

March 2011

ADVENTIST WORLD



Go
Forward!

12 Look and Live



22 *Sola Scriptura* and
Ellen G. White



27 The Divine Teacher

ADVENTIST WORLD

March 2011



ANDREY MERSHALOV

COVER STORY

Go Forward! *By Wendy Harris-Guptill*..... 16
Only in hindsight can we properly appreciate the way God has led us.

DEVOTIONAL

Look and Live *By N. Gordon Thomas*..... 12
It isn't complicated: in order to be saved, we have to see Jesus.

ADVENTIST LIFE

The Invitation *By Phil White*..... 14
Saying yes to God can bring surprising results.

FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS

God in Three Persons—Blessed Trinity
By Jo Ann Davidson..... 20
A mystery that we may never fully understand still amazes.

DISCOVERING THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

Sola Scriptura and Ellen G. White
By Tim Poirier..... 22
How does the gift of prophecy enhance the authority of the Bible?

ADVENTIST SERVICE

Education as an Entering Wedge
By Andrew King..... 24
In India many children go to school to get an education—
and become Adventists.

CHURCH WORKS

World View..... 3

World Report
3 News & Views

World Vista
8 Big-Picture Thinking

WORLD HEALTH

Tuberculosis..... 11
*By Allan R. Handysides
and Peter N. Landless*

BIBLE QUESTIONS

**Good God,
Bad God?** 26
By Angel Manuel Rodríguez

BIBLE STUDY

**The Divine
Teacher**..... 27
By Mark A. Finley

WORLD EXCHANGE

29 Letters
30 The Place of Prayer
31 Exchange of Ideas

The People's Place..... 32

On the cover:

ALWAYS ON THE MOVE: Dwayne
Harris flies plywood into the mountains



WORLD VIEW

Open Our Eyes, Widen Our Prayers

Twelve years ago, in a moment of tardy recognition, I wrote an editorial for the *Adventist Review*, sister journal of *Adventist World*, titled “Your Church Is Too Small.” The editorial—and the title—were not the general complaint they appeared to be: the words were actually aimed at the author—*me*—for only lately realizing that my understanding of the scope and scale of God’s remnant church had been far too small. It was my vision that had been myopic and restricted, for I had been used to counting only part of what God’s people were really doing to build up His kingdom.

As a pastor and editor for 20 years by then, I had grown accustomed to noticing the mission and activities of what we sometimes glibly describe as “the organized church.” I knew the routines of congregational life—the worship services, witnessing activities, board meetings, and Sabbath schools. I was a product of 18 years of Adventist education—and entirely glad of it. I thought of Adventist witness mostly in terms of what paid employees accomplished through public evangelism, sponsored mission service, and literature produced by church-owned publishing houses.

And then the Lord began to open my eyes to see the real church—the vast and wonderfully diverse collection of

Holy Spirit-gifted individuals, supporting ministries, parachurch organizations, lay-sponsored schools, and literature ministries that tirelessly work to spread the three angels’ messages in places no paid employee has yet gone. These are men and women, teens and senior citizens, who have realized that waiting for church funding or the approval of an official committee may actually delay obedience to Jesus’ Great Commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations” (Matt. 28:20). They have picked up the tools nearest to them—their vocal talents, their love of children, their skill at baking bread, their joy in Bible study—and turned them into ministries that win hundreds of thousands to the truth each year. Living, working, and witnessing without stable budgets, predictable supplies, or the promise of a retirement pension, they have discovered the irreplaceable joy of answered prayers and daily miracles that keep a ministry solvent.

Keep praying for the “organized church,” my friends; but broaden both your praying and your seeing to include tens of thousands of your brothers and sisters who labor not for money but for love. And when you meet them, let them hear from you what they will one day surely hear from Jesus Himself: “Well done; well done; *well done!*”

— BILL KNOTT

WORLD REPORT

Wilson Keynotes Nordic Adventist Pastors’ Meeting

One hundred fifty workers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nordic countries, including Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and Finland, met for three days of spiritual emphasis, Bible study, and a commitment to grow spiritually. The sessions were held January 5-7 in Copenhagen, Denmark, under the theme of “Revival and Reformation.”

Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, was a keynote speaker. He stressed the importance of revival and reformation growing out of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

“It is the cross and what happened at the cross that makes us want to be with Jesus; and it is when we reflect on the life of Jesus that we are motivated to change,” said Wilson. Wilson reemphasized the beautiful gift the Adventist Church has in the writings of Ellen G.



AT THE CROSS: “It is the cross and what happened at the cross that

makes us want to be with Jesus; and it is when we reflect on the life of Jesus that we are motivated to change,” Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson, General Conference president, told 150 Nordic-area church workers and pastors.

THOMAS MÜLLER/TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

WORLD REPORT

White, a pioneering cofounder of the movement, helping us to understand the importance of revival and reformation.

Bertil Wiklander, Trans-European Division (TED) president, stated in his keynote address that “we have recognized the importance of experiencing a genuine spiritual revival,” and he continued by saying that this will not happen if “we don’t recognize our role, which is rooted in the three angels’ messages.”

Janos Kovacs-Biro, ministerial secretary, told participants, “because God has a mission, and His mission has a church, my vision is that God and His story will be known in Europe again through the actions of the church. This way Adventism will become a positive, determining factor in Europe.”

Among the other speakers was Jon Dybdahl, a retired lecturer from Walla Walla University and Andrews University, who brought the concept of revival and reformation into the hearts of the pastors and taught on spirituality and the importance for pastors and leaders to find fresh ways to develop their relationship with the Savior. He spoke of different ways that suit different people, emphasizing that it’s not the specific method but the reality of spending spiritual time that matters. Gunnar Peddersen, retired lecturer from Newbold College, helped participants understand better the distortion in our theological understanding. Daniel Duda, TED education director, warned pastors to take care, when revival and reformation is proclaimed, not to go back to the old baggage, but back to the Word of God and see it with fresh eyes, to “be naked before God and search for the truth.”

—reported by Miroslav Pujic and Thomas Müller, Trans-European Division



LIBNA STEVENS/IAJ

PAUSE TO REMEMBER: Dr. Elie Honore, president of the Adventist Health International Services (AHIS) for Inter-America, thanks the world church on January 12, 2011, for its support of Haiti Adventist Hospital, both since the earthquake and before.

In Haiti, Adventists Celebrate Hospital, Relief One Year After Quake

■ The devastating January 12, 2010, earthquake that struck Haiti toppled a classroom column, crushing Iney Laguerre’s left leg. The teacher was rejected by five hospitals before being brought to Haiti Adventist Hospital, where he underwent surgery to amputate his leg and two fingers.

A year later Laguerre is back to teaching full-time.

“The Lord has been good to me, and I’ve learned that He gives us the strength and capabilities to move forward,” Laguerre said. He was one of several earthquake survivors addressing a crowd of hundreds of worshippers and church officials gathered outside the hospital to mark the earthquake’s anniversary.

Participants sang and prayed at 4:53 p.m., one year to the minute after the worst natural disaster in the nation’s history, which eventually took the lives of some 300,000 people.

As Seventh-day Adventists joined

their fellow countrymen in commemorative church services nationwide, the gathering outside the denomination’s hospital marked what for many has been a highlight amid struggling rescue efforts.

Built in 1978, the structure suffered only minor damage in last year’s earthquake. Operations were moved outdoors, and hospital staff and volunteers treated 200,000 patients in the eight months following, hospital officials said. More than 4,000 of those were surgeries.

Church and hospital administrators recognized the dozens of organizations and medical teams that treated patients following the disaster.

Dr. Elie Honore, president of the Adventist Health International Services (AHIS) for Inter-America, thanked volunteers who flew in to work at the hospital. “We are so grateful to AHIS and Loma Linda University for their presence and their continued support, before and especially after the earthquake. We also remember all the non-

government organizations who came to our aid,” Honore said.

Ensuing support from additional partners has allowed hospital administrators to expand facilities, said Emilie Clotaire, an administrator. Two small facilities have already been built to serve as prosthetic rehabilitation centers and an in-house prosthetic lab is under construction. Two new operating rooms are also being constructed, Clotaire said.

The hospital has two operating rooms, 70 beds, and offers ophthalmologic, orthopedic, and gynecological services, said hospital medical director Dr. Yolande Simeon.

Church officials also thanked the world church for support. “We are a people of hope, and we continue to celebrate life and how God continues to preserve our lives,” said Theart St. Pierre, president of the church in Haiti, addressing the crowd.

St. Pierre praised the work of hospital staff for helping save lives and treating the scores of wounded people who flooded the hospital after the quake.

The anniversary event was the fifth day of such church-led ceremonies, which began on January 8 in the central and south regions of Port-au-Prince, where nearly 600 church members lost their lives and more than 100 churches were destroyed or damaged.

Earlier a commemorative service was also held at Haitian Adventist University, where some 400 families still take shelter on campus, and classes are still held in temporary buildings.

Hundreds gathered on the grounds outside Haiti Adventist Hospital in Port-au-Prince for the service marking one year since the January 12, 2010, earthquake devastated the Caribbean island nation.

“Today the entire world remembers the earthquake in Haiti,” said Elie

Henry, executive secretary of the church in Inter-America and a Haitian native. “The world showed solidarity for Haiti, the world cried with Haiti and demonstrated this in 2010 with their outpouring of gifts, and we acknowledge that.

“We thank the Adventist Church for their funds, the solidarity, and gifts,” Henry said.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) provided more than US\$4 million in aid, personnel, and assets to assist Haitian survivors in the months since the earthquake. ADRA has focused on managing displaced persons camps, water purification, food, sanitation and hygiene, psychosocial support, education, and semipermanent shelters.

—reported by Libna Stevens, *Inter-American Division news with Adventist News Network*

United States: Adventist Is Honored for Religious Freedom Work

■ A Seventh-day Adventist religious liberty advocate is among this year’s recipients of the First Freedom Award for contributions in advancing freedom of belief in the United States and worldwide.

John Graz, who directs the Adventist Church’s Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL), received the National First Freedom Award at a January 13, 2011, event sponsored by the Virginia-based First Freedom Center.

Graz, who since 1995 has directed the International Religious Liberty Association, was noted for his nonsectarian work, extensive writings, and a series of world festivals of religious freedom. In 2009 more than 40,000 Peruvians gathered to celebrate burgeoning freedom of belief in their country. A year later Peru’s congress voted to guarantee protection of reli-

gious liberties.

“I’m very honored by this recognition,” Graz said, citing the center’s “long history” of “defending the heritage of Jefferson, Madison” and other early American champions of freedom of conscience.

Graz is the first Adventist to receive a First Freedom Award. Religiously and politically neutral, the First Freedom Center has since 1984 championed the fundamental human rights of freedom of religion and conscience. —reported by *Adventist News Network*

TAIWAN: Adventist Health Programming Airs on National Television

■ A commercial television station in Taipei, Taiwan, has aired a series of health programs produced by Taiwan Adventist Hospital. The shows aired in “prime time,” from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m., following the main evening newscast. The shows aired free of charge.

The hospital has a video production



PRODUCTION STUDIO: Located in the basement of Taiwan Adventist Hospital, a television production studio allows easy access for doctors and other specialists to participate in health-promoting programs.

