

ADVENTIST Review

September 1999

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION EDITION

A group of young girls in Scout uniforms, including white shirts, yellow neckerchiefs, and black berets, are saluting with their right hands raised to their foreheads. They are wearing dark sunglasses and white gloves. The background shows a large crowd of people, suggesting a camporee event.

Power-Filled Camporee Draws 22,000 Pathfinders

Home Is Where the Church Is

Reaching for a Better Humanity

Sweet Dreams and Hairbrush Lyrics

LETTERS

Why I Stay

“Why I Stay,” by Reinder Bruinsma, in the NAD July *Adventist Review*, contained 10 good reasons for not leaving the church. Yet there are deeper reasons for being a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. My commitment is based not on human



reasons, but on God and His Word.

The church is more than a human organization. We are “His building.” Like all His creation, it exists as a result

of His word and His Spirit. The church is the “pillar and the ground of the truth” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 376). It stands as a monument to God’s great acts in the redemption of this world and is the place that supports and proclaims His truth in the world.

God has a people in community. In the New Testament, Christianity appears in the form of the church. All through Scripture God presents to us the fact that He has a people, a community of faith.

In His Revelation, Christ makes it clear that He has His church to which He ministers that it might fulfill His mission in earth’s last days. God is at work in the world and especially in His “remnant.” Christ’s victory has assured its triumph.

—David Manzano

KINGSTON, TENNESSEE

I read the article “Why I Stay,” by Reinder Bruinsma, with interest. I was interested in the remark: “And I often wonder why the church allows its fundamentalist fringe to set so much of its agenda.”

I am inclined to disagree with this premise for two reasons. In the first place, the fundamentalists are the overwhelming yet silent majority of this church, and second, it would seem

to me that the agenda at the beginning of the third millennium is being set by ideologies that would diminish the importance of the Sabbath, the validity of a six-day creation, the inspiration of Scripture, and the role of the Spirit of Prophecy.

—Richard O’Ffill

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

The article "Why I Stay" has given me the strength to continue being a Seventh-day Adventist Church member! Thanks a lot for the article!

—Vincent H. Shults
PORTLAND, OREGON

Death of a Saleswoman

I was delighted to read "Death of a Saleswoman" in the July NAD issue of the *Review*. I, too, am definitely *not* a salesperson, and yet I have been pressured in that direction many times.

One hour after I was baptized I was asked what my plan was to get out there and evangelize! Adventists need to follow the Scriptures, which instruct each of us to exercise our individual gifts. God has presented me with many opportunities in my everyday life to share my testimony and my faith, and I pray that He will continue to do so. For me, these opportunities have not been out there knocking on doors.

Kudos to Jennifer Gill Fordham for having the courage to speak out.

—Karen Keating
SOMERVILLE, MAINE

Good, Great, Grand

Visiting with my 96-year-old mother this past week [of June], she, a longtime Adventist, shared with me her *Adventist Review*, NAD Edition, for June. Church magazines have a habit of turning me off. So many times they dwell on how bad/wrong those other folks are, so many saying that they don't understand the Bible, and so on and so forth. I have been known to use the letters "SSS," which mean "Sad, Sorry, Sick."

I read your *Review* and found nothing about the other people's shortcomings. Good, Great, Grand—"GGG!"

I thank you—I am so happy to read a church-related magazine that addresses the good in the worst of us and the kindness in the least of us.

—Donald L. Waterworth Sr.
POCAHONTAS, ARIZONA

Andy Nash Leaving

I was dismayed to read in a Newsbreak column about Andy Nash leaving the staff of the *Review*, and then later to read his own last editorial, which was about his job transfer. I'm almost "fortysomething," and to me his columns were fresh and alive. I've followed his work since before he wrote *Growing up Adventist*, which, again, caught so clearly the picture that many of us grew up with.

I just want to say that if you are reading this, Andy, we encourage you in your new profession and wish God's blessings on you, but we also want to let you know how much you will be missed in the pages of the *Review*!

—Ruth Anne Labate
ABBOTSFORD, BRITISH COLUMBIA,
CANADA

Letters Policy

The Review welcomes your letters. Short, specific letters are the most effective and have the best chance at being published. Letters will be edited for space and clarity only. Send correspondence to Letters to the Editor, Adventist Review, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600; Internet: Reviewmag@Adventist.org CompuServe network: 74617.15.

COVER PHOTO: PRESENT ARMS—FRIDAY AFTERNOON AT DISCOVER THE POWER FEATURED A DRILL TEAM COMPETITION. VANESSA CID, MELISSA ECLAR, AND THEIR TEAMMATES SNAP OFF A SALUTE AS PART OF THE PRECISION DRILL FROM THE CENTRAL FILIPINO-AMERICAN PATHFINDER CLUB FROM LOS ANGELES. THE COMPETITION WAS SPONSORED BY PRIME OUTLETS MALL, A SHOPPING CENTER IN OSHKOSH. MANY OF THE OSHKOSH BUSINESSES SUPPORTED THE CAMPOREE BY DONATING SERVICES, PRODUCTS, OR MONEY.
PHOTO BY KERMIT NETTEBURG

ADVENTIST Review

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NEXT WEEK

A Sister's Legacy

Any way you look at it, Chernobyl was a disaster. But not all the stories ended in tragedy.

ADVENTIST Review

"Behold, I come quickly . . ."

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

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The Next 20 Years

WILLIAM G. JOHANSSON

I'm not a prophet or the son of a prophet, but I foresee that if time lasts, the next 20 years will bring major changes to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. How should we prepare for the future?

