist church in a neighboring town where fewer than 20 members gathered for our simple weekly worship, and where the youth society consisted of my sister and me.

That's how my life as an Adventist Church member started. The church in the entire country then had fewer

*Being an
Adventist in
isolation requires
a constant,
deliberate
choice.*



than 3,000 members. During the last five years of my denominational career I served as a leader in the Netherlands Union. I was the president of a church with just under 5,000 people in a country with 16 million inhabitants.

In my international contacts I was usually treated with great courtesy, but from time to time some fellow presidents tactfully informed me that in their union they had single churches with as many members as made up my entire union! To give the full perspective, I should add that the Dutch situation, with its limited growth, is quite positive when compared to some other places; for the sad reality is that some areas in the Western world experience zero growth or even negative growth.

Let me take you to a few places where the going is tough and the numbers aren't so good. I will confine myself to three areas of the world I happen to be well acquainted with through my overseas assignments in the 1980s and 1990s.

Egypt

Let's look first at Egypt—with its 81 million inhabitants, one of the more populous countries on the African continent. Church membership in Egypt officially stands at a little more than 800, in 19 churches. This represents the result of more than a century of continuous missionary presence. Over time the church has developed a significant infrastructure. It is true some Egyptian members have migrated to places where they would find it easier to live as Adventists, so there are more Egyptian Adventists outside the country than those who reside in Egypt, but in terms of numbers on the ground, there is very little to brag about.

Pakistan

Let's take another example, one in Asia. Colporteurs first visited the area that is now Pakistan in 1901, and an initial group of Adventist believers began meeting in Karachi about 1910. Today the country has among its 186.5 million or so inhabitants about 13,000 Seventh-day Adventists. Evangelistic work is restricted and is, for all practical purposes, limited to the 2-3 percent of non-Muslims, who often live in poor conditions in separate villages or ghettos on the outskirts of the cities, and many of whom are illiterate. Even though the church operates a highly respected medical facility in Karachi and a major educational institution near Lahore in the central part of the country, membership growth is slow, though not overwhelmingly so, when compared to other union conferences in the more developed parts of Europe.

Greece

My third example is Greece. Christianity in Greece has a long and colorful history but eventually has taken shape almost exclusively in the Orthodox tradition, which is not known for its flexibility and tolerance. Here also the origins of local Adventism date back to the early years of the last century. After more than a century of hard work the Greek Mission is as eager as ever (or perhaps more so) to reach the 11 million Greeks within its borders, but the numbers remain low. Statistics indicate that there were 260 members in 1975. According to the latest available figures, the membership now stands at 501. The increase is, however, to a large extent a result of migration from elsewhere, notably Romania, and not primarily from gains among the indigenous Greeks.

What Does It Mean to Be an Adventist When We Are Few?

By no means do I want to suggest that being an Adventist is always easy as long as you live where Adventists are relatively numerous. But surely it has great advantages to belong to a church that is known and respected, to enjoy the services of the church's infrastructure, and to receive the blessings of all kinds of meetings, seminars, and other activities!

How is it being an Adventist when the numbers aren't that great? How is it for the individual? What does it mean for the leaders of such a small and often struggling administrative church unit? I know how it is to live as an Adventist in an environment that is hostile, or at best indifferent, to my beliefs. I know also from experience how it is to be a leader of a small faith community, one that sees but little growth and hardly has a voice in the society in which it seeks to operate.

I have traveled rather widely and have been in close touch with believers in many countries, and I believe I can imagine (at least to some extent) how challenging it must be to live as an Adventist in Cairo, as part of a tiny brand of Christianity that is disliked by most Muslims and often hated by the clergy of the more established Christian Church. I think I can imagine somewhat how it must be to have become an Adventist somewhere on the outskirts of Karachi, struggling to feed my family because of Sabbath issues; and I can imagine to some extent what it must feel like to be a church member in Greece and to see that most mission efforts remain without visible results.

What Do We Do When the Numbers Aren't Great?

Let me try to share some convictions that may provide some direction and food for further thought.