NSD NEWS

Continued from page 5

studio with three robotic cameras in its basement, so producing the shows was easy for the four full-time staff members: one producer, two technicians, and an office secretary. Kathy Chen, producer and host, is also a nurse, and interacted easily with doctors and other specialists. The studio has produced 150 health programs in Chinese so far.

Nearby, the hospital has a vegetarian restaurant, popular not only with employees but also with visitors. The studio is also producing video programs on vegetarian cooking with recipes published by the Signs of the Times Publishing Association in Taiwan to respond to the need for information about how to cook healthy meals.

—reported by Northern Asia-Pacific Division



HEALTH RESOURCE: The Taiwan Adventist Hospital reaches out to neighbors via television programming, a vegetarian restaurant and health classes, along with medical services.

WORLD REPORT

Brazilian Adventist Church Doubles Capacity *With* Inspiring New Building

Feat of architectural excellence complements city's landscape

By MARK A. KELLNER, *news editor*

Rising in an open concrete form from the pavement in Curitiba, capital city of the Brazilian state of Paraná, the new Central Seventh-day Adventist Church building not only doubles its capacity for the congregation of 2,600, but adds to the distinctive architecture of the 327-year-old city. The new building is one of the largest Seventh-day Adventist churches in South America.

During its inauguration Adventist leaders encouraged congregants to look toward fulfilling the gospel commission: “We cannot allow ourselves to be ‘comfortable’ in this space,” declared Erton Köhler, president of the South American Division. “We must keep proclaiming that Jesus is coming soon.”

Central church pastor Elbert Kuhn, a former Adventist missionary in Mongolia, led out in the inaugural events December 10-12, 2010, which came nearly 115 years after the first Sabbath school class in the city.

The new building, opened after two years of construction, was designed by Clodualdo Pinheiro, Jr., a renowned Brazilian architect and urban planner who has completed several projects in Brazil and abroad. The facade includes a giant cross, rising from street level on Alameda Carlos de Carvalho, in the center of Curitiba, Brazil’s eighth-largest city, with a population of 1.75 million people. The cross dominates the main entrance to the church.

The new building has a main seating area for 2,000, and three levels on the sides for an additional 600 people. A balcony to the left of the second level’s main seating area is reserved for the church’s choirs and orchestra. The large platform has a huge cross, two large video display screens, and a baptistry. Irajá Costa e Silva, a former minister at the Curitiba Central church, painted a mural depicting the second coming of Christ. The top floor features a special prayer area called, appropriately, the Upper Room.

Inaugural ceremonies brought several former Central church pas-



Above: PANORAMIC VIEW: From the platform, picture shows the mural painted by a former pastor (left), main floor and upper-level seating, choir and orchestra loft (right), and a glimpse of the baptistry (far right). **Right:** NEW STRUCTURE: Exterior view of the Curitiba Central Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brazil, the largest in the South American Division.



JASON SILVA

ng

SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION PHOTO

tors and other Adventist leaders, along with Köhler, to the new facility. Jonas Arrais, associate ministerial secretary for the General Conference, and a former Central church pastor, gave the first message, reminding the congregation of the events and lessons from the Bible accounts of the dedication of Solomon's Temple.

On Sabbath morning Köhler reminded the members and many civic and spiritual leaders present that all the Bible's prophets and writers were, indeed, "Adventists," because they believed in the return of the Savior. And Odailson Fonseca, director of TV Novo Tempo (Hope Channel SAD), challenged each congregant to commit their lives to Christ and make the church a light in the city. Every message was permeated with music and followed by a baptism.

The Curitiba Central church is noted for several unique features and programs. It is the first Seventh-day Adventist church in Brazil to have a youth center. A beach camp, Guaciara, provides healthy recreation and spiritual guidance during events, such as Carnaval, away from the city. The Leo Ranzolin Pathfinder Club, named in honor of a former General Conference vice president, which now has more than 100 members, will complete 50 years of service in 2012. All these have been agencies to keep Adventist young people in the church. Curitiba Central also has two choirs with more than 150 voices, musical groups and quartets, as well as an orchestra with more than 50 members.

Curitiba Central has been strong in radio programming for more than 70 years: "Em Curitiba FM 106.5" is part of the church-owned Novo Tempo radio network. Church worship services are also streamed live on the Internet. Sky

Channel is a TV program that provides good music, educational, and spiritual messages for families. And the congregation also operates and sponsors a girls' home, providing help and assistance to girls who have been neglected or abused by their families.

Speaking about the design and the construction of the church, architect Pinheiro said the Upper Room was his favorite space in the new building, and that he also liked the design of the stained-glass windows depicting the parables of Jesus. He said the whole purpose of the design was for people to feel closer to God.

Pinheiro said he felt that constructing the Central church was completely different from building theaters and other auditoriums, because the church has a "regular" congregation, and that he was very conscious he was building a house of worship.

A German literature evangelist started the first Seventh-day Adventist church in the city in 1896 when a couple offered their home for meetings. The first organized congregation was formally inaugurated in 1915; it also became the headquarters for the Paraná-Santa Catharina Mission. In 1935, as the congregation grew, a new 400-seat building was constructed.

The third Curitiba Central church was inaugurated in December 1968 during the visit of then-General Conference president Robert Pierson, who was visiting South America for the first time. That church had a capacity of more than 1,000 seats, and was the launching pad for many other Adventist congregations in Curitiba. ●

—with information from Leo Ranzolin and Francis Matos, South American Division

WORLD VISTA

General Conference president Ted N. C. Wilson recently spoke to Adventist World editor Bill Knott about the importance of young adults to the world church, and the roles open to them in service and decision-making.

Your own children are all now young adults, so you are familiar, from personal experience, with young adults' experience of the church, and of their faith. As you think about the group ages 16-35 in the life of the church, what are the priorities you would emphasize?

I'd like to encourage everyone to understand fully where they are in the flow of time. For a young adult, time often feels almost eternal, but those who are really aware of where they fit into the time line of the great controversy theme will take a considerably different approach to how they view everyday life and the things they encounter. The whole plan of salvation will become foundational to life, and they'll know how they individually fit into that and where they are in reference to Jesus' soon coming. This will make a significant difference in social relationships, in education, in how to deal with potential professions and job opportunities or peer pressure, even right down to deciding what activities to engage in during the coming weekend.

Each of us has to understand our relationship with Jesus. We have to know who Jesus is as our Redeemer who died for us, as our High Priest currently interceding for us in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary, as our coming King, and as our Best Friend. It's not a onetime experience, it's a growing experience every day as we rely on His justifying and sanctifying power. No one can say, "I'm 12 years old, I'm baptized; now I understand it all." It probably wasn't until I was about 21 that I really grasped what it meant that Christ truly died for me. Even then I hadn't arrived; I keep growing in how I relate to Christ.

Besides knowing who you are and how you fit into the great controversy theme, young adults also need grounding, and the grounding has to come from the Word of God. We can make the Word of God something more than just what we hear in church on Sabbath: it's something we need to personally read every day. When prayer becomes real and your own spiritual development progresses, you can begin to see the big picture. And when you see the big picture, then smaller things start making sense too.



Big-Pict *Thinking*

Should the church proactively place young adults in decision-making roles in local congregations, or on executive committees? Or is there a process that a young adult needs to go through in order to be able to be involved in decision-making?

Generally speaking, administrative positions that require experience should be held by people with experience. But it's essential for local churches to mentor young adults and get them into a stream where they can associate with those who have experience. The church was started by young adults, and it will be finished by young adults on fire for

the Lord, teaming up with those who have experience.

Although there has historically always been tension between a younger generation and an older one, I don't think adults should be afraid of involving young adults, especially in areas of service. When they are involved in serving other people, helping them in very practical ways, they'll grow very rapidly in understanding what experience is needed in administrative matters.

In recent months you've been inviting young adults into various levels of involvement in the life of the church, particularly young adults who have illustrated their willingness to serve. Do you think the church should establish a quota for representatives under a certain age?

I'm not so sure that a quota needs to be set. I think leaders need to be sensitive in intentionally including young adults and soliciting their views—associating with them, involving them, even including them in committees. Most young adults aren't necessarily excited about being on a committee! They really want to be doing something. They've got enormous creativity and potential to do something, especially as they're connected with the Lord.

Many organizations around the world are urging that some type of dedicated year or two of service be part of the life experience of young adults. Do you think that would be a good idea for the Seventh-day Adventist

even though she had grown up in an overseas mission context. She had a wonderful experience, and became a student mission leader upon her return, helping nurture other young adults to have the same experience.

Some sincere young adults who are looking for a deeper Christian experience find the church to be lukewarm, or not moving in the way it's supposed to be moving. They're inclined to move out somewhere and start or join some entity or movement that is often fairly critical of the church establishment. Describe the balance between revival and reformation that you think will resonate with the church's young adult.

The whole idea of revival and reformation can resonate with young adults because, to a great extent, they are much more idealistic than members who have become jaded with the practical cares of everyday life. This is why the Bible talks about the first love for the Lord and the importance of continually renewing our first love, whatever our age.

Young adults have to keep in mind that while we're living in a sinful world, we are to aim for the ideal: through God's help we can achieve that ideal. With God's ideal in sight you'll see the big picture in your own relationship with God. The Holy Spirit can help you not to fall into the trap of religious fanaticism, or the opposite extreme of turning your back on the church. When you see that your church isn't what it should be, you can take the opportunity to ask

ure *The joys and challenges of end-time living*

Church—to actively encourage young adults to give 12 to 18 months to the life of the church in some way?

I think it's a marvelous idea. It all depends, of course, on the individual and their own pursuits and their particular academic needs for their life experience. But I'd encourage every young adult to be involved in some kind of service opportunity, whether it's a short-term mission trip or a longer period of time, even a year or two of service. In those periods of time, especially the longer ones, you'll grow far beyond anything you would obtain anywhere else. You can then take that experience and reinvest it in your educational experience.

One of our daughters went as a student missionary, and it changed her service perspective in such a dramatic way,

God to show you the big picture—how you personally fit into it, and how you can help make it what it should be. It's the moment to say, "Lord, I'm not seeing this straight. I know what the Word of God says. I know what the Spirit of Prophecy says. I'm not seeing it in the practical life in my church, but help me to understand how I can be a determining factor in helping others to actually achieve the ideal of what You really want us to do." God will answer your prayer, and will open the way for you to make a real difference through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

In the January *Adventist World* we published a story about a revival already going on in a church in Australia. One of the key persons in that story is the pastor's son, who, after

WORLD VISTA



A WITNESS TO REVIVAL: 17-year-old Lachlan Townend, whose role in leading a revival among teenagers in the Mur-

willumbah, New South Wales (Australia) congregation, was noted in the January *Adventist World* edition, was baptized in the ocean by his father, Pastor Brett Townend, on December 11, 2010, after a service of singing, testimony, and encouragement. A cluster of Lachlan's friends have also indicated their desire to be baptized in 2011.

evaluate their worship experience, the way they relate to music and worship styles. For revival to take place, worship must be more than just an emotional experience. It must be based on the sure word of prophecy: God's Word. It doesn't mean that you can't be emotional. That's part of our God-given makeup, but emotions shouldn't be the driving force in a revival.

