

September 2012

ADVENTIST WORLD



Families First



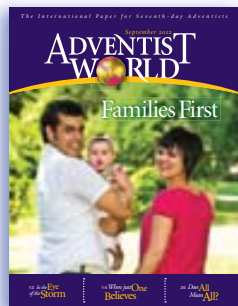
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COVER PHOTO BY BENJAMIN EARWICKER

You can find the value and importance of a thing by learning how rare it is.

Since the first edition of *Adventist World* reached believers around the globe in September 2005, there have been only two “themed” editions of the 85 issues now published. In January 2011 most of that month’s edition was dedicated to a call to revival and reformation issued by the leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Millions of Adventists in more than 140 countries read the solemn appeal to seek the Lord with earnest, open hearts, and to prepare for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

This seventh anniversary edition of *Adventist World* is dedicated to an equally vital topic—the Adventist family. As you browse these pages, you will find our focus unmistakable: the editorial staff of this magazine and the leaders of the world church are deliberately highlighting the most important building block of healthy, productive congregations. It’s again our prayer that millions of believers will take these words to heart—that they will pray for and work for strong, stable, nurturing Adventist families.

Healthy families were once the standard assumption of nations, communities, and churches. We naively thought that the virtue, training, commitments, and social strength characteristic of strong families would endure without education and hard work. The family itself would care for those things. But the tolls taken by wars, poverty, disease, media, culture, and urbanization have frayed the sacred bonds of the divinely ordained family. Now as never before we need the support and encouragement of other believers to keep our marriages strong, wisely parent our children, and build characters consistent with life in God’s eternal kingdom.

Pray your way through the pages that follow. In whatever life circumstances you now find yourself, hear the call to love and serve those related to you by blood—and the millions of believer families related to you by the blood of Jesus.



Bill Kautz

WORLD REPORT

Herbert Blomstedt, *Adventist Conductor,* Honored by Sweden’s Monarch



FILE PHOTO BY LARRY BECKER

CLASSICAL LEADER: Adventist musician Herbert Blomstedt (left) was awarded Sweden’s Seraphim Medal in June for his contributions to the country’s musical and cultural landscape. Here, the veteran conductor accepts the Weniger Award for Excellence at the church’s Loma Linda University campus church in January.

■ Maestro Herbert Blomstedt’s home country of Sweden recognized the veteran musician for his notable career as a symphony conductor.

King Carl XVI Gustaf recently awarded the Seraphim Medal to Blomstedt, a lifelong Seventh-day Adventist. A June 15, 2012, announcement from Sweden’s Royal Palace stated Blomstedt was recognized for “highly outstanding contributions within Swedish music.”

The medal is one of the country’s highest civilian honors. Bestowed directly by the king, it recognizes “outstanding services of a humanitarian nature or of general benefit to society,” according to the Swedish Royal Court.

“I am of course delighted,” Blomstedt told the Adventist Church’s Swedish Union Conference, adding that while he typically downplays such recognition, this time is an exception.

Blomstedt conducted his first performance with the Royal

Continued on next page ▶

WORLD REPORT

Philharmonic Orchestra in 1954. During his career he held posts as chief conductor of the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra, the Danish and Swedish Radio Symphony orchestras, Dresdner Staatskapelle, and the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra.

Over the years Blomstedt has generously contributed to the Adventist Church's musical landscape, as well as its educational system.

Blomstedt also used his public spotlight to share his faith in God.

"We who know Herbert personally also know how he has always seen his music as a way to bring glory to God and as a witness to the grace and majesty of our Creator," said Bertil Wiklander, president of the church's Trans-European Division (TED).

"He has more than once testified to how the secret of his success is his Christian faith and, in particular, the blessing of the Sabbath, which has brought him rest and recreation," Wiklander said.

Blomstedt was unable to attend the June 15 medal ceremony at the Royal Palace of Stockholm because of a prior conducting appointment. The 85-year-old continues to maintain an active career, having led the National Symphony Orchestra, in Washington, D.C., in a series of concerts earlier this year, among other appointments.

To read Herbert Blomstedt's cover story in Adventist Review visit:

www.AdventistReview.org

—reported by Rainer Refsback/TED News

Adventist Leaders Get Risk Management Insights

■ Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders representing 18 countries in Africa, Asia, and Europe met in Cape



ARM PHOTO

RISK MANAGEMENT: Bob Kyte, president of Adventist Risk Management, addresses delegates at a seminar in Cape Town, South Africa.

Town, South Africa, in June to share ways to be better stewards of the resources of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Hosted by Adventist Risk Management (ARM), a church-owned company, the 250 attendees engaged in discussions and participated in seminars on practical risk-management issues such as coverage for church employees, volunteers, and activities, as well as transportation risks, internal controls, and fire safety. The ARM leadership team also presented specialty topics on legal, medical professional, and governance and executive liabilities.

The technical presentations, by R. Clifford Jones, associate dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, focused on Christian leadership and integrity.

"The focus of the entire conference was centered on stewardship and Christian leadership in managing all of the church's resources," said William Chunestudy, an ARM resource education specialist and conference organizer. "There was a strong emphasis on the human resources of the church—how all ministries can work together to achieve the mission of the Adventist Church."

ARM president Bob Kyte during his welcome address entitled "It's All About Ministry" encouraged church leaders to strive to find better ways to be wise stewards of the church's resources and to find better ways to care for their staff and property.

"We live in challenging times. Weather is unpredictable. Problems challenge the church in many ways," said Kyte. "We must always take advantage of opportunities to learn how to better protect the resources of the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

Kyte said ARM's ministry was to protect the ministries of the Adventist Church through resources such as the international risk management conference.

Babcock University Opens Medical School

■ A new Seventh-day Adventist school of medicine in Nigeria is the denomination's first in Africa.

The Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., School of Medicine and Babcock University Teaching Hospital was inaugurated in June during commencement

services at church-owned Babcock University (BU) in Lagos, Nigeria.

Adventist education and health ministries officials say the new school signals a growing commitment by Africans to build self-sufficiency in addressing the sweeping public health challenges faced on the continent.

The launch of a medical school in Nigeria, while not an immediate fix, is “a clear start” toward a “health-care delivery system yet unrivaled in Africa,” said BU president James Makinde.

The School of Medicine operates out of Babcock University College of Health and Medical Sciences, which also includes Schools of Nursing and Public Health. Administrators say Schools of Pharmacy and Dentistry are on the horizon. The school is accredited to grant a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (M.B.B.S.) degree, the first professional degree a medical student can earn studying at a university that follows the British model of post-secondary education.

The 37 students currently enrolled in the M.B.B.S. program have been studying since January, when Babcock University administrators first requested a public inauguration for the fledgling medical school. But at the time, the official launch was prevented by yet unmet accreditation requirements and unrest after the Nigerian government lifted a gas subsidy, said Lisa Beardsley-Hardy, Education Department director for the Adventist world church.

“We needed to verify that [accrediting] conditions had been met. They have now been substantially met,” Beardsley-Hardy said. The infrastructure for the medical school is now nearly complete, she added.

Education Department officials worked closely with the world church’s Health Ministries Department to set

benchmarks for the medical school.

Health Ministries Department director Allan Handysides, who has supported medical mission work in Africa for decades, echoed Beardsley-Hardy’s endorsement.

“I have seldom seen such remarkable progress in such short time at any of our other institutions. The team at Babcock has taken the suggestions and guidance given seriously, and the result is outstanding,” Handysides said.

Chairing the proceedings was Iheanyichukwu Okoro, BU senior vice president and provost of the College of Health and Medical Sciences, where the School of Medicine resides. Conspicuous among the assembled guests, and honoring the assembly with words of commendation and a commitment to continued partnership, was Kabiyesi Oba Michael Olufemi Mojeed Sonuga, king of Ilishan, the

one who donated the land on which the medical school now stands.

Presenting the full endorsement of Nigeria’s National Universities Commission for BU’s new undertaking was Julius Okojie, executive secretary of the commission. His affirmation was illustrative of BU’s excellent relationship and close cooperation with its various publics, further indicated by greetings received from the chair of county local government Femi Adeniyi, the presence of the permanent secretary for the minister of labor and productivity Chief Wogu, as well as representatives of other state and private universities from around the Federal Republic of Nigeria and all across the African continent.

—reported by Lael Caesar, Adventist World associate editor, and Elizabeth Lechleitner and Ansel Oliver, Adventist News Network



BABCOCK UNIVERSITY

AT DEDICATION CEREMONY—Dr. Ben Carson, left, and his wife, Candy, at dedication ceremonies for The Benjamin S. Carson School of Medicine and Babcock University Teaching Hospital outside of Lagos, Nigeria.

A 10-day international Bible conference brought 304 Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders to key locations in Israel during the month of June 2012. But these Holy Land travelers brought home far more than photographs and souvenirs: they returned with an expanded understanding of the land of Jesus and the nature of humankind.

“Committed to a biblical worldview, more than 300 Adventist theologians and administrators from around the world gathered together to explore biblical, theological, historical, missiological, and scientific perspectives on anthropology, to foster fellowship and unity among theologians and among theologians and administrators, and to be better equipped to serve the Lord and His church,” a consensus statement, approved by delegates, read. “Through the study, discussion, and fellowship this conference provided, it was hoped that participants would experience a renewed sense of belonging and be stimulated to make further valuable contributions to the world church through their teaching and ministry.”

Delegates said they “also proclaim that the Adventist understanding of human nature and its denial of anthropological dualism is deeply rooted in and nurtured by biblical anthropology,” according to the statement, the full text of which is available online at <http://bit.ly/MkxpBQ>.

Earlier, on June 11, delegates gathered in northern Israel to begin a period of theological discussion and study tours in a land many were seeing for the first time.