1. *Being few is not always such a bad thing.* The other day I met a prominent church member from one of the smaller Caribbean islands, where about 50 percent of the population is Adventist. The picture he painted was not one of a vibrant community that always leaves the kind of impact that makes one proud. For many, Adventism is a cultural thing; it is something "that runs in the family." It reminded me of the fact that being an Adventist in isolation requires a constant, deliberate choice; it demands determination and dedication. And, those who are more isolated than they would wish should be comforted and strengthened by the thought that being part of a small remnant is a very biblical notion! Jesus Himself reminded us that numbers are not everything (Matt. 18:20)—that He is more concerned about spirituality and quality.

2. *There is a tremendous blessing in knowing that one is part of something bigger.* If there is anything church leaders, at any level, must foster, it is the realization that we belong

to the family of God, which knows no geographic, national, cultural, or linguistic borders. More should be done to ensure that journals such as *Adventist World* get to their intended audience, linking this worldwide movement. The increasing number of inspiring and nurturing Adventist Internet offerings needs to be communicated to those living in isolation. Furthermore, regular visits of leaders and specialists, who can train and inspire, will further strengthen the mental and spiritual links to the larger Adventist world community. The blessings that result from knowing that one is part of something larger and successful provide an encouragement that is worth all the effort and expense the church puts into this.

3. *One of the great things of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is its international solidarity.* Even though this solidarity at times suffers tensions, Adventists care for one another. They give large amounts for missions; they support projects in all parts of the world, and they go on countless mission trips. The world church makes very substantial amounts of money available for work in places where results may be very slow in coming. Fortunately, Adventist mission is not just driven by cost-effectiveness and numbers. Some of the largest (per capita) financial support from the General Conference goes to the smallest divisions, where the numbers aren't that great and immediate results will be modest.

4. In addition to continuing solidarity, *there must also be a nonjudgmental attitude and real desire to understand.* Few things irritated and frustrated me more during my years as the president of a small union than subtle or not-so-subtle suggestions that the mission in my country would succeed much better if we would simply copy the methods that have proven to be so successful in those parts of the world where phenomenal membership growth is experienced. Circumstances differ greatly from country to country, and from culture to culture. Challenging situations require creative thinking and careful, but daring, experimentation that is based on Scriptural values. Our believers and leaders who witness and work under challenging circumstances must feel that they are empowered to be creative and innovative.

5. When all is said and done: *Let's make sure that we are a world community of prayer.* What more encouraging thought can there be for someone who lives in an isolated place than to know that today someone will pray for you. When we have prayed and worked, we leave the future and the rate of church growth in God's capable hands. For it is not *your* church or *my* church—it is *God's* church. I appreciate Ellen White's inspired reminder to look at the bigger picture: "While much of the fruit of their labor is not apparent in this life, God's workers have His sure promise of ultimate success."* 

*Ellen G. White, *Gospel Workers* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Assn., 1948), p. 514.

QUESTION: *The prophetic scene recorded in Revelation 8:2-6 comes between the seven seals and the seven trumpets. What are we supposed to learn from it?*

In the passage to which you refer, John sees seven angels with seven trumpets and another angel burning incense on the altar, adding it to the prayers of the saints, and taking fire from a censer and casting it to the earth. The result is thunders, flashes of light, and an earthquake. In order to understand this vision we will examine other scenes in Revelation that also deal with sanctuary theology. Then I will comment on the vision and its significance.

1. Sanctuary Scene: The references to the altar of incense, the censer, the burning of incense, and the angel indicate that a ritual activity is taking place in the holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. Revelation's visions are often introduced by a scene from the heavenly sanctuary. Before the messages to the seven churches, Jesus appears dressed as a high priest in the holy place (1:12-20). The throne scene, which emphasizes the role of the Lamb (chaps. 4, 5), introduces the seven seals. The seven trumpets are introduced by the vision of the altar of incense (8:2-6). Before the vision of the cosmic conflict (chaps. 12-14), John sees the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary and the ark of the testimony, which contains the Decalogue (11:19). The seven plagues are preceded by a vision announcing that the services in the sanctuary have ended (15:5-8). In the last two chapters of the book (21, 22) the use of sanctuary/temple images increases. God descends to permanently dwell among His people in New Jerusalem.