Revival, followed by reformation, truly means that you become more connected with the Lord; then the Holy Spirit changes your life to become more and more like Jesus. As Paul says: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). That mind of Christ has to be implanted in you through the power of the Holy Spirit. Then you'll see that big great controversy theme, and where you fit into God's end-time scenario. What is it that Jesus is asking you to do? How can you do it best, and how can you cooperate with older people and your peers to accomplish it?

I'd encourage every young person and young adult to get a copy of the new compilation of Ellen White's writings entitled *True Revival: The Church's Greatest Need*. On page 9 we're told that "a revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. . . . A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer." This challenge includes a rallying cry to young adults. The devil wants to derail their spiritual life and their connection with Christ. On page 12 of the same book we're told that "there is nothing that Satan fears

True revival must come back to the Word of God.

coming back to Jesus, started a Bible study at the church and now has many young adults every week—only half of them Adventists—gathering for Bible study. They are helping to energize the whole renewal experience of that congregation. Is this the type of role envisioned for young adults in the revival and reformation initiative?

One of the greatest challenges we face with the experience of revival and reformation, especially revival, is that it could be a flash in the pan—just an emotional experience that can't be sustained. For young adults, life in general can often be very emotional. If a revival experience is only based on an emotional high, it won't last very long. Then when they face all the everyday problems, they'll be tempted to just drift into something else that may be emotionally charged, but won't offer solutions or lead to real reformation.

That's why seeing a young man lead in a Bible study for his peers is simply wonderful. True revival must come back to the Word of God. It's critical that young adults carefully

so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. If Satan had his way, there would never be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time."

I'm appealing to young adults to remove every hindrance between them and God and let the Lord pour out the Holy Spirit on them. Turn to the Word of God and the Spirit of Prophecy as you prayerfully seek God's will for your life; then allow the Lord to work miracles in your proclamation of the end-time, three angels' messages. Take to heart the appeal found on page 13: "Let the church arise, and repent of her backslidings before God. Let the watchmen awake, and give the trumpet a certain sound." By God's grace and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the young adults of God's remnant people will give the trumpet a certain sound in these last days of earth's history. Jesus is coming soon! 🍌



Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis remains a major global problem. The control of bovine tuberculosis was relatively simple, relying on the eradication of infected animals, a successful screening program, and the institution of pasteurization of milk. Raw milk products still carry risk, and though goat's milk does not carry tuberculosis, it could infect with undulant fever. So pasteurization is a major public health requirement; insist on it for any dairy products you may use!

Human tuberculosis is the major problem today, and predominately it's spread by droplet infection; hence, the great emphasis of smothering the coughing and sneezing. Such covering of the mouth and nose, with frequent hand washing, is more than a cultural politeness; it's a health habit. Spitting of sputum also may spread the TB germs, which are rather hardy.

Although they are killed by sunlight, TB germs may persist for months in the dust of a darkened room. This is yet another reason Ellen G. White stressed sunlit rooms with open windows, even before we knew about these characteristics.

The major problem facing the world today is the HIV epidemic. Most healthy, well-nourished, immune-competent people will put up a good fight against the tubercle bacillus. When infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), however, people don't mount successful resistance, and drugs are needed. Before 1947 there were no effective remedies, and then streptomycin was discovered. It became apparent that the suppression and cure of TB was not an immediate, rapid effect, even with medications—with the result that resistant strains tended to persist, then multiply.

My mother has been diagnosed as having tuberculosis, and because she's HIV positive, I'm concerned for my children—that this will be the incurable kind of TB. Should I forbid the children to see her?

By **ALLAN R. HANDYSIDES** and **PETER N. LANDLESS**

Over the decades, these resistant strains have come to be much more prevalent, and today we speak of "MDR tuberculosis," which means multidrug-resistant strains, and even of "XDR," meaning extensively drug-resistant strains. These kinds of TB threaten the progress made in the treatment of tuberculosis worldwide. It's estimated that in 2008, some 440,000 cases of MDR TB emerged. The highest numbers were in India and China, but the highest percentages were in former U.S.S.R. countries, where the XDR tuberculosis is also most common. The high-quality care of TB in places such as Hong Kong, Estonia, the Orel and Tomsk oblasts (Russian Federation), and the United States has been associated with a fall in the incidence of TB. In some countries, though, the incidence of TB is rising, and that of MDR TB is rising even faster.

One of the real problems is in diagnosis. Currently the 125-year-old method of making a sputum smear and looking for the bacteria on the stained slide detects only half the cases. Fortunately, a recently developed test is capable of detecting 98 percent of cases, and also identifies whether the TB organism is resistant to the medication Rifampin—one of the main anti-TB medicines. The cost of this laboratory test is high, but the possibility of such an advance is very encouraging.*

Children, adolescents, and pregnant women are at greater risk for tuberculosis, even when not infected with the HIV, and it's important to take precau-

tions. Your mother's doctors will monitor whether she's actively spreading the bacilli, and it would be wise to get the go-ahead from them first before exposing the youngsters to close contact. Masks, gowns, and hand washing may reduce risks of transmission; but rapid, accurate testing and meticulous treatment with specific medications can change an infectious patient into a certifiably noncontagious patient, and that should be the goal.

Because prevention is so important, a lifestyle that invokes a wholesome diet and plenty of outdoor activity, fresh air, and sunshine is of the highest priority. The evading of infection through wise avoidance of unnecessary contact with infected persons, along with those measures of behavior that remove risks of acquiring HIV infection, complement the healthful lifestyle we promulgate in this column. ●

* Peter M. Small, M.D. and Madhukar Pai, M.D., Ph.D., "Tuberculosis Diagnosis—Time for a Game Change," *New England Journal of Medicine*, 363:1070, 1071; NEJM.org, September 9, 2010.



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The gospel story is quite simple. Why then do we often insist on making it so complicated? The only effort we need to start the process leading to our salvation is to turn and look. When the children of Israel were attacked by poisonous serpents, Moses raised the bronze serpent, a symbol of Christ their Savior, for them to look at. Even if bitten and about to die, some lacked the faith to look—and be saved. The lesson is there for us today: look and live! We are too often looking at the wrong things in the wrong places. We can be saved only by Jesus Christ, and that is where our focus should continually be. It has always been that way and always will be.

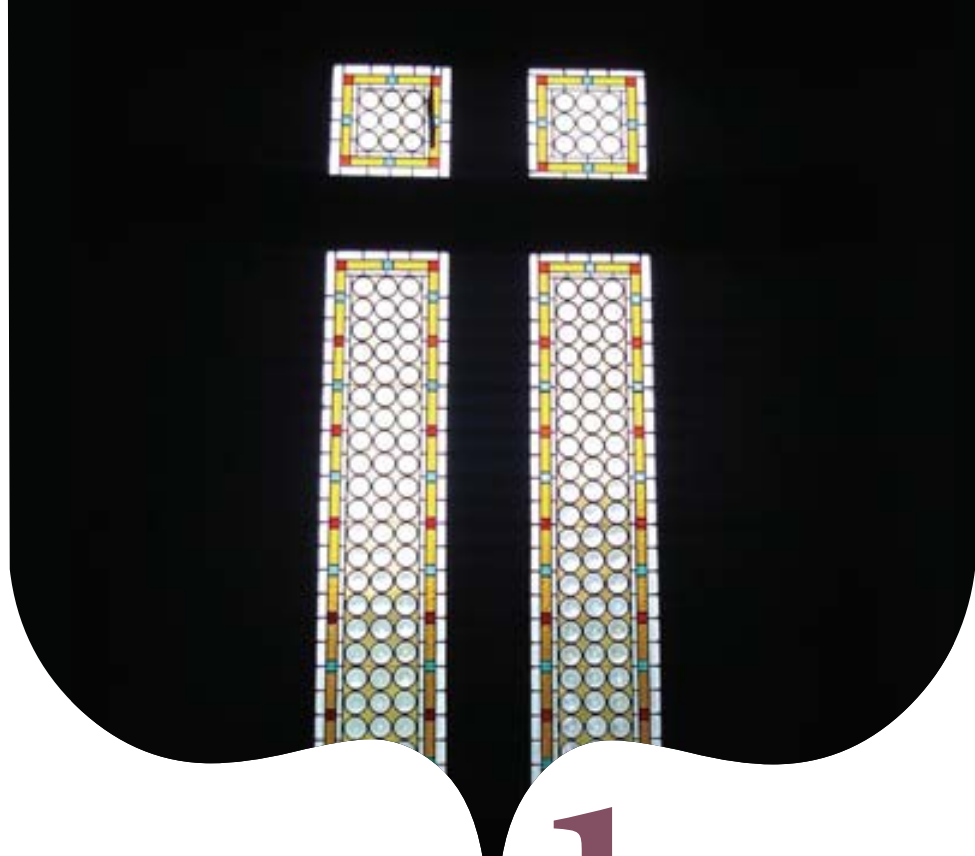
People That Looked

Charles Spurgeon, one of England’s greatest preachers, recalls the turning point in his life. He got caught in a snowstorm on the way to his church in London and sought refuge in a small Methodist chapel. Few people were in attendance, and the regular preacher was absent. There, in that little chapel with only a dozen or so people listening, a humble, uneducated layman started to preach. He took as his text Isaiah 45:22: “Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth!” He started his short sermon by saying, “My dear friends, this is a very simple text indeed. It says ‘Look!’ Now, lookin’ don’t take a great deal of pains. It ain’t liftin’ your foot or your finger; it is just ‘look.’ Now, a man needn’t go to college to learn to look. You may be the biggest fool, and yet you can look. Anyone can look; even a child can look.”



N. Gordon Thomas is a retired professor of history at Pacific Union College and lives in Angwin, California, U.S.A.

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Look *and* Live

By
N. GORDON
THOMAS

This humble layman then declared, “Jesus says, ‘Look unto Me; I am sweating great drops of blood. Look unto Me; I am hanging on the cross. Look unto Me; I am dead and buried. Look unto Me; I rise again. Look unto Me; I ascend into heaven. Look unto Me; I am sitting at the Father’s right hand. Oh poor sinner, look unto Me! Look unto Me.’ Suddenly he spoke directly to Spurgeon and said, “Young man, you look very miserable . . . Look to Jesus Christ! Look! Look! Look!”

Spurgeon credits this uneducated layman for turning his life around. He said, “Oh, I did look! I looked until I could almost have looked my eyes away. The clouds disappeared when I looked from myself to my Savior.” Spurgeon went on to become the great preacher he was for Jesus Christ.

Look at Jesus. When E. J. Waggoner was only 27 years old and already a strong Adventist believer, he found Jesus at a camp meeting in Healdsburg, California, in 1882. He “looked”

and saw a vivid representation of Christ hanging on the cross—an act of love for the sins of E. J. Waggoner. Jesus was offering His righteousness to take the place of Waggoner’s sins. As you will remember, Waggoner became an important preacher of righteousness by faith that helped change the focus of our church.

Another minister who always looked at the cross and preached a soon-coming Savior was that great pioneer of radio ministry, H.M.S. Richards. He kept his eyes looking toward Jesus and the Second Coming during his lifelong evangelistic ministry. His message was one that every person could understand—direct and powerful and always on the target of *Jesus only*. Elder Richards presented a singular uncomplicated message of salvation through beholding Jesus and following Him. One always had the feeling that everything was all right with Adventism when H.M.S. Richards spoke at camp meeting time.