Although in some areas of the world our numbers are few and growth is glacial, in other parts the church is exploding. More than 2,000 people join this movement every day—that is one person every 39 seconds, with a new church organized every five hours. About one year ago the church passed the 10-million mark, and within the next 20 years it should reach 20 million and perhaps close to 30 million. We are no longer a small church.

We can but dimly grasp the challenges that this explosion in membership will bring. Where will we find ministers to care for such a large flock? What sort of educational system will nurture the flood of children and young people? How will our institutions avoid being overwhelmed by needs that outstrip resources?

This exploding church will become ever more diverse. Already we are a magnificent potpourri drawn, as Revelation 14:6, 7 predicted, from “every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.” This is true for North America, where Anglos now account for less than 60 percent of the Adventist Church, and the diversity will only multiply here and around the world church as the gospel commission races on to its climax in the return of Jesus.

Will this multiethnic family be able to retain its sense of oneness? How can fragmentation only along national lines be forestalled? What about the money pot: can we avoid ugly disputes and even schism over financing?

I am glad that Jesus is Lord of the church. He “loved the church and gave himself up for her” (Eph. 5:25, NIV). In His hands alone is the church safe now and in the next 20 years—she isn't safe in our hands.

But we have a work to do. Every one of us, every member, is part of Christ's body. All are gifted, all are indispensable to the smooth functioning of the whole. And especially on those entrusted to lead falls the challenge of trying to look ahead and prepare for the changes that are about to break upon us.

Realizing that the days just ahead may confront the world church with situations of which we now have no inkling,

nevertheless we ought to be giving attention to the following concerns that we can predict:

Racial harmony. Pride of race is perhaps the most deeply rooted aspect of our being. If we avoid addressing it in our proclamation of the gospel, we cannot hope to see smooth relationships. In our evangelism and in our nurture of believers we must confront each individual with the demands of God's Word to cast aside all pride and prejudice based on ethnicity, caste, gender, and social standing.

A global people. Our church is unique in its internationality. This

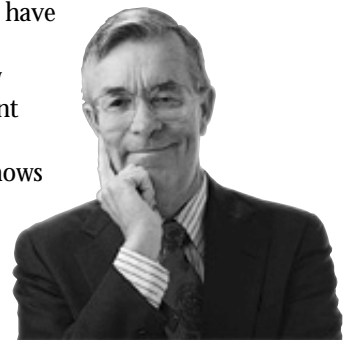
is a treasure from our Lord Christ not to be taken for granted; the treasure can shatter in hands that fail to appreciate it. Ongoing education in what it means to be a world Christian—the Adventist identity—is essential.

The minimalists of Adventism. In a church of Ph.D.s and those barely literate or illiterate, we need to think through as a body as to what are the minimum characteristics, the nonnegotiables, of a Seventh-day Adventist. Some among us would seek to make the profile ever more complex and detailed, but their specifications simply do not work on the world scale of our movement. The minimalists must embrace doctrine (the 27 fundamental beliefs provide the foundation, but even they are too closely defined for some societies), lifestyle, and mission. This task is difficult but necessary if we are to stay together as a people and to perceive that we are staying together.

Administrative structures. Burgeoning membership will strain existing structures. We will need flexibility and innovation, but even so the world church will likely burst out of the patterns that have served us well for many years. Ultimately the structures we now know will fall away as earth's final remnant gathers to greet the returning Lord.

Twenty years? Only the Lord knows how long. But so long as we wait, He tells us: “Occupy till I come” (Luke 19:13). That calls for thinking, planning, praying, and being open to His leading.

Major changes will soon break over us. Are we ready for them?



Like Rain on a Hot Dry Day

During a hot dry August day a friend was commiserating with me about the difficulty in keeping his flowers and vegetables watered. He described standing with a hose for 30 minutes or more every night, pouring precious liquid onto the dusty soil.

"No matter how much water I put on the garden, it seems dry again the very next day," he said. "And flowers don't seem to perk up, no matter how much water I pour on them."

Then a storm came through. The heavens poured rain for about 30 minutes. My friend told me that his flowers looked much better; his garden was producing. "God watered my yard for about the same amount of time I do," he said, "but He surely got a lot more accomplished."

I was happy for him, delighted that his garden was doing well, but I was even more grateful for the spiritual lesson that I learned.

Many times I try to cultivate the good deeds in my life on my own. I sweat over some good deed, placing all my energy on making certain I am doing right. Then the devil blows a parched, dry wind through my life, and all of my goodness seems to evaporate.

Other times I focus on avoiding doing wrong. My attention is focused on not overeating, not thinking unkindly about someone, or not worrying. In fact, so much of my focus is on avoiding some bad behavior that I forget to visit a sick friend, pray for a colleague, or share my faith.

Our good deeds don't produce any more fruit than dry ground in the desert. Only when God pours the Holy Spirit into our lives will the harvest appear: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Gal. 5:22, 23).

Paul explains throughout Galatians that we can never put enough effort into our lives to produce the fruit of the Spirit. Listen to just some of his comments:

■ "I am astonished that you are so quickly . . . turning to a different gospel" (Gal. 1:6).*

■ "Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?" (Gal. 3:2).

■ "For freedom Christ has set us free" (Gal. 5:1).

■ "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16).

What's true in a person's life is also true in the church's life. We've placed a new emphasis on church planting in North America that has produced tremendous success. More than 300

churches have been planted in three years. Hundreds of men and women have worked thousands of hours. Hundreds of thousands of prayers have been offered.

That effort must be commended. The entire North American Division of the Adventist Church rejoices in the faithfulness of these frontline workers. But that effort has not produced the wonderful fruit that I see in these churches.