“The hope we have is what makes this conference so special,” said Ted N. C. Wilson, General Conference president, in brief remarks during an outdoor plenary session on the shores of the Galilee, known in Hebrew as the Kinneret.

One Whole Humanity

Third International Bible Conference focuses on biblical anthropology

MARK A. KELLNER, news editor, reporting from Jerusalem, Israel, with Adventist World staff

BRI director Artur Steele, also a general vice president of the world church, opened the conference with a plenary address. “Exploring the nature of anthropological dualism should be our work,” Steele asserted, adding that a proper understanding of the nature of humanity “touches on the relationship between a man and a woman” and on “the relationship of humans to modern technology.”

Steele added, “We need to explore the significance of biblical anthropology and how it impacts all of our doctrines.” Adventists are called to address the “challenge of world religions that are basically dualistic” in their view of humans, he reminded the delegates.

Morning devotionals beside the lake were also featured in the Galilee portion of the event. Euro-Asia Division president Guillermo Biaggi and South Pacific Division president Barry Oliver called delegates to personal connection with the Lord who once walked the shores of Galilee. Oliver reminded delegates that God, in the person of Jesus, “has been one with us

and [has been] one of us. Experiencing His presence is dependent on seeking His Person, and that can only be done through the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Speaking to a June 16, 2012, congregation of more than 300 Seventh-day Adventist educators, theologians, and administrators, Wilson called on educators “to lead a positive revolution on your campuses—a revolution back to the Bible with an historicist position and with an historical-biblical approach.”

His message (see sermon text at <http://bit.ly/L2ERQj>) also stressed the importance of the Adventist understanding of the sanctuary service, which, he said, holds the ultimate answer to the two distortions of Christian belief, legalism and “cheap grace.”

Delegates to the 10-day conference strongly affirmed the president’s challenge.

“I believe that his call is timely,” said Leslie Pollard, president of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. “On campuses everywhere we have an opportunity to make an impact on young lives. Oakwood University accepts this challenge.”



DELEGATES GATHER (left): Some of the more than 300 Seventh-day Adventist scholars, theologians, educators, and administrators who gathered in Jerusalem, Israel, for the church's Third International Bible Conference in June 2012. **BROTHERS IN CHRIST** (right): General Conference President Ted Wilson greets Raji Qumsiyah, a Seventh-day Adventist shopkeeper, on Manger Square in old Bethlehem.

Said Frank Hasel, Theology Department dean at Schloss Bogenhofen Seminary in Austria, "Ted Wilson's message was not aiming at political correctness but had the heartbeat of a person who deeply cares for the spiritual health of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. As a theologian, teacher, and dean I was encouraged to be a person who . . . will foster a deeper love for the Bible, igniting a positive spiritual revolution that receives its power from the living Word of God."

According to Ellen G. White Estate associate director Cindy Tutsch, Wilson's sermon struck a responsive chord: "I appreciated Ted Wilson's challenge to look to the Scriptures to find authoritative answers to questions of cosmology," she said. "His emphasis on the sanctuary as the key to unlocking a deeper understanding of Jesus, including the relationship of the sanctuary to other Christ-centered doctrines, needs wider proclamation!"

Gilbert Wari, West-Central Africa Division president and board chair of Babcock University, pointed to the historical continuity of Wilson's mes-

sage with classic Adventist statements: "This sermon, based on the teaching of the sanctuary, has reminded me and repositioned the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its mission to the world as understood and preached by the Adventist pioneers."

After the morning worship with conference delegates, Wilson and his wife, Nancy, ventured across Jerusalem to connect with another special audience: hundreds of Adventists from around Israel anxious to meet the world church leader.

"It is a privilege to be here in this wonderful city," Wilson said to hundreds of Adventists who came from all over Israel to the worship service. The congregation featured Israelis, Ethiopians, Russians, Moldovans, Filipinos, and others, a veritable United Nations-class gathering of believers.

Fresh from addressing theologians and scholars on the need for a Bible-based "revolution" in Adventist education, Wilson assured the congregation that while he was here to attend the conference, "I wanted to meet you, too."

The Sabbath morning worship fol-

lowed the pattern of many Adventist services around the world, with the added flavor of songs in Hebrew and announcements and preaching translated into Russian, spoken by many in the congregation. Both Wilson and Julio Mendez, Jr., secretary-treasurer of the Israel Field, relied on Oleg Elkin to render their English into Russian, although Wilson, who spent two years as president of the Euro-Asia Division, offered more than a few sentences in Russian as well.

Representing the world's 17 million Seventh-day Adventists, Wilson met June 18, with Israel's deputy foreign minister, the Honorable Danny Ayalon. The session included an appreciation for the more than 300 Adventist theologians, scholars, and administrators visiting Israel for the Bible conference.

"We have known about the Seventh-day Adventists for a long time, and there is no doubt, I think, by anyone, that we share a common heritage and belief, and also a common destiny," said Ayalon, who served for four and a half years as Israel's ambassador to the United States. ■

I am delighted that *Adventist World* has devoted its September 2012 issue to the *family*. The family is the backbone of society and the church. Families help bring stability and encouragement, and provide a strong foundation for accomplishing the work God has given us to do.

This strong foundation is built upon the Word of God, as illustrated in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount: "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them. . . . He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock" (Luke 6:47, 48). The Bible forms a strong platform for God's instruction to the family as it faces the challenges of life.

When we have a strong connection with Christ, we are drawn to Him as the center of all good things, and that brings us closer together as families. The spiritual emphasis of family worship, singing and praying together, brings about a spiritual connection that will withstand anything the family may face. More than just an over-used phrase, "The family that prays together stays together" is really true!

In addition, we are blessed with inspired spiritual counsel through the writings of Ellen White. "God would have our families symbols of the family in heaven," she wrote. "Let parents and children bear this in mind every day, relating themselves to one another as members of the family of God. Then their lives will be of such a character as to give to the world an object lesson of what families who love God and keep His commandments may be. Christ will be glorified; His peace and grace and love will pervade the family circle like a precious perfume" (*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, Nov. 17, 1896).

By TED N. C. WILSON

Strong *in His* Power

Families strengthen the church and society



DANIEL BOTTNER

THREE GENERATIONS: Ted and Nancy Wilson share a moment with one of their three daughters, and one of their grandchildren.

Respecting One Another

We must also keep in mind the importance of husbands and wives showing great love and respect for each other. “Each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband,” Paul writes in Ephesians 5:33, NLT.* We have to treat our spouses with the love and respect that is indicated in the Scriptures. This is made possible as we submit our lives to the Lord and His power, and ask Him to help us as individuals and to guide our interactions with each other.

When religious theory finds a practical application shown in relationships and work activity in and outside of the home, the connection with Christ takes on new meaning; much more than a theoretical idea, it becomes the basis for living as a family that finds meaning in God’s power. With Christ as the foundation, the family is secure.

Importance of Communication

Communication is vital for healthy relationships, and the encouragement that comes from talking with family has a remedial power. As family members talk together, exchanging thoughts and ideas, it’s important that each person feels safe and comfortable discussing many subjects within the confines of the family. This type of open communication should continue throughout life. Strong loyalty and love for each other is a source of real strength.

Even though our three daughters are now married, we still stay in close contact with them and their families. Today in some parts of the world, cell phones and other electronic devices provide easy ways to stay in contact with family members, especially when you live some distance apart.

Family traditions and a commitment to spending time together are also important. Hiking and mountain climbing are traditions that continue in our family. We enjoy being

“When religious theory finds a practical application . . . , the connection with Christ takes on new meaning.”

together during special holiday times, such as Thanksgiving celebrations in November in the United States and Christmas in December. And we make sure to take time out of our busy schedules for some type of summer vacation together.

Families and the Church

Families are important because they are a reminder of God’s great love for us and of the wonderful privilege we have of belonging to the larger family of God. The wealth of blessing that comes when nurtured and nurturing families are integral parts of the local church is beyond estimation. Having Christ-centered, closely connected families as part of the local church family provides a powerful backbone to the functioning of the church and its evangelistic outreach.

In turn, the church can nurture the family spiritually and socially; bringing strong support to family life that can be a great blessing. This is why the church has a Family Ministries Department, providing valuable resources that help support the family (visit them at family.adventist.org).

The local church provides nurture in a number of ways, such as forming family prayer groups, organizing activities that encourage families, and through the training of pastors and other church leaders. It can also pro-

vide counseling and education for families in need, abused women, parents wrestling with the challenges of raising children, and other challenging situations. Youth groups can be organized for encouragement of younger members of church families. Older members can adopt young families to mentor and encourage. Church members can learn the names of the youth in the church and bring encouragement as they address the young person by name and let them know they are praying for them.

The church is also a supportive place for those who have experienced broken family relationships. When the church family steps in to bring encouragement and hope, healing takes place and draws those who have experienced brokenness even closer to their church family and to Christ.

Singles and the Church

A warm, hospitable church family can also be a wonderful place for singles to worship, socialize, and feel at home—whatever their plans, or not, for marriage. However, if you are looking for a lifelong soul mate, church is one of the best places to be. I know, because that’s where I found mine!

When I was completing a Master of Science in Public Health degree at Loma Linda University, I usually worshipped at the University church. One Sabbath I entered the church with an older woman I had met at the hospital the day before and had invited to church. As we entered, I saw an open place next to a beautiful young woman, Nancy Vollmer, and her grandmother, Mrs. Marion Vollmer, whom I had known for years, since she and her husband, Dr. H. W. Vollmer, were good friends of my parents and grandparents. I had seen Nancy before, but had never met her. This all seemed like a providential opportunity.

I leaned over and greeted Mrs.