2. Content of the Vision: The passage you mention introduces the trumpets as a distinct vision and separates it from the vision of the seven seals. When the trumpets begin to sound, Christ is still mediating for us in the heavenly sanctuary—ministering in the holy place. The fact that burning incense in the holy place was primarily the responsibility of the high priest (Ex. 30:7, 8) suggests

that the angel John saw probably represents Jesus as our mediator. He takes the prayers of the saints, contaminated by sin, and cleanses them through an atoning incense, the cleansing of Christ (cf. Num. 16:46, 47).

The passage mentions another aspect of the mediation of Jesus: the judgments of God against the wicked world. The coals used to burn the incense, thus creating a cloud of smoke that ascends to God, are also a symbol of judgment (e.g., Gen. 19:24). Some of the coals were removed from the altar of incense and placed in the censer to facilitate throwing them to the earth (cf. Ezek. 10:2). Thunders, lightning, and earthquakes usually occur when God

manifests His presence in judgment (cf. Isa. 29:6). The period of the trumpets is primarily the time during which Christ still performs the daily services on behalf of His people, and also the time during which God's judgments against the wicked occur within the flow of history. Both are mediated through Christ.

3. Significance of the Sanctuary Scenes: These sanctuary scenes were intentionally placed where they are in the book in order to communicate a message. First, they reveal that God rules the world from His heavenly temple.

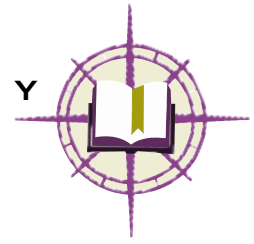
This center of divine command is where Christ went after His ascension; and from there God influences and directs the cosmic struggle between good and evil on the planet. Second, these scenes point to the two aspects of Christ's heavenly ministry: His daily work of reconciliation, and the annual service represented by the Day of Atonement. We see Jesus mediating for us in the holy place, but we also see the drama of the book moving to His work in the Most Holy Place, and finally to the moment when His high-priestly work ends. Finally, we see God's tabernacle descending from heaven to our planet. Revelation is a book about Christ's work in the heavenly sanctuary. ●

CHRIST'S Sanctuary Activity

By
ANGEL MANUEL
RODRÍGUEZ



Angel Manuel Rodríguez is director of the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference.



EDEN'S *Echo of Eternity*

By MARK A. FINLEY

When God created our world, He left an eternal reminder of His creative power. Each week the seventh-day Sabbath reminds us of the love, power, and wisdom of our amazing God. It speaks of His care and incredible concern for each one of us. The Sabbath is not some legalistic requirement; it is God's oasis of love in a shattered world. Each Sabbath we hear the echoes of eternity calling us back to the perfection of creation and peaceful rest at the side of our Creator.

1. What activity on God's part indicated the end of the process of Creation? Read the text below and write your answer in the spaces provided.

"Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done" (Gen. 2:1, 2).

God rested on the _____ from all His work.

2. What two things did God do to set the Sabbath apart from all the other days of the week? Circle them in the text below.

"Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made" (Gen. 2:3).

When God blessed the seventh day, He was declaring it the object of His favor, a day that would bless His creatures. To sanctify something means to set it apart for a special or sacred purpose, in this case a day for His creatures to remember and honor His creative power.

3. The fourth of the Ten Commandments states: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Ex. 20:8). What great event are we reminded of when we observe the Sabbath?

"For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it" (Ex. 20:11).

"For in six days the Lord _____ the _____ and the _____."

The Sabbath is a weekly reminder of God's creative power. It reminds us that our world was once perfect, and that it will be perfect once again. It speaks to us not only of a perfect creation but of a perfect Creator.

4. What two events are linked in Isaiah 43:1? Write your answers in the spaces provided.

"But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine'" (Isa. 43:1).

This passage describes God as _____ and _____.



We belong to our Lord on two counts: He created us and He redeemed us. The Sabbath speaks of both His creative and His redemptive power. When we rest from our labors on the seventh day, we rest in the love of the One who made us and redeemed us.

5. Where does God direct us to look when we experience the trials of life?

“Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing” (Isa. 40:26).

“Lift up your _____ on _____.”

Why does looking toward our Creator and away from our trials make such a difference?

Write your answer in your own words: _____

6. Why is God worthy of our worship?

“You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created” (Rev. 4:11).

God is worthy of our worship because He _____ all things.