The Holy Spirit has poured out His blessing on these projects, and they have produced fruit. Human effort is important, but divine effort is essential.

Abram was promised that his descendants would be like the stars of the heavens. But he thought he had to make the promise come to pass on his own. When he and Sarah didn't have children soon, he chose to rely on his own efforts. Ishmael was born, but God said that wasn't the fulfillment of the promise. Only in the miracle of Isaac's birth—when Abraham and Sarah were too old to have children—was God's promise revealed.

"Now we, brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise" (Gal. 4:28). We have a work to do, but only the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives makes the work effective.

My friend told me a great spiritual truth when he said that God's 30-minute rainstorm accomplished more than his efforts. All of my efforts, without the Holy Spirit, will produce an empty life. Only as I trust in God, read His Word, seek His truth, and accept His blessing will I produce the fruit of an attractive Christian.

With the Spirit, we can be a fruitful garden that attracts those around us to look toward our Saviour. I pray that the Holy Spirit will fill your life and mine, and bring refreshing to our thirsty world.

* Bible texts in this article are from the Revised Standard Version.

Alfred C. McClure is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, which will soon pass the 900,000-member mark.



Only when the Holy Spirit is poured into our lives will the harvest appear.

GIVE & TAKE

Dream Center

I would like to suggest that the *Adventist Review* periodically list Adventist websites, as I and many others I talk to find it a struggle to find them. I feel that my church could serve its members better if it would provide this information, and that it would be greatly appreciated. I also with there were safe chat rooms for Adventist teenagers. It would be wonderful if they could communicate with missionary children and become e-mail "pen pals."

—Becky Heath Soapes, Madison, Tennessee

Real-life Angels

Sometimes people touch our lives, changing them irrevocably with their compassion, help, and kindness. Who has been an "angel" to you? Please send us the name, address, and reason(s) you believe this person is your "real-life angel" to Give and Take, *Adventist Review*, Real-life Angels, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904. You may include photos; submissions will not be returned. Deadline: November 3.

ADVENTIST LIFE

The theme of a recent Sabbath school program was "nature," and the leader had told the children how a mommy robin brings worms to feed her baby birds. She asked the children, "Would you like it if your mommy fed you worms?"

A 2-year-old emphatically responded from the circle, "Not me! I'm a vegetarian!"

—Evelyn Hamer, Centerville, Ohio



ILLUSTRATION BY TERRY CREWS

JOTS AND TITLES

Keeper of the Key

Weddings will never be the same. A new member of the wedding party has been created.

Every wedding has a bride, a groom, a flower girl, and a Bible boy. Old stuff! Enter "Official Keeper of the Key!"

For years couples have been seeking spiritual weddings in churches, only to have their cars damaged or "decorated" with inappropriate innuendo at the reception. This has been tolerated because it was all done in fun!

Here is a great alternative.

Arrange to be the "Keeper." Wash, wax, and vacuum the honeymoon car. Clean the windows. Make some colorful and tasteful poster board decorations, including a "JUST MARRIED" sign for the rear window.

Scotch-tape as many dollar bills to the inside of the windshield as you can collect. Contact the fathers of both the bride and the groom ahead of time to let them supply you with most of these "decorations."

Be polite and firm with those who would degrade the car with their own version of "decorations."

My family has been the "Keeper" at 11 weddings. Please join us and start a new tradition. Let's send our young couples on their honeymoon with happy memories after their spiritual, Christ-centered weddings.

—R. Lee Lewis, Collegedale, TN



The "Keeper of the Key" decorated Jack and Kerry Crosby's car creatively and tastefully!

MATRIMONIAL MEMORIES

For the next couple months we'll accept submissions to this new category. Send your creative wedding stories, photographs, and advice to Give & Take Matrimonial Memories to the address listed below.

WE NEED YOU

Send Give & Take submissions to . . . Give & Take, *Adventist Review*, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904; Fax: 301-680-6638; E-mail: 74617.15@CompuServe.com. Please include phone number. Submissions will not be returned.

A Bit of Our Latin Flavorⁱ

Hispanic Adventists are one of the ingredients that make for a healthy church in North America.

BY ARNOLD TRUJILLO

IN 1970 HISPANIC Adventists in North America numbered 19,000. Less than 30 years later, that number is more than 99,000. The growth of this part of the Adventist family in North America illustrates the truth of Christ's statement: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed.

. . . Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches" (Matt. 13:31, 32, NIV).

A single mustard seed is easily overlooked. But just as the germ of a seed grows by the unfolding of the life-giving principle implanted by God, so the growth of the

Hispanic membership over the past 100 years—particularly in the past three decades—can be directly attributed to the unfolding of an unchanging principle for success that Christ enunciated.

A Matter of Priorities

Jesus challenged His followers: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God" (Matt 6:33). Christ is here speaking of priorities, admonishing His believers to put His interests above jobs, material things, social relations, self-aggrandizement—everything. We are promised that if God and His kingdom are placed first on our priority scale, blessings will follow. Many Hispanic Adventists—like those who represent other ethnic

Casting a Wider Net

BY JENNIFER MAE BARIZO

Hope & Vision 2000, this year's evangelistic outreach geared toward Hispanics, will be broadcast from Forest Lake Academy in Orlando, Florida, to sites in North, South, and Inter-America from September 10 to 25. "It's time to see Jesus" is the theme of the satellite broadcast sponsored by the North American Division and *La Voz de la Esperanza*. The meetings will be presented in Spanish and translated into English and Portuguese.