A One-Day Church

The Bride of Tola

Vollmer, hoping she would introduce me to Nancy. I learned later that Grandma Vollmer had whispered to Nancy, “That’s Teddy Wilson. Stick with me, and after church I’ll introduce you!” After visiting together in the foyer for some time after the service ended, I knew Nancy was someone I definitely wanted to get to know better! About a year later we became engaged when Nancy and I visited her parents in Asheville, North Carolina. We learned that Grandma Vollmer and Grandma Wilson fasted and prayed that weekend since they knew we were visiting Nancy’s home together. Praying Christian families are really special. A few months later we were married—37 years ago this month.

Families and Society

In today’s world the biblical model of families is increasingly under attack. While society is pushing other models, as Seventh-day Adventists we must be foremost in defending the aspects and blessings of the biblically appointed, heterosexual marriage in a family setting.

Strong, vibrant Christian families can be a wonderful witness in their churches, neighborhoods, places of work and school, and in society as a whole. God wants families to be strong in His power, strengthening both the church and society, and sharing the glorious hope and good news of Christ’s soon return. ■

* Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

“Don’t be late, or you could end up like the bride of Tola!”

It’s a common warning in Nicaragua—words that mothers throw at their daughters, and bosses call out to tardy employees. No one wants to end up like the bride of Tola, a young woman left at the altar when her fiancé abandoned her to marry his former girlfriend.

Arlin Tatiana is *directora* of the small but growing Seventh-day Adventist congregation in the town of Tola. The congregation’s current home is beneath a mango tree near the home of a member. They have been dreaming of and raising funds for a new church building.

“If we had a building close to town where young families could come and bring their children, we would have more than a hundred members,” said Tatiana. Almost all of the current 25 members are young, such as 24-year-old Tatiana, and eager for their church to serve their young friends and neighbors. Already 15 children are registered in Sabbath school.

Through a marvelous chain of miracles they had placed a small down payment on a plot of land near the center of town, part of a major new housing development.

“Hundreds of young families will live here, and they all will need our church,” said Tatiana’s husband, Hermoso. “We have been trying very hard to raise the money to pay for the land, but we are still short more than US\$5,000. All our members are praying, as is the man who owns the land!”

“The mission president says that they have received a donation

that might help us pay for the land,” added Tatiana. “But if we do not get the money soon, we will end up like the bride of Tola!”

That afternoon we visited the prospective church site with Darrell Hardy, Maranatha’s vice president for construction. He listened to Arlin and Hermoso, and made a couple calls on his cell phone.

“The mission treasurer has agreed to pay the full \$5,000, and your first check is ready,” Darrell told the group under the mango tree. “I’ll put you on the list for a new One-Day Church. No bride of Tola for you!”



BRENDA DUERKSEN

READY TO BUILD (top): Arlin and Hermoso display the check that will allow them to buy property on which to build their new One-Day Church. **ON SITE (bottom):** Arlin Tatiana speaks with Darrell Hardy about details for beginning the project.

The One-Day Church program is a collaborative effort between the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI), and Maranatha Volunteers International. These stories come to you each month from Maranatha storyteller Dick Duerksen.



Ted N. C. Wilson is president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Silver Spring, Maryland, U.S.A.

A Family Affair

Parents play a vital role in teenagers' safety.

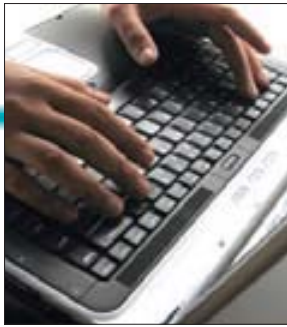
By ALLAN R. HANDYSIDES and PETER N. LANDLESS

SANJA GUENERO

MIGUEL UGALDE



NATE STEINER



Our teenagers are learning to drive, and we have warned them of the dangers of alcohol and also the risk of being a passenger with someone who is driving under the influence. Are there other issues we should address in order to best equip them to become safe drivers?

There are many stresses for both parents and teenagers when driving instruction is taking place.

Some interesting findings on the topic were recently published in the United States from research done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).^{*} Teen risk factors associated with motor vehicle accident fatalities actually declined between 1991 and 2011, specifically in regard to not wearing a seat belt and riding in a vehicle with a driver who had been drinking. It's nevertheless sobering to note that one in three teen deaths is caused by auto accidents.

The same survey noted a 70 percent drop in the number of students who rode without a seat belt, and a 20 percent drop in those who traveled with a driver who had taken alcohol. Between 1997 and 2011 there was a 53 percent decrease in the number of students who drove after drinking alcohol. These statistics are not ideal, but nevertheless denote a positive trend.

Technology Risks

In the first annual study of technology-associated risks, data from the 2010-2011 survey showed that one in

three teens sent a text message or an e-mail while driving within the previous 30 days of the survey. This attempt at multitasking is a cause of distraction and a major risk for drivers. The trend is occurring despite the fact that 44 states have passed laws banning texting and e-mailing while driving. Motor vehicle accidents, however, remain the number-one cause of death among teenagers. Caution and counsel your teenagers against texting and driving!

Although there are many benefits to the amazing communication technology available today, these advances have come at a price. We're living in the most "connected" generation ever, but despite the iPhone, iPod, iPad, and instant messaging, in some respects young people are growing up emotionally and socially disconnected, with ever-decreasing "eye" contact!

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is also on the increase. This same technology-risk survey found that 16 percent of the students had been bullied via e-mail, chat rooms, Web sites, and instant or text messages, and that cyberbullying occurs most commonly among White females in tenth grade.

Tobacco and Marijuana Use

An analysis of additional data studied between 2009 and 2011 showed no significant drop in the current cigarette use among students (19 versus 18 percent); during the same time period, marijuana use increased among teenag-

ers from 21 to 23 percent, and has become more common than current cigarette use. These are worrying trends.

The Adult Connection

These statistics and data bring into sharp focus the importance of close connectedness between parents and teenagers in order to promote resilience and resistance to these at-risk behaviors. In addition to the connectedness with adults of significance, teenagers need to be anchored to positive values, such as those found in committed Christian families. It's vital for families to spend quality time together communicating, sharing, playing, and praying.

Young people need mentoring as well as encouragement to participate in service initiatives. These activities have been shown to further strengthen resilience, reduce at risk behaviors, and may even save lives on the road. It is, after all, a family affair. ■

* D. K. Eaton et al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2011," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Surveillance Summaries* 61, no. 4 (June 8, 2012): 1-162.



Allan R. Handysides, a board-certified gynecologist, is director of the General Conference Health Ministries Department.

Peter N. Landless, a board-certified nuclear cardiologist, is an associate director of the General Conference Health Ministries Department.

By GERALD A. KLINGBEIL

In the Eye of the Storm

Keeping our families off the rocks

Imagine a violent storm on the Mediterranean Sea some 2,000 years ago: a small wooden vessel desperately trying to stay afloat; sailors bailing out water, taking down the remains of a torn mainsail, rowing hard to reach their destination. In between the raging waves and angry clouds the hint of a coastline suddenly appears. It is both good news and bad news. Proximity to the coast means quieter waters and—hopefully—survival. It can, however, also mean treacherous rocks that may destroy the fragile boat and result in the loss of all life. The sea foams viciously; spray fills the air. The captain makes a desperate decision. Not knowing his exact position, he decides to let down the anchors in order to keep the boat from being crushed by rocks and reefs. Three, four sailors heave one, then two, finally three heavy stone anchors overboard. The ropes connecting the anchors to the boat tighten. Will they hold? Will the anchors keep the vessel from crushing into the rocks on the shoreline?

Ancient anchors are fascinating. They were heavy, they often contained inscriptions, and they served an important function in a time when maritime travel and commerce were vital to link regions that were difficult to reach by land. Some months ago I saw some Roman anchors at the site of Caesarea Maritima, the city built by Herod the Great on the coast of the Mediterranean, that got me thinking.

Stormy Relations

Elkanah knew storms—especially family storms.

After he had married Hannah, they had waited many years for the hoped-for child—but it never came. Without an heir and desperate to secure the future of his family, Elkanah finally took a second wife, Peninnah. She bore him children and constantly let Hannah, the first wife, know about it (1 Sam. 1:2, 6). At the same time Elkanah loved Hannah more than Peninnah (verses 4, 8). You

remember the story: a recipe for stormy relationships and an unhappy family.

First Samuel 1 tells the story of the annual family visit to Shiloh, the place where the tabernacle was located and where every Israelite had to appear once a year to offer a sacrifice. We find Hannah sobbing uncontrollably in the sanctuary (verse 10). Eli, the priest serving at the sanctuary, thinks that she is drunk and strongly reprimands her (verses 13, 14). Soundlessly her mouth moves as she pours out her heartache before the Lord. And then it happens: “O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head” (verse 11). In the midst of the storm Hannah throws out an anchor. Her vow is very specific and, considering Israelite law, needed to be ratified by her husband (Num. 30:7-9). I wonder what she felt as she heard the assuring words of Eli the priest: “Go in peace” (1 Sam. 1:17). Did her heart leap? Did hope let down a tiny shoot into the parched dry soil of her anguished heart? What did she tell Elkanah? We are not told—we know only that Elkanah *did not* veto her vow and that God *did* remember her (verses 19, 20).

Sunshine

At the end of every storm there is sunshine.

The birth of little Samuel (whose name means “God has





ANCHOR DOWN: Ancient anchors found during the underwater excavations of Caesarea Maritima, close to the Mediterranean Sea, in Israel.

heard”) must have brought sunshine and joy into Hannah’s and Elkanah’s life. God had truly heard their heart cry and they were ready to honor their promise. We are not too sure how long Israelite women generally nursed their children. According to ancient Near Eastern texts a child might not be weaned until 3 or 4 years old (cf. 2 Macc. 7:27).¹ The years pass quickly, and Hannah spends her time judiciously with little Samuel. Pouring all her love and wisdom into a few short years, she lays a foundation that is rock-solid.