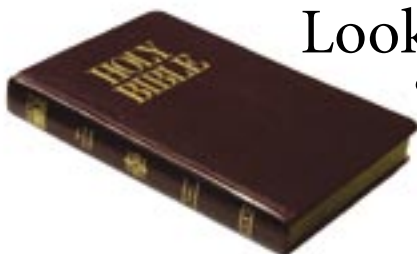
Creation reveals God’s supernatural, life-giving power. God is worthy of our worship because He is the Giver of life, the Creator and Sustainer of all life. When we worship God on the seventh-day Sabbath, we worship the One who has given us life, the One who sustains our lives, and the One who has redeemed our lives. We acknowledge that the same God whose power created the world has the power to create new heavens and a new earth.

7. What promise does God make regarding this sinful world?

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind” (Isa. 65:17).

He will create new _____ and a new _____.

The God who created this world in the beginning will re-create it in Edenic splendor. As we keep the seventh-day Sabbath each week we hear the echoes of eternity. An all-powerful, all-loving, all-caring God is going to create new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will reign forever. Now that’s something to rejoice about!



Look for next month’s Bible study:

“When God Created Love.”

LETTERS



Strengthening the Weak

Thank you for the cover story “Babel Undone,” by Marcos Paseggi (January 2010), and especially for the devotional by J.

Stanley McCluskey, “Can We Always Count on God’s Protection?” The Lord allows us to meet difficulties to strengthen a quality that may atrophy if we do nothing.

JACKSON NDIKUMANA
Rusororo, Rwanda

First Issue

Today is the first day when the *Adventist World* appeared in the Romanian language (January 2010). I just received the e-mail from our Romanian Union Conference saying that we can read *Adventist World* not only in English but in Romanian as well.

I was impressed by “Babel Undone,” by Marcos Paseggi. He wrote a nice piece about the work of translators, and the message is dead true. I have worked a few years as editor of the Hungarian publications at the Romanian Adventist Publishing House (*Viata si Sanatate*), and in my work I not only correct and edit materials but also translate, so I know the details and problems that arise in putting a message from one language into another. My mother tongue being the Hungarian language, I translate from Romanian, not from English. Many times I feel great joy when I look at a new book or review, and I touch the printed matter. It is a good feeling to know that the result of our

work is not for a few days but for years, and not just for a little group but sometimes for thousands or millions (i.e., the Book of the Year).

Thank you to Marcos Paseggi. This article was a balm, because we rarely hear words of thanks. I know, our reward is in heaven; but for the present we live on earth! Maybe one day we will have the joy to have a beautiful meeting with all Adventist translators, or a little reunion. May God bring us the kingdom where all will speak a single language.

JUDIT KOVÁCS
Bucharest, Romania



People Needing People

Kari Paulsen’s article “What Happens to the Wanderers?” (January 2010) struck a responsive chord in my

heart as she shared her experience as a 15-year-old finding a small group of Adventists with such warmth and acceptance, as well as others along the way who nurtured and prepared her for the role where God placed her.

I had a similar experience when, at the age of 16, I became acquainted with the Adventist message, and the little church in Gadsden, Alabama, United States, took me under their wing. There were only three or four other young people in the church. I’ll never forget the kindness of the older members who nurtured us. Dear elderly Mr. Hyde prayed the most beautiful and sincere prayers. One Sabbath he loaded up the young people in his car and took us to a youth rally at a church 60 miles away. Mr. Morgan

“May God bring us the kingdom where all will speak a single language.”

—JUDIT KOVÁCS
Bucharest, Romania

taught the youth Sabbath school class and gave me a solid foundation for my new faith. The pastor’s wife invited another young girl and me to her home for Sabbath dinner and modeled Sabbathkeeping for us. They trusted me with the responsibility of Sabbath school secretary and helped this insecure girl find acceptance.

Graduation time came just a few months after I joined the church. I had a valedictory speech to write, and when I struggled not knowing how to begin, our head elder gave me his assistance.

There have been others along the way whose love and support helped prepare me to be a secretary in a conference office for the past 36 years. I thank Paulsen for her openness. I was truly blessed, and it brought back so many memories of my own.