Peruvian-born evangelist Alejandro Bullon will be the featured



Alejandro Bullon

speaker. Bullon spent 18 years as a youth leader in South America and since 1990 has been the ministerial director of the South American Division. He is also a speaker for the Spanish language edition of *It Is Written*.

Hope & Vision 2000 is the second satellite evangelistic effort focused directly to Spanish-speaking populations. According to the North American Division Ministerial Association, plans are under way to rebroadcast the series on Spanish-language television stations throughout North America, and will include broadening the satellite audience to Europe and other continents.



PAYBACK TIME: Richard Gonzales accepted Jesus into his life when he was in prison. Fifteen years later he leads the prison ministry of the Washington Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. Although still studying for a theology degree at Columbia Union College, Gonzales preaches regularly at the maximum-security prison in Jessup, Maryland.

groups in North America have placed Christ and His church first in their affections and in their expenditures of their time, talents, and treasure.

In 1978 I had the privilege of being the senior pastor of the Spanish-American church in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of East Los Angeles. It was, at the time, the largest Spanish-speaking Adventist church in North America, with more than 800 members. It also was the parent church of about a dozen other Spanish-speaking congregations in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

I arrived to assume my new responsibilities in November when Ingathering was in full swing. In stark and surprising contrast

to other churches I had pastored, the members of the Spanish-American church loved to go Ingathering. One dear woman, Isabel de la Rocha, personified the principle of giving the things of God her highest priority. An elderly widow, she would go out day after day to distribute tracts and solicit donations. She raised more than \$1,000 that year, as she had done year after year. There were numerous others, both young and old, who also dedicated an incredible amount of time and energy to this one program of the church.

This level of dedication and commitment to Christian service was not the sole domain of the seniors of the congregation. In my first summer at the church we organized a day

Miracle Church

BY JULIO OCHOA

About five years ago Isabel Nuñez, a member of the Central Seventh-day Adventist Church in Houston, Texas, was approached by her former pastor from the Disciples of Christ Church. He asked if she knew of any Adventist congregations that were in need of a building to hold services in. The building he had in mind had been standing vacant for more than 10 years; the roof leaked, the floors needed repair, and most of the windows were broken;

but it had a gymnasium, 10,000 square feet of classroom space, and it sat on two acres. The Disciples of Christ were willing to donate it to an Adventist congregation.



FROM THIS: (small, white, two-story building)

At the time the 60 members of the Galena Park Spanish Adventist Church were meeting in a small, two-story house that was surrounded by oil refineries and industrial buildings. The small group had \$55,000 in savings, and they were hoping to get another \$50,000 from the sale of their property. The only other church property they could find was listed for \$400,000.

While the church prayed for guidance, Pastor Daniel



TO THIS: Galena Park Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church as it appears today.

Daniele was notified about the donation of the two-acre property to the Texas Conference. The conference offered the property to the Galena Park Spanish church.

The members of the Galena Park church now had property, but who would lead out in renovating it?

Jose Ochoa, a building contractor, had recently moved into the area and joined the Galena Park church. Ochoa donated his time, and the church paid for materials. The money saved up to buy a church was now dedicated to remodeling the new property. As much as \$15,000 was donated by people who are not even members of the church.

After more than two years of meeting in the gymnasium, members now worship in the refurbished church sanctuary. Attendance at the church has risen to 300 and this fall the Galena Park church opened an Adventist school with more than 70 students.

camp program for the children of the community. We asked one of our youth, 18-year-old Sandy Contreras, to be the director of the four-week day camp. She selected and trained 15 other youth as counselors, and organized the daily activities for some 60 children that included field trips to area parks and beaches. I was amazed how someone so young could be so dedicated, hard-working, patient, reliable, and responsible.

On to Bigger Things

This signal regard of Christ and His church by Hispanic Adventists of North America is revealed among old and young most tellingly in their soul-winning methods. Their love for Christ compels them to share Him with their family, friends, and neighbors. In the four years I spent at the Spanish-American church more than 400 individuals were baptized, the vast majority of whom were relatives of members.

Growing Together

BY JULIO OCHOA

In Salt Lake City, Utah, the Mormon capital of the world, I met Carlos and Madeline Linares. The couple meets every Friday evening with as many as 40 other young adults for Bible study and fellowship. The group reflects as much diversity as is possible in a city that is predominantly White, Mormon, and solidly middle-class.

Carlos and Madeline, members of the Wasatch Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church, started their weekly Bible study as an outreach to non-Adventists, as well as to provide Adventist young adults in the area with something to do on Friday nights. Mormons are well known for having strong social ties and activities.

Members from all four of the area Adventist churches—two White, one Black, and one Hispanic—meet every week for fellowship and inspiration. Innovative styles of teaching, relevant material, and discussion-based Bible studies have attracted a diverse group of individuals from all walks of faith. Weekend activities also include trips to the lake, camping, hiking, white-water-rafting, waterskiing and skiing, mountain biking, community service, game nights, and making home videos.

When I lived in Salt Lake City last year, not a weekend went by without my doing something with the group during my five-month stay.

Carlos' secret in keeping the group active is involving everyone in something. There are vibrant church services, young adult Sabbath school classes, teen/youth rallies, young adult retreats, mission trips, and monthly newsletters mailed and e-mailed to

more than 100 young adults in and out of the area.

Carlos Linares was born in Nicaragua, and Madeline in Chile. They are in their early and mid-20s. The not-so-original name of their young adult group—"The GROUP"—stands for giving reality to God's unchanging promises. It reflects their commitment to living and sharing the gospel and their hope in the second advent of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Carlos and Madeline have created an atmosphere in which people grow spiritually, come to know God, and become leaders themselves. In fact, virtually all members of this group are leaders who serve as positive witnesses of Christianity.



