

June 2010

ADVENTIST WORLD



Convicted by a Scrap of Paper



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**GETTING DOWN
to BUSINESS** See page 22

ADVENTIST WORLD

June 2010



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WORLD VIEW

The Unseen Church

For Sarah in Zimbabwe, who is asking the Lord to give her a husband to love and care for . . .

For Ivan in Belarus, who is being urged to take an engineering exam on Sabbath . . .

For Migdalia in the Philippines, who is struggling with cancer . . .

The prayer requests—some handwritten, others e-mailed, some newly translated from Spanish, French, Portuguese, or German—move around the circle of the *Adventist World* staff each Wednesday morning at 8:15. Taken together, they illustrate the round of prayer that rises every morning from Adventists all around the world. Folded slips of paper, envelopes bearing exotic stamps, digitized messages transmitted at the speed of electricity—they all convey the vital heartbeat of believers committed to the task of interceding for each other.

We pause over each one, fingering the connection we feel to those far distant from us, yet joined in common faith. We “rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep” (Rom. 12:15). We sigh at sin and sickness, grieving

losses borne by those who write. Our hearts leap within us at news of hope—when evil is pushed back, when Ivan is offered another exam date, when Sarah finds a godly husband.

Each week the number and variety of requests seems to grow, as Adventists around the globe reach out to ask for prayer from those they will not likely meet until we stand upon that sea of glass. Faith imagines what mortal eyes may never see—thousands of others, bent on their knees in homes, in offices, alongside roads. In a world convulsed by plague and pain, the act of praying for believers half a world away is the surest sign that we have joined more than a local congregation. In God’s grace, we belong to a called-out world-wide fellowship whose first allegiance is to the “Lamb slain from the foundation of the world,” the Lord Who stands above every government, every tribe, every economic system. In His name, and to His throne, we bring our weekly prayers and praises, seeking the oneness for which He prayed.

As you read this month’s feature story about the unique ministry of *Adventist World*, join that world-embracing circle of faith and prayer.

— BILL KNOTT

WORLD REPORT

Creative Movie Creates Interest in Creation

Adventist artist’s work gains wide exposure, response

■ Early in 2010 a movie screening in the heart of Europe drew thousands of curious viewers, resulting in plenty of favorable comment. Though that might not seem unusual, the film’s subject matter certainly was far removed from the bulk of today’s cinema: the film involved was a celebration of the biblical account of Creation, and it’s the product of



HENRY STOBER

CREATION AUDIENCE: One of the many capacity crowds for a film and photography presentation about Creation, created by Seventh-day Adventist Henry Stober.

WORLD REPORT

filmmaker Henry Stober, a Seventh-day Adventist.

“To be an Adventist is a privilege, and the Sabbath message is really the [icing] on the cake,” Stober said. “To experience the reaction of people, to speak to them and to see the change with my own eyes is simply indescribable. . . . Since the first showings we have received many requests from other countries. I realize that technically speaking it would be simple to get presenters in other languages and be able to show the film practically worldwide.”

Screening sites were set up in several German and Austrian cities during a two-week period in January. Hundreds of people had to be turned away because of the overcrowded venues. For many there was standing room only at the showing of the 75-minute-long, high-definition movie, entitled *Creation—The Earth Is a Witness*, projected on 12 x 6 meter (approximately 39 by 18 foot) panoramic screens.

The film’s history began in 2006 as German Adventist photographer Stober felt the call to produce a multimedia event focusing upon the beauty of Creation and present it in a way compelling enough to make audiences think about the creation/evolution question.

The movie is a skillfully made, highly entertaining mix of scientific evidence for creation, breathtaking nature scenes, and stunningly beautiful instrumental music, written by Adventist composer Dominic Buchner. For many viewers this was their first exposure to creationism and the God of Creation. Several hundred have signed up for further Bible study.

Those wishing to sample some of the beautiful shots and film sequences, culled from more than 100 hours of HD film material and hundreds of thousands of high quality digital photographs, can visit www.dieSchoepfung.eu.

Via that Web site, several people

offered comments—albeit anonymously—on the project. One wrote, “Thank you very, very much for the movie. My wife, daughter, and several of my colleagues, as well as their wives, watched it with us yesterday. I now have a good opportunity to speak to them about my faith. We were all thrilled by the movie (the Lord is working—after all, He is the Creator).”

Another wrote, “Hi, I saw the film in Schlossberg hall in Starnberg and want to thank you very much for letting yourselves be used by the Holy Spirit to produce such a masterpiece.”

—Reported by Sigrun Schumacher, *ASI Europe newsletter editor; translated and edited by Chantal J. Klingbeil and AW Staff.*

Adventist Church Plans Expanded Partnership With World Health Organization

■ Seventh-day Adventist Church officials voted April 6 to accept a proposal from the World Health Organization (WHO) that seeks the denomination’s partnership with the United Nations’ agency in a program to reduce maternal and infant mortality.

The approval paves the way for expanding the church’s fledgling alliance with the WHO in helping to implement public health initiatives.

Church administrative and health leaders first explored a collaboration with the WHO last summer during a health conference in Geneva. In October they released a statement positioning the denomination to better improve global health through partnerships with allied health organizations such as the WHO.

The WHO proposal discussed during Spring Meetings at world church headquarters requests that selected Adventist-run schools of nursing that teach midwifery or obstetrics serve as “laboratories of change.” There, the WHO, Health Ministries, and church-



RAJMUND DABROWSKI/ANN

HEALTH PARTNERSHIP: Church Health Ministries director Allan Handysides outlines a World Health Organization (WHO) proposal soliciting the Adventist Church’s efforts to reduce infant and maternal mortality worldwide.

run Loma Linda University School of Nursing in Loma Linda, California, will concentrate resources to graduate highly skilled birth attendants, said Allan Handysides, director of the world church’s Department of Health Ministries.

An increase in birth attendants is expected to curb the number of maternal deaths per births in many African and Asian countries, which stands at 600 per 100,000, compared to 16 per 100,000 in Western countries, Handysides said. The ratio represents an estimated 3 million preventable maternal deaths per year, he said.

“I want to stress to you that through this partnership the image and reputation of the Adventist Church may be held up to the scrutiny of the WHO,” Handysides told the delegates. He urged them not only to approve the proposal, but also to commit to “100 percent participation” and “keen oversight” by all levels of church administration in implementing the project, particularly in church regions where the effort is concentrated.

Patricia Jones, associate health ministries director for nursing, reiterated Handysides' call for full involvement. Jones, also a professor of nursing at the Loma Linda University School of Nursing, said that if problems in implementation arise, the goal of the partnership—fewer infant and maternal deaths—would suffer most.

Delegates seemed largely in favor of the partnership, one calling it a “vote of confidence” in the work of the church’s Health Ministries Department. However, they asked that potential downsides to the partnership be fully analyzed before the church moves forward.

“I am reluctant to enter this partnership—even though the benefits may be tremendous—without a thorough plan to avoid any risks that may arise,” said Paul Ratsara, president of the church’s Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

While potential risks cannot be eliminated, “thorough work has and will yet be done” to “minimize” them, said Peter Landless, associate Health Ministries director. Landless called for a “careful, measured pace” as the church proceeds with the partnership, which, he added, “may serve as a very needed injection of new life into some of our health institutions.”

The partnership is expected to upgrade the quality of instruction and increase the number of instructors at the selected nursing schools. Also anticipated is a spike in enrollment because of students contracted by the government to return to their rural communities where infant and maternal mortality is the highest, Handysides said.

Developing an extensive network of such “laboratories of change” is expected to cost an estimated \$5 million, he said.

“We were at first apprehensive about this because the cost of such a project would certainly be beyond our

capabilities,” Handysides said. However, the WHO has since said they are “very willing” to secure funding for the initiative, he added.

The Adventist Church “should embrace this opportunity to have a public expression of our healing and serving values as a global organization,” said Lowell Cooper, a world church vice president and Loma Linda University’s board chair.

—Reported by Elizabeth Lechleitner, Adventist News Network.

Jamaica to Become Union Conference

Other management restructures in Latin America accommodate church growth

■ Four administrative restructuring moves by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in and around Central America highlight the church’s membership growth in the region, home to nearly 3.3 million members.

The action, approved April 7, 2010, by the world church’s Executive Committee, creates new management regions in the Caribbean, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, and Venezuela. Church leaders said the adjustments

reflect the growth and maturity of the church in those regions.

The Adventist Church in the island nation of Jamaica will become its own Jamaica Union Conference, thereby splitting the current West Indies Union Conference. Jamaica has nearly 250,000 members and is home to one of the highest ratios of Adventist Church members to population. Nearly 1 out of 11 people in Jamaica is a member of the Adventist Church, one of the largest denominations on the island.

The remaining areas of the former West Indies Union—Bahamas, Cayman Islands, and the Turks & Caicos Islands—will become part of a newly formed Atlantic Caribbean Union Mission, with about 25,000 members.

A union is made up of several local administrative fields. A union with the “conference” designation is financially self-supporting, while a union with a “mission” status is still reliant on its parent management structure, a “division,” for support and oversight.

The committee action also doubles the administrative structure for Colombia. Adventist churches in the South American nation are currently managed by one union conference for

Continued next page



MAKING CHANGES: General Conference associate secretary Agustin Galicia proposes administrative changes in the Caribbean and Central America. The Inter-American Division required final approval from the world church’s Executive Committee before restructuring management in four of its unions.

Continued from page 5

some 265,000 members. The newly created North Colombian Conference and South Colombian Union Mission will soon share these duties.

Also, a newly formed East Venezuela Union Mission will be added, replacing an eastern section of the Venezuela-Antilles Union Mission, which now serves 210,000 members.

In addition, the countries of Honduras and El Salvador, now operated by the Mid-Central American Union Mission, will each have their own union missions. Honduras currently has about 230,000 members, while El Salvador has about 195,000.

The move affecting Honduras and El Salvador takes effect January 1, 2012. The other changes will go into effect following this summer's Adventist Church fifty-ninth General Conference session in Atlanta, Georgia, United States.

"We want to make these changes in recognition of the development of the mission of the church in those territories," said Agustin Galicia, an associate secretary of the Adventist world church.

"Take Venezuela, they had five local fields when they reorganized the territory in 1989," Galicia said. "Now there are 11."

Once the changes are implemented, the church's Inter-American Division will comprise of 21 unions, the most of any of the church's 13 world divisions.

—Reported by Ansel Oliver,
Adventist News Network.

ALBANIA: Adventist Pastors Bring Health and Hope

■ A Seventh-day Adventist pastor is bringing health and hope to people in what once was Europe's poorest nation, Albania. The retired minister, John Arthur of England, has recently made his fifty-first visit to the nation,

its capital, Tirana, and rural areas.

"The capital city, Tirana, is like a mini Dubai, with buildings shooting up at a phenomenal rate," Arthur reported. "Out in the rural villages, however, the situation is still the same. It's like moving backwards into the Victorian era."

Arthur continues, "This is where ADRA is making its mark. Forty school buildings and health clinics have been reconstructed during the past 10 years, mainly under the leadership of Lamar Phillips, the current national director of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Volunteers from many countries have also played an important role in this modernization program."

A health center on ADRA's compound in Kombinat—one of the more deprived areas of Tirana—was opened by Liri Berisha, director of the Albanian Children's Foundation and wife of the prime minister. This event was covered in the main news bulletin of TOP Channel—Albania's most popular TV station.