Hannah knew something about Shiloh that we, as readers, are only privy to know *after* she has delivered the child into Eli’s care at the sanctuary. As the narrative unfolds we are told that Eli’s sons—the next generation of priests—were “corrupt” men (1 Sam. 2:12-17).

Anchored in Love

How would you feel if you knew what Hannah knew about the situation at Shiloh? I think I would have tried to renegotiate the vow with God. After all, God cannot really be pleased knowing that a child will be subject to evil and wicked influences. Most likely Hannah could have negotiated a later date when Samuel was to come before the Lord. She could have even rationalized her way out of this vow using Bible texts.

And yet that’s not what she does. Since she has found her anchor in God and has spent three or four years building a solid foundation in Samuel’s heart, she returns her

most precious gift to the Giver of all gifts. She seems to know—intuitively and by experience—that this was God’s child and that He would take care of him.

Yes, God gave her more children (verse 21). And yes, she would see Samuel at least once a year when she brought his new robe that she had carefully spun, woven, and tailored during the quiet months at home (verse 19). But this was God’s child, called for a special purpose and enrolled in a unique training academy.

Our Anchor

These days families all over the world find themselves in heavy storms.

We keep so busy, and we never have sufficient time. We are so distracted and have a hard time understanding one another. We struggle to provide the best for our children and forget that our best has nothing to do with gadgets, cars, or costly vacations. We need an anchor that keeps us from crashing into the rocks surrounding our ship.

Hebrews 6:19 uses the anchor metaphor in an intriguing way: “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain” (NIV).² This hope is not built on people or things or even our faith and commitment. It holds on to Jesus, our high priest, who has entered the sanctuary to plead on our behalf.

Hannah hung on by faith—even when she faced the prospect of putting her God-given son into the hands of a weak, albeit well-meaning, old priest in Shiloh. Our families, the good ones, the average ones, the problematic or even dysfunctional ones, can hang on because they can claim the Anchor that holds them together and keeps them away from the rocks that threaten to destroy the vessel.

It’s time to let the anchor down—and hang on. ■

¹ David T. Tsumura, *The First Book of Samuel*, New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007), pp. 128, 129. Tsumura mentions the Egyptian “Instruction of Any.”

² Texts credited to NIV are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



Gerald A. Klingbeil is an associate editor of *Adventist World*. Together with his wife, Chantal, they enjoy watching their three daughters riding out the storms of teenagehood.

By KAREN HOLFORD

Jason married Jenny after he left the church during his college years. Ten years later he came back. Jenny, however, doesn't believe in God, and she's very worried about what Jason's rediscovery of his faith will mean for their marriage.

Rachel joined her local Adventist church after a short, intensive evangelistic campaign. Her husband, Tom, was working night shifts at the time and couldn't join her. He's now very confused by her new faith and her "strange," restricted lifestyle. He's also concerned about the effect it's having on his home life.

Pippa's ex-husband has the children every other weekend. He takes them to his large and lively church on Sundays, and she takes them to her tiny, rural church on Sabbaths when they're at home. Pippa tries to make Sabbaths special, but she knows the children prefer their dad's church.

Ian and Helen married after graduating from their Adventist college. Helen's faith wavered when her father was fired from his ministerial position for sexual misconduct. She was horrified at his behavior and embarrassed to face other church members. Her trust in the church evaporated. Although Ian attends church regularly, Helen hasn't been to church for more than eight years.

Four different families in which only one partner or parent is an Adventist. Four families struggling with the spiritual division in their home. How can we listen to their hopes and concerns and find ways to support them?

Their Concerns

Those who are "spiritually single" (Adventists married to partners who have a different faith or no faith at all) contend with a number of concerns:

- They feel spiritually isolated because it's difficult to be involved in church activities apart from Sabbath mornings.

When Just One BELIEVES

How can we support families when only one parent is an Adventist?

- Getting to church on Sabbath morning is also sometimes difficult, because of the needs and wishes of the other family members.

- They often feel guilty for not being more involved, but attending numerous church events distresses their partners and sometimes leads to arguments and resentment.

- Other church members are sometimes critical of the difficult decisions they have to make in order to balance church and family, and they feel judged, criticized, and misunderstood.

- They want to invite their spouses and children to church activities and social events, but embarrassing and painful past experiences make them afraid to bring their family members along.

Their Hopes

- They hope and pray that their partners and children will eventually come to church and choose to follow Jesus.

- They hope that church leaders will plan events at which their whole family will feel comfortable.

- They hope that church members will be more understanding, accepting, and sensitive to their unique situations and needs.

The Non-Adventist Partner

In order to minister to the whole family, we need to understand the struggles and hopes of the non-Adventists too:

- Maybe their diet has suddenly changed, and they don't like being vegetarian.

- Saturdays used to be family time, and now they spend it apart because they can't find acceptable things to do together.

- They no longer feel like they are the most important person in their partner's life.

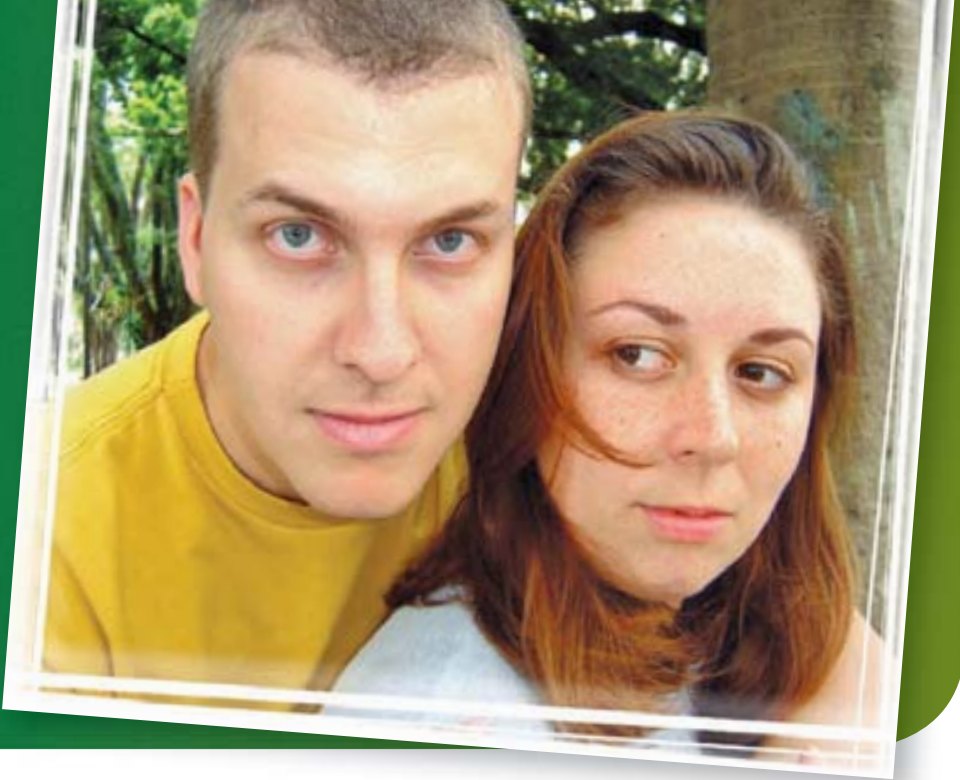
- Church absorbs so much of their spouse's time, money, and energy that they sometimes feel as if their spouse is having an affair with the church!

- Things that seemed normal before—such as taking their children to ball games or shopping in the mall on Saturdays—now upset their partner or cause an argument.

- They feel resentful and defensive when their lifestyle choices are judged and criticized by others.

What Can You Do?

There are spiritually single people in all our churches, so how can we determine their needs and ways to support them? And how might we



reach out sensitively to their spouses and children? Here are a few ideas:

Nurture understanding. Invite spiritually single people to help other church members understand their issues. Ask them to talk about what life is like for them as well as their specific concerns, hopes, and prayer requests. Or they could compose a written list and share it anonymously with the pastor, leadership team, or wider congregation.

Listen. Be supportive and nonjudgmental. Spiritually single spouses are often managing a complicated balancing act between their loyalty to their partners and to their church. Respect the challenges they face, trust their judgment, and accept them wholeheartedly, even when you don't totally understand the choices they make.

Consider the children. Imagine what it's like for the children as they try to obey God as well as love, support, and respect two parents with very different beliefs, values, and lifestyles. They feel incredibly torn. They need love, understanding, and support. Don't make them feel guilty for spending Sabbath with their non-Adventist parent from time to time.

Keep responsibilities minimal. Be careful not to place too many responsi-

bilities or stress on spiritually single members. Their partners may become resentful if they're involved in too many church activities. Be understanding if they turn down a request to help.

Offer practical help. Along with praying for them, also offer practical help, such as financial assistance with enrolling their children in Adventist schools or sending them to summer camp. Provide help during times of personal crises, such as home damage following a storm, a car breakdown, illness, or unemployment.

Encourage group meetings. The spiritually single members in your church might like to get together once a month to talk, pray, and offer one another emotional and spiritual support.

Create visitor-friendly events. Ask the Adventist spouses what activities would attract their partners. Possibilities include sports days, hikes, camping trips, picnics, marriage seminars, and community service work. Provide social events at which non-Adventists will feel comfortable and accepted.

Practice hospitality. Encourage members to invite these families into their homes for a meal, or plan an outing together. When people know we care for them, it's easier for them

to understand that God cares for them too.

Consider changes at church. Ask spiritually single members what might make church attendance attractive to their spouses, and be open to new ideas. What we learn from these families can help us become more welcoming to everyone in our communities.