Lifting Up Jesus

Remember, when God wanted to bless our church with the prophetic gift, He did not choose a great exhorter or a highly educated person. Perhaps He did not want the person getting in the way of the message. His choice of a messenger was a young girl with no formal training in either theology, writing, or speaking. But she had something else much more important and that was a vision of Jesus on the cross and a vision of His return to save us. For more than 70 years she consistently wrote and preached about Jesus. As a messenger of the Lord she spoke in simple, clear language about core theology—looking to Jesus. In her words: “Look up, you that are doubting and trembling; for Jesus lives to make intercession for us.”*

In fact, Jesus Himself preached a very simple message that every com-

mon person could understand. He made no attempts to be erudite. He always spoke directly and with authority, and with the possible exception of some of His parables, He always spoke clearly and to the point. In the last days of this earth’s history He tells us to “look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28). He tells us a story of salvation so simple that even a child can understand it. As a matter of fact, He tells us that we must become as little children. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record the story of how Jesus blessed

poem “I Remember, I Remember.”

It was in childish ignorance,
But now ‘tis little joy
To know I’m further off from Heaven
Than when I was a boy.

I believe the poet is stating a basic fact that is present in all of our lives. We need the faith of an innocent child and to forget the doubts and criticisms we accumulate as we get older. Is it possible to have too much theology? Shortly before his death John Newton said, “I have now only one doctrine—the doctrine that I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Savior.”

*“Now, lookin’ don’t take
a great deal of pains. It ain’t
liftin’ your foot or your finger;
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the children, and emphasized the concept that childlike faith and trust is required to enter God’s kingdom. This story has to be one of the most profound passages in the Bible. The older I get the more I understand that all the study and advanced learning can never save anybody. We must accept the fact that there is nothing we can do to be saved. It has all been done. We must finally realize how “poor and needy” we really are. Thomas Hood reminds us of that simple faith in his

Truth is, all we can do is look to Jesus, confess our sins, pray for faith and belief, and accept His perfect gift of righteousness. If we love Him, we will keep His commandments (John 14:15) and follow Him. Walking in His footsteps will come easily and naturally. But remember, the first step is to turn your face toward the cross—look and live! 🍊

* Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1956), pp. 54, 55.

The Invitation

By PHIL WHITE

Amazing things can happen when you say yes to God

It was the evening before the opening of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's fifty-ninth General Conference session in Atlanta, Georgia, United States, June 24–July 3, 2010. As a member of the Adventist News Network podcast team, I had spent the day at the Georgia Dome preparing for the broadcasts. Walking through the CNN Center on the way to my hotel, I caught a glimpse of a man who looked familiar. *I know him*, I thought to myself. Quickly scanning my exhausted brain cells I attempted to recall where I had seen him before. I didn't wonder long. He raced to me shouting, "Pastor Phil!" The sound of his voice was all I needed.

Answering the Call

My mind journeyed back through the events that led to this emotional reunion. The story began the summer of 1992, when I was a young pastor in western Washington State in the U.S. The iron curtain had recently fallen, and a group of Russian Adventists came to my church as part of a North Pacific Union Conference initiative known as Operation Bear Hug. They shared their stories of life in the former Soviet Union and the urgent need to evangelize those who were now hungry for Bible truth. Among the group were a pastor, Vasiliy Stolyar, and a young adult, Gennady Kasap. "Come to Russia," they invited. "Bring an evangelistic team and hold meetings."

Inspired by their stories and invitation, I assembled an Operation Bear Hug team from my church. In April 1993 we journeyed to Saratov, Russia, a city of some 1 million people on the Volga River 500 miles southeast of Moscow. Night after night for six weeks more than 1,200 people packed a local auditorium to hear the Word of God.

Attending every meeting by herself was 11-year-old Luba, and at the conclusion of the campaign she requested



Top left: HAPPY REUNION: Phil White (second from left) stands with the Tishin family (Slava, Luba, and Galena) in Russia in 2008. **Above:** ADVENTIST CHURCH: The church in Saratov, Russia, planted as a result of Operation Bear Hug. **Right:** EARLIER DAYS: The Tishin family in 1995 after attending revival meetings. From left: Galena, Sasha, Luba, and Slava.

baptism. Because no other members of Luba's family showed any spiritual interest, local church leaders objected. They expressed concern about her survival in the church without family support. Strong anti-Christian sentiment led her parents also to oppose her baptism, and they saw it as a passing fetish. But Luba held firm and was among some 500 baptized. I challenged her, "Now go win your family to Jesus."

Living Her Beliefs

In June 1995 my wife, Jan, and I returned to hold a week of revival meetings in Saratov before attending the General Conference session in Utrecht, Netherlands. Once again, Luba was in attendance. After her baptism she had faithfully continued attending the Adventist church. To the surprise and concern of her parents, her interest in Christianity intensified. It was decided that her mother, Galena, would attend the church to discover how they could refute Adventist beliefs. To the disgust of Galena's husband, Slava, she also embraced Adventist teachings and was baptized. Though more resistant than ever, Slava consented to attend the revival series, but only because he was asked to video the meetings. I encouraged Slava to give his life to Christ, but he refused. Having been an active member of the Communist Party and a military officer in the Soviet Army, he was a hardened man. At one time in his career he was stationed at the Berlin Wall and was trained to shoot anyone trying to escape to the West.

When we left Saratov, Slava came to the airport with his family to say goodbye. One last time I pleaded with him to accept Jesus. He emphatically replied, "I will never accept Christ!"

Meeting the Challenge

Because of limited communication, I had not connected with Adventist believers in Saratov for several years. Then another invitation came from Russia. In July 2008 I returned to Saratov to speak for the fifteenth anniversary of the

church planted as a result of Operation Bear Hug. A beautiful young woman approached me there. "Pastor Phil, do you remember me?" she asked. "I'm Luba! You baptized me in 1993, and as you challenged, I have won my family to Jesus." I was overcome with emotion to discover that Luba,



now a pediatrician, had brought her entire family to Christ, including her father, Slava, and her brother, Sasha, now an active Adventist lay leader in Moscow.

It hadn't been easy for Slava to make a decision for Christ. In 2000 he had decided to attend evangelistic meetings held at the local Adventist church. Determined to prove the pastor wrong, he had gone night after night. Hope in Jesus began to fill his heart, but he remained resistant. "Don't become an Adventist," his friends and former military colleagues had told him. "This will only lead to bad things for your life. You will lose everything you own. The church will only bring you problems," they had argued. Undaunted, Slava finally made his choice for Jesus and was baptized. Through the blessings and guidance of the Lord, Slava had eventually felt led to sell his very successful business and invest in eternity.

The Happy Reunion

So why was Slava in attendance at the fifty-ninth General Conference session of the worldwide Adventist Church? This man who had at one time been a Communist and KGB informant? This man who'd had a hardened attitude toward God? Now a local church elder and the director of publishing ministry for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Saratov region of Russia, Slava Tishin came to Atlanta as an official delegate, not for the Communist Party or the KGB, but for his Lord and his church.

What a journey! What a humbling experience to know that God used our team's response to the Russian invitation to impact others with the good news of His amazing grace. The Lord continues to extend the invitation: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19, 20).

Each of us must commit to sharing Jesus with others—to winning our families, our work associates, our neighbors, our communities, our world for Jesus. The Slavavs of the world are waiting! ●



Phil White is senior pastor of the Calhoun Seventh-day Adventist Church in Calhoun, Georgia, United States.

Oh, no!" I said aloud, taking a deep breath as I heard the eerie moaning and saw the crowd coming down the trail. My heart sank when I saw Nurgina's brother carrying her limp body on his back, stumbling toward the clinic. Nurgina was one of our schoolgirls. Despite the fact that her uncle Mami was a powerful chief and witch doctor, Nurgina and her mother had been attending church for several years. Nurgina was now a happy teenager who loved to share her faith, but Satan was not happy!

Nurgina was in trouble, and even Mami feared for her life. Everyone in the village believed that one of Nurgina's brothers had been killed by demons. They had personally witnessed demon harassment on many occasions. They feared that the demons might kill Nurgina as well.

She was completely limp, moving only her head as she cried out for help in her mental agony. She begged for all that was dear to her: her family, the missionaries, the pastors, her Bible, her notebook and pen. She could neither see nor hear us even if we pressed close to her. I did a quick medical evaluation and determined that this was not a medical problem. Prayer was the only treatment available for her.

We organized a round-the-clock prayer vigil for Nurgina. As the hours passed, Nurgina kept crying out in distress, "Help! Satan is so bad! God is so good." We felt helpless as she called us by name but seemed unable to hear our words of comfort or even our singing or prayers. We tried to hold on to our faith that God could and would free her from this torment.

What a joy it was to see her set free after 48 hours of prayer and fasting! Nurgina's testimony to all who would listen was sobering but clear. A few days before her attack she and her mom had knowingly spent the night in the presence of a satanic ritual. As Nurgina suffered, her mother remembered their sin and confessed it to God. Min-

GERALD MAIER

GO Forward

God's impeccable timing in mission—and marriage

By WENDY HARRIS-GUPTILL

DWAYNE HARRIS



KIANA BINFORD



utes later Nurgina was set free. What a wake-up call to the reality of the great controversy going on around us.

Mission Nurse Life

For five years I had been working as a nurse in a remote clinic in the mountains of Palawan, Philippines. It was a privilege having a part in saving lives, and though challenging, it brought great fulfillment. I loved living in my little bamboo hut and being able to help people who had so little. Although treacherous, the three-hour hike on the steep trails to our village was refreshing. I loved the beauty and peacefulness. The experiences I had dealing with the poorest people I had ever met—both physically and spiritually—would shape me forever and prepare me for the future.

I was challenged with the responsibility of caring for a whole mountainful of very sick and needy people. It was not unusual for a whole village of people to show up at 5:00 in the afternoon with patients on their backs, ready to be treated, fed, and housed for the night. Almost everyone suffered from malaria. There were also outbreaks of typhoid, whooping cough, and measles. During those times patients lined the verandas, needing round-the-clock care.

I'll never forget Milsu, a typhoid patient from a nearby mountain. When we found him, he was nearly dead, and his family had given up on him. They had even considered killing him because they were afraid of his crazy behavior, thinking he had an evil spirit. I knew he would certainly die if he stayed where he was, and I begged the family to bring him to the clinic. They were afraid that he might die on the way, and were very hesitant to move him. I told them that our God was strong and that He would take care of their loved one. We slipped and tumbled down the mountain with Milsu tied securely to the stretcher. I prayed hard that he would survive! Incredibly, with day and night care, IVs,

catheters, hand feeding, and constant prayer, he recovered completely. He and his wife always give me a big smile now when I see them and their four young children. As God came through for me again and again, I began to trust Him more. But I was about to learn some other important aspects of faith that I had somehow missed up to this point in my Christian life.

Straight Out of the Sky

As time went by, my friends and relatives began to show concern about my being single, nearing 30. The chances of finding a soul mate in the middle of a jungle seemed impossible. I found it humorous when people tried to discreetly hint that maybe it was time for me to come home for a while and “find someone.” However, I trusted God's promise in Matthew 6:33 that when we put the Master first, all other needs will be supplied. I knew that God did not need me to return to an Adventist community to find the companion He had for me. My mother finally came to the same conclusion and quipped one day, “If God wants you to have a husband, He'll have to drop one out of the sky!”