An estimated 120 Seventh-day Adventist Church members and friends from all parts of the country assembled for an ADRA Rally at the central church on March 13. Retired BBC TV journalist Bill Hamilton gave an inspiring talk entitled "Love of God," based on Romans 8:28. Arthur presented lectures entitled "Celebrating Albania's Progress" and "An Even Better Day Is Coming."

The purpose of the visit was to try to resolve some issues relating to ADRA's 0.49 hectare site in Tirana, which was made available to the agency on a 99-year lease in 1993. Several key players were contacted, including the prime minister, Sali Berisha. A decision will be made by the Council of Ministers in due course.

—Reported by AW Staff with
information from John Arthur.

WORLD REPORT

Leaders



EVANGELISM LEADER: Adventist evangelist Mark Finley during the 2010 Spring Meeting of church leaders in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States. Finley spoke on issues surrounding evangelism during a two-day Council on Evangelism and Witness gathering.

Evangelism is a process, not an event, Seventh-day Adventist world church leaders said during a recent review of global outreach efforts.

While traditional church outreach often involved weeklong preaching events with little follow-up, public evangelism's effectiveness today depends on committed, involved local church members who will befriend and disciple new believers, delegates of the last Council on Evangelism and Witness (CEW) meeting before the 2010 fifty-ninth General Conference session said.

Church pastors, evangelists, and other leaders should foster a "culture of involvement" among members, Michael L. Ryan, a world church vice president, told delegates gathered at world church headquarters for the April 1, 2010, full-day meeting that preceded the church's Spring Meetings.

Reemphasize Public Outreach

*Evangelism is a “process,
not an event,” they say*

By ELIZABETH LECHLEITNER,
Adventist News Network

“It’s easy to make budget appropriations, hire an evangelist, and arrange a meeting, but what would we do if we didn’t have a cent to spend on evangelism?” evangelist Bob Folkenberg, Jr., who is also president of the Upper Columbia Conference, asked the delegates, adding that laypeople—“active members with a lifestyle of evangelism”—are the answer, “whether you’re in Manila or Manhattan.”

Evangelist Bruce Bauer reminded the delegates to keep Jesus’ style of outreach in the New Testament in mind—meeting needs and building trust before sharing beliefs.

Bauer also dismissed the concept of a one-size-fits-all approach to evangelism. “No one outreach effort is going to reach everyone,” he said, adding that outreach should not be done haphazardly, but with demographic research in mind. Later, Ryan reiterated the point, calling for “contextualized outreach.”

As a case study for such outreach, Mark Finley, a world church vice president and CEW chair, and Swamidass Johnson, an evangelist in India, outlined the Adventist Church’s outreach in Chennai, India. There, membership has grown from seven churches in 1994 to 154 today, largely as a result of “deliberate evangelism,” such as church groups meeting at the city’s major metro stations, Finley said.

During a question-and-answer period dividing the morning and afternoon sessions, Jairyong Lee, president of the church’s Northern Asia-Pacific Division, applauded the emphasis on lay evangelism, but said practical ideas on how best to motivate a congregation were needed.

“Often we just tell our members, ‘Go out and get involved,’ but we rarely recognize their work. I think if we did, it would encourage them to continue to evangelize,” Lee said.

Also needed is a change in “church

culture,” said Bertil Wiklander, president for the church’s Trans-European Division.

“There is something very flawed about a church where members just attend meetings, listen to sermons, and give tithes and offerings,” he said, adding that some churches stress intellectualism over spirituality, doctrine over relationships, and have grown “too holy,” emphasizing “exclusiveness at the expense of compassion.”

While some church leaders speculate that regions such as Trans-Europe are not receptive to traditional outreach, South Pacific Division leaders Barry Oliver and Gary Webster said even so-called “postmodern” cultures can be reached through public evangelism.

The church-run Institute for Public Evangelism trains and mentors young evangelists, then places them in areas with little strong leadership. In some regions church membership has tripled as a result, an institute report said.

South American Division president Erton Köhler shared his area’s emphasis on large-scale evangelism projects designed to unify members and motivate ongoing evangelism.

Köhler said the division’s most successful projects are “simple and relevant,” such as a current effort to encourage Sabbathkeeping by emphasizing that people are hardwired for a weekly break from everyday stress.

Later delegates heard a report from Bulgaria. There, a CEW-funded project is raising awareness against child marriage among the country’s large Muslim Roma community, where children are regularly forced into arranged marriages by age 10 or 12, said Bruno Vertallier, president of the church in Euro-Africa. ●

WORLD VISTA

In the Name of



HEIN VON HÖRSTEN

Jesus

Reflecting the dynamic ministry of a life spent teaching and serving

By
LOWELL C.
COOPER

“Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.”¹

Where does the healing ministry fit in the mission of the church? Should the effectiveness of disaster relief and community development activities be measured in water wells and meals, or in baptisms? In light of the gospel commission, should everything we do be evaluated in terms of quantifiable church growth?

Questions like these often arise in the context of defining mission priorities and getting the maximum effect from limited resources. The Seventh-day Adventist Church operates 171 hospitals and sanitariums along with 429 clinics and dispensaries. The Adventist Devel-

opment and Relief Agency (ADRA) implements humanitarian projects in more than 100 countries.

Seventh-day Adventists are familiar with the expressions “entering wedge” and “right arm” of the message. These terms often have been used to describe the function and relationship that ministry of the hand (helping, healing, and training) holds with ministry of the Word (preaching, teaching, baptizing, and discipling). Thus health care and other service-based programs are seen as instrumental or secondary to the main work of the church—that of proclaiming the gospel and preparing people for the soon coming of Jesus Christ.

These terms can create a caricature that robs Christian witness of wholeness, especially if they result in ranking

the value and priority of different forms of ministry. The language of priority quickly tends to imply that all else is secondary at best. A different picture is seen when the ministry of the hand and the ministry of the Word both originate as a ministry of the heart. It was so in the life of Jesus. It was so in the prophetic themes of the Old Testament.

The prophet Jeremiah contrasts the ungodly and wicked king Jehoaahaz with his illustrious father, Josiah. Of Josiah he writes: “Did not your father have food and drink? He did what was right and just, so all went well with him. He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me? declares the Lord.”² Knowledge of God is here inseparable from serving the

needs of individuals.

The overwhelming picture that emerges from the New Testament Gospels is that Jesus was deeply interested in every aspect of human life. His ministry embraced and addressed all of human experience: thoughts, relationships, disease, poverty, rejection, abuse received or rendered, worship, motives, lawsuits, property, hopes, fears, and failures. Whatever else can be said about his role in history and in salvation, He valued the least, the lost, and the lowest.

The contrast between Jesus and the crowd, between Jesus and His disciples, is highlighted in the story about the healing of blind Bartimaeus. This is the second to last healing miracle recorded in the Gospels. It occurs when Jesus and His disciples are on their way to Jerusalem. His ministry is coming to a climax. All the strands of His teaching, the great focus of prophecy, are about to be revealed. Big things are at stake. Yet the Master stops for a roadside ministry that would really make no difference to the great end He had in view.

The crowds that followed Jesus, even His disciples, had built a wall of distinction between religion and relief. Many of the burning issues of the day were theological: Who is the Christ? Have you kept the Sabbath? How did you calculate your tithe? And the crying need of humanity was relegated to the periphery of life.

Jesus shows that theology and service belong together. Any attempt to segregate the two diminishes both. Jesus' response to the cry of Bartimaeus shows that poverty, suffering, unemployment, sickness, and hunger are also religious questions, for all human need is His business and all are created in His image.

The gospel commission recorded in Matthew 28 is widely regarded as the foundation for our mission in

this world. Jesus' teaching regarding service (see Matt. 25:31-46) enlarges the framework from which Christians are to view their service to God. Jesus makes it clear that service to those in need is service to Him.

Ellen White provided much in the way of vision for Seventh-day Adventist Church engagement in health education, healing, and practical service. She pointed to Jesus as the model to follow. "Christ stands before us as the pattern Man, the great Medical Missionary—an example for all who should come after. His love, pure and holy, blessed all who came within the sphere of its influence.... What, then, is the example that we are to set to the world? We are to do the same work that the great Medical Missionary undertook in our behalf."³

Seventh-day Adventists are engaged in health education and health care, in disaster relief and development, because these activities reflect the ministry of Jesus. He wanted people to experience the fullness of God's will for them. He ministered to them at the point of their pressing need. His interest in them encompassed their physical and spiritual needs, yet He did not heal them as a pretext for gaining their discipleship.

Ministry to others, whatever that specific ministry may be, can be used by God to awaken new hungers in the soul. The gospel message must be seen in its wholeness. Every aspect of life is addressed. Every ministry that adds quality and depth to life finds its place within the will and purposes of God. No ministry should be judged inferior or incomplete simply because it does not yield visible commitment to God and His work on the earth. Inordinate attention to measures of success (that is, baptisms) can lead to a preoccupation with short-term goals and the "success" of programming rather than the quality of service in the name of Jesus.

"Disinterested" service is ministry that seeks to address a person's present needs without requiring that service to be a disguise for another agenda. Serving the world in the name of Jesus involves a multifaceted array of ministries. One form of ministry may touch a certain facet of life while another form of ministry addresses a wholly different aspect.

Each ministry has its part. Each should be evaluated by the degree it represents a true reflection of the heart of Jesus. Evangelism alone cannot release us from obedience to the Bible's teaching about our social responsibility in the world. Social service alone cannot carry the weight of our obligation to evangelize. The gospel is for the whole person. Ultimately, it takes the whole church to give the whole gospel to the whole world.

Practical Ministry

Those who perform healing ministry and those who work in community development have enormous opportunities to serve in the name of Jesus, and thus set people on pathways to a better life—even pathways that lead to discipleship. The ministry itself is a necessary part of Christian service in this world. The measure of its effectiveness must be viewed from multiple perspectives. ●

¹ Col. 3:17. From *The Message*. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.

² Jer. 22:15, 16, NIV.

³ Ellen G. White, *Loma Linda Messages* (1981), p. 61.

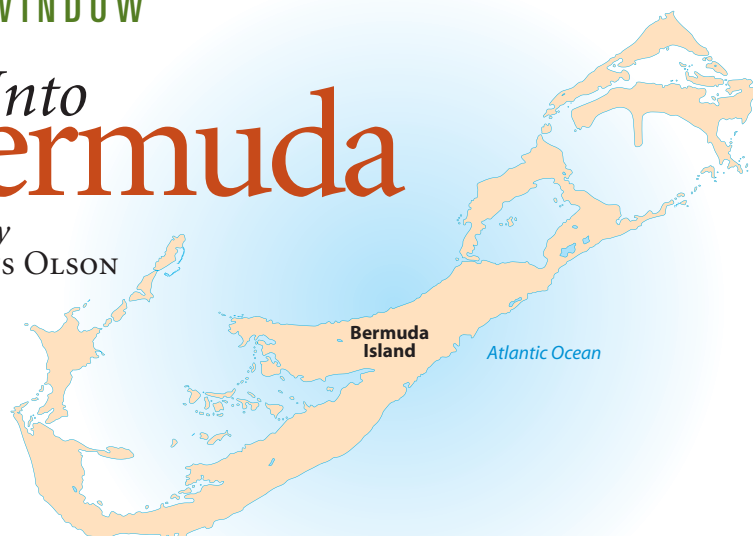


Lowell C. Cooper is a general vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Among his other responsibilities he serves as board chair for Loma Linda University Medical Center and for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

WINDOW

Into Bermuda

By
HANS OLSON



Bermuda is an island nation some 1,050 kilometers (650 miles) off the Atlantic coast of the United States. It is the oldest and most populous of the British overseas territories.