Plan visitor programs. Make them interesting, welcoming, and jargon-free. Every church needs to look at its local church culture, traditions, and style of language from an outside perspective. We easily forget how strange some of our words and practices can seem to others. Some visitors feel very uncomfortable when there are public welcomes, very long prayers, heavy theological sermons, and hymns with archaic words.

Learn the interests and skills of the spouses and find creative ways to involve them in church projects. Perhaps they enjoy carpentry, cooking, or gardening. Maybe they have hobbies they could teach to Pathfinders. Or perhaps they could help with a special outreach or mission project. Find ways to help them feel appreciated, valued, and needed.

Wise Counsel

Finally, we all need to remember Peter's advice to wives married to non-Christian husbands in 1 Peter 3:1-6. There he counsels to win them with kindness, gentleness, and loving characters, not by words and arguments. There's no greater welcome and witness than helping someone feel loved, accepted, and wanted. ■



Karen Holford is a family therapist and freelance writer living in Auchtermuchty, Scotland, where her husband is president of the Scottish Mission.

By WILLIE AND ELAINE OLIVER

Strong Families =

How are family



Families form the core of society and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

And when strong and healthy marriages abound, the likelihood of multiplying strong and healthy families is greater. In solid families, children are disciplined in the life of Christ, taught Bible principles of stewardship, and learn how to be positive witnesses in their environments. All these things bode well for making even stronger and healthier churches.

Scripture teaches us that marriage was the first institution established by God at Creation, and ever since the beginning of time the evil one has worked to destroy it. God's plan for marriage was for it to be a permanent union between a man and a woman. It was to be the place where children are nurtured to love and serve God, where God-given gifts are developed and refined, and where all members learn how to share the good news of salvation with neighbors and friends.

For more than 35 years the vision of the General Conference Family Ministries Department has been to boost families spiritually and relationally so that the church as a whole is strengthened. Thus, a number of initiatives have been put in place to help family ministries leaders and church members around the world accomplish specific goals.

Strong Churches

ministries programs helping the world?

Each year a family ministries curriculum called a Planbook is produced and made available through Advent-Source for use in the local church during Christian Home and Marriage Week in February and Family Togetherness Week in September. This resource includes sermons, workshops, children's stories, reprinted articles, and book reviews, among many other resources, to aid churches around the world in their marriage and family strengthening initiatives.

The themes for the Family Ministries Planbook for 2010-2015 are consciously designed to integrate with the strategic plans of the worldwide church: 2012—Revival and Reformation: Families Reaching Up; 2013—Revival and Reformation: Families Reaching Out; 2014—Revival and Reformation: Families Reaching Across; 2015—Revival and Reformation: Families Reaching In.

Marriage strengthening, training, and evangelism are among the most important initiatives that the Family Ministries Department will be pursuing in the immediate future. Marriage conferences have been conducted in several areas of the world. Most of the union conference directors of family ministries have been certified for conducting marriage conferences, and hundreds of local pastors and church leaders have learned the skills of

PREPARE/ENRICH, a leading resource for premarital education and marriage intervention.

Of special note is the family-to-family evangelism concept now implemented in all 13 divisions of the world church. Family Ministries Department directors Willie and Elaine Oliver are making their commitment to this new kind of evangelism tangible by scheduling themselves for four family evangelism series in four world divisions during the next four years.

In September a new television series produced in conjunction with Hope TV—*Family Talk*—will begin airing on the church's largest international television network.

In this special feature the unique work of the Family Ministries Department in five of the 13 divisions of the world church is highlighted with the prayer that something here will move you and your congregation to make a clear commitment to building and maintaining the most essential unit of the church—the family.

Initiatives That Make a Difference

In Spain, where 16,000 Adventist believers worship in a population of more than 46 million, the Adventist Association of Psychology Professionals (AAPP) unites psychologists, family counselors, psychiatric nurses, and

others in helping professions to dedicate their expertise to the service of the church. This organization offers seminars for building parenting skills, among other services, and works to prevent domestic violence.

Because preventing domestic abuse requires collaboration with other specialized ministries of the church, AAPP works in partnership with the Education, Children's, and Youth Ministries departments, as well as the Ministerial Association. One of its major programs offers education on communication, healthy relationships, sexuality, and intimacy in the four secondary schools the Seventh-day Adventist Church operates in Spain.* Recognizing the special needs of Adventist teens and young adults in a society increasingly shaped by the promiscuous media-driven lifestyle, the professionals of AAPP partner with parents, teachers, and pastors to offer education and provide guidance on interpersonal and family relationships, based on biblical principles of love and sexuality.

Another objective of this initiative is to provide reliable resources for members and leaders by creating a platform accessible to all family professionals where they can share materials, bibliography, and information.

No family can stand undefended, and AAPP exists to strengthen Adventist families in coping with both



PHOTO BY CHRISTIANO GALBIATI

the everyday and the extraordinary challenges that all families encounter.

Ellen White said it best: “The circle of family and neighborhood duties is the very first field of effort for those who would work for the uplifting of their fellow men. . . . No work entrusted to human beings involves greater or more far-reaching results than does the work of fathers and mothers” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 351).

—Barna Magyarosi, Euro-Africa Division director of family ministries

Fortifying Our Children

KID (Kids in Discipleship), a grassroots movement based in Collegedale, Tennessee, United States, has sent many positive ripples across the unorganized territories of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), where training has been made available in several locations in the past three years.

Making disciples has been a priority in the NSD for a number of years, and this emphasis is increasingly focused on the children who are both the hope and future of Adventism in this sprawling region of the world church.

The children’s and family ministries leaders in most of the NSD territories have been trained in KID, resulting in focused follow-through with both children and youth. In the unorganized territories Don MacLafferty, the founder of KID, has trained more than 220 children’s ministries



leaders. As a result, leaders are employing this discipleship skill-building in multiple ways to reach children and youth. Children’s Sabbath schools, mothers’ groups, Pathfinder clubs, and other family-related ministries are using the resources and approach of KID, bringing both skills and joy to children, youth, parents, and leaders.

In a city in the south of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division a mother who has caught the vision of KID has been teaching it to other mothers so they too can have meaningful worship experiences with their children. Some parents who use this tool are not baptized members, so KID has become an

outreach instrument as well. As the Word of God pierces the heart with its light, parents and children are being drawn to Jesus.

In one region where doing well in school is an important cultural focus, one mother reported that her children were upset with her constant nagging to study hard. During the first training session of KID this mother was impressed by the Holy Spirit to change her approach. She was captivated by the importance of developing the spirituality of her home, and brought her children to experience firsthand the lessons taught by KID in a second round of training. Starting regular family worship in her home

“No work entrusted to human beings involves **greater** or more far-reaching results than does the work of fathers and mothers.”

—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 351

Left: Family Camp in Mongolia.

Below: PREPARE/ENRICH trainees with Simon Yin (center) at event in Hong Kong.

significantly improved relationships with her children.

The bigger miracle, however, was the answer to prayer regarding the Sabbath problems the children were facing in school. When the parents approached the school to exempt their children from Sabbath classes, the teachers not only agreed, but kindly offered extra lessons to the children. As a result, other members of this church were inspired to learn more about KID and to join the training sessions as well.

—*Sally Lam-Phoon, Ph.D., Northern Asia-Pacific Division director of family ministries*

Marriages Matter

The past two years have been exciting years for family ministries in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID). Organizing under themes of “families reaching up” and “families reaching out,” some of the first-ever large-scale efforts to strengthen and nurture Adventist families have been launched. Of particular note have been the Journey Toward Intimacy (JTI) marriage conferences, facilitated by General Conference Family Ministries Department directors Willie and Elaine Oliver.

The first JTI program was conducted in Kempton Park, Johannesburg, in July 2011. More than 250 couples braved the cold weather and participated in the daylong Sabbath event.

SID president Paul Ratsara was so impressed by the JTI event that he decided to include it as part of the division’s leadership summit taking place in Pretoria, South Africa, in February 2012. More than six hours were set aside for this special skill-building summit during the seminar, with all union officers and conference presidents, as well as division officers and directors. Spouses of the leaders were invited for the first time to be part of the summit because of the JTI marriage conference. The program made such a powerful impact on these couples that a decision was made to include marriage-strengthening segments in future



“ In solid families, children are disciplined in the life of Christ, taught Bible **principles** of stewardship, and learn how to be positive witnesses in their environments.”

leadership summits, beginning with the 2013 event.

Immediately after the SID leadership summit, the Ministerial Association of the Southern Africa Union Conference in partnership with the union's department of family ministries hosted a similar program for more than 250 pastoral couples in their territory. Pastoral marriages are challenged by the special stresses and pressures of public ministry and time demands, and union and division leaders have made a clear commitment to investing in building stronger ministry families.

—*Jongimpi Papu, D.Min., Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division director of family ministries*

Real Results in Real Families

To encourage wider involvement in family ministries and to partner with other ministry leaders in the nurture and strengthening of families, a division-wide family ministries certification event was conducted at the Indra Regent Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, in March 2012. Nearly 500 individuals from every union in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division—including the division president, union presidents, several conference presidents, departmental directors from every level, and many lay leaders—participated. Attendees expressed deep appreciation for the training and the well-developed manuals that guided the discussions,

as well as the Bible-based principles and high spiritual tone of the presentations.

Almost 40 percent of the event participants were administrators and departmental directors and their spouses from some level of church leadership. Members thus come to understand that marriage enrichment events are both credible and encouraged, and their own willingness to attend to build marriage skills increases as a result.

Recently a mother from the Philippines who attended the Bangkok certification event received the devastating news that her teenage daughter had attempted to commit suicide. The information shocked her. She and her physician husband are active members in the church, and she had not imagined that this kind of crisis could ever happen in her family. She testified that the information she learned at the family ministries certification conference gave her a perspective that prepared her to better handle this painful discovery of her daughter's fear and depression.