I had no idea of the amazing things God had in store for me in the following months. In May 2008 I met Dwayne Harris, a pilot/aircraft mechanic who had recently left all to pioneer a new work in the Philippines with a small helicopter that God had

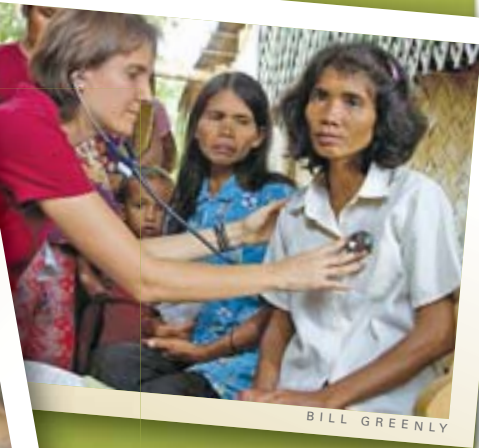


Wendy Harris-Guptill

has been a missionary nurse in Asia for the past eight years. She and her

husband, Dwayne, continue to move forward with the Philippine Adventist Medical Aviation Services (PAMAS), a faith-based organization inspired by Gospel Ministries International. Since this article was written, they have begun two new projects in northern Luzon and Mindanao. To learn more about the ministry, visit www.pamasmission.org.

rd!



BILL GREENLY

Top to bottom: JOYOUS: Nurgina soon after her deliverance. HOW ARE YOU? Wendy assessing a patient in a remote mountain village. FAMILY BUSINESS: Wendy visiting an elderly patient.

provided. Having worked in the village for several years, I could see the distinct advantages of having helicopter assistance with our medical evacuations. I was pretty excited when I heard that he was seriously considering basing the helicopter near our village!

Dwayne hardly knew a soul in the Philippines upon arrival and had used up his own resources just getting himself and the helicopter into the country. God led someone to help him get the helicopter through customs without a hitch. Then various people of all types and religions had stepped in and provided a place for Dwayne to stay, food to eat, and fuel for the helicopter during the six months he was in Manila!

My parents, who live outside of Manila, opened their home to Dwayne every weekend during this time. The chance to get out of the city and fellowship with other Adventists on a beautiful campus was welcome, especially since he came from the wide open spaces of Montana, a far cry from the 15 million people living in Manila! Even though this time in the city was a time of waiting and character building, God continued to demonstrate His love and care for Dwayne.

As I continued my work in the mountains far from Manila, God provided several more opportunities for Dwayne and me to meet. I began to highly respect Dwayne and his simple but confident trust that God would provide for His work. As I realized that this was a truly genuine man, I couldn't help wondering what God had in store for us.

Four months after I met Dwayne he was finally able to get the helicopter cleared, registered, and ready to fly from Manila to Palawan. And yes, much to my delight, God dropped my future husband out of the sky (somewhat literally) and into my jungle home without me having to set foot out of the Philippines! One year after we met, Dwayne and I were married.



BILL GREENLY



BILL GREENLY



SCOTT GUPTILL

Left: CAREFUL!
Slippery trail to mobile clinic.

Below: MISSION WORK IS FUN: Pre-packing medicines with missionaries and visiting medical team.

What will it take to start a

Changes and Greater Opportunities

The change for me was not hard—a wonderful new roommate, a helicopter for transport, and an exciting new mission in progress! As Dwayne joined me in my little hut, we lived a fairy-tale missionary life as we made medical visits and evacuations with the helicopter. A half-day hike up the mountain to reach a patient now took only minutes! I continued running the busy jungle clinic while Dwayne helped with the construction of a new clinic building. The evenings were usually quiet, and we had no phones, Internet, or other media to distract us. We enjoyed planning for the

future of our mission.

It soon became clear that we needed a safe place to keep the helicopter—out of the weather and accessible by road—along with the heavy tools and fuel. We needed a place where we could base our operations and reach the needs of all the missionary projects that were scattered across southern Palawan.

It wasn't long before God provided several nurses to take my place in the mountains, and we moved to the lowlands to start building a hangar with adjoining living quarters. God directed us to a saintly Adventist man a short distance from town who donated a portion of his beautiful land for our project.

We began the building project in

faith, without complete funds for finishing the structure. God provided enough money each month to allow us to continue building without having to slow down for lack of funds. One year later, through God's miracles, we had a hangar with adjoining mission apartments, complete with a runway! God also provided another helicopter pilot and other nurses and support missionaries who are now running the Palawan project as Dwayne and I expand the ministry into other parts of the Philippines. As God leads, we will soon have helicopters to serve all the mountainous regions of the country, and a fixed-wing airplane for travel between islands.

It was a new revelation to me, as our mission progressed, how it could be so simple to take God at His word and trust His promises for everything, not just when being in a tight situation. I was perplexed how I, and possibly many others, had missed this core part of faith. I can see clearly now, as I read God's Word and the Spirit of Prophecy, that we should not be limiting God's work by our lack of faith! (And not just

Thinking Big

As I'm catching the vision, we have boldly gone forward in other ways that we feel are important, even though often our funds are enough only for the current month. Besides keeping up with the increasing demand for the helicopter, we are also supporting several Bible workers and have donated several motorcycles for their use. We have seen the Holy Spirit moving powerfully through these local church workers and our support missionaries who have devoted much of their time to Bible studies, Muslim and medical work, agriculture, and children's outreach. We cannot keep up with the demand. It is so exciting to see God not only provide for this work but bless it too. We have had the privilege of witnessing multiple baptisms of more than 80 people and two flourishing church plants as a result of this work.

Because of the great medical needs, we have trained villagers from the local church to be health workers, focusing on education and simple natural remedies as well as the use of medicines

ies are sacrificing their lives to reach the isolated people groups scattered across the Philippines. However, it often takes days or weeks to reach these projects by foot. Precious time is wasted in travel or trying to survive on the limited supplies that can be carried in. When the missionaries or villagers get seriously ill, it is very difficult to transport them by land or sea. In other areas people are begging for missionaries to come and help them, but the areas are so remote that no one has the time to make the visits. We see a huge need for more helicopters to help support these projects and speed the spreading of the gospel in the short time we have left.

What will it take to start a new project from scratch in a new area? How many more helicopters or airplanes will God provide? What about nurses, pilots, mechanics, support staff, housing, hangars, and runways? It's not our concern. We have experienced how God provides for His work when we trust in Him.

We are still babes learning to live

new project from scratch in a new area?


financially, but in all the needs for furthering His work.) Seeming obstacles are often God's way of testing our faith in His ability to do the impossible.

My understanding increased as I observed Dwayne. I began to realize how I had been so shortsighted in my ministries so far. Dwayne talked to others with humble confidence about our plans, never mentioning money, personnel, housing, or any other needs that might be conditional for such huge undertakings. The issue was never "if God will provide" or "if we can work this issue out." It was just trying to think bigger, moving forward, seeking God for wisdom, and trusting Him with the details.

for malaria and other common diseases of the area. This attracts more patients, resulting in the need for more supplies, but it also gives us great opportunities for witness. We often cover hospital costs for destitute patients, who need assistance with blood transfusions, clothing, and food.

As God opens doors, we are in the process of starting a second project in another area of the Philippines, using helicopters and airplanes to reach other remote areas. Because it seems humanly impossible to accomplish such a huge task, this will seem like a crazy endeavor to the world. But we believe God can do it, and we're excited to see just how!

Many local and foreign missionar-

by faith, but it's been nothing but exciting so far. In Dwayne's words: "When we surrender all to God, He will provide beyond our dreams or imaginations." And that's exactly what God has done—not just financially but in every aspect of our lives. "The Lord wants His people in these days to believe that He will do as great things for them as He did for the children of Israel in their journey from Egypt to Canaan. We are to have an educated faith that will not hesitate to follow His instructions in the most difficult experiences. 'Go Forward' is the command of God to His people!"* 

* Ellen G. White, *Counsels on Stewardship* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1940), p. 277.

Belief in a God of three Persons is one of the most demanding biblical teachings. Christianity is the only world religion that makes this claim. The doctrine of the Trinity is truly distinctive of the Christian faith, crucial because it deals with *who* God is, *what* He is like, and *how* He works. Christians believe the doctrine is necessary to do justice to the testimony of Scripture, the primary source of our knowledge of God. We must speak

three monotheistic statement, initially insisted within a polytheistic world: “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is *one*.”

The New Testament continues Old Testament sentiments, such as Paul (1 Cor. 8:4) and James (James 2:19). What then caused these monotheistic Jews and Christians to declare belief in the three-personed Godhead? It was the biblical witness of three divine Persons.

Three divine Persons are often linked together (Isa. 42:1; 61:1, 2; 63:8-11). The angel tells Mary that her child will be called holy because the Holy Spirit will come upon her (Luke 1:35). At the baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:16, 17) three divine Persons are present. Jesus links His miracles to the Spirit of God’s power (Matt. 12:28). Because of the Great Commission, new disciples are baptized in the singular “name” of the three Persons: Father, Son and

NUMBER 2

GOD *in* THREE PERSONS —

Blessed
Trinity

By
JO ANN
DAVIDSON

concerning God in terms He uses. Biblical evidence has three facets: (a) there is one God; (b) three-in-oneness; and (c) three persons who are God.

There Is Only One God

Christianity emerged from the ancient Hebrews, who were rigorously monotheistic (and remain so today). Writers of the Old Testament address this, sometimes quoting God directly. The Decalogue begins with the divine statement: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before *Me*” (Ex. 20:2, 3). Deuteronomy 6:4 contains the defini-

Three-in-Oneness

God refers to Himself both as “He” and “Us.” In the Old Testament the plural form of one of the nouns for God (*’elohim*) is quantitative: “Let *Us* make man in Our image.” The plural appears both with the verb “Let Us make” and the possessive suffix “Our” (Gen. 1:26; 11:7). Isaiah, in vision, hears the Lord: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for *Us*?” (Isa. 6:8).

In Genesis 2:24 man and woman are to become one (*’echad*), a union of two separate entities. Significantly, the same word is used of God in Deuteronomy 6:4. Marriage and God’s nature are both described as a plural unity.

Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).

Pronounced evidence can be found in John’s Gospel. Jesus declares: The Son is sent by the Father (14:24), coming from Him (16:28). The Spirit is given by the Father (14:16), sent from the Father (14:26) and proceeds from the Father (15:26). The Son prays for the coming of the Spirit (14:16); the Father sends the Spirit in the Son’s name (14:26); the Son sends the Spirit from the Father (15:26). The Spirit’s ministry continues the Son’s, bringing to remembrance what the Son has said (14:26), bearing witness to the Son (15:26), declaring what He hears from the Son, glorifying the Son (16:13, 14). Jesus prays that His

Trinity

There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation.

He is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 14:7.)

disciples may be one as He and the Father are one (17:21).

Peter names three divine Persons at Pentecost: “Exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit, He poured out this. . . . Let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ . . . and you shall receive the . . . Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:33-38).

Paul often speaks of the triune God, relating salvation to three Persons of the Trinity (2 Cor. 1:21, 22). The form as well as content of his writing communicates his belief in the book of Romans: God’s judgment upon everyone (1:18–3:20); justification through faith in Christ (3:21–8:1); life in the Spirit (8:2-30). Paul also includes them in his benedictions: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Cor. 13:14). Similar formulaic expressions appear also in Peter’s and Jude’s epistles (1 Peter 1:1, 2; Jude 20, 21).