Spanish sea captain Juan de Bermúdez discovered the archipelago of seven islands and more than 170 islets that became Bermuda during the sixteenth century. It was nearly 100 years, however, before the first permanent settlement emerged from a group of shipwrecked colonists headed for the United States from the United Kingdom in 1609. Bermuda's first capital, St. George's, was settled in 1612 and is the oldest continuously inhabited English town in the Americas.

During the mid-1800s North Americans, trying to avoid harsh northern winters, popularized Bermuda's tourism industry. This industry continues to be an important part of the island's

economy. Each year nearly half a million tourists, some 80 percent from the United States, visit to enjoy Bermuda's beaches, golf courses, colonial buildings, and subtropical climate.

The country's dependence on tourism makes it susceptible to the ups and downs of the tourist industry. The global economic recession of the past few years has had a negative effect on Bermuda's economy. Still, Bermuda enjoys the third highest per capita income in the world, due in part to its other primary source of income, international financial services. A number of insurance companies have relocated to the island from the United States, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and again after Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, further contributing to the expansion of an already robust international business sector.

As with many other British overseas territories, independence from the United Kingdom is an ongoing point of discussion. Although a 1995 referendum on independence was rejected by 75 percent of Bermudans, the current government leadership has restarted the debate.

Adventists in Bermuda

The Adventist Church in Bermuda has its roots in education. In the early 1890s two Adventist teachers, Marshall Enoch and his wife, immigrated to Bermuda from Nova Scotia, Canada, and started a school. In 1898 the Bermuda Institute, an elementary and secondary school, opened its doors and still operates today.

Shortly after the Enochs arrived, two brothers from Minnesota, in the northern United States, Frank and Marquis Pogue, began serving as literature evangelists in Bermuda. Three years later the first Adventist congregation was officially organized.

At the 1950 General Conference session the world church challenged its members to double the denomination's membership in the next four years. Inspired by the challenge, local church members in Bermuda held several series of evangelistic meetings that doubled Bermuda's membership in just two years. The Adventist Church now has 10 churches on the islands.

Bermuda is one of three countries, along with Canada and the United States, that make up the North American Division. This division is hosting "Follow the Bible" this month, an initiative sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church around the world to encourage a deeper interest in reading the Bible. The journey began in the fall of 2008 and will finish at the General Conference session in Atlanta this month.

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

BERMUDA

Capital:	Hamilton
Major languages:	English (official), Portuguese
Religion:	Anglican, 23%; Roman Catholic, 15%; African Methodist Episcopal, 11%; other Protestant, 18%; other, 33%.
Population:	64,000*
Adventist membership:	3,707*
Adventist-to-population ratio:	1:17*

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

Accidental Poisoning

By ALLAN R. HANDYSIDES and PETER N. LANDLESS



Many medicines purchased over the counter can be fatal if taken in overdose amounts or by young children. The flavoring and color of some liquid medicines can make them attractive to small children, particularly if they resemble the appearance of candy.

Aspirin can prove lethal to small children by causing severe acidosis and metabolic disturbances. Iron tablets and, of course, sleeping pills or medicines prescribed for high blood pressure or diabetes also can be acutely poisonous to children.

Children will taste and swallow strange substances. I will never forget a 2-year-old boy who died of arsenic poisoning just as he crossed the threshold of the hospital. His father had been laying a patio and was sprinkling an arsenic-containing compound on the prepared pad as he laid each flagstone. The little boy walked up behind him, and before the father realized what was happening, took a swig of the solution. The father called the doctor, who ill-advisedly told them to “watch” the lad. The parents did, but only to see him become gravely ill. Then, in a frantic rush, they brought him to the hospital—but it was too late to save him.

My 2-year-old grandson nearly died when he ate some aspirin tablets. I’m wondering whether you would address this topic, for many people have young children to care for.

Children have been known to drink kerosene or gasoline, or sometimes they just cough and inhale the liquid and succumb to what is called “liquid pneumonia.” Highly corrosive substances that are used to unplug clogged drains can cause severe damage to the esophagus and stomach, and may severely damage, if not kill, a child. Alcohol—especially methylated spirits—can cause blindness, and carbon tetrachloride causes acute liver necrosis.

If a person swallows something poisonous, it’s vital to call a local medical emergency number immediately. Make sure you can give the person’s age, the name of the substance ingested, how much was taken, when it was swallowed, whether the person has vomited, and how long it will take to get to the nearest medical facility.

In the United States a call to 1-800-222-1222 will reach the regional poison control center; a call to 9-1-1 will connect you to emergency services. Be aware of your region’s poison control center, and keep contact information readily available. Follow the instructions of the poison control center. They have much more precise information at their fingertips than does the average family doctor.

Inducing of vomiting should be done only on medical advice, because some substances—such as gasoline or kerosene—may be dangerous when vomited. Never induce vomiting in an unconscious patient. If a person stops breathing, maintain an open airway and breathe for them with artificial respiration. Take the poison container and any vomitus to the hospital.

Keep poisoned persons with their head down, lying on their left side, while transporting to the hospital, so as to avoid inhalation of any vomitus.

Prevention

Poison-proofing the house is necessary when there are small children who either live in or visit the home. Closets should be fitted with childproof latches or locks. Dangerous substances must be stored out of the reach of toddlers. This means a serious reappraisal of substances kept beneath the sink, such as chlorine bleach, dishwasher detergents, rust remover, strong acids, and alkali. The medicine cabinet should be high and locked.

The garage is another dangerous area for the storage of substances such as gasoline, paint thinner, and charcoal lighter fluid. Never place poisons in bottles that have held fruit drinks or soda, as children may easily confuse them with the real thing.

Being extremely careful with anything that can cause harm to children is the key to prevention. ●



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Early in Genesis, God reveals what just might be the single most important insight ever disclosed into who we are. The insight defines our strengths, reveals our purpose, and frames our relationship with God. It's found in Genesis 1:26: "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness....'"

For many years, like most believers, I had no idea what it means to be made in the image of God. It is sad that the spark in every one of us that tells us how we are like God goes unrecognized. How can we claim to know God if we cannot even see Him in ourselves? Then one day while preparing to teach a course on Genesis, I suddenly realized

humans are the only truly creative beings on earth.

Not only can we be creative, we are driven to create. Each of us has a creative spark of some kind. It may be working with our hands, writing, music, or athletics. From the children who draw crayon pictures of their families to the architects who for the first time walk through buildings that once had existed only in their imaginations, we all find pride, joy, and fulfillment in our creative efforts. No matter what our skill, we gain immense enjoyment from using it. While a life of pure leisure with nothing to do might sound attractive, the truth is that we have to be doing something to feel satisfied with life. We are lost if we don't have a

It makes a huge difference to realize our full potential.

In GOD'S Image

By
RICHARD SPILLMAN

that I not only knew what it meant, but that my entire professional life had been based on that great gift from God.

Suddenly, I Got It

As I prepared my notes for the class, I reasoned that the "image of God" must entail those aspects of human nature that are not shared with any other form of life on earth. Its meaning must be found in the way God revealed Himself in the first chapter of Genesis. The most dominant picture of God in these early verses is that of His creative power at work.

Then it hit me: Being created in the image of God means that we were given both the ability and the drive to create. Among all living things, only humans have that ability. Of course, some animals and insects "make" things—beavers make dams, ants make large nests, etc. But these are fixed, limited abilities that allow them to survive. By any standard,

purpose. In some way, we have to be creative.

By training I am an electrical engineer. I have taught computer science and engineering for more than 20 years. All my professional life I had been using my skills to translate my imagination into reality. I have designed hardware and written innovative software. All that time, I never understood that I'd been using the spark of creativity that had made me "like" God. The enjoyment and fulfillment that I felt with a job well done was a reflection of the joy that God experienced when He looked out at His creation and declared it "good."

A Revealing Story

I just recently saw the Oscar-winning documentary, *Born Into Brothels*, which tells the story of the children of prostitutes in Calcutta. It is a heart-rending story of these

If I am to honor God and thank Him for the skills He gave me, I need to direct all my creative abilities toward what will please Him.



lost children and the attempt by one woman to change their lives. While it is not a Christian story, it does illustrate our need to be creative.

The documentary filmmaker, Zana Briski, tries to help a small group of children by giving them cameras and teaching them the art of photography. As a result, she opens up a whole new world to these children. For the first time they can truly be creative, and as a result they blossom. Her program is a success precisely because it taps into the gift of God: their need to be creative. For the first time, these children are given a means by which they can exercise that gift. It gives meaning and purpose to their lives. It brings them joy.

Yet humans cannot create in the same sense as God creates. Only God can create from nothing. We require raw materials. But there is a part of our creative ability

that does not require raw materials. We can create in our minds. Our imagination is not restricted by the limitations that come with the need for materials. We can imagine anything, even things that we could never actually build. Perhaps in this way we are closest to the image of God.

More Than Intellectual

Understanding what we share with God and how He created us in His image is more than just an interesting intellectual exercise. For me, once I knew that my creative drive was modeled after God, I finally understood why it is so important to bring “every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5). My imagination is a gift from God. Yet in a fallen world I can use that gift to create beauty or to create filth. Unfortunately, mankind does an excellent job at both. If I am to honor God and thank Him for the skills He gave me, I need to direct all my creative abilities toward what will please Him.

Perhaps more important, I now understand what had been a very difficult passage for me. Jesus once said that if we look on a woman with lust, we have already committed adultery in our minds (see Matt. 5:28). I’d always wondered why imagining a sin is as bad as doing the sin. It never seemed fair to me. But if my creative imagination is not only a gift from God but the very essence of the image and likeness of God, then using it to contemplate sin is taking it to a place that God would never go. It distorts and vilifies the nature of God within us. Where once I might have tolerated and even entertained sinful thoughts, believing that it was allowable because I would never act on them, now I see them for what they really are: dark and horrifying in and of themselves.

Now when I write a paper, design a circuit, or take an idea to its natural conclusion, I experience more than just the satisfaction of completing a task. I turn to God and say: “Father, look at what I have just done, what do You think of it?” I picture Him smiling at my accomplishment like the proud parent who posts his child’s latest work on the fridge.