PHOTO © 1988 ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHY

MILES OF SMILES: These young adults in Salt Lake City, Utah (and others), are creating a climate in which Bible study and Christian fellowship are both nurture and outreach activities.

I remember Valentina Medina. She was a new member in 1978. She loved the church, but since she was the only Adventist in her family, she always came alone. She attended every service of the church—not only Sabbath school and worship services but also prayer meetings, youth meetings, missionary outreach, etc. After a few months her husband, Alfredo, began to attend services with Valentina. Alfredo received studies and was eventually baptized. A few more months

went by, and Alfredo's brother, Fidencio, and his wife began to attend services. They too received studies and were baptized.

Ellen White observed, "In this last generation the parable of the mustard seed is to reach a signal and triumphant fulfillment. The little seed will become a tree. The last message of warning and mercy is to go to 'every nation and kindred and tongue'" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 79).

This Spirit-motivated vision is not the

A Blueprint for the Future

BY STEPHEN CHAVEZ

Pastors, evangelists, and administrators from throughout North America met recently at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, for the biennial meeting of the Hispanic Ministerial and Evangelistic Council.

Hispanic Adventists in North America are celebrating 100 years of faith and progress in 1999. It was 100 years ago, in Sánchez, Arizona, that the first Adventists of Hispanic descent were baptized; and in presentations and seminars convention attendees were encouraged to

remember their heritage as they continue to take the gospel to the Spanish-speaking people of North America.

Devotional presentations, music, planning sessions for this fall's Hope and Vision 2000 series of satellite evangelistic meetings, and professional growth seminars were interspersed with time for fellowship and relaxation. Those who wished to were also able to join heritage tours to some of the area sites of historical Adventist importance.

At the Thursday evening banquet, hosted by Manuel Vasquez, North American Division vice president for special ministries, more than a dozen individuals were honored for their contributions to the work among Hispanics in North America.



IN RECOGNITION: Manuel Vasquez, North American Division vice president for special ministries, unwraps some of the plaques presented at a Thursday evening banquet to those who helped to advance the work among Hispanics in 1999.



THE PAUSE THAT REFRESHES: Temperatures near the century mark and a packed, nonair-conditioned Machlan Auditorium make fans (provided by Atlantic Union College) a welcome possession among worshippers at Sabbath morning's worship service.



IN APPRECIATION: Gilberto Vega, Hispanic coordinator for the Arizona Conference, is honored for the work he did to coordinate the Hispanic Centennial Celebration earlier this year in Safford, Arizona.



ON THEIR FEET: Responding to Alejandro Bullon's Sabbath morning sermon, nearly the entire congregation stands in commitment to taking the gospel to Spanish-speaking people in North America.

PHOTOS BY STEVE CHAVEZ

sole possession of any one social or ethnic group. But the story of Hispanic growth in North America during the past 30 years is one of the ways it is being fulfilled. ■



Arnold Trujillo is the president of the Hawaii Conference.

“No, Daddy, Look at Me!”

Ever wondered why God finds us attractive?

BY JEFF SCOGGINS

She was an ugly thing. Dog breath, a crooked leg, a bad eye, hair falling out; she may have had lice; she definitely had fleas. I saw nothing attractive about the little dog when she showed up on our front porch one morning. I felt pity for the little thing—the put-her-out-of-her-misery kind of pity.

I like dogs actually. I enjoy their companionship, the way they make me laugh, their affection. But I like clean dogs. Undiseased dogs. Dogs with hair. What did *she* want?

The little mutt stared at me through the screen door for a moment. I stared back. “Why should I feel sorry for you?” I asked her. As if to answer me she began some strange antics.

First she stood as tall as her scrawny legs could stretch, then she slowly turned around like a model on a fashion runway to give me a good look at her. *Impressive*, I thought. Then she started to bark a pathetic yap. By the way she carried on she must’ve thought hers was a majestic voice. She was proud of it. Strangely enough, it seemed as though she was trying to communicate. “I just took a bath,” she croaked. “Brushed my teeth too, see?” She grinned to show me several yellowed teeth with a number conspicuously absent.

Ugh. *As for the bath, little dog, you missed a couple spots—like your face, legs, and body.* I don’t think she heard me, though. She was proceeding with her impressive résumé. “Just killed a varmint for you too,” she announced proudly, dragging around the corner for my approval the barely recognizable corpse of one of the beautiful mallard ducks that had once lived peacefully on our pond.

Before, I was disgusted; now I was angry. She had killed a beautiful animal that we loved to watch. And on top of that she thought I’d be grateful. I started out the door, bad intentions in my mind, when my 5-year-old daughter tugged on my pant leg.

“Don’t hurt the doggy, Daddy.” Her plea stopped me and quieted my anger. We watched in silence as the dog performed her Olympic athlete qualifications for us. She

bounded the 10-foot dash with breakneck limps to the other side of the porch. Her gymnastics routine consisted of a roll-over that left a mat of hair on the porch behind her. Her grand finale was a neat little pile in the corner of the porch that I would have to clean up with a shovel.

I looked down at my daughter, who was obviously enchanted. “I want to keep her, Daddy.”

“But sweetheart, you can see the shape she’s in. Why do you want a dog like that?” I asked with a rationality I didn’t feel.

“I just do,” she said.

“But she’s a mess, she has terrible behavior, and to top it off, she thinks she can impress us enough to take her in,” I said reasonably.

“I love her,” she said unreasonably. I told her she was being unreasonable.

“What is unreasonable?” she asked, obviously not really caring.