JEAN DICKERSON
Lansing, Michigan, United States

LETTERS

Earlier Work

I am writing in regard to "In China, Mongolia, Adventist Literature Evangelism Thrives" (World Report, September 2009). The translating of Seventh-day Adventist books and other helpful Christian resources into the Khalkha Mongol language began in 1992 by Brad Jolly of Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM). After Jolly's death Munkhjargal and Nara, with the dedication of AFM donors, continued the publishing work, leaving a good foundation for the growth of the church.

Bold Batsukh is publishing director for the Mongolia Mission Field. His department recently printed a catalog of books and materials available in the Khalkha Mongol language. It has more than 60 titles.

Continued support of translation

and publishing into indigenous languages is still a great need, but there has been labor and sacrifice put forth in the past.

CATHIE JOLLY HARTMAN
Via e-mail

Past Issues of Adventist World Still Speak

I learned about you from the January 2008 magazine and the Robert McIver piece "What Is It Really Like to Be a Christian?" and messages through the Hope Channel by Pardon K. Mwansa. I am undertaking my research study in India, which is far from my country, Kenya. Kindly pray for me to be strong in the church. Here in India I haven't failed to attend church. There are just a few members where I go. We have a place where we usually meet and pray every

Saturday. Since we are a small group, we need prayers for our church to grow.

ROBERT OBUBA
Udaipur, India

I am incarcerated and came across *Adventist World* for the very first time a few weeks ago by chance. I was very much inspired and would like to have more of them. The magazine is great because it is so spiritual and inspirational to me. A lot of the other inmates are interested also. They have found it to be rehabilitating.

LEONARD GRANT
Jamaica, West Indies

Letters Policy: Please send your letters to the editor to: letters@adventistworld.org. Letters must be clearly written and to the point, 250-word maximum. Be sure to include the name of the article, the date of publication, and page number with your letter. Also include your name, the town/city, state, and country from which you are writing. Letters will be edited for space and clarity. Not all letters submitted will be published.



THE PLACE OF PRAYER

May God bless you for the prayers you offer for us. I have received money today to register for school tomorrow. Please keep on praying for me to get the balance for this semester. However, God's will be done.

SAMWELL, *Uganda*

My granddaughter is at college, away from home for the first time, and is homesick and having financial difficulties. She doesn't know the Lord, so please pray for her.

MADELINE, *United States*

Please pray for my cousin who is suffering from mental disorders right now. My uncle and aunt are suffering too much, just to get her well. Please pray for me so that all I am feeling will not develop into an illness.

FAYE, *Philippines*

Please pray for a 7-year-old boy who has a malignant brain tumor that is inoperable. Nothing is impossible with God. Pray that the whole family may know God and praise His name.

LORENA, *Argentina*

We are a group of Christians from Kenya requesting to be affiliated with your church. Please pray for our work, and we will pray for your ministry.

CHARLES, *Kenya*

I'm earning my second degree at Myaungmya, Myanmar. I'm pressing on to accomplish my graduation. Please pray for me as I try for this.

IVAN, *Myanmar*

We are seeing a big change in our son since you started praying for him. He has not yet started going to church, but he has cut his ties from drug and substance abuse. Please continue praying for him so that God will bring total change in his character and the ability to better serve the Lord through a Christlike life.

JERES, *Malawi*

The Place of Prayer; send to prayer@adventistworld.org. Send us your prayer requests and praise (thanks for answered prayer). Keep your entries short and concise, 75 words maximum. Items sent to this category will be edited for space and clarity. Even though we will pray for each entry during our weekly staff meetings, not all submissions will be printed. Please include your name and your country's name with your entry. You may also fax requests to: 1-301-680-6638; or mail them to *Adventist World*, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 U.S.A.

“Behold, I come quickly...”

Our mission is to uplift Jesus Christ, uniting Seventh-day Adventists everywhere in beliefs, mission, life, and hope.

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EXCHANGE OF IDEAS

Believing
Without Really
Seeing

“Não acredito mano! Quanta neve! Eu sabia que aí nevava, mas não tanto. Será que vai demorar a derreter?”

“Vou enviar algumas fotos. Tudo está coberto de neve. É difícil acreditar que em poucas semanas o cenário vai estar totalmente diferente. Quando tiramos a neve da saída de casa com a pá, a quantidade era tanta, que o monte ficou quase do meu tamanho.”