It’s sad when believers don’t see the image of God within themselves. But it is a joy to recognize the great gift that God has given to us all. It’s time to bring out the likeness of God in all believers. It’s time to use our creative gifts to serve God and one another. ●



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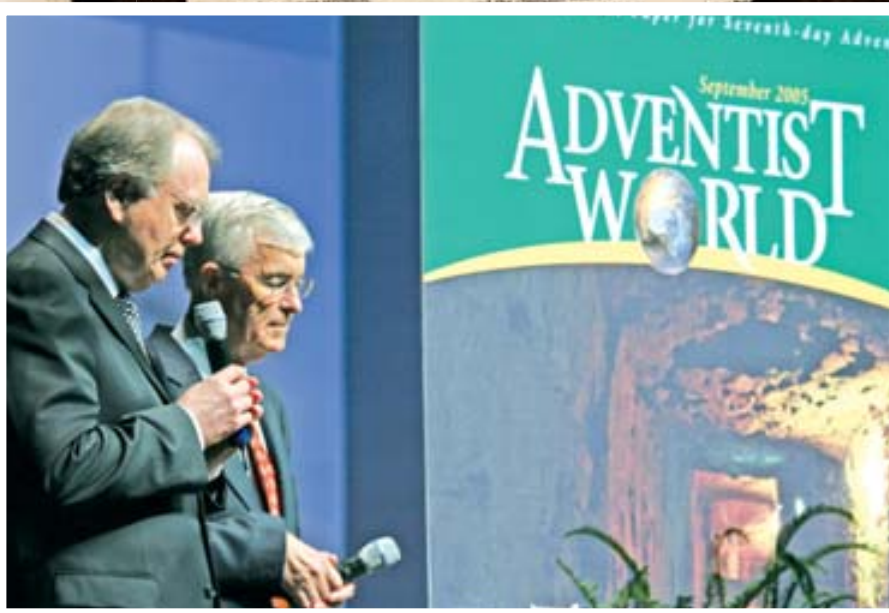
One sheet of paper, torn and crumpled, waved in a whisper of wind, as if urging passersby to pick it up from the dusty road. Charles Pengani and his friends did just that, and their lives were changed forever.

Pengani and a small group of Christian believers in Malawi were working tirelessly to spread the gospel message in their country and in Mozambique. Passionate about preaching the message, they weren't exactly sure how to go about their task. In September 2008 they prayed to God and, pouring out their hearts and desires, they asked Him to give them guidance.

They did not pray only once. They prayed again and again—for three days the group earnestly beseeched the Lord. On the fourth day they received an answer—a very tangible answer.

The group was walking along when they noticed the piece of paper. Picking it up, they saw the name and date: *Adventist World*, June 2006. Only two

JOEL D. SPRINGER



Convicted by a

pages, 29 and 30, were cast on the road, but the believers took the sheet, thankful for this scrap of paper and convinced that God had left it there for them. From that tattered paper, these believers have apparently been convicted of the Adventist message and plan to go forward, learning and sharing.

Water for the Thirsty, Searching Soul

While *Adventist World* was primarily created to unite, inform, and inspire members, it is impossible to ignore the fact that for some, it is one of the only outreach tools they use. And for those who read the pages of *Adventist World*, it can (and has) indeed become a stream of water, drenching the thirsty soul of a searching person.

“It’s true the *Adventist World* maga-

Scrap of Paper

How Adventist World is changing lives in surprising ways

Left: DEDICATION: On July 2, 2005, Pastor Jan Paulsen, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, offers a prayer of dedication after editor William G. Johnsson unveils the cover of the first issue of *Adventist World* to those attending the 2005 General Conference session. **Below: PLANNING TOGETHER:** *Adventist World* editor Bill Knott (left) meets in Seoul, Korea, in November 2009 with (left to right) Pastor P.D. Chun, *Adventist World* distribution manager; and editors based in Korea, Pastor JungKwon Chun and Jeong-Kwan Choe.



er

By
KIMBERLY
LUSTE MARAN

zine is tremendously helping us here in outreach efforts,” says Abraham Bakari, communication, PR, and religious liberty director for the Central African Union Mission in Cameroon. Bakari went to Kelo, Republic of Chad, to conduct an evangelistic campaign in April 2009. He carried hundreds of copies of the magazine to distribute to “the most deserving participants, those who were present day after day during the first week and last week,” explains Bakari. The place is renowned for being hostile toward the Adventist message because of a strong, established Protestant community. But when the attendees received their copies of *Adventist World*, they were impressed. “The quality of the magazine attracted their attention,” Bakari says, “and the negative image of a poor Adventist Church vanished and gave way to questions.”

The readers discovered a totally different church. They were amazed, especially when they read the cover story “The *Bounty* and the Bible,” by Herbert Ford and Wilona Karimabadi (January 2009). At the end of the evangelistic series, 18 people were baptized and more than 20 enrolled for deeper Bible studies.

But wait—there’s more. In August 2009 the FM radio station (Radio “Il Est Écrit”) broadcasting in Yaounde, Cameroon, organized a visit to the Central Prison of Kondengui, one of the biggest prisons in the country. Bakari and a group of Adventists brought and distributed to prisoners 1,000 copies of *Adventist World*, along with some food-stuff and clothes. Some of them wrote later to thank the Adventists and ask them to organize a prayer group inside the prison. Says Bakari, “And before we even responded to them, they started!” The prayer group has continued to meet.

“In some places we lack evangelistic materials, and *Adventist World* has turned out to be the main resource we have for both outreach and in-reach,” Bakari sums up. “At first we didn’t know what to do with the magazines, and they were packed

somewhere unused. But once our members realized how powerful they were, we hardly have them at the Union office for more than a week. As soon as they arrive, people take them.”

Members are taking the lead when it comes to sharing *Adventist World*. Writes Ada Frech, from Nicaragua, “I enjoy reading the magazine, especially the cover story by James R. Nix entitled ‘A Unique Prophetic Movement’ (June 2009). I am a passionate reader of this magazine, and I do my missionary work—giving the magazine to people in buses, malls, banks, etc.”

Sowing Seeds, Growing Roots

The potential evangelistic impact of *Adventist World* magazine was nowhere in view when the project was first conceived in early 2004. Sparked by an idea from *Adventist Review* associate editor Roy Adams and others, General Conference president Jan Paulsen urged then *Adventist Review* senior editor William G. Johnsson to consider dramatically expanding the reach of that magazine to include regions and people groups not being served by the *Review*’s World edition, an edition printed the second week of each month as part of the journal’s four weekly editions. Within weeks, an initial proposal was on the president’s desk, sketching a plan to print nearly 1 million copies a month of the journal, primarily in English, with a smaller print run in Korean.

As the plan evolved during 2004, print partners were identified, funding sources were recruited, and staff members began fashioning plans for content that met the needs of the large and diverse worldwide Adventist family. By early 2005 it became apparent that an entirely new journal, now named *Adventist World*, would



Kimberly Luste Maran is an assistant editor of *Adventist World* magazine.

emerge, and in June at the St. Louis General Conference session, Johnsson introduced *Adventist World* to Paulsen as thousands gathered in the Edward Jones Dome. Design plans and distribution arrangements moved at a feverish pace to meet the September 1, 2005, rollout date for *Adventist World*. The first edition told of “The Underground Church”—stories of Adventist believers meeting under difficult circumstances, often in secret, around the globe.

Under editor Bill Knott, *Adventist World* moved in 2007 to print editions in Spanish, Portuguese, and French, and distribution in many more world regions. A Bahasa (Indonesian) edition also appeared, followed by a Russian edition (online only) in 2008, and a German edition in January 2010. *Adventist World* is now the most widely distributed magazine in the church’s 147-year history, and one of the largest Christian periodicals in the world.

With Branches Reaching Around the Globe

One of the most common buzz words of our time is “global.” If you wonder what “global” means, consider the span of this magazine.

Although *Adventist World* is registered and financed by the Adventist Church in Korea, its management and editorial teams are located both at the General Conference in Maryland, United States, and in Korea. These teams make sure that every month one

and a half million copies are printed in seven languages in eight countries simultaneously¹ to be distributed to 120 countries, from Gambia (West Africa) to Mongolia (Asia), and from Aruba (Caribbean) to Zimbabwe (Southern Africa). That’s a lot of paper traveling all around the world—in trucks; on boats, planes, and buses; on motorcycles and bicycles. In fact, just the print run coming out of our presses in Hagerstown, Maryland, represents 100 tons of paper. That’s four trailer loads—every month!

But that’s not all. The journal’s presence on the Internet has flourished. *Adventist World* appears in 12 languages on the Web, including Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Russian, Urdu, Vietnamese, and more. In order to accomplish this, *Adventist World* works with 12 translators, plus as many proofreaders, scattered around the globe—from Graz, Austria, to Lahore, Pakistan; from Tatui, Brazil, to Beirut, Lebanon.

Their work, however, would not make a significant impact globally if it weren’t for the five Webmasters in the Philippines² and the United States who upload the material on two servers, located in Utah and Michigan, United States.

That’s the meaning of “global.”

Of course, *Adventist World* is not the only church ministry to have gone global. Adventist World Radio is global, Hope Channel is global, and both

are expanding their presence around the planet. The magazine works closely with these partner ministries, enjoying a synergy not possible otherwise. It works with AWR to promote our Web site in Vietnam over the airwaves. *Adventist World* advertises its Web sites on Hope Channel to attract viewers to read the magazine online in their own language.

For the first time in history, this periodical has the means and the tools to achieve a global awareness. It can be seen and read potentially by almost 4 billion people. *Adventist World* is committed to leveraging its resources to have a global impact—branching out and spreading the gospel message to all the world.

Prayers and Letters Fall Like Leaves

The fruits of this global endeavor are glimpsed in the scores of letters and prayer requests that rain down like leaves each month. Often readers will write that they are praying for a certain person; or that they’ve been moved by a particular article.

Such was the case for Hulda Mamani, from Brazil, who writes: “I always anxiously wait for the next issue of *Adventist World*, and the first thing I do is to look for the missionary stories. To read these stories moves me very much and tears roll over my face while seeing God’s power working in the life of other people.” She explains how the October 2008 article “No Fault of Their Own,” by Loren Seibold, prompted her to think about how to help the type of people mentioned in the article. According to Mamani, she is “waiting for God’s call to do a similar work, and stories like this and others fill my soul with the zeal of working for others.”

Other impressions have grown over time. Writes Greta Ansonbe, from Watford, England: “For a long time I have had the intention of writing to thank Mark Finley for the Bible studies that he prepares for the *Adventist World*.

In Touch With *Adventist World*

Magazines often give their circulation not just in hard copies, but as to the number of “touches.”

In other words, a magazine is bought by someone who then shares it with their mother, daughter, neighbor, etc., so that one magazine is often read by four or more people. A circulation of 10,000 could be bumped to 40,000 simply by calculating touches. *Adventist World* is no different. Particularly in Africa, we hear that there are a minimum of 5-10 “touches.” That means that printed copies of *Adventist World* may be reaching 15 million people globally! The magazine is so successful it is seen in homes of Adventists and non-Adventists alike, in hotels, doctors’ offices, marketplaces, and more.

What's Inside



The first issue (September 2005) introduced the pattern that has been followed throughout the first five years: a major cover story, usually about extending the church's mission and witness; a substantial news section reporting on events affecting the 17-million-member church; an inspiring devotional article; a Bible study produced by evangelist Mark Finley; a Bible Questions column by Biblical Research Institute director Angel Rodríguez, and a monthly column from the General Conference president. Other popular features have included reprinted articles by Ellen G. White, the messenger of the Lord, whose insights and guidance were foundational to the denomination, as well as a monthly feature about one of the church's 28 Fundamental Beliefs. Articles about Adventist heritage, service opportunities, and Adventist life have also appeared regularly. Letters and prayer requests from readers in dozens of world nations are published each month in the World Exchange and People's Place.

They have been immensely helpful to me and of great benefit for my father, who recently died at the age of 98.