God in Three Persons

The Father’s deity is never disputed. Jesus refers to the Father as God (Matt. 6:26-30). Paul speaks of the deity of Jesus (Phil. 2:6; Col. 1:10-20). For Paul, an orthodox Jew trained in strict rabbinic Judaism, this is astonishing conviction of Christ’s full deity. The book of Hebrews includes several statements regarding the deity of the Son (Heb. 1; 4:14-16; 7:20–8:6).

Jesus’ own self-consciousness includes claiming to forgive sins (Mark 2:8-10). The Jews, knowing that only God can forgive sins, accuse Jesus of blasphemy. He claimed the angels of God as His angels (Luke 12:8, 9; 15:10; Matt. 13:41). At His trial Jesus was accused of claiming to be the Son of God. This would have been a critical opportunity to correct this if Jesus did not regard Himself as God. But He didn’t, instead emphasizing His deity.

The high priest understood, calling for Jesus’ death (Matt. 26:63-66). Following the resurrection, Thomas addressed Jesus as “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). Jesus did not refuse the title or the worship, though throughout Scripture humans and angels rightfully refuse worship (Acts 14:8-18; Rev. 19:6).

The Holy Spirit is identified as God, the member of the Godhead, with the title “holy” regularly attached. He does the work of God: He dwells in believers, as does Christ (Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27), enlightening (Eph. 1:17, 18), regenerating (John 3:5-8), leading into holiness (Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:16-18), giving assurance (Rom. 8:16), and gifting for ministry (1 Cor. 12:4-11).

Jesus claimed that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him, anointing him to preach (Luke 4:18); that He was driving out demons by the Spirit of God (Matt. 12:28); and that the Spirit, another Counselor of the same kind, would carry on His work after His departure (John 14:16). When Ananias and Sapphira held back some of the promised proceeds from the sale of their property, Peter reminded them that lying to the Holy Spirit is lying to God (Acts 5:3, 4).

The three divine Persons are equal but not identical. There is no hierarchy or subordination suggested by an unchangeable order in the presentation of their names (1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6). All Three are involved in our salvation. Thomas

Oden is right: “If God were only one person, it could not be proclaimed that God both sends and is sent; that God could be both lawgiver and obedient to the law; that God could both make atonement and receive it; that God could both reject sin and offer sacrifice for it.”¹

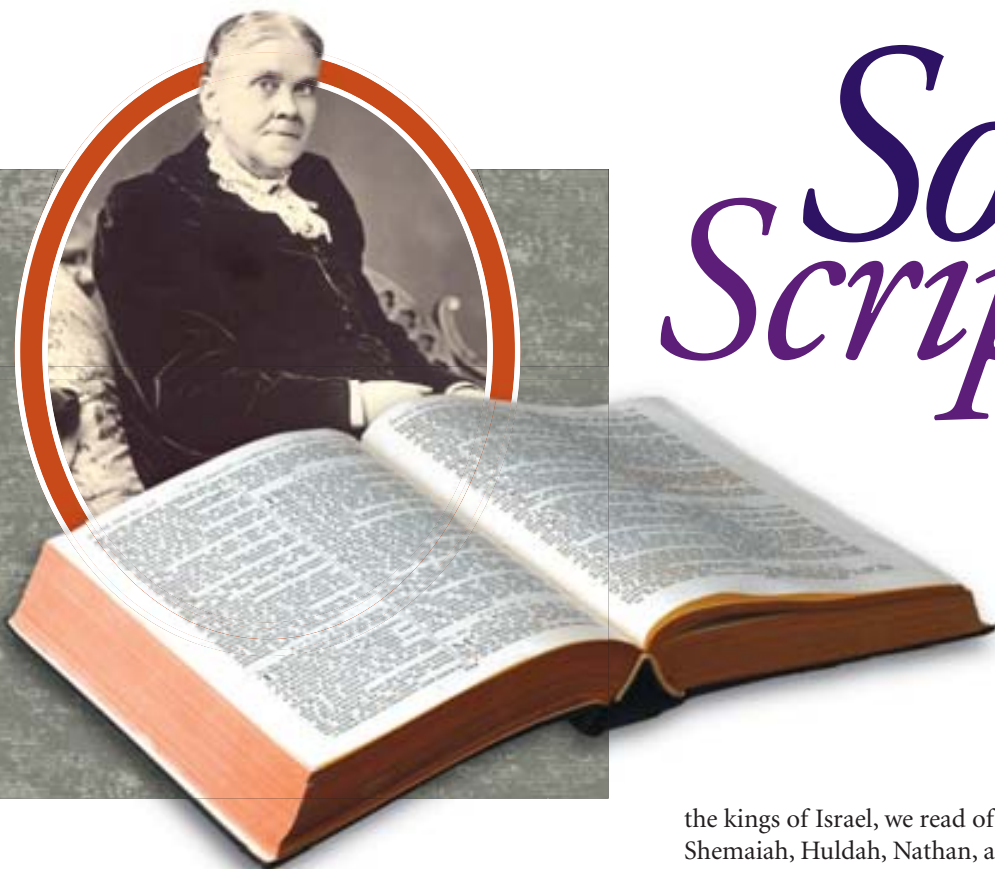
Careful reflections on the triune God can come only from a heart and mind trained in humility. Speaking adequately of God is a daunting task. Scripture must be the primary source of our knowledge of Him. Christians manifest their avowed dependence upon this Book, which contains many affirmations of the deity of the three divine Persons. “The historic formulation of the Trinity . . . seeks to circumscribe and safeguard this mystery (not explain it; that is beyond us), and it confronts us with perhaps *the* most difficult thought that the human mind has ever been asked to handle. It is not easy; but it is true.”²

¹ Thomas Oden, *The Word of Life* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1989), p. 77.

² J. I. Packer, *Concise Theology: A Guide to Historical Christian Beliefs* (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1993), p. 40. (Italics supplied.)



Jo Ann Davidson, Ph.D., is professor of theology at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University, U.S.A.



Sola Scriptura and ELLE W

Seventh-day Adventists believe that the Scriptures are the all-sufficient revelation of God's will. Because we also subscribe to the motto of the Reformers, "*The Bible, and the Bible only*," many logically ask, "If all I need is found in the Word of God, why should I take any special interest in the writings of Ellen White?"

Adventists maintain that adhering to *sola scriptura* means accepting all that the Bible teaches—including the promise of the continuing presence of the Holy Spirit through the gifts, especially in the last days. So we might ask the question another way: If the Bible is all-sufficient, what need is there for the special guidance of the Holy Spirit?

Jesus Himself presents the answer, as recorded in John 16:12, 13: "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. . . . And he will tell you what is yet to come."* We can see how this promise was fulfilled in the ministry of the apostles, but we also know from the Scriptures that the Spirit's guidance was not to end in the first century (see Joel 2:28-32; Eph. 4:11-13; Rev. 12:17 and 19:10).

The Bible records how God instructed His people through special messengers who, though they wrote no part of the Scriptures (we call them "noncanonical"), were inspired to confront injustice, warn of coming dangers, or predict the outcomes of misdirected choices. In the days of

the kings of Israel, we read of such messengers as Ahijah, Shemaiah, Huldah, Nathan, and unnamed men of God who saved the nation from defeat and brought conviction to erring rulers. In the New Testament church we learn that the apostles were directed by the prophecies of Agabus, among others (see Acts 11:27-30).

Consider how the following purposes and blessings of the prophetic gift demonstrated in Scripture are paralleled in the ministry and counsels of Ellen White.

1. Unmasking the enemy's strategies

The king of Syria was convinced that Israelite spies had infiltrated his army because their leaders seemed to know in advance when and where he would attack. The king was told, however, that it wasn't human intelligence—it was Israel's prophet, Elisha, to whom the Lord was giving "inside" information (2 Kings 6:8-12).

The premier theme in Ellen White's writings is that of the great controversy being waged between Christ and Satan. Her Conflict of the Ages Series shows how the conflict that began in heaven continues on our planet and in each person's heart. We are given "behind the scenes" views of the issues at stake in this cosmic battle, including insights into Satan's strategies for his war against the remnant—the war predicted by John in Revelation 12:17. Through the gift of prophecy the devil's deceptions are unmasked so that we can be more fully equipped to follow Peter's admonition to "resist" the enemy and remain "alert" (1 Peter 5:8, 9).

2. Illuminating God's hand in history

The biblical prophets interpreted events of their day in the light of God's dealings with His people and the surrounding nations. Similarly, in Ellen White's writings we find surprising descriptions of God's intervention. A notable example is her explanation for the sudden retreat of the superior Union army in the first Battle of Manassas during the U.S. Civil War. What was inexplicable in human terms was shown to Ellen White to be the work of angelic intervention (see *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 266, 267).

ELLEN G. WHITE

We have the Bible—Do we need Ellen White?

By
TIM POIRIER

3. Foretelling outcomes of our choices

When the Babylonian army surrounded Jerusalem, King Zedekiah called Jeremiah from prison and promised to spare his life if only he would tell him the truth about the future of his kingdom. Jeremiah laid out two options: Surrender to the king of Babylon and live; or fight, and the city would be destroyed—along with his own life (Jer. 38:14-23). Ultimately Zedekiah made the wrong choice, and Jeremiah's unpopular words were proven true.

Even though God's will is broadly revealed in His Word, there are times He provides specific guidance to keep His people on the right course. Ellen White's instruction on healthful living illustrates such guidance. Study after study has confirmed the positive results of living according to the principles of health outlined in her writings. If left only to our own inclinations or the changing and often contradictory advice of "experts," we might choose a different lifestyle. Even though Scripture describes Eden's diet and our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit, it is unlikely that we would give the same attention to such passages if the principles inherent in them were not spelled out in practical terms through the gift of prophecy.

4. Convicting of sin

King David was not ignorant of the seventh commandment, or the sixth—he knew the writings of Moses. Yet, in mercy, God sent His noncanonical messenger to bring home the truth that David was trying to disregard. Simi-

larly, in the Bible we have God's standard for character and His truth detector—just as David had the Torah. But God reaches out still further when He appeals to His modern-day people through the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of prophecy. He knows how well we can rationalize our behaviors and close our eyes to where we miss the mark (Rev. 3:19). By lifting up the holy principles of God's Word, Ellen White leads us to sense our deficiencies, recognize our sinfulness, and prayerfully accept the forgiveness and righteousness that Christ offers us.

5. Applying Scripture to present-day circumstances

When contrasting the righteousness of faith with the works of the law, Paul was led by the Spirit to interpret the experience of Abraham and Hagar as an allegory (Gal. 4:21-31). Even though the early Christians could study the writings of the Old Testament for themselves, this did not preclude the Holy Spirit from directing their minds to a deeper understanding of particular passages.

Today, although the Scriptures remain our source of truth and test of experience, one of the blessings of the Holy Spirit's instruction is His application of the Word to our unique circumstances. In the Conflict of the Ages Series Ellen White selects and applies biblical narratives illustrating the great controversy theme—showing how the past instructs us about the future. She was also led to highlight specific passages especially relevant for the last-day church. Speaking of Isaiah 58, for example, she wrote, "The whole chapter is applicable to those who are living in this period of the earth's history. Consider this chapter attentively; for it will be fulfilled" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Ellen G. White Comments, vol. 4, p. 1149).