“Look at her, just look at her, sweetheart,” I said, my exasperation beginning to show.

“No, Daddy,” my daughter shot back, “look at me. I’ll clean her, I’ll train her to be good. She can’t be good yet. She doesn’t know what good is. But I’m good, Daddy. Please, look at me.”

I looked at my daughter, and I saw the face of irrational, unreasonable grace.



The Adventist Review is looking for writers who can communicate spiritual truths in fresh, creative parables and metaphors. Manuscripts of 700 words or less can be sent to: Parables of the Kingdom, c/o Adventist Review, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904. Unaccepted manuscripts cannot be returned.

Jeff Scoggins is communication projects manager for the Office of Global Mission.



POWER-FILLED CAMPOREE

22,000 Pathfinders Discover God's Power in Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Editor's Note:

More than 17,000 Pathfinders and 5,000 adult chaperons spent five days in August at Discover the Power Camporee. The event in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, was sponsored by the North American Division Pathfinder Ministries Department and organized by the Center for Youth Evangelism at Andrews University. Every conference in North America participated.

The joy in the pictures on the following pages reflects the love the Pathfinders learned for Christ. Two brief articles describe the experiences of two of the local Pathfinder club leaders, Ana Ruiz, of the Chattanooga Eagles Club in Tennessee, and Dan Serns, of the Chapel Oaks Explorers in Kansas City, Kansas.

Baptism by Fire

by Ana Ruiz, *Chattanooga Eagles Pathfinder Club, Chattanooga, Tennessee*

Discover the Power Camporee was my first counseling experience, and it definitely proved to be a positive experience. The camporee offered my kids the opportunity to interact with their worldwide church family. As we walked across the grounds at the camporee, my girls and I witnessed the coming together of thousands of Pathfinders. They had a

chance to see that they are a part of a world church, and that many young people around the world also are choosing to live an active Christian lifestyle.

It's important for us to direct the energies of our young people toward positive Christian activities. The world is grabbing for the attention and energies of our youth. It's vital that we offer them a positive Christian alternative. The camporee did that.

Although the experience was tiring for me, it was an experience I will always remember. To be a part of these kids' lives is an incredible opportunity. I want them to see me as a friend and as someone who is there to help them. They have tremendous potential, and the experience they had at the camporee helped them see that.

They're really good kids. That's why I have such a burden for these young people, and that is why I love being a Pathfinder counselor.



BAPTISM BY FIRE: Ana Ruiz (center) began her role as a Pathfinder counselor for the Chattanooga, Tennessee, area clubs at Discover the Power Camporee. But she seems to be enjoying it, as do the Pathfinders in her unit. She tells about her experiences with her unit in the article at right. *Photo by Jamie Arnell*



BRINGING IN THE SOUND: Nightly programs featured singing led by Ken Rogers, chaplain at Southern Adventist University; a drama program that portrayed the themes of the great controversy; a video reviewing the day's activities; an interview with a spiritual celebrity who spoke about God's leading in his or her life; and a challenge speaker. Special music often featured Pathfinders like the steel band from the Metropolitan SDA church in Hyattsville, Maryland. *Photos by Jamie Arnell and Ludi Leito*



WOOF, WOOF: *Guide* magazine's "Guide Dog" was the official mascot for the camporee. *Photo by Hans Olson*

(Left, background) **BIG CROWDS:** Nearly 22,000 Pathfinders, chaperons, and volunteer staff from 50 countries gathered in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for the Fourth International Pathfinder Camporee, the largest sponsored by the North American Division. The camporee was held at the Experimental Aircraft

Association's facility in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The division has approved for the next camporee to be held in 2004. *Photo by Alden J. Ho*



PRIDE OF HONG KONG: The Hong Kong-Macao drill team came a long way, but beat 33 other entrants to take home the first-place trophy at the international drill team finals. They were featured in the Sabbath afternoon parade through downtown Oshkosh helping Pathfinders spread a message that substance abuse, violence, and gang activity are not the way to go. *Photo by Ludi Leito*



TAKING A STAND: Cassie Cox, 17-year-old member of the Bike for Life: Teens Against Tobacco team from the Carolina Conference, was interviewed by a Fox television reporter. She and 13 others cycled 1,157 miles from Charlotte, North Carolina, in 23 days to promote their stand against kids using tobacco. *Photo by Ludi Leito*



HANGING OUT: Club members played together, ate together, and definitely had fun together. The Community Praise Center Panthers Club from Alexandria, Virginia, show why they are all close friends. Photo by Ludi Leito



SOUVENIR PICTURE: The Sheeler Oaks Spanish Pathfinder Club from Apopka, Florida, stopped to take a club portrait in front of the entrance banner for the camporee. Clubs came from Florida to British Columbia, from Maine to California, and from 49 countries outside the United States. Photo by Kermit Netteburg

LET THE DRUMS ROLL: Two members of the Gaithersburg, Maryland, New Life SDA Church North Stars, Sheri Campbell and Raheen "Rocky" Khan, are ready for action with the Allegheny East Conference drum corps. Drum corps dominated the daily parade leading Pathfinders in full dress uniform to the airfield for airplane stunt shows. Photo by Ludi Leito



MENTORING OUR KIDS: "Our goal is to provide youth with a fun, safe, high-adventure event this summer," said Ron Whitehead, camporee executive director. "As parents, caregivers, and community leaders, we need to take an active and positive approach to helping kids like Sara Kuskenna, from the Umapine, Kentucky, Hawks Club, to discover the world in which they live and to mentor them to adulthood." Photo by Ludi Leito



QUILTS OF LOVE: Hundreds of handmade quilts, provided by Pathfinder clubs and their leaders, were on display at ADRA's Adventure Land, some with letters to spell out "ADRA and Pathfinders Cover the Refugee Children of the World With Love" for the large hanging quilt display. In a few weeks the quilts will be delivered by ADRA to Kosovar children in need. Photo by Ludi Leito

"Our goal was to provide youth with a fun, safe, high-adventure event."
—Ron Whitehead, camporee executive director

CAMP LIFE

Photographer and youth pastor Alden J. Ho followed the Columbia, South Carolina, Pathfinder Club around for a day. The pictures on this page capture only a few of the varied activities of an average day at Discover the Power Camporee.