"In the last few years he was beginning to struggle with diminished comprehension. He was also obsessed with guilt over the things that he had done in his life, fearing that they would cut him off from God.... I was able to read Mark Finley's Bible studies to him over and over again. He was able to comprehend them due to their simplicity of structure and received comfort from them. I, in turn, received comfort and encouragement on seeing my father's spirits lifted."

Requests and comments *are* frequent, but sometimes, readers write to offer assistance. Calvin Achieng was very touched by the member experiences printed in the magazine. A Kenyan by nationality, he is studying at Dalian Medical University in China. In his first year there, Achieng wrote to *Adventist World* (December 2009), asking that the magazine send him words of encouragement and additional spiritual materials as he was finding it difficult to locate an Adventist church. *Adventist World* responded to him—and printed his letter in the March 2010 issue.

A few weeks later, Marlene

King-Adams, from Australia, wrote to explain that she had taught English in Dalian and knew of a person who could help Achieng find a church in that city. Achieng has now communicated with "Esther," and she has agreed to take him to church. An excited Achieng responded, "Thanks a lot, Amen, thank you!"

Adventist World not only quenches the thirsty soul; it plants seeds! Of course, most of its prayer requests and letters come from Adventist readers in many countries.³ But a surprising percentage each month is written by non-Adventists who have gotten their hands on a copy of the magazine—sometimes from a hotel lobby, the market, or from a friend. Both Bayissa Gamachu and Daniel Mamo, from Ethiopia, received *Adventist World* and have expressed keen interest in learning more about our church and its ministry. While Gamachu got a copy from a friend, Mamo picked up the magazine from an eye clinic in Addis Ababa. Says Mamo, "I am part of a Jewish family, and in our religion I only read the Torah (Old Testament). I want you to teach me about the New Testament."

The responses *Adventist World* receives from readers represent

not just printed matter. There's an exchange—a relationship—that has developed in which *Adventist World* has been able to plant, nurture, and harvest souls for Christ.

But for the Grace of God

These stories and facts serve as testaments to the mighty workings of the Lord. As His branches, stretching out to humanity and attempting to bring all to Him so they may obtain succor from the Tree of Life, the *Adventist World* staff is gratified, yet humbled, to be a part of His plans. And incredible as it is, even from a scrap of paper, God is using this journal to make a world of difference. ●

¹ Languages include English, Korean, Bahasa, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and German; printed in the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, Korea, Indonesia, Germany, and Austria.
² In March 2010 *Adventist World's* Webmasters in the Philippines decided to invest part of their earnings in a mission project in Indonesia. They traveled there, financed and built a church, and held Bible seminars attended by 300 people. According to Webmaster Raimond Luntungan, "*Adventist World* has made a great impact on the churches we were helping, and on the people we met there."

³ From June 2009 to March 2010 alone, we received prayer requests and letters from the following 48 countries and territories: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belize, Bermuda, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, England, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Grenada, Ghana, Guadeloupe, Haiti, India, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Martinique, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Burundi, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Tanzania, Uganda, United States, Venezuela, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

NUMBER 13 The Remnant

By KIM PAPAIOANNOU

Mission impossible in challenging

The term *remnant* appears often in Adventist literature and is closely linked to our self-understanding and our mission in these final stages of the great controversy. This article will explore the remnant from a biblical perspective, focusing particularly upon the crucial text of Revelation 12:17.

Biblical Remnant

The Bible speaks of a remnant on several occasions. When God looked upon the earth before the Flood, only Noah's family was faithful (Gen. 6:1-5). When the Israelites made the golden calf, only a few refused to worship it (Ex. 32:25, 26). When Ahab led Israel into apostasy, only Elijah and 7,000 others did not bow to Baal (1 Kings 19:10-18). When Judah could return from the exile in Babylon, only a few heeded God's call (Ezra 2:1-70). And when Jesus came to earth only a remnant accepted Him (John 1:10-13). A remnant, therefore, refers to a group of people who remain faithful to God when the majority around them compromises its faith.

Perhaps the best-known reference to the remnant is Revelation 12:17, which describes the characteristics of this group in the context of the last days of earth's history. This remnant has six important characteristics.

Characteristic 1: Time of Its Appearance

Revelation 12 summarizes the great controversy between good and evil, between Jesus Christ and His angels (Rev. 12:7) and the dragon, Satan (12:3, 7-9). Four



Kim Papaioannou, Ph.D., a native of Greece, is an assistant professor of New Testament Study in the theological seminary at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Philippines.

encounters are described.

First, there is a battle in heaven (12:7-9). Second, at the incarnation of Jesus the dragon attempts to destroy Him, but is defeated (12:1-5, 10). Third, the dragon attacks the church, symbolized by a pure woman, and persecutes her for 1,260 prophetic days or years (12:13-16). Adventists understand this period to end in A.D. 1798. It is after this date that the remnant appears and faces the dragon in the fourth and final encounter. The remnant of Revelation 12:17, therefore, emerges and thrives in the last days—in our time.

Characteristic 2: A Distinct Identity

The remnant is described as “the remnant of her [the church's] seed.” By definition “remnant” implies one small part of a much bigger whole. The seed of the woman is numerous, but the remnant constitutes only a small part of this whole. Today there are 2 billion professed followers of Jesus. While the dragon hates all who have even a semblance of faith, his wrath is directed specifically against this small group, this remnant, because by their fidelity to God they stand apart from the rest. If ever the remnant were to compromise its special identity, it would cease to be the remnant.

Characteristic 3: The Testimony of Jesus

Revelation 12:17 declares that the remnant has “*the testimony of Jesus Christ.*” “Testimony” is another word for “witness,” and is used in the Bible as a confirmation or proof of something.¹ It is often used specifically in relation to salvation by grace.² The truth that salvation is a gift of God was a clarion call by Jesus and the apostles against the backdrop of the legalism of the rabbis and the heathenism of the pagans. It was also the rallying point of the Reformation against a works-based medieval religion. In these last days the remnant stands by this most amazing of truths and announces God's free gift to a suffering humanity. It is God's grace that gives the remnant its identity and empowers it to stand firm.

Characteristic 4: The Commandments of God

Revelation 12:17 also highlights the remnant's obedience to the commandments as one of its foremost characteristics: "The dragon ... went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God" (KJV).

Historically, Protestants have held biblical law in general, and the Ten Commandments in particular, in high esteem. However, dispensationalism and postmodernism — an unlikely coalition — have combined to change this. The former assigns the Ten Commandments to the Old Testament and declares them no longer valid. The latter downplays belief in objective truth in favor of relative and subjective truth. Against this backdrop Revelation 12:17 describes the remnant as obedient to the commandments of God.

Obedience does not negate the efficacy of God's grace. Rather, it defines God's will for our lives. God writes His law of love on our hearts so that obedience becomes a way of living (Jer. 31:33).

Central to remnant fidelity is the Sabbath commandment, which reminds humanity of our origin and allegiance. John touches on this theme again in Revelation 14:7, a clear allusion to the fourth commandment. The Sabbath as a sign between God and His people (Ex. 31:13; Eze. 20:12, 20) becomes the defining mark of God's end-time people.

Characteristic 5: Prophetic Role

A comparison of Revelation 12:17, 14:8, and 19:10 shows that the remnant has the Spirit of Prophecy. This means two things. First, the remnant has been given the Holy Spirit to understand biblical prophecy. The Adventist Church was born when people studied prophecy and continues to find an essential part of its identity in biblical prophecy. It is the unique understanding of last-day events and the special role we are called to play that has fueled Adventist mission that now spans the globe, as well as commitment to holy living.

Second, it means that the remnant is to be led through the gift of prophecy (1 Cor. 12:7-11; 2 Peter 1:21; Rev. 19:10). The role of biblical prophets was to provide inspired guidance to God's people during important junctures in the history of salvation. Such guidance we find in Ellen White, whose ministry helped navigate the Adventist Church successfully around a multitude of theological and organizational pitfalls.


Characteristic 6: Mission

Every biblical remnant had a crucial mission in the plan

of salvation. The remnant of Revelation 12:17 is no exception. As it faces the dragon's attacks it must heed James's advice: "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Resisting is not a passive activity. Revelation 14:1-13 pictures God's people taking the initiative to bring the battle to the enemy by proclaiming the everlasting gospel throughout the inhabited world. The good news of salvation by grace is to be fully proclaimed to a suffering world. The dragon's repeated attempts to mar the character of God must be exposed and the beauty of what it means to live in and for Christ not only preached but demonstrated. Success in this mission brings glory to God's name.

Wrapping It Up

While the universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Jesus Christ, God has called a remnant to proclaim a special message in these last days of widespread confusion. It lives and proclaims the gospel of salvation in Jesus; obedience to the Ten Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath; maintains a distinct and strong identity; understands its role prophetically; and is on a mission to resist the dragon and spread the gospel to the entire world.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church fits this description well. This fact gives us no reason to feel triumphant or proud, though. Rather, it reminds us of our inadequacies and wrinkles and brings God's end-time remnant to the feet of Jesus. What a huge task! What a mighty God! 

¹ For example, Matt. 8:4; Mark 1:44; 6:11; 13:9; John 19:35; 21:24; 1 Cor. 5:7; 2:1; 2 Tim. 1:8.
² Compare John 5:34; Acts 22:18; 1 Cor. 1:6; 2:1; 2 Tim. 1:8; 1 John 5:10; Rev. 1:9.

The Remnant and Its Mission

The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness. (Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:10; Jude 3, 14; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Rev. 21:1-14.)

Imagine sailing across the Mediterranean Sea. No matter which direction you look, you're surrounded by countries that comprise the Euro-Africa Division. The southern shore cradles the northern tip of Africa; to the north and west lie the heart of Europe; to the east stretch Turkey, Afghanistan, and Iran.

Like the lofty Alps chiseled across its landscape, the Euro-Africa Division is huge. It spans 27 countries, each with its own mix of languages, religions, and cultures. The challenges to mission are huge, as well. More than 590 million people live in this region of the world. Yet millions have never had the opportunity to learn about Jesus.

Humble Beginnings

The Seventh-day Adventist work officially started in Europe in 1874, when believers in Switzerland asked the church in North America to send a missionary. John Nevins Andrews was the logical choice. He was not only a minister and evangelist but one of the leading Adventist scholars of his day.

The 45-year-old former General Conference president possessed a seemingly tireless work ethic. "I know of but one way," wrote Andrews. "Find a field of labor, ask God to help, take off your coat, and pitch into the work." Andrews' son and daughter, Charles and Mary, worked alongside their father, translating, editing, and setting type for a French version of *Signs of the Times*. The effects of their service rippled around the world. The magazine gave birth to Adventist congregations on three continents. Thousands of missionaries, inspired by their dedication, followed in their footsteps.

Today there are nearly 176,000 members in the Euro-Africa Division, a ratio of about one Adventist for

No Challenge Too Large

Adventists get creative in sharing the gospel.

every 3,400 people. Church growth is steady, but slow. Many challenges to mission remain in this diverse territory. Post-Communist-bloc countries that once embraced the gospel are quickly becoming secular. In some non-Christian nations sharing the gospel can be difficult, even dangerous. In wealthy countries people often feel no need of God.

"We have a very secularized society, and this affects society and the church also," says Mario Brito, director of Global Mission for the Euro-Africa Division. "It's not easy to reach people who think they don't need God, don't need religion. We must find strategies to get around all the biases and prejudices people have."