In summary, the Scriptures teach that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide God's people until the end of time. While the canon of God's Word is closed, He has not closed off communication with His church through the prophetic gift—particularly as the church confronts the deceptions of the end-time.

It is no wonder that Paul wrote to the early Christians, "Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt" (1 Thess. 5:19, 20). And in the words of Jesus to the Laodicean church—our church: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Rev. 3:22). ●

* All Bible references in this article are taken from the New International Version.



Tim Poirier is vice director of the Ellen G. White Estate in Silver Spring, Maryland, U.S.A.

EDUCATION *as an* Entering Wedge

By ANDREW KING

Adventist schools in India benefit students and their families.

More than 1 billion people call India home. After China it's the second-most populated country in the world, and it's growing rapidly.

For more than 100 years the Seventh-day Adventist Church has served this vast country by developing an educational system that provides so much more than an education.

For centuries the caste system in India has had a profound effect on society. But Seventh-day Adventist schools across the country have worked for decades to mitigate those effects and break down the barriers that keep individuals from achieving their true potential.

"Ever since we started the school system we introduced the work program," says John Fowler, a recently retired associate director of the General Conference Education Department, pointing out the role useful labor has played in the church's educational system.

"There are students who would refuse to do different kinds of manual work. They'd say, 'Agriculture, fine; I don't mind being involved in growing plants, growing vegetables; that's dignified work. But to sweep the hostel, clean the toilet, no; that's menial. That's not for my status in the community.'

"But the Adventist system has somehow broken this in our schools," says Fowler. "Work, any work, is God's gift to us. 'Take care of the earth, be stewards of the earth,' He says. So that philosophy, that whatever you do you are a steward of something—whenever students are involved in manual labor they become more mature, more responsible, and ready to take on the world."

Each day after class each student is assigned a job on the school campus. This strong work ethic has made Lasalgaon School in central India a desirable location for parents to send their children.

Faith, Excellence—and Space

"The [one] shortcoming of this school is we have insufficient classrooms," says Jayant Sable, principal of Lasalgaon School. "We have a big playground, but we don't have science labs; we don't have separate labs for physics, chemistry, or biology, which are essential parts of a growing school."

Lasalgaon is not the only school overflowing with students. Farther south is one of the oldest Seventh-day

Adventist schools in the country, James Memorial School. This school, like most in India, is a mission school. The majority of students who attend are not Christian when they begin their education.

"If you train up children early, when their lives are being formed, they develop a very concrete faith," says Ambrose Shanmugam, principal of James Memorial School. "We teach [students] the Bible here; we teach them stories from the Bible. They are attracted, and they will be converted—even the boarding students. Every year we have baptisms, children accepting Jesus."

This culture of excellence attracts families who want the very best for their children. "The school has an enrollment of more than 900 students," says Shanmugam. "But the facilities we have at present only accommodate 500 to 600 students. And in the coming years we may get more students. We need classrooms."

Space is not the only challenge for the Seventh-day Adventist school system. Most Adventist schools in India are affiliated with the Indian Council of Secondary Education. This accrediting body takes special care to administer tests at Adventist schools on Sundays.

The Kottarakara Adventist School in the state of Kerala is accredited by the Indian government. Recently, however, the school was instructed to hold a crucial test on Saturday.

T. I. John, principal of Kottarakara Adventist School, explains the issues at stake: "[Students] get admitted to college based on the results [of the tests], and [the test] is very crucial, very determinate for their future lives. One cannot think of not attempting their examination if they want to pursue further studies."

John made an appointment with the minister of education for his district and asked that accommodation be made for the school so that his students could stay true to their faith and not take the exam during Sabbath hours.



Top left: ONE OF THE OLDEST: James Memorial School, one of the oldest Adventist schools in India, needs new classrooms to accommodate the students who wish to enroll. **Left:** MISSION SCHOOLS: Many nonmembers attend Adventist schools because of the quality of education they receive. Many eventually become Adventists. **Above:** NEW BUILDING NEEDED: Members of the Adventist Church in the village of Perayam look forward to worshipping in a new metal building provided by the financial support of Adventists around the world.

ALL PHOTOS BY OFFICE OF ADVENTIST MISSION

The administrator told John, “I’m also a Christian. I would write an exam on Sabbath; I would do anything on Saturday.”

John replied, “Your faith is different; my faith is different. I wouldn’t do that [on Sabbath], and my students won’t do that. Therefore, please make it possible for my children to write the exam; make some alternate arrangements.”

Eventually John convinced the board to allow the students to take their exam after Sabbath hours.

However, another, more basic challenge faces the Kotarakara School: its facilities will not pass inspection to become a member of the nongovernmental educational council. Member schools must have adequate classroom space for each student, and this school has far outgrown its current facilities. Indeed, space is a major problem for all of the more than 235 Adventist schools in India.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the first quarter of 2011 will provide finances to build new classrooms on all three of these campuses—more than 40 new classrooms.

And Churches, Too

In 1978 a small outreach meeting was held underneath the branches of rubber trees in a remote forest in central India. After the meetings ended, many of the new members joined together and built a mud-and-thatch church in which to meet.

Local members have been hoping for the means to build a new, larger building to accommodate those who have joined the church in the past three decades. “I have been at this church for more than 30 years now,” says Mr. George, a local elder. “We have been fasting and praying that a new church would be built to hold our members.”

For years church members have worked to keep this small church building together. They don’t have the resources to build a larger church to hold their growing congregation.

“My husband and I have been praying for many years that a new building may come to our location,” says Taya Williams, one of the local members. “He died earlier this year. But just before [he died], we found out a new church was to be built. He was so happy.”

Your financial support of the World Budget and mission offerings will provide funds for a metal church building to be constructed in the small village of Perayam, as well as at seven other sites across India.

The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to lead people to Jesus can continue in a country as vast as India only with your prayers, your financial support, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

To find out more about the challenges of Adventist Mission, visit AdventistMission.org.



Andrew King is a video producer for the Office of Adventist Mission.

QUESTION: *Why does God appear to be so severe in the Old Testament?*

I confess: I don't always understand God's actions. That doesn't necessarily bother me, because I know His actions flow out of His love, holiness, mercy, and justice—that is to say, from His unique nature. I recognize that human moral values find a point of contact in the character of God and that therefore I should be able to understand most, if not all, of the moral dimensions and implications of His actions. So I should always seek understanding.

Your concern is that in some cases our understanding of what is good or evil appears to be in tension/contradiction with what we read in Scripture. I won't deal with one specific case, but I will share with you some general guidelines that may be useful.

1. *There Is Only One God:* The biblical text makes it clear that the God of both Testaments is the same God. This point hardly needs elaboration. Therefore, we cannot place one against the other by suggesting that in the Old Testament God is a wrathful God, while in the New Testament He is a loving God. The God of Scripture is a God of mercy, whose love is everlasting. Wrath is not a divine attribute, but His reaction to human sin and rebellion as He seeks to save sinners (e.g., Ex. 34:6, 7).

2. *Study Each Case:* There are a good number of cases, particularly in the Pentateuch (the five books of Moses), in which divine wrath appears to be merciless; and some punishments for the violation of certain laws seem too severe (e.g., Ex. 21:15, 17). No one explanation could clarify all of them; it's necessary to study each one by itself within its own context. In most cases we can find a proper moral rationale for the action or the legislation. Others remain somewhat obscure. Comparing the biblical legislation with ancient Near Eastern legal practices reveals that biblical law is more humane. This indicates that God was aiming to elevate the moral values of His people.

3. *God's Condescension:* God addressed His people within the cultural and legal contexts in which they lived in order to raise them to new moral and spiritual heights.

This was a slow and at times painful process in which God came as close as possible to the human condition without sacrificing His moral integrity. He had a clear plan that He proceeded to implement.

He didn't choose one of the nations of the earth to be His people; He decided to create one for Himself. He called Abram, and out of him came 12 tribes. The law of the clans and tribes was very strict, and, in cases of violation, quickly enforced. The unification of those tribes into one nation was not an easy task, even for the Lord. Tribal law was

appropriated and modified by the Lord, who also became its enforcer. In His hands the intention of the law was to protect the interests not of one clan or tribe but of the whole nation. God was responsible for preserving and restoring order within the community. Insubordination and rebellion that could threaten the very existence of the community was not tolerated within the theocracy. The severity of the punishment revealed the seriousness with which God took sin and rebellion, and served as a social deterrent.

The inscrutability of divine will and actions remain with us. There are ways of reading the text that reveal its moral and ethical significance, but I acknowledge that everything is not crystal clear. However, God's actions and laws in the Old Testament were manifestations of His character, and they found their fullest expression in the Person of His Son. The final answer provided by the Bible is the cross of Jesus and His role in the final judgment.

The cosmic judgment will make clear that God was righteous and just in how He dealt with the sin problem by answering the question: "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Gen. 18:25).

The answer then, as now, will be: Yes, He has done right! ●

Good GOD, Bad GOD?



By
ANGEL MANUEL
RODRÍGUEZ

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



The Divine Teacher

By MARK A. FINLEY

Have you ever been perplexed about some decision and wished you could talk directly to Jesus? Have you ever longed for personal guidance in some area of your life? Have you ever desired someone to provide counsel or instruction to guide you in the right direction?

Here's some incredibly good news: When Jesus ascended to heaven, He promised to send His Holy Spirit to His followers. One of the functions of the Holy Spirit is to serve as a teacher and guide. The Holy Spirit reveals truth to those whose minds are open.

This lesson will focus on Christ's promise to His church, and how we can receive the guidance the Holy Spirit provides.

1. What is another name for the Holy Spirit? What is one of the most important functions of the Holy Spirit?

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come" (John 16:13).

The Holy Spirit is known as the _____ of _____ ;
to _____ us into all _____ .

2. How does the Holy Spirit influence the decisions we make?

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you" (John 14:26).

The Holy Spirit will _____ you all things, and bring to
your _____ all things, Jesus said.

3. What primary way does the Holy Spirit guide us?

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

The Holy Spirit guides us through _____ .

God guides us through His Word. The Spirit of God never leads us contrary to the Word of God. The Holy Spirit, who inspired the Bible in the first place, leads us back to the teachings of the Bible. The Bible provides the very principles for the best possible decisions in our lives.



4. In addition to through His Word, how else does the Holy Spirit guide us?

“The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you” (John 14:17).

“And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth” (1 John 5:6).

The Holy Spirit _____ in each believer, and _____ to the truth.

When Jesus ascended to heaven, He sent His gift of the Holy Spirit to His people to reveal truth. The Holy Spirit dwells in each committed Christian to guide us and illuminate our minds in the decision-making process. The Holy Spirit is our divine Teacher.

5. How can we keep from confusing our own thoughts, ideas, and desires with the convictions God’s Spirit brings to our minds?

“If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority” (John 7:17).

The central issue in receiving guidance from the Holy Spirit is doing _____ will.

The key to not confusing our own desires with the Holy Spirit’s guidance is a mind informed by the Word of God and a heart filled with a sincere desire to do God’s will.

6. What difficult decision did Jesus face at the end of His life? How did He solve the conflict between what He naturally wanted and the right thing to do?