Today this family enjoys a more fulfilled and meaningful life because of the training received, and they are using that blessing to reach other families with the good news of God's grace through Jesus Christ.

—*Miriam Andres, Ed.D., C.F.L.E., Southern Asia-Pacific Division director of family ministries*

We Are People Who Can Help

Few world regions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church face the pervasive cultural secularity and postmodern mind-set as much as the Trans-European Division (TED). Ranging across 23 nations from the Arctic Circle to the sunny Mediterranean, the TED's percentage of Adventists to population is less than half of 1 percent (81,934 out of 202,879,000). The nonreligious worldview of most of the region's inhabitants make it all the more crucial that Adventist families



bear a quiet but effective witness to the values of the gospel.

Within this context the Department of Family Ministries has employed a number of key initiatives to advance the cause of Jesus on earth and help usher in the kingdom of grace.

When marriages are devitalized, family life is fraught with unhappi-



PHOTO BY NICK PYE



Above: March 2012 Bangkok, Thailand Southern Asia-Pacific Division Journey Toward Intimacy marriage conference commitment ceremony: L-R Willie and Elaine Oliver (GC FM); Albert and Helen Gulfan (SSD president and director WM); Pastor and Miriam Andres (SSD FM); Pamela and Claudio Consuegra (NAD FM).

Left: Pearl Ndumo, Elaine Oliver, and Patricia Blöse at the Southern Asia-Indian Ocean Division Journey Toward Intimacy event.

Below: Marriage Enrichment retreat weekend in the Netherlands.



ness, emotional pain, and diminished spiritual health. But when there is revival in a person's spiritual life, they are more likely to experience healthier relationships across the board, making them more viable disciples and witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Gabor Mihalec, a pastor and family therapist, is director of family ministries for the Hungarian Union. Mihalec's work with communities in and out of the Adventist Church has built bridges within Hungarian society, raising awareness about who Seventh-day Adventists are.

In 2011 Mihalec created a week-long camp for married couples. Sixty percent of those attending were not Adventists. Out of this effort emerged the Connect Club, a group that meets once a quarter in Adventist churches. Various topics on marriage dynamics are presented by a number of speakers. Because it is a one-day event, it is easier for individuals to participate, and often upwards of 30 percent of attendees are nonmembers.

Because marriage can be challenging to people everywhere, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is gaining notoriety in Hungary as a place where men and women can receive meaningful help for the struggles they face. —Clair Sanches-Schutte, *Trans-European Division director of family ministries*

* Colegio Timon, Madrid; Colegio Urgell, in Barcelona; Colegio Sagunto; and Colegio Rigel, in Saragossa.

We knew each other for 19 years before we said yes to each other.

We were 5 and 7 years old when we first met. For many years we were like brother and sister until the day we realized that we loved each other so much that we never wanted to be separated again.

Today, looking back over the past nine years of walking together, we can see beautiful green valleys, but also moments when we passed through a dry and stony desert.

A family can be a haven of love, happiness, and intimacy, where the character and self-esteem of spouses and children can develop in a safe environment. Yet for others, the mere mention of the word “family” can cause fear, rage, or sorrow because of painful experiences.

NUMBER 23

Love Is Patient, Love Is Kind

By DAVID and DORIS LUMPI

Creation

Marriage is one of God’s original gifts—given in the Garden of Eden—that He has preserved throughout the ages. God created this loving companionship to give us a sense of belonging and joy. It serves also as a teaching tool to help us understand God’s unconditional love toward us. God wanted Adam to be happy and fulfilled, so He created a counterpart (Gen. 2:18-21). When Adam woke up from his Friday afternoon nap, he was absolutely sure that the woman in front of him belonged to him. Seeing the woman the first time, he exclaimed: “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh” (Gen. 2:23).

On that Friday afternoon of Creation week began the first love story.

When we try to portray the first days Adam and Eve spent together as they enjoyed the creatures, discovered new places, and explored the beauty of creation, we can imagine how happy and thankful they must have been.

Ellen White describes these glorious moments fittingly: “The holy pair united with them [the birds] and raised their voices in harmonious songs of love, praise, and adoration to the Father and His dear Son for the tokens of love which surrounded them. They recognized the order and harmony of creation, which spoke of wisdom and knowledge that were infinite.”¹

Crisis

We don’t know how long Adam and Eve were in that beautiful garden before sin entered this world. It not only affected their relationship with God—it also shook their marriage. Yes, they enjoyed perfect love; yet right after they had sinned, Adam accused both God and Eve (Gen. 3:12).

Both Adam and Eve tried to protect themselves at the expense of the other. Their self-interest gives evidence of the crisis that occurred at that moment in their relationship.

Since then, we face similar challenges in our marriages because many times we focus on ourselves instead of gratefully putting the other ahead of ourselves. The number of divorces are skyrocketing all around the world. Adultery has become the new “normal” in today’s society. And yet there is Jesus’ explicit statement in Matthew 19:6 reminding us of

God’s original plan: “What God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Note this important commentary by Ellen White: “Though difficulties, perplexities, and discouragements may arise, let neither husband nor wife harbor the thought that their union is a mistake or a disappointment.”² Many people are thrilled when they find “the love of their life,” but forget that marriage requires a true partnership and the willingness to give, take, and work on the relationship.

Chance

Wedding bells are ringing, everything is in place; the audience is waiting for the bride and groom to walk down the aisle. The music starts playing. A sermon full of biblical advice completes the ceremony, and a man and a woman are finally declared husband and wife.

In Ecclesiastes 4:12 we find the concept of the “cord of three strands,” and we love to use this text for weddings. It

emphasizes the important principle of sticking together and not separating from each other. It can be applied to God as well as to spouses. When we learn to live this principle in our daily life, our families will become a place of true happiness, understanding, and safety.

French author Antoine de Saint Exupéry once said: “To love is not to look at one another: it is to look, together, in the same direction.” This advice is rather important to us. Amos 3:3 hints at the same principle: “Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?” Of course we love the beauty of our spouse; we cherish their keen intellect or kind spirit; but it is similarly important to look at the objectives for the future, to have similar values and motives, and to share the same faith (Deut. 7:3, 4).

Today life is keeping us very busy. Work, hobbies, household, kids, and many appointments overwhelm us so that we find ourselves running from one event to the next—with almost no break to take a deep breath. But if we’ve agreed to walk with God, we also need to find the time to talk with God. We remember hearing a pastor saying: “People who pray together stay together!” There was a time we were both so busy with our jobs that our conversations contained only the necessary information needed to run the family. We realized that we needed to pause and find some time together, during which we could talk about what had touched our hearts throughout the day. We shared our struggles and joys and brought them before God. In this time of reflection and prayer we learned to listen to each other and were refreshed by God. We learned to seek for qualities in our spouse’s character and began to forgive each other.

Sometimes we hurt our spouse or get hurt by them. But Ephesians 4:26 gives an excellent counsel for every marriage: “Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry” (NIV).³ Before we go to bed we should ask for forgiveness. Our sleep will be sound and the start of the new day will not be clouded, but bright and beautiful. The way we treat each other will be a great example for our kids and the people who live around us. There is an Italian saying: “la vita è bella”—“life is beautiful.” And we would like to add “il matrimonio è bello”—“marriage is beautiful.”

After all, love is not only a feeling—it is a principle. “Love is patient, love is kind” (1 Cor. 13:4, NIV). ■

¹ Ellen G. White, *The Story of Redemption* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1947), p. 22.

² Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1952), p. 106.

³ Scripture quotations credited to NIV are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Marriage and the Family

Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian a marriage commitment is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between partners who share a common faith. Mutual love, honor, respect, and responsibility are the fabric of this relationship, which is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church. Regarding divorce, Jesus taught that the person who divorces a spouse, except for fornication, and marries another, commits adultery. Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, marriage partners who fully commit themselves to each other in Christ may achieve loving unity through the guidance of the Spirit and the nurture of the church. God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Parents are to bring up their children to love and obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving disciplinarian, ever tender and caring, who wants them to become members of His body, the family of God. Increasing family closeness is one of the earmarks of the final gospel message. (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:3-9; John 2:1-11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:21-33; Matt. 5:31, 32; Mark 10:11, 12; Luke 16:18; 1 Cor. 7:10, 11; Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-4; Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6; Mal. 4:5, 6.)



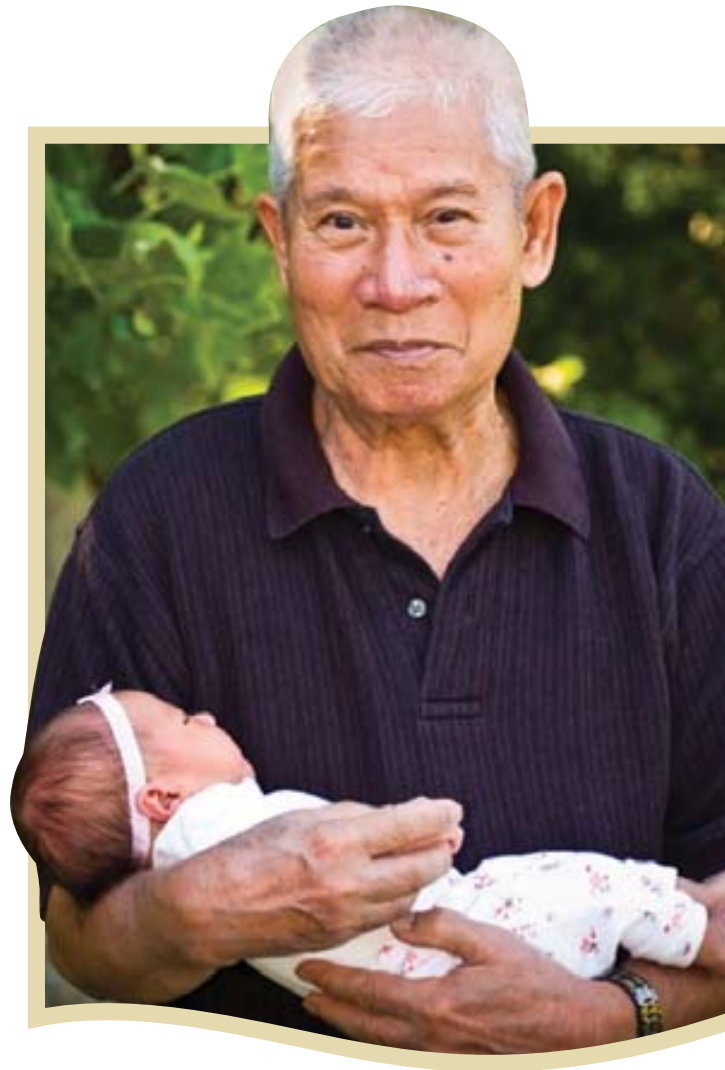
At the writing of this article **David** and **Doris Lumpi** served together with their daughters Lorna Joy and Lina Grace at Asia-Pacific International University, Thailand. They have now returned home to Austria.