Family Ties

Nestled between France, Germany, and the Netherlands, Belgium is one of the most industrialized nations on earth. But the Belgian-Luxembourg Conference has fewer than 2,000 members, a ratio of only one Adventist for every 5,700 people, making it an unlikely mission field.

Few people are apparently interested in religion. But there is one group among which the church is

growing rapidly: thousands of immigrants have moved to Brussels seeking a better life. The Adventist Church has planted congregations among several language groups.

One person whose life has been touched by these church plants is Gilmara Aragoa. A friend invited Gilmara's husband to the Portuguese-language church plant. He became a member and asked Gilmara to join him. She told him that she supported his decision but promised nothing. Gilmara had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists. But when she visited the church, she was impressed with their dependence on Scripture and their unconditional love. In time Gilmara gave her heart to Jesus.

"It was a wonderful transformation, especially with my family," says Gilmara. "Before we were a family, but we weren't complete. Now we are a real family, like we're supposed to be. We love each other. It made an amazing difference in our lives."

These multilanguage church plants are growing quickly. But many groups can't afford to buy or rent a church of their own. They meet with other congregations, sharing limited space. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth

By
LAURIE FALVO

TELL ME MORE: Most of the students at Portugal's Madeira Adventist Primary School do not come from Adventist homes. So they often share with their families what they learn in school about Jesus.



Sabbath Offering will help provide church homes for at least two foreign-language congregations in Brussels.

Breaking Down Barriers

Bulgaria is a republic in southeastern Europe located between Greece, Romania, and the Black Sea.

The Advent message was first introduced to Bulgaria in the 1890s by German Adventists. The church remained strong throughout Communist rule, and in 1990 it was officially recognized by the government. Today the church grows faster in Bulgaria than in many other European nations. With 7,600 members, one person out of every 1,000 is a Seventh-day Adventist.

One group in which the church is growing rapidly is among the Romani people. Russin Russinov is a Seventh-day Adventist pastor who works among the Romanies of Kyustendil. A Romani himself, Russinov visits people in their homes to share a meal, pray, or study the Bible with them. Some of the people he ministers to are from rival clans. Recently the family of one clan invited him to visit them in their home.

"They said, 'For years we have been fighting each other,'" remembers Russinov. "But we would like our

children to live in peace. We couldn't do it ourselves. Do you think the Lord can intervene?"

Russinov prayed with the family and asked the Holy Spirit to change their hearts. He also prayed with members of the opposing clan. For the first time in years, these people experienced God's peace. Many have given their hearts to Jesus.

Romani congregations are springing up across Bulgaria. But most have no place of their own where they can worship. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a church for Romani believers who now meet in a run-down café. They soon hope to have a simple church building, where they can invite their friends and neighbors to worship.

For the Children

To the west of Spain lies the sun-drenched country of Portugal, home to more than 10 million people. Although Portugal has modern cities, most of its population lives in small towns and villages.

Adventist work started in Portugal in 1904, and today there are more than 9,300 members, a ratio of about

one Adventist for every 1,100 people.

Madeira is the largest of a small group of islands that lies about 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) southwest of Lisbon. Only about 300 active members live on the island, yet the church is making a positive impact through its primary school. Ninety percent of the children who attend Madeira Adventist Primary School know little about God, making it a true mission school.

Naterica Ferreira is a teacher who has seen firsthand the important role the school plays in sharing the gospel with its community. "When we read the Bible, when we pray, when we tell the children what Jesus did when He was here, they go home and tell their families what they learned," says Ferreira. "Then the families come and ask questions about what we're teaching them."

The Madeira Adventist Primary School is known for its strong academic program and keeps a long list of students waiting to attend. But to accommodate these children, the school must upgrade its facilities to meet government standards. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help renovate the school so that it can continue to be a shining light for God.

Mission faces huge challenges in the Euro-Africa Division. But God is bigger than any obstacle. Your prayers and generous support of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering can make an eternal difference. Please give generously. For more about the challenges and opportunities to Adventist mission, visit www.AdventistMission.org.



Laurie Falvo is communication projects manager for the Office of Adventist Mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters in Maryland, U.S.A.

NIGEL COKE



Left: JAMAICA SPIRIT: Lots of energy at Adventist West Indies Preparatory School, Mandeville, Jamaica. **Below:** HARD AT WORK: Different subcommittees met throughout 2009 to design the new education initiative of the IAD. **Bottom:** CONTAGIOUS ENTHUSIASM: miles at Montemorelos University, Mexico

Getting Down to Business

Thinking strategically about Adventist education

By ELLA S. SIMMONS

This year John M. Fowler, associate director of the Education Department at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters, will retire after 51 years of service. He tells how Adventist education changed his life and set him on this course.

Adventist Education in Action

While traveling recently in his boyhood town, John squeezed onto a typical overcrowded bus. As he tried to balance himself, the bus swung around a corner, causing passengers to bump into one another. John ended up next to a passenger with a familiar face. It was the face of one of his childhood friends. A long time had passed since they had last seen each other—and both had changed quite a bit.

Yet he was sure this *was* his friend. This was one who had experienced the same hardships and joys as he in his little village. He could never forget him. John's group of decent and responsible childhood friends had been very close throughout their youth. The little group did nearly everything together. However, after secondary school they drifted apart and developed different values and views of life. While he thought little of these changes over the years, this day John came face-to-face with these different perspectives.

John was sure this was his boyhood friend. But the man would not respond to him with any sign of recognition. Then suddenly his friend



JOSE ROMERO



dashed for the exit. As he was about to step off the bus, however, he turned, ran back, placed something in John's hand, and left without speaking. He disappeared into the huge crowd on the street. He was gone from sight, but not from mind.

When John gave up searching the crowd, he looked at the object his friend had placed in his hand. To his amazement, it was his own wallet. His old friend had picked his pocket when they bumped into each other. Perhaps this was why he refused to acknowledge him. His good friend, the one with whom he had grown up, had stolen his wallet.

John could not accept the fact that his friend was a pickpocket. He wondered what had taken his friend down this path that was so different from his own. John had grown up to be a Christian pastor and educator, while his friend had become a thief. His friend had had high career goals. He was smart and talented—but now he was a thief. What made the difference?

John believes the difference was Adventist education. After secondary school he had accepted Christ and had become a Seventh-day Adventist. He declined scholarships to prestigious universities in favor of attending Spicer College, an Adventist school. His friend rejected Christ and took the typical path to education and career in search of fame and fortune. This was what was commonly expected. John says he, however, learned a new worldview in the Adventist school.

Sure, there are no guarantees, but John Fowler's story is one of the many success stories of Adventist education. There is value in Adventist education.

Committing to Adventist Education: Inter-American Division

In a world that promises so much and pulls so hard, we have to recommit to Adventist education. The Inter-American Division (IAD) offers an example of this recommitment. IAD leaders want to increase the success stories of Adventist education in their territory. The division wants to increase its pool of educated, skilled workers and disciples in communities who will dedicate their talents to the Lord, just as John Fowler did 51 years ago.

So, on November 4, 2009, IAD leadership took unprecedented bold steps toward an extensive makeover of its education system from primary through university level education. After achieving its strategic goals for growth in membership and finances over the past 10 years, it now turns attention and resources to education—at the beginning of a new strategic plan covering the next five years.

Previous strategic plans resulted in tremendous growth—from 1.5 million members in 2000 to about 3.2 million today. Israel Leito, IAD division president, reports that IAD “finances have skyrocketed” over the decade. The division's tithes returns more than doubled from US\$92,643,763 to US\$195,346,307, an increase of 211 percent. Offerings increased from US\$5,586,594 to US\$12,909,956, or 231 percent.

Refocusing and Thinking Strategically

Following careful study, IAD leaders noted a marked imbalance between the growth in membership and the enrollment of Adventist children and youth in its schools and universities. In fact, they found that they had enrollment losses in elementary education, slight increases in secondary, and no change at the university level. They also found increased enrollment among students who are not associated with the Adventist Church. They saw that enrollments of Adventist students in the IAD lag behind averages for the world church. This clearly demanded courageous and creative thinking in planning for the future.

Division leaders faced several challenges in education and set goals for the church, parents, schools, and leaders for meeting the challenges. All these involved parties would have to work together if a dramatic change would be possible.

The **regional church leadership** is challenged to (1) solicit authorities of the world church to study the possibility of incorporating Adventist education as one of the fundamental beliefs; (2) establish a new educational model from preschool to tertiary levels considering the physical, academic, student, and financial elements, including teacher salaries; (3) foster events for reflection and instruction about the philosophy of Adventist education; (4) strengthen internal and external university students, using the integral formation model; and (5) promote curricular and cocurricular experiences through the spiritual master plan to strengthen the spiritual life of each institution.

Parents are expected to disseminate among church members the philosophy of Adventist education to promote understanding and trust toward the work of educational institutions.

Schools must develop descriptions of formative actions, in light of their alumni profiles, which include teaching deep moral principles and an entrepreneurial spirit.

Leaders will (1) emphasize the integration of faith to be effectively perceived by students, based on the commitment and enthusiastic work of teachers; (2) update the denominational profile for teachers; and (3) transmit the vision of Adventist education characterized by the message of God as the Creator and sustainer of our environment.

The IAD set aside approximately US\$8 million for its strategic goals during the next five years, and mandated that 80 percent of this amount go to education. Along with infrastructure, teachers, curriculum, and instruction, funds will be used for student loans and grants, coordination of educational programs, and for upgrading teachers.



Ella S. Simmons is a general vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church, with headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, U.S.A. As a longtime educator she is passionate about the possibilities of Adventist education.

Strategies for Enhancing Higher Education

The division’s commitments to higher education emphasize improvements to learning environments, staff, curriculum, and teacher salaries. It requires a new plan for informal education and a virtual library, for enriching master’s and doctoral degree programs, and for the creation of at least one “super classroom” with the latest technology.

All IAD universities are challenged to increase their program offerings. All are to offer master’s programs in all their schools or departments. All are challenged to offer a minimum of one doctoral degree aside from those in theology. In addition, the IAD will offer an accredited theology major, in affiliation with Griggs University, at the undergraduate level for students whose work and responsibilities prevent them from completing their programs on a campus.

Myrna Costa, president of Antillean Adventist University and also president of the IAD Education Center, observes: “When distance education is designed and delivered in the proper manner, all teaching and learning experiences which take place in a regular classroom, including integration of faith and learning, occur.” Further, Costa affirms that distance education is an avenue to positively impact the educational system for sharing the gospel in the territory’s three main languages: Spanish, English, and French.

Universities must standardize curriculum and make it possible for theology students to move smoothly from one university to another to learn different languages and the different cultures of the IAD, without losing study time.

Strategic Initiatives for Secondary and Elementary Education

The IAD will require universities to give more attention to secondary and elementary education. Segmenting edu-

cation by levels is not producing desired results. To address this problem and for greater, more direct involvement from the division, the IAD budgeted for an associate director for its Department of Education, who is a specialist in elementary and secondary education.

The IAD will also adjust policies to provide greater financial support for secondary and elementary curriculum, facilities, and materials, and for the preparation and improvement of teachers, including increases in teacher salaries. A unique feature of the plan provides a salary bonus for the “best elementary teachers” and a one-time bonus for student recruitment.