“He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will’” (Matt. 26:39).

Jesus prayed: “Not as _____, but as _____.”

7. Where does the Holy Spirit originate? About whom does He testify?

“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me” (John 15:26).

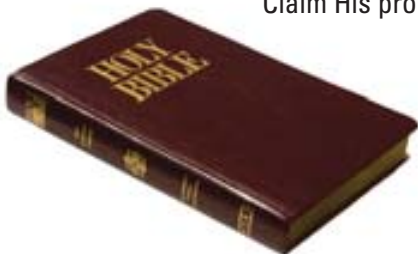
The Holy Spirit originates (proceeds) from the _____.

The Holy Spirit testifies of _____.

The Holy Spirit always leads us to glorify Jesus in each decision. The Spirit proceeding from the Father leads us back to the Father through Jesus Christ. Any so-called Holy Spirit that leads us to focus on ourselves, our gifts, our abilities, or our own experience is an unholy, counterfeit manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

When we kneel before God’s throne, looking to the principles of His Word, claiming Jesus’ promise of the Holy Spirit, desiring to glorify Him and do His will, we can have absolute assurance of His guidance. He will fulfill His Word and “guide us into all truth.” He will “teach” us in the critical decisions of our lives. He will “instruct” us in the way to go.

Why not open your heart to this divine teacher? Are you facing some critical decision? Claim His promises, meet their conditions, and you will receive divine guidance.



Our next study about the Holy Spirit will focus on **“Receiving the Promised Gift.”**

LETTERS



Best Issue Ever

Thank you for your best-ever issue of *Adventist World*, December 2010. I could hardly put it down. So many of the articles are keepers

that I'll have to save the entire issue.

The story "The 'Invisible' Piano," by Wilhelmina Dunbar, and the dedicated life of Diamondola in "The Little Diamond," by Chantal J. Klingbeil, are truly inspiring. I am fascinated with the words Sandra Haynes put to Schubert's tune used for "Ave Maria." They are wonderful! Ted N. C. Wilson's treatise on the sanctuary, "Virtual Reality?" is a good companion to Ellen White's chapter on the subject of the sanctuary in *The Great Controversy*.

There is only one part I don't like. I read Mark Finley's Bible study, "Prevailing Prayer," about Jacob and was surprised to read: "Jacob never saw his parents again." That was not my recollection, so I went to my Bible. Genesis 35:27-29 reveals that Jacob came again to his father, Isaac, who was 180 years of age. Isaac died and "his sons Esau and Jacob buried him." Was Elder Finley just trying to see if anyone was paying attention?

JANET SCHLUNT
*Terre Haute, Indiana,
United States*

Living Lives of Service

First, I thank God for a magazine so blessed as *Adventist World*. I also thank Chantal J. Klingbeil for the beautiful story "The Little Diamond," published in the December 2010 issue.

When I read a story like this, I feel

“We urge all Seventh-day Adventists to get more connected to the Word of God, as Jesus will soon come to collect no others but the righteous.”

—SAMUEL CONTEH, *Freetown, Sierra Leone*

ashamed of myself to see what little I do for God. Stories like this fill us with faith and hope. I live today in a peaceful place; the church can go anytime to speak of Christ to everyone. But complacency leads us to neglect the preaching of the gospel. If I spend a little more of my time in God's work, many people will know Christ and be saved.

GERSON DE SOUZA ANDRADE
Resende, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The interesting story in the December 2010 *Adventist World* about Diamondola and her long work for God shows how one hero of God can bring the good news to many people. Thank you for this story about a time of war when people heard the story of Jesus from the first missionaries.

ULRICH AESHBACHER
Romanshorn, Switzerland



A Change in Words

Thank you for the December 2010 issue of *Adventist World*—particularly for the alternative lyrics for "Ave

Maria" in Exchange of Ideas ("Gracious Redeemer," submitted by Roy

Adams). Please pass along my appreciation to all responsible.

LORRAINE EVERITT
*Swansea, New South Wales,
Australia*

Touched by Remembering

I was brought to tears by the lesson in "Mustaq," by Sudha Khristmukti (October 2010). I remember how I had to copy a book of English by hand because I had no money to buy or photocopy one.

CLARA VILLAR
Iguazú, Argentina

I appreciated the story about Mustaq, and how the other children came to see a different way of relating to him and his desperate need. It's so easy to jump to conclusions and make quick judgments of people. We often don't know what is going on in the background, and very much need the kindness and sensitive interest that is part of the Spirit of Christ. I was glad for the happy ending.

BOB JORGENSON
*Marshall, North Carolina,
United States*

Generally Speaking

I am studying at the undergraduate level in Alexandria, Egypt. Thank you for your writings, for they are a help

LETTERS

in my life. We are a small church here. Pray for the spiritual and numerical growth of the church in Egypt.

ROSSMAN TUTU
Alexandria, Egypt

My wife and I love to read your inspiring articles, especially at a time like this when the prophecies and the signs of the soon return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ are being evidenced every now and then. We urge all Seventh-day Adventists to get more connected to the Word of God, as Jesus will soon come to collect no others but the righteous.

May God continue to bless us all.
SAMUEL CONTEH
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Though led by counsel and guidance by my teachers in secondary school, I joined a gang in my early teens. Drug abuse and disgrace was the key of the gang. But thanks to God, when I visited the *Adventist World* Web site, I met a friend from a Seventh-day Adventist school who frequented my chat room and told me about Christ. That put me on the Adventist road.

NICHOLAS SSENFUMA
Uganda

Over the years *Adventist World* has been a resource and encouragement to me while in medical school. I am now a certified medical doctor. I usually picked up the magazine at the door of my school library.

Thanks for reaching out with your materials.

PHILIP ADEOYE
Ogbomosho, Oyo State, Nigeria

Going Way Back

Thank you for publishing the article about Malta in *Adventist World* (July 2007). We truly appreciate it. Malta belongs to the Italian Union of Churches Conference. Our Maltese families very much enjoy your magazine. News about Seventh-day Adventists is rare here, so most of the families of the church “devour” *Adventist World* as soon as it gets here.

DAVID FERRARO
Malta

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

I read in your magazine about the offer to pray for different requests. Thank you for this ministry. At Friedensau University we have an Institute of Mission Studies. We ask you to pray for our work to spread the gospel and fulfill God's purposes in Europe and beyond.

STEFAN, *Germany*

I joined university in 2008, but after a year had to drop out because of problems with fees. Please pray for me to be able to resume studies in March. My vision is to reach the unreached after the completion of my course.

REUBEN, *Kenya*

Please pray for our brother. Doctors have detected a tumor in his spine. Please pray, first of all, that the Lord will give him faith and the ability to accept Jesus as his personal Savior; and perform a miracle in his life if it is according to God's will.

VITALY, *Russia*

Please keep John in your prayers, that he will seek and serve God with all his soul, heart, and mind. I also need prayer. More prayer, more power!

DEVINA, *United States*

Please include me in your prayers, that I may be able to continue my studies. I am financially constrained. I believe that

God will not leave me nor forsake me, and that He will supply my needs. This is just a matter of testing my faith in Him.

HARLEN, *Philippines*

I am a pastor and have been appointed to two posts: church pastor and elementary school principal. I think it's too big for me. I need the power of the Holy Spirit. I am requesting prayer.

NGAIH, *Myanmar*

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

“Behold, I come quickly...”

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

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EXCHANGE OF IDEAS

MISSIONARY'S LOST BIBLE MAKES

Trip Across the World



On Sabbath, October 9, 1965, Pastor and Mrs. E. T. Gackenheimer were preparing to go to the Nairobi Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kenya, East Africa. They always made elaborate plans for the Sabbath on Friday,

so that there was nothing to be done on that holy day. Gackenheimer had just reached his car when he dropped a sheath of papers he was carrying. Laying his Bible on the roof of the car, he bent and began gathering up the documents. Placing them on the rear seat of the vehicle, he entered and drove away to church.

Upon arrival he reached for his Bible, only to discover that it was missing. His notes for the sermon he was to preach were in that Bible. Quickly returning the six miles back home, he carefully scanned the road for the errant book, but someone apparently had found and taken it to their dwelling, so he preached with another Bible, and without notes. Gackenheimer was greatly distressed over the loss of his treasured Bible because it contained notes for weddings, funerals, and his stewardship work.

On Monday, October 11, he went out and bought another Bible similar to the lost one. Letters were written home to his children telling of his lost Bible and the sorrow he felt.

Nothing more was heard about the lost book. Nothing, that is, until June 8, 2009. On that day an e-mail was received from Mrs. Garcia, a Baptist missionary in Iquique, Chile, South America. She said she was rummaging through a junk store, Cachureos Americanos, in Iquique and saw a Bible with the name E. T. Gackenheimer written in cursive on the front flyleaf. At once she recognized that it was a treasure that had somehow been misplaced.

Back at home she searched the Internet for the name and found Gackenheimer's life story, "Bwana Moto." In the story Garcia found the name of his granddaughter Shandelle Henson. She e-mailed Shandelle. Shandelle, in turn, contacted the family, telling them the wonderful news about her grandfather's Bible.

Two weeks later, after correspondence between Garcia and Audrey Henson, Gackenheimer's daughter in Georgia, the Bible arrived at the Henson home via DHL carrier. There was great excitement, and calls went to other family members. The family met at a local restaurant and had a "grand opening ceremony."

The Bible that had been lost for 45 years was found. God had watched over His Word as it made its way from Africa to the United States, then Chile, and at last back to the United States. What a story could be told of its long, circuitous route of travels were all of the facts only known!

—AUDREY AND J. W. HENSON, *Ringgold, Georgia, United States*

The PEOPLE'S PLACE

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THIS?



SUBMITTED BY WELTON ARAÚJO

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Nnadozie Wogu is a theology student of Babcock University in Nigeria. He spent his summer break in Cameroon, where he canvassed (sold) Seventh-day Adventist books. During his time there he was asked to be a student pastor in the Deido, Douala, Cameroon church. Wogu conducted several youth programs

this past summer, including athletic events for the youth and children's worship in church. Wogu enjoyed his time in Cameroon, and he is excited about continuing his studies. He is pictured in these two photos: one is taken after a football match with the Adventist youth (Wogu is in the yellow shirt, middle of the group); the other is taken after a children's program.



SUBMITTED BY NNADOZIE WOGU

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"If you are a non-Christian, this life is as good as it gets. If you are a Christian, this life is as bad as it gets. Morning is coming! Be there!"

—Pastor Jerry Lutz, at the end of his sermon "Faith in the Dark," May 22, 2010, at the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

We are looking for brief submissions in these categories:

ADVENTIST QUOTES (profound or spontaneous)

ADVENTIST LIFE (short anecdotes)

FAMILY OF GOD (JPEG photos of church members doing community service, worshipping, singing, etc.)

Please send your submissions to The People's Place, *Adventist World*, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600; fax: 301-680-6638; e-mail: marank@gc.adventist.org. Please include phone number. Submissions will not be acknowledged or returned.

ANSWER: In a neighborhood of Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, the nearby Seventh-day Adventist Step group distributes the evangelism book of the year entitled *Ainda Existe Esperança* ("There's Still Hope"). The group, consisting of about 40 regular members, has been meeting together since 2001 in a rented house. They are hoping to purchase the property, and would welcome prayers.