O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nation are idols; but the Lord made the heavens. Honour and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. . . . Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth” (Ps. 96).

I think we have something to be thankful for. We ought to be glad, and rejoice in God; for He has given us many mercies. . . . But I fear too many of us encourage the habit of looking always upon the dark side of life, and that at a time when God has crowned us with His goodness and mercy. This is wrong. . . .

When God pours His blessings into our hearts, we should not shut them up as we would precious ointment, lest the perfume escape; we should bestow them upon those around us, that they also may be glad and rejoice. In my experience I have found that when I brought joy to the hearts of others, my own soul rejoiced, and was filled with the melting Spirit of God. In the morning and all through the day, a sense of God’s goodness filled my heart, and it awakened such feelings of gratitude as I cannot express. . . .

We should individually aim for a higher and holier standard. The mind will surely become dwarfed if it is continually occupied with earthly things. But if trained to dwell upon heavenly, eternal themes, it will be expanded, elevated, and strengthened. The mind should take hold of things unseen, and meditate thereon; then things of eternal interest will be so exalted above the



By ELLEN G. WHITE

Love, Light, *A heaven-like home*

earthly, that temporal affairs will sink into insignificance in comparison.

We do not regard divine things as of high value; and by neglecting to train the mind to prize eternal things more than earthly, we lose a valuable experience. We fail to obtain the wisdom God has brought within our reach. Suppose we change this order of things, and begin from today to train the thoughts to dwell upon the great plan of salvation, devoting less time to self-serving. Suppose you try to count all your blessings. . . .

“The first missionary work is to see that **LOVE,**
LIGHT, and **JOY** come into the home circle.”

Look away from your own trials and difficulties. Cease to magnify your little grievances. Put all thoughts of self out of your heart. Cease self-service, and serve the only true and living God. Let His melody be in your heart, and His praises on your lips. The blessings of God are more than the hairs of our head, more than the sands of the seashore. Meditate upon His love and care for us, and may it inspire you with love that trials cannot interrupt nor afflictions quench. . . .

Parents, do not neglect to impart to your children the very education they should have. . . . The children should be educated to look to God as the giver of life, their protector and their preserver, and to come to Him with an offering for all His favors. Every opportunity should be employed to implant in their hearts right views of God and His love for us. Nothing should be done to foster in them vanity, self-esteem, or pride. Teach them to review the past year of their life, to consider whether they would be glad to meet its record just as it stands in the books of heaven. Encourage in them serious thoughts, whether their deportment, their words, their works, are of a character pleasing

very best thing they could do. Whenever you take up the duty that lies nearest you, then God will bless you, and hear your prayers. There are too many doing outside missionary work, while their own households are left destitute of any such efforts, going to ruin through neglect. They do not seem to understand that it should be their first work to take heed to home duties.

The first missionary work is to see that love, light, and joy come into the home circle. Let us not be looking for some great temperance or missionary work to do until we have first done the duties at home. Every morning we should think, What kind act can I do today? What tender word can I speak? Kind words at home are blessed sunshine. The husband needs them, the wife needs them, the children need them. . . .

How easy it might be for us to bring sunshine, mellow and beautiful, right into our homes, if our hearts were filled with the grace of God! This may be done by kind words and loving ministrations. If there had been more of them in the past, I believe that more of us would have come into this house with the praise of God in their hearts for His loving-kindness unto us and ours.

It ought to be the desire of every heart to make as much heaven below as possible. We ought to be just before we are generous. There needs to be a home religion, a home thanksgiving. There needs to be the very soul of a pure life right at home. Then when you come to such a place as this, you will make melody to God in your hearts. They would be full of the tenderness of love. You could speak of the mercy and love and goodness of Christ in your soul. Your hearts would be full of melody all the day. Your song would be, “Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.” This kind of piety is of some value.

There is a great deal of meetinghouse religion; but there is little home religion. Cultivate it, that when you come into the house of God, you will love to talk of Jesus. You cannot make your tongue be silent. The love of Jesus will be like fire shut up in your bones. ■

to God. Have they been making their lives more like Jesus, beautiful and lovely in the sight of God? Teach them the knowledge of the Lord, His ways, His precepts. “Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.” We want the children to learn to look away from self to heavenly things. . . .

There are a great many who seem to have a great burden to do missionary work; but I have thought that if such would only begin in their own households, it would be the

This article is a selection taken from a “Thanksgiving Sermon,” delivered by Ellen G. White at the Dime Tabernacle in Battle Creek, Michigan, U.S.A., on November 27, 1884, and published in the December 23, 1884, *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*. Seventh-day Adventists believe that Ellen G. White (1827-1915) exercised the biblical gift of prophecy during more than 70 years of public ministry.

and Joy

Based on Genesis 9:3—
 “Everything that lives and moves
 about will be **food** for you”¹—
 would it not be correct to conclude
 that after the Flood humans were
 allowed to eat the flesh of
 both clean and unclean
 animals?

The passage does seem to support your suggestion, but only if its context is ignored. There are also matters related to the meaning of the terminology used that have to be taken into consideration as we seek to better understand this passage.

1. Clean and Unclean Animals: The narrative of the Deluge introduces a distinction between clean and unclean animals for the first time in the Bible. The text appears to assume that they could be distinguished from each other, even though they all belonged to the same general categories of animals: cattle (or beasts), birds, and creeping creatures (Gen. 6:18, 19; 7:2, 3; 8:17). The distinction antedates the giving of the law of clean/unclean animals to the Israelites in Sinai (Lev. 11). Although in the Flood narrative we are not given an explicit rationale for the distinction, the differentiation plays an important role in the narrative. The value of clean animals is particularly emphasized by taking seven pairs of each of them into the ark, while only one pair of the unclean are preserved.

All animals are taken into the ark for survival purposes, in order to preserve their class. After the Flood they would multiply and populate the earth again (Gen. 9:17). But in the case of clean animals more was intended than survival. This is indicated by that which took place immediately after Noah and the animals came out of the ark. Noah “built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it” (Gen. 8:20). Clean animals were used as sacrificial victims offered to God in gratitude for the preservation of Noah and his family. These sacrifices were placed on His altar (the table of the Lord, so to speak), and He accepted them.

2. Terminology Used: The phrase “everything that lives and moves” appears to be all-inclusive, but that’s not necessarily the case. “Everything,” or “all,” is used in the story to

Does All Mean All?

refer to “all” unclean animals (Gen. 6:19) as well as to “all” clean animals (Gen. 7:2). The phrase “that lives and moves” is problematic and is not employed anywhere else in the Flood narrative. While “what lives” is used in other parts of the story to refer to living creatures (Gen. 6:19; 8:21), “what moves” (Hebrew *remes*, “creeping things”) designates mainly small animals such as reptiles (e.g., Gen. 6:7; 7:23). A literal translation would read “All living creeping animals will be food for you.” The other possibility is to interpret the Hebrew term as designating animals in general based on the use of the verb rather than on the use of the noun (e.g., Gen. 7:21; Ps. 104:20). This is the most common interpretation of the phrase among Bible students. But the singularity of the expression, as well as the use of “all/ everything” to designate all clean or unclean animals, suggest that the biblical writer was not necessarily referring to all types of animals, only to clean ones.

3. Dietary Determination: The passage is about food for humans and therefore regulates human diet. God modified the human diet immediately after the Fall, allowing Adam and Eve to eat “green plants” (Gen. 9:3). Interestingly, according to Genesis 1:30, the phrase “green plants” (*yereq ‘ēšev*) was a general designation for the food of animals. But in Genesis 9:3 the same phrase is used to refer to “seed-bearing plants” (e.g., legumes and cereals), as indicated in Genesis 3:18. The all-inclusive phrase “green plants” is not all-inclusive but is restricted to the meaning found in Genesis 3:18. Now the Lord is allowing humans to eat animal flesh as *food* for them; and again, it is not flesh in general but certain types of it. The context strongly indicates that this is the flesh of all *clean* animals. Humans are allowed to bring to their tables the same type of food that goes to the table of the Lord. ■

¹ Scripture quotations in this article are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



Angel Manuel Rodríguez was director of the General Conference’s Biblical Research Institute before his retirement. He now lives in Texas, United States.

The Promised Revival

By MARK A. FINLEY



Have you ever wondered how God’s work will be finished on this earth? How is it possible for the truth about Jesus and the gospel of His grace to be proclaimed to the ends of the earth so that Jesus can come soon? With the millions who do not know Christ, and many who have never heard the name of Jesus, how will they ever have a reasonable chance to respond to His love and understand His Word? In this lesson we will study how God will accomplish His mission in finishing His work.