Writing Another Success Story

Leaders in the IAD hope that the success they have achieved in building membership, finances, and organizations will be repeated in education. Moises Velazquez, director of education in the IAD, feels that “if we improve the quality of our schools and their campus facilities, and provide the necessary tools for our teachers to better their education . . . , churches will support our schools more and send their children to them.” After all, education is closely linked to salvation.

John Fowler’s life attests to this value. He credits Adventist education with challenging him to something more than climbing the professional ladder and just living a decent life. He tells that he learned three of the most important life lessons through Adventist education, including the fact that we are no accident of evolution, but intentionally designed by a loving Creator God. He is also sure that life has meaning and a destiny, and that we are not alone—God is with us and works in us.

Remembering this will truly write another success story—in the IAD territory and around the world. ●

Thinking Strategically—All Around the World

Here are seven helpful steps for church members and leaders thinking strategically about education and applying their plan to their particular context.

1. Administrators and board members must engage in strategic thinking: creating vision and setting context, broad goals, and priorities for strategic planning and

decision-making—*think and vision together.*

2. Administrators must secure and allocate resources to support strategic priorities—*find the money.*

3. Educators, both administrators and teachers, must develop action plans of objectives and tasks—*make it real.*

4. Both the strategic thinking and strategic

planning processes must be transparent, open for all to see—*let’s all participate.*

5. The mission of the church must guide the mission and plans of Adventist education—*let’s all read the same book.*

6. Administrators and educators alike must be held accountable through assessment and evaluation for achieving planned outcomes—*be accountable.*

7. Strategic thinking and strategic planning must focus on outcomes toward achieving the mission of Adventist education—*let’s do it!*

Our ministers are to go forth to proclaim the message of present truth to those who have not heard it. And our churches should not feel jealous and neglected if they do not receive ministerial labor. They should themselves take up the burden, and labor most earnestly for souls.



Small Things... ...can lead to great results

By ELLEN G. WHITE

Believers are to have root in themselves, striking firm root in Christ, that they may bear much fruit to his glory. As one man, they are to strive to attain one object,—the salvation of souls.

Let not church members wait for a verbal command to enter God's service. They know their duty. Let them do it in humility and quietness. There are hundreds who should be at work, who need to be encouraged to make a beginning.

Let church members begin to work where they are. Everywhere there are souls who know not the truth. Humble men, willing to make sacrifices, to work as Christ worked, are needed. The Lord calls for self-sacrificing workers, who will labor quietly and unobtrusively, living so near to the Lord that they continually receive grace to impart. As they take up their work in earnestness and sincerity, asking the Lord to give them tact and skill, hearts will be reached by their efforts.

It is not God's purpose that ministers should be left to do the greatest part of the work of sowing the seeds of truth. Men who are not called to the gospel ministry are to be encouraged to labor for the Master according to their several ability. Hundreds

of men and women now idle could do acceptable service. By carrying the truth into the homes of their neighbors and friends, they could do a great work for the Master. God is no respecter of persons. He will use humble, devoted Christians who have the love of the truth in their hearts. Let such ones engage in service for him by doing house-to-house work. Sitting by the fireside, such men—if humble, discreet, and godly—can do more to meet the real needs of families than could a minister.

The Lord has a work for women, as well as for men. They may take their places in his work at this crisis, and he will work through them. If they are imbued with a sense of their duty, and labor under the influence of the Holy Spirit, they will have just the self-possession required for this time. The Saviour will reflect upon these self-sacrificing women the light of his countenance, and will give them a power that exceeds that of men. They can do in families a work that men cannot do, a work that reaches the inner life. They can come close to the hearts of those whom men cannot reach. Their labor is needed.

It is not meet for us, my sisters,

to wait for greater opportunities or holier dispositions. We are inexcusable if we allow God-given talents to rust from inaction. Christ asks, "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" Let us consecrate all that we have and are to him, believing in his power to save, and having confidence that he will use us as instrumentalities to do his will and to glorify his name.

My brethren and sisters, do not pass by the little things to look for larger work. You might do successfully the small work, but fail utterly in attempting a larger work, and fall into discouragement. Take hold wherever you see that there is a work to be done. It is by doing with your might what your hands find to do, that you will develop talent and aptitude for large work. It is by slighting the daily opportunities, neglecting the little things, that so many become fruitless and withered.

There are many ways in which all may do personal service for God. Some can write a letter to a far-off friend, or send a paper to one who is inquiring for truth. Others can give counsel to those who are in difficulty. Those who know how to treat the sick can help in this way. Others who have the necessary qualifications can give Bible readings or conduct Bible classes.

The very simplest modes of work should be devised, and set in operation among the churches. If the members will unitedly accept such plans, and perseveringly carry them out, they will reap a rich reward; for their experience will grow brighter, their ability will increase, and through their efforts souls will be saved.

This article was first published in *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* (now, the *Adventist Review*), August 26, 1902. Seventh-day Adventists believe that Ellen G. White (1827-1915) exercised the biblical gift of prophecy during more than 70 years of public ministry.

QUESTION: *Why does the Bible, and the psalms in particular, mention “morning” so often?*

The Old Testament employs two main Hebrew terms for “morning”: *boqer*, referring mainly to a moment of time, the daybreak; and *shachar*, designating the first reddish light at early dawn. A quick study of each is both spiritually and theologically enriching.

1. Associated With the Dynamic of Life: The dawn transitions us from rest to action, as if at daybreak there is an explosion of life on the planet. Nature is renewed (Ps. 90:6; Isa. 17:11); humans work the fields (Eccl. 11:6), build (Neh. 4:21), go on journeys (Gen. 24:54), go to war (Joshua 8:10), and submit to God’s will for them (Gen. 22:3). In the morning human life is energized, re-activated; it is a new beginning. But this is possible only because God is also fully active in the morning. His love and compassion “are new every morning” (Lam. 3:23).* The New Testament tells us that something glorious and unique happened in the morning: *Jesus walked out of the tomb alive* (Matt. 28:1; Luke 24:1-3)! Because of Him the morning is ever associated with life and light.

2. Time for Worship: Since the morning is associated with life, it was considered to be the time when God’s people were to worship Him. Hence we read: “In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation” (Ps. 5:3; cf. 88:13). The psalmist praises the Lord and proclaims His love “in the morning” (92:1, 2) when the Temple priests offered the morning sacrifice and the nation collectively worshipped the Lord (Lev. 6:12). But the morning was also a time for worship at home (Job 1:5). New beginnings were moments for the rededication of the family to the Lord.

3. Associated With God as Judge: It is in the morning that God reveals His justice. He commanded the king to “administer justice every morning” (Jer. 21:12). The oppressed suffered during the night, but they looked forward to the morning when the king would judge and vindicate them. This image is applied to God as the universal judge who “is righteous; he does no wrong. Morning

by morning he dispenses his justice, and every new day he does not fail” (Zeph. 3:5). The morning is, therefore, the time when God examines and judges us in order to vindicate and deliver us and to grant sinners what they legally deserve (Num. 16:5; Joshua 7:14, 16).

4. Ends the Darkness of the Night: Evil could rule during the night, but it comes to an end in the morning. In darkness immoral behavior is practiced (Prov. 7:18; Judges 19:25) and God’s enemies plot against His people (Isa. 17:14). But it is also during the night that God defeats them, thus identifying the morning as the moment when His saving power is revealed (2 Kings 19:35; Gen. 19:27, 28).

Of course, biblical writers knew that “weeping may remain for a night,” but they also understood that “rejoicing comes in the morning” (Ps. 30:5). They were acquainted with the complexity of human existence, yet they could

still say, “I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble” (Ps. 59:16). The phrase “in the morning” became an expression of hope and trust in the Lord in the midst of trials (see Isa. 33:2).

The phrase “in the morning” points toward a time when there will be a new beginning, made possible through the resurrection of Jesus, when life will flourish in all its beauty and glory; when humans will be able to sing praises to the Lord and to worship Him as the very source of life. It also points to the time when the night of sin and death will end as the dawn of the consummation of our salvation becomes a reality. It will be a morning when God’s work of judgment will vindicate His people and renew His creation. This will happen when Jesus, “the bright Morning Star,” appears (Rev. 22:16). ●

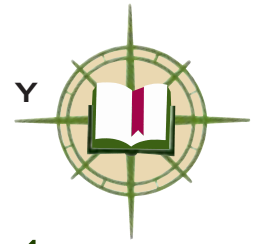
*Bible quotations in this article are from the New International Version (NIV).

A Morning Meditation

By ANGEL MANUEL RODRÍGUEZ



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



GOD'S Broken Heart

By MARK A. FINLEY

Have you ever wondered if God cries? Is He moved by the world's pain and poverty, its suffering and sorrow, its heartache and horror, its calamities and conflicts?

The Bible teaches that God is deeply moved by the tragedies His children experience. The prophet Isaiah affirms: "In all their affliction He was afflicted" (Isa. 63:9). God wept the day sin entered our world; and His broken heart will never be fully mended until the day sin is gone forever.

In this lesson we will study sin's effect upon God, this planet, and the entire human race. We will discover God's heart abounding with incomprehensible love.

1. As Creation week came to a close, what declaration did God make? Read the following text and circle the two words that describe God's incredible joy as He looked over the planet He made so marvelously.

"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good" (Gen. 1:31).

When God created this world and declared it "very good," all the heavenly beings "sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy" (Job 38:7). Joy filled God's heart as He looked over the magnificent world He had created. God intended that all His creatures experience this same joy forever. Sickness, suffering, and death were never part of God's plan.

2. After reading the following text, describe in your own words why eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was so significant and carried such serious consequences.

"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die'" (Gen. 2:16, 17).

God created Adam and Eve with the power of choice. By obeying God's commands they revealed their loyalty to God. By their disobedience they demonstrated their doubt and disloyalty.

3. What lie did Lucifer, disguised as a serpent, tell Eve that directly contradicted God's warning about eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

"Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die'" (Gen. 3:4).

You _____ surely _____.

Eve yielded to the temptation of the evil one. She first doubted, then disobeyed, God's command. Adam soon joined her in disobedience (Gen. 3:6, 7).

4. After their sin, what was Adam and Eve's response to the presence of God?

"And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden" (Gen. 3:8).



When our first parents heard God approaching they _____ themselves.

Sin separates us from God (Isa. 59:1, 2). Separated from God, our hearts are filled with fear, guilt, shame, and condemnation. Separated from God, we suffer the devastating consequences of sin. When Adam and Eve sinned, their natures were changed. Hearts that were once pure became corrupt. Natures that were once holy became defiled. Lives that were once healthy became subject to sickness, pain, and death. Our entire planet came under the curse of sin. All nature was affected by the Fall.

5. When Adam and Eve sinned, God immediately came looking for them. Read the following text and write on the lines below the heart-wrenching question of a brokenhearted God.

“Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’” (Gen. 3:9).

God asked: _____

God did not call out to Adam and Eve because He didn’t know where they were. He called out in love to let them know He cared. He wanted them to know He was seeking them. He longed to restore the fellowship broken by sin.

Have you ever longed to restore a relationship? Is there someone hiding from you because they have wounded you deeply? God took the initiative. With tears in His eyes and sorrow in His voice He called out to Adam and Eve. God had one desire: to restore the fellowship lost by sin.

6. What judgment did God pronounce against Satan (the serpent) in the wake of Adam and Eve’s fall in the garden? Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Gen. 3:15).