That was part of the conversation my husband had with his sister, who lives near Brasília, Brazil. He spent more than a few minutes on a February day describing the wintry scene outside our windows, the plight of cars on roadways, and the great piles of shoveled snow lining our driveway. “It’s incredible,” he ended in Portuguese. “You just can’t imagine . . .”

No, I don’t think she really could imagine what it would be like to be surrounded by almost three feet of snow—or even see snowflakes swirling around her. Living in a place where the wet season requires a few extra blankets on the bed, or a warm jacket in the evenings, my sister-in-law is ill-equipped to know what snow is like. Sure, she has seen and touched ice, maybe even enjoyed a slushy-type sweet dessert made of crushed ice, which *might* resemble snow, but she hasn’t seen or touched real snow. She hasn’t made a snowperson, tossed a snowball, or watched melting snow freeze into icicles. Her brother can talk and talk, and send picture after picture to her e-mail account, but she can only envision it based on her limited experience.

I’ve never seen heaven. I’ve never knelt and smelled a rose in the garden, nor have I felt a warm gentle breeze off the sea of glass. In my limited experience on earth, I’ve talked about it, read about it in Scripture and Ellen White writings, and seen artists’ renderings. I’ve been places that have felt heavenly to me, which *might* resemble heaven just a bit, but I haven’t seen it or been there.

But just like my sister-in-law, I have it on good authority that heaven does exist, and it is incredible. Jesus Christ, who walked the earth and went back to heaven, has told me about it. All I have to do is read it in His Word, and believe, even without really seeing. Limited experience and all.

—KIMBERLY LUSTE MARAN, Laurel, Maryland, United States

¹ Translation: “I can’t believe it, brother. I know it snows there, but not that much, right? What is it like? Do you think it will melt quickly?”

² Translation: “I will send you photos. Everything is covered with snow. It’s hard to believe that in just a few weeks it will look totally different. We shoveled so much snow that the pile was almost as tall as me.”

The PEOPLE'S PLACE

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THIS?



SUBMITTED BY OCK-JOON KIM

ADVENTIST LIFE

I was teaching my kindergarten Sabbath school class the lesson about the Israelites receiving the manna. To make it more “real” I got them all to lie down on the carpet and close their eyes and pretend they were sleeping. I then sprinkled popcorn all around them and instructed them that it was “morning” and they could open their eyes.

There were gleeful shouts of “Yum, it’s popcorn.” Then I told them that when the Israelites woke up the next morning, they said, “Manna?”

I asked the class if they knew what the word “manna” meant, and with one voice and no hesitation they all enthusiastically responded: “Popcorn!”

—Tish Lowe Rawhiti, Bay of Islands, New Zealand

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“When a great and decisive work is to be done, God chooses men and women to do this work, and it will feel the loss if the talents of both are not combined.”

—Ellen G. White, *Evangelism*, p. 469.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

“I have always wanted to volunteer,” says Maribel Alao, a native of Jamaica, “but I kept putting it off for several reasons. Then, my reasons began to multiply.”

Finally, after seeing how God supported her through graduate school, Maribel decided that she would devote a year of her life to Him in volunteer service. That’s how she came to be in Japan, teaching English as a second language to elementary school children and conducting

Bible study sessions. “I enjoy giving the Bible studies,” she says, although she also admits that teaching the Bible is challenging in Japan. “For many the Bible is just a storybook. Here, to accept the Bible as the Word of God requires great faith.”

Regardless of the challenges, Maribel enjoys her assignment in Japan and finds that it has brought her closer to God. To others who may be thinking about volunteer service, she says, “Just go! Stop making excuses. Just go! It will change your life in a positive way! God *will* provide the way.”



Maribel will be teaching in Japan through August 2010.

If you would like to read stories about other Adventist volunteers around the world or learn about how you can participate in the volunteer program, go to www.adventistvolunteers.org.

ANSWER: In Incheon City, South Korea, this new church is the result of combined efforts and faith. The congregation of the West Incheon church grew too large for its old facility, and after many meetings the members decided to expand. They held prayer meetings and a special fund-raiser, and all the church members devoted themselves wholeheartedly. They purchased a building site by the grace of the Lord and built a new church, changing the name to Incheon Three Angels Seventh-day Adventist Church.