1 What marvelous promises does Scripture give us about the entire world’s having knowledge of God’s love and His last-day message? Reflect upon these promises as you read Habakkuk 2:14; Matthew 24:14; and Revelation 18:1.

Although it might seem impossible, God will work powerfully through His people in the last days of earth’s history to complete His mission on earth. According to the apostle Paul, “He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness” (Rom. 9:28).

2 Read Joel 2:23, 28, 29; Jeremiah 5:24; Zechariah 10:1. What symbolism did these Old Testament prophets use to describe the final outpouring of the Holy Spirit to empower God’s people to proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth?

In Israel’s agricultural cycle the “former rain” fell to germinate the seed, and the “latter rain” fell to bring the seed to harvest. Bible prophets used this familiar symbolism of the latter rain to describe the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit to finish God’s work on earth.

3 Read Acts 2:14-18. When did Joel’s prophecy begin to be fulfilled?

In fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost. Three thousand were

baptized in a single day. Then, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the gospel was preached throughout the Roman Empire, and tens of thousands became Christians. New Testament Christianity moved the world. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts represents the early rain. The gospel seed planted by Jesus germinated; the Christian church was launched. But the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain will be even more glorious.

4 Was Joel’s prophecy limited to Pentecost? Read Joel 2:28, 29 again, and compare it with Joel 3:13-16 and Acts 2:18-21. What discovery do you make?

The language of the prophecy clearly indicates that it has a dual fulfillment. It applies both to Pentecost and the last days. It applies especially to just “before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord” (Joel 2:31).

5 How does God picture the completion of the gospel message? What symbol does He use in Revelation 14:14-20?

The latter rain has done its work; the time for harvest has come. Every person has made their final, irrevocable decision for eternity. The harvest is fully ripe.

6 Why has Jesus delayed His coming? What is He waiting for? Read 2 Peter 3:9-13.

Our Lord carries His return with long-suffering patience, longing for every person on Planet Earth to come to repentance and a knowledge of His love. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain will hasten the proclamation of the gospel so that God’s work on earth can be finished quickly. Should we not then be seeking God with all our hearts for the power of the latter rain? Isn’t this the time to surrender ourselves fully to Him to be used by His Spirit in finishing His work? ■



Letters

The Valley of Prayer

Wow! I'm referring to Marvene Thorpe-Baptiste's devotional "The Valley . . . of Prayer" (June 2012), and the unique way she incorporated the Lord's Prayer into her story. Everyone can relate to this story in one form or another, because the Lord's Prayer is active in everyone's life, whether one is aware of it or not. God is merciful to all, whether we acknowledge it or not.

As a Christian parent myself I offer my kudos to her parents for their dili-

gent acts of prayer. When evil gets tough, prayers get tougher.

NICOLE BENOIT-ROY
Brooklyn, New York,
United States

Reaching an Ancient Region

Thank you for the articles in the May 2012 edition of *Adventist World*. Well done!

The article "Reaching an Ancient Region in a New Way," by Ted N. C. Wilson, was of special interest. Having spent almost three years serving in Beirut, Lebanon, I was excited to read about the organizational changes for the work of the Adventist Church in the Middle East region. The proposed changes sound reasonable and practical. We pray regularly for the people of the Middle East.

MURRAY CHAPMAN
Australia

In the World Vista feature about the church's administrative realignment in the Middle East region, Ted N. C. Wilson correctly anticipated the impact his message would have on readers, and suggested multiple ways to become involved. This is good.

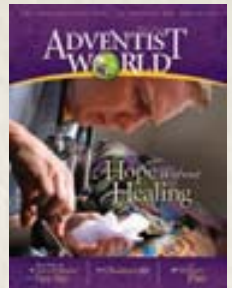
However, glaringly missing from his final suggestion in the section regarding the Secretariat's office (p. 10) is specific contact information. This is always vital. Information at the end of Knott and Kellner's interview on the Fundamental Beliefs Review Committee (April 2012) is a good model.

My personal interest is in knowing about how/what adjustments are made at the General Conference to accommodate this realignment, and where else, if at all, such special alignments exist.

STERLING COX
New York, New York,
United States

Sharing and Connecting

I found a priceless treasure reading the February 2011 *Adventist World*, especially the cover story features in "Sharing Him," by Bill Knott and Gina Wahlen, and I realized one thing: the Holy Spirit can bring those pages to our minds as His own in order to impress us again in our daily experiences as Chris-



Prayer & PRAISE

I am a local church elder working with poor children in our village. I am praying that God will inspire people to donate clothes, food, funds for education, etc.; and encouragement to continue this ministry.

CHUNDURU, India

I have been in a relationship for a long time with a person I love more than anyone in the world. I just found out something very disappointing. Please pray for our relationship. I need God to be our mediator.

E.J., Malawi

Please pray that my rebellious son may learn about God's eternal mercy, come to know Him, and experience His great love.

LEONIE, England

Praise God! After two years of not knowing where my daughter was, we were finally reunited in May 2012.

MEKA, United States

tians, giving us a sense of belonging—as branches connect to the Supreme Vine.

KLESIO SILVA
*Humberto de Campos,
Maranhão, Brazil*

Encouraging Words

I always look forward to receiving my copy of *Adventist World* each month. I found the editorial and other articles to be very encouraging and uplifting.

Keep up the good work.

RALPH LOMBART
Canterbury, Kent, England

Life-changing

I read the June 2010 magazine earlier this year, and my life has never been the same. Thank you!

I need your prayer support. I am a baptized member who has completed high school and would like to go to college.

KEPHA OPIYO
Kenya

Letters Policy: Please send to: letters@adventistworld.org. Letters must be clearly written, 100-word maximum. Include the name of the article and the date of publication 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.

I am requesting prayer for faith, commitment, healing, and forgiveness.

WENDY, *Zambia*

The Place of Prayer: Send prayer requests and praise (thanks for answered prayer) to prayer@adventistworld.org. Keep entries short and concise, 50-words or less. Items will be edited for space and clarity. Not all submissions will be printed. Please include your name and your country's name. 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.

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WORDS OR LESS

My Favorite... Hymn

■ “Safe in the Arms of Jesus” were words that comforted me when winter winds caused our older home to creak and groan, with the nearby trees brushing their leafless limbs against the windows. The words “safe on His gentle breast” brought me peace and slumber.

—ESTHER, *Loma Linda, California, U.S.A.*

■ My favorite hymn is “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” I’ve changed the line “all I have needed” to “much more than I needed Thy hand hath provided, Great is Thy faithfulness! Lord unto me!”

—MANUEL, *Cebu City, Philippines*

■ When I wake up at night and can’t get back to sleep, I recite mentally these words from the hymn “In the Morning When I Rise”: “Dark midnight was my cry, Give me Jesus.” I often go through all four verses before going back to sleep. It’s worth it.

—HAYDEN, *Kingston, Jamaica*

Next time, tell us in 50 words or less about your favorite Bible character. Send it to letters@AdventistWorld.org. Put “50 Words or Less” in the subject line.



Exercise Your Brain

Moderate aerobic exercise increases the size of the hippocampus, the part of the brain in which memories are formed. Age-related memory loss can be slowed, even reversed, by exercising several times a week.

Source: The National Academy of Sciences/*Vibrant Life*.

top

5

The world's most popular fruit

1. Mangos
2. Bananas
3. Apples
4. Oranges
5. Grapes

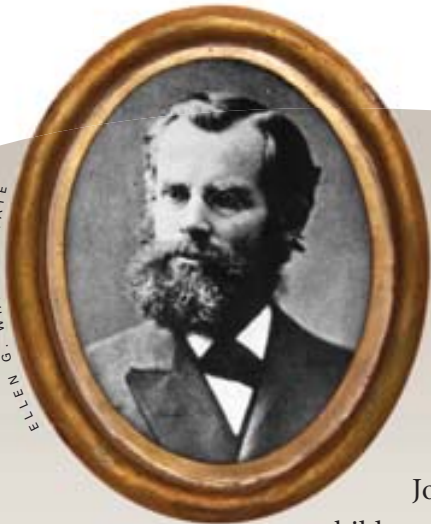
Source: Top5lists.net



“In the end, everything will be all **right**. If things haven't worked out, it's because it is not the end.”

—PASTOR ROGÉRIO GURNIAC, in a 2011 sermon about how to overcome the difficulties of everyday life, at the Seventh-day Adventist church in Novo Hamburgo, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

EILEEN C. WHITE ESTATE



138 Years Ago

John Nevins Andrews and his children, Charles and Mary, left for Europe as the first church-sponsored missionary for the Seventh-day Adventist Church on September 15, 1874.

Andrews settled in Switzerland and, after learning French, began publishing tracts in that language. Less than two years later, in 1876, he published the first issue of *Les Signes des Temps* (*Signs of the Times*).

Andrews, who could read the Bible in seven languages and had memorized the entire New Testament, died in Basel, Switzerland, in 1883.

Be Smart,
Don't Start

15 minutes

is all it takes for cigarette smoking to cause **DNA** damage.

Source: Chemical Research in Toxicology



“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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Vol. 8, No. 9

Where in the World Is This?



ANSWER: A village in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil, at the opening of an Adventist church for indigenous people of that region. Pictured are Ursulino Freitas, president of the Central Mineira Conference; Ronaldo Santana, pastor of the Manga district; and a Xacriabá Indian.

THINK About It!

Activity and entertainment cannot take the place of the Holy Spirit. The world is coming to an end. . . . We need the Holy Spirit more than ever. . . .

Let us receive the Spirit with open, dedicated, hungry, believing, and willing hearts.

—from a sermon presented by Heinz von Gunten, lay preacher and member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Romanshorn, Switzerland; translator: Karen Grob