Wyntre Robinson says "Good morning" as she zips her tent shut and gets ready for a day filled with patch-earning classes, activities, worship, food, and plenty of fun.



Campers packed lunches because they were at honors booths, at the aircraft museum, or taking advantage of the 70 activities provided daily. So breakfast, prepared here by club leader Quinn Harding, was the most important meal of the day.



KEEPING THEIR COOL: Pathfinder survival training came in handy Sabbath morning helping these Southern Union campers to beat the heat. *Photo by Alden J. Ho*



KING PIN: Discover the Power camper Gerald Brown from Oshawa, Ontario, shows off more than 70 pins he collected. Buying, trading, and collecting pins from international countries and Adventist organizations is a popular part of all Pathfinder camporees. *Photo by Kermit Netteburg*

ALL FOR ONE: Pathfinders learned cooperation by participating in exercises that required teamwork. Ralph Rose, of the Albany, New York, Trailblazers, and three Mustang Club members from Minot, North Dakota—Chris Boyko, Dennis Henderson, and Zach Timothy—master the "four-person walking stick." Dozens of other games also helped Pathfinders learn important life skills. *Photo by Kermit Netteburg*

FREE TIME: No camporee would be complete without time for friends, fun, and games. Jordan Barnes, from the Shiloh Trailblazers Club of Chicago, Illinois, makes the most of "free time." *Photo by Chris Drake*



MUM'S THE WORD: Sixty-five honor classes were taught, including a class in how to witness through miming activities. One honor was taught only at the camporee: the Review and Herald Publishing Association taught a printing honor that will be discontinued now that the camporee is over. *Photo by Kermit Netteburg*

Camporee Fact—The largest Pathfinder delegation came from Michigan Conference, who registered 1,081 campers.



KEEPING IN TOUCH: Although far from home, Pathfinders still find time to call and say hello. Family and friends at home were able to keep in touch with their campers through live Internet feeds, satellite uplinks, and an on-site e-mail center. *Photo by Ludi Leito*

CAMPING OUT: Thousands of tents in hundreds of orderly rows created a sense of beauty in orderliness that characterizes Pathfinder camporees everywhere. These tents from the College View Trailblazers club from Lincoln, Nebraska, framed one of the main streets of the camping area. *Photo by Kermit Netteburg*



Bronson Harding conquers the tire crawl at the obstacle course, a popular location for Pathfinders testing their physical skills.



Matt Jones crosses the rope bridge at the obstacle course.

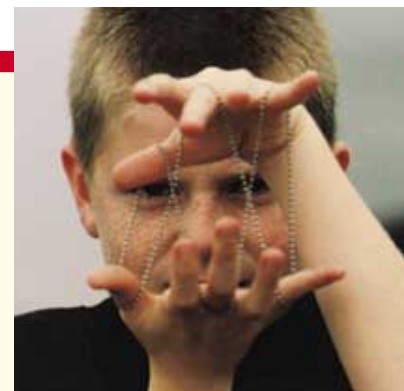


Figure this one out? Brian Sorenson creates a puzzle with his chain.



SUPER HERO: Desmond T. Doss, the only Seventh-day Adventist to win the Congressional Medal of Honor, was one of the spiritual celebrity guests. Each nightly program featured a spiritual celebrity, whose story helped the Pathfinders understand that true heroism involves trusting God in every action of every day. *Photo by Ludi Leito*



GIFT BOX: At ADRA's Pack-a-Box activity campers packed clothing and other necessities for Kosovar refugees that were donated from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, residents, neighboring communities, and sponsoring organizations and companies. Campers added a personal touch by writing notes of encouragement on the boxes. Maria Huaranga from the Spanish Golden Eagles Club in Berrien Springs, Michigan, prepares her "gift" box. *Photo by Jamie Arnall*



LENDING A HAND: Pathfinders discovered the power of service at the camporee by participating in 12 projects that left Oshkosh a better place. They stained and preserved the wood at the Little Oshkosh Playground, including decorating this rail with ladybugs. The task was artfully done by Connie Welsh from Greeley, Colorado's Frontiersman Pathfinder Club. In addition, thousands of Pathfinders created scenic walking trails near Oshkosh and did maintenance work outside the Evergreen Retirement Center, among other projects. *Photo by Ludi Leito*



SEARCHING FOR POWER: Much like Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Pathfinder programs mentor kids physically, mentally, and socially. The significant difference is the deliberate spiritual component of Pathfinders. *Photo by Alden J. Ho*



"We believe in the power of positive peer pressure."