What does the word enmity mean? _____

Hint: Read Rom. 8:7; Eph. 2:15; James 4:4.

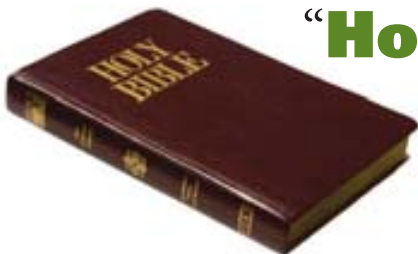
Who is the “Seed” of the woman that would bruise Satan’s head?

The bruise on the head, is it mild or mortal? _____

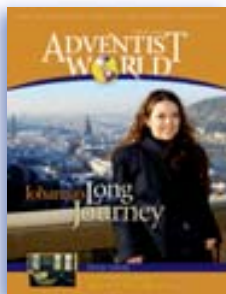
Through Jesus, all the horrible results of sin will be eradicated. As the result of His life, death, and resurrection He has given Satan a deadly blow. Soon the pain in God’s heart will be over. Soon He will return to claim as His own those whom Jesus redeemed with His precious blood.

May your heart be filled with praise today as you serve a God who longs to have you with Him through all eternity.

Next month’s study,
“Hope in the Garden,” will look at
God’s remedy for sin.



LETTERS



Is There a Better Way to Say It?

Regarding “Adventist Outreach Yields Gains in São Paulo” (April 2010): I don’t know if I am

alone, but it always saddens me whenever I read, “Immigrant groups include Italians, Portuguese, Amerindians, Africans, Germans, Spanish, Koreans, Chinese, and Japanese.”

Writers and speakers seem to make a conscious and deliberate effort to distinguish Jews from Arabs, Chinese from Japanese, Italians from Spanish, English from French. Yet no one considers that Africa is neither a country nor a language group. Even “African culture” is too much of a generalization. A continent with more than 50 nations, more diverse in culture and language than perhaps any other continent, is lumped into one stereotyped piece.

Does it mean that everyone from that continent speaks the same language and carries the same identity, same culture, same characteristics, and the same behavior? This article is a case in point, where individual countries or language groups are compared with an entire continent. Is there no way of distinguishing the peoples and nations and language-groups that inhabit that continent?

CHINYERE NWANKWO
Amuha, Nigeria

A point well taken; we’ll watch our regional references in future editions.—EDITORS

“Articles like “Helping the Helpless” (December 2009) and “Classes, Culture, and Christ” (September 2009) help us to bear in mind that the work is the Lord’s, and we must move forward by faith.”

—ELIZABETH G. SCHIMPF DE GÓMEZ,
Entre Rios, Argentina.

Three Parts to the Christian’s Life

I was exceedingly glad for the support given to the project “Connecting With Jesus” (February 2010).

The Christian life can be compared to a tripod with its three feet being the support to live according to God’s will: prayer, study of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, and missionary work. If one of these is missing, will it remain standing? It loses its function. No Seventh-day Adventist can miss any of these vital elements of a life in Christ.

These 10 Spirit of Prophecy books, studied in small groups and worship services, will give members a much better understanding of the Bible, and will transform lives into the character of Jesus. Praise God for such a wonderful project! It’s the best ever for Adventist people. Where can I contribute?

LILIAN LANNENN
Toledo–Paraná, Brazil

You may contribute to the project at <http://cwj.egwwritings.org>. Click on “Click Here to Donate.”

Finding Common Ground

I am writing about the special feature titled “Adventists and Muslims: Five Convictions,” by William G. Johnsson

(February 2010). God put us in contact with many Muslim families for about two or three years in our work. But the friendship was deepened when common ground was found on clothing, food, and respect for God.

Now we see how the Lord is preparing their hearts, and we would like the great privilege to bring them closer to the feet of Jesus. When that happens, the barriers disappear. Our dream is to see them accept Christ as their Savior. To Him be the glory.

THE MOTTA FAMILY
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Not Our Work, but His

The article “Helping the Helpless,” by Sandra Blackmer (December 2009), warmed my soul. Seeing the students willing to help is moving.

During 2009 we opened a kindergarten with 11 students in my city. The authorities closed it because we did not have the enrollment they expected for 2010.

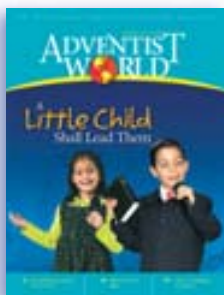


LETTERS

We are currently processing a land agreement and working to open again next year.

Articles like this one and “Classes, Culture, and Christ” by the same author (September 2009) help us to bear in mind that the work is the Lord’s, and we must move forward by faith. May the message of Christ be our priority in these projects.

ELIZABETH G. SCHIMPF DE GÓMEZ
Entre Rios, Argentina



Still Speaking to Readers

I’m glad to have read “A Little Child Shall Lead Them,” by Wilona Karimabadi (January 2008). The article told

how the Word of God was preached in an unusual manner; and the next page had suggestions for recognizing the gift.

The experience of reading this article helped to develop my faith.

May God continue to bless the staff as they continue the work on the eve of the second advent of Jesus Christ.

KUULIZA RAMANDIZI
Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo

Helpful Reading

I have read *Adventist World*. For me it was very wonderful. The contents were meaningful and can surely help the person who reads it in his or her daily living. People will be inspired to have more faith in God.

JADE ALFIE SALE
Bukionon, Philippines

I came across your magazine *Adventist World*. Such a top-quality magazine is educative. Please add my name to your mailing list.

JEKENNU SEMASA
Badagry, Lagos State, Nigeria

I congratulate the team of *Adventist World*. Please continue to educate people of all different backgrounds.

ONAS MONTRÉVIL
Haiti

Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. I got your magazine from my friend, and I am interested in more literature, especially a Bible. It will help me accomplish my service for the Lord. I want to know more about your ministry.

BAYISSA GAMACHU
Asebe Teferi, Ethiopia

I’m president of my Adventist student fellowship on the University of Calabar campus. We really love your magazines.

EKANEM VAVRINEK
Calabar, Nigeria

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

Thanks for partnering with us to ask God’s help in our evangelism—more than 200 persons have accepted the message. May God bless us as we keep working for the Master whom we await.

WELLINGTON, *Barbados*

My husband needs prayer for his spiritual and physical health. Please ask that the Lord will continue to provide what we need to help our family in Port-au-Prince.

NELSIE, *Haiti*

Pray for me as you did last time, please. I’m on probation in my new

job. My bosses are a little tough on me. I need Jesus to give me strength and intelligence to work well, and for these people to change their behavior toward me.

DIANI, *Madagascar*

I read your magazine for September 2009, and since then my life has never been the same. I understand what Christ meant by having faith like a mustard seed. I need your prayer support concerning my academics.

EMMANUEL, *Nigeria*

We go out every summer in different parts of Visayas and Mindanao as

literature evangelists because we have heard His call to scatter books like the leaves of autumn and to reach secluded places where satellites can’t. We really need your prayers for success and protection as we go out this summer.

HARLEN, *Philippines*

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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The *Adventist World*, an international periodical of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The General Conference, Northern Asia-Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists®, is the publisher.

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Adventist World is published monthly and printed simultaneously in Korea, Brazil, Indonesia, Australia, Germany, Austria, Argentina, and the United States.

Vol. 6, No. 6

EXCHANGE OF IDEAS

One More Story

How Adventist World made a surprising impact in Kenya



It was in the month of January 2008, during the time when there was ethnic violence following the highly disputed outcome of the political general elections of December 2007 that threw the country of Kenya into a serious political crisis.

I was conducting an evangelistic campaign in the city of Marimanti in the Tharaka District, Eastern Province of Kenya. This city is a new headquarters for the newly created political district in this corner of Kenya.

Supported by about 100 lay volunteer evangelists, the campaign began on a high note. Hundreds of people gathered at the small compound of the Marimanti Seventh-day Adventist Church to hear the message preached by myself and two local associate pastors, Joshua Njuguna and Bonface Kimuyu, both from Central Kenya Conference.

All these listeners were happy to attend our evening meetings. Sometimes the meetings would run until 11:00 p.m., and they'd complain that we had stopped too soon!

One week into the campaign we formed baptism classes in which we could thoroughly carry the candidates through all the basic biblical doctrines. We provided some free literature such as *The Great Controversy*, *The Desire of Ages*, *Steps to Christ*, etc. It was during the testimonies by the baptismal candidates when I discovered that four of our candidates were police constables, providing security for our meetings.

Police officers are not known for their inclination toward any religious faith. Nobody expects them to be interested in the things of God. I asked them why they chose to attend our meetings. They said that sometime in the past year I had dropped a whole box of *Adventist World* magazines at their police station. They started reading them. Through the reading of these magazines they came to feel that “the church that these magazines represented must be a very special church and fellowship.” They confessed to me that when their police chief asked them to provide security during our nightly evangelistic meetings, they thought it was an answer to their prayers. They came to our meetings without their official uniforms—an entire week had gone by before we learned who and what they were!

I gave each one of them newer magazines, and a Bible. On the last Sabbath of our series we baptized 323 souls—these four police officers were among the group. A senior administrative government civil servant from another location some 20 kilometers (12 miles) away called me on my mobile phone and asked whether it was true that these police officers had been baptized. I confirmed that the four had, a few minutes before, been baptized. The civil servant begged that he too be allowed to be baptized! This is another interesting story—for another time. God bless the ministry of this magazine!

—PASTOR BLASIOUS M. RUGURI, secretary, East-Central Africa Division

The PEOPLE'S PLACE

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THIS?



SUBMITTED BY MANOEL CHAVES

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“God does not save the church from the world, but for the world.”

—Pastor Jack Calkins, during a sermon at the Patterson Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church in Richmond, Virginia, United States, in early 2010

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Isaac Bediako is a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church at Sessiman, a suburb in the Nkoranza North District of Ghana. He is a 54-year-old farmer, and an illiterate layman. Bediako took on the work of personal evangelism within the district. After receiving training on personal contact from the “It’s Nice to Be Nice” program, Bediako went into action for

the Lord. He has distributed 420 cartons of *Adventist World*, totaling 63,000 copies, within 10 months. This has resulted in 110 people being enrolled for Bible study courses. And so far, by the grace of God, 40 people have been baptized.

Bediako witnesses in homes, buses—everywhere he meets people. He has also enrolled 85 people in Voice of Prophecy lesson studies, through which some of these have started



worshipping with the Sessiman church.

Bediako has promised to work for the Lord for the rest of his life, though he suffers from leg and joint pains.

ADVENTIST LIFE

As the members of my family were having lunch—and engaged in small talk—I noticed that my 4-year-old daughter, Carla, had a blank expression of her face. She was deep in thought. Suddenly, she interrupted us: “Now I know, Mom,” she said matter-of-factly. “When Jesus is walking on the ground, we call Him Jesus; and when He is in the sky, we call Him God!”

Apparently, she had been thinking for quite some time about that seeming puzzle. As a mother, now I am looking forward to her insights into the Holy Spirit, as soon as she discovers that they are actually a trio!

—Gisela Ramos, Denver, Colorado, United States

ANSWER: In the Seventh-day Adventist International Church in Maputo, Mozambique, members gather for Sabbath worship. Pastor Manoel Chaves, director of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries at the Bahia Conference, northeast Brazil, was involved in mission work in Mozambique in 2008, when this photo was taken.