—Willie Oliver, director of Pathfinder ministries, North American Division

God Power

by Pastor Dan Serns,
Chapel Oaks Explorers Pathfinder Club, Kansas City, Kansas

We talked almost every night after the program. The kids were so tired they didn't say much, but I know they were thinking a lot. The drama each night really touched the Pathfinders. It portrayed the great controversy themes. On Friday night they told the story of Jesus' life. The devil was one of the characters, just as he was in Christ's life. It really showed the cosmic forces at work in our lives. Our young people don't hear that a lot. Shivers ran down my back when Jesus rose from the tomb and Pathfinders started applauding and standing. Imagine that: Young Adventists cheering Christ's resurrection. *Wow!*

All day long our Pathfinders were busy with honors and games and seeing exhibits. I'm glad they got to see that the Christian life involves true enjoyment, that they could have fun in a Christian setting. They had hundreds of choices of things to do—all of them good choices, without any pull of negative things and without the press of being forced to choose between what's right and wrong.

Even the bad weather on Thursday night was something of a blessing. We had a tornado warning, and thunderstorms with big hail passed just to the north of the camp. The Lord saw the 22,000 Pathfinders on the grounds and protected them—but He knew there were maybe 2,000 Pathfinders who needed to bring their prayer life up-to-date.

Actually, I think all of us brought our spiritual lives up-to-date at the camporee.



WATERY GRAVE: Pastor Dan Serns, chaplain of the Chapel Oaks Club from Kansas City, Kansas, helps Madison Jarboe adjust her hands prior to her baptism in the scuba diving tank. The tank was changed from a training facility to a baptistry so that more than 100 Pathfinders could be baptized on Sabbath afternoon. Serns recalls his experiences in the article above. *Photo by Kermit Netteburg*

For more camporee memories, see
www.camporee.org

Is It Wrong to Be Neutral?

I am unwittingly being drawn into a controversy brewing in our church, with elders and deacons angry at one another. I am continually receiving phone calls and visits from members on “both sides,” and finding myself agreeing with each person’s view. Is it wrong to see both sides of an issue? Am I being hypocritical?

I am saddened to hear of the conflict that is occurring in your church and the distress that your entire congregation must be experiencing. While the “ideal” house of worship offers only solace and rest, churches since the time of Paul have battled with personality types and issues that fire tempers and threaten to divide the body.

When controversies flare, is it necessary for every member of the church to consider the issues and decide which faction deserves allegiance? Is it wrong to lend an understanding ear to one church member, and then listen sympathetically to someone on the other side? Not at all. I find a number of compelling arguments that suggest that your neutral stance is neither inappropriate nor hypocritical.

1. *The issue is not one that you chose to be drawn into.* While others have drawn their lines in the sand around particular points, you may not feel the same passion for one side of the argument or the other.

2. *It’s not just an “issue” that’s involved here; it’s people.* While much of the focus centers on the fine points honed sharply by both factions, in the midst of the dilemma are very real people—church members who feel affronted, hurt, misunderstood, maligned, let down. As you listen to those you care about express their pain, the points of contention become less important than human suffering. To express a genuine understanding of what someone is going through is not to imply that you are taking sides in an argument.

3. *If every member of a congregation were forced to take sides whenever key players found themselves at odds, churches would become smaller and smaller, splitting into narrow viewpoints at each controversial juncture.* Some issues are better left to resolve themselves according to God’s schedule, rather than

to be forced upon church members who are not looking for confrontation.

4. Rather than being hypocritical, the ability to enter into the experience of others is an act of empathy—a trait that exceeds sympathy, with the listener intimately connected to the emotions and psychological journey of the one expressing a concern. Such an ability to perceive another’s pain is a rare gift that can bless any congregation with healing and understanding.

5. *Different temperament types are needed in every congregation to support and balance the whole.* While

outspoken people can help the body clarify its stance on some important issues, members are also needed who can listen without being judgmental, respond to feelings, care deeply about those around them. Quiet, not-easily-threatened, affirming, background people lend much to the church family.

6. *Paul advises, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone” (Rom. 12:18, NIV).* That does not sound to me like an admonition to confront every person and problem with opposing opinions. Rather, Paul views peace as a goal worthy of pursuit.

Ultimately, every congregation will experience its rough waters. While those caught up in the controversy haggle and threaten and seek to be understood, it is the gentle, caring people who keep the ship afloat, who steady the craft that threatens to capsize. You’re doing a fine job using your spiritual gifts. Don’t worry about the looming hypocritical label as you minister to those who need you most at this time. I suspect that the title of “hypocrite” was suggested by one who would pressure you into taking her or his side. Don’t succumb to the innuendos. Your understanding heart is needed more than the force of your weight in the argument.

A neutral stance is neither inappropriate nor hypocritical.

Sandra Doran is an assistant to the superintendent of schools for field supervision in the Southern New England Conference.



Reaching for a Better Humanity

The secret, surprisingly, is forgiveness.

BY JAN PAULSEN

The following is the condensation of a sermon delivered at the June 1999 graduation exercises at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.—Editors.

*“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever” (Ps. 103:8, 9).**

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you” (Col. 3:12, 13).

A YUGOSLAVIAN SERB, LOOKING pensively at the river Danube as it slowly flows past him through Belgrade, says, more to himself than to anyone else: “During the Second World War the Croats, allied with the Nazis, killed half a million Serbs, and their bodies came floating down on this river from Croatia. We will never forget and we will never forgive them for that.” And his mind drifts off into the murky haze of a history of realities and myths.

Have I not said, have you not thought: *I will never forgive?*

Never? Can I find peace with myself and the people that surround me if I cannot or will not forgive? We are all going to be wronged, hurt, or abused sometime; that’s the way life

is. What do we plan to do about it? How do we handle it?

Stories About Relationships

Whenever Jesus wanted to make a significant point or teach a lesson of great importance, He told a story. These stories describe the realities of everyday life—then and today—in which people often hurt each other, and then often threw a religious cloak over it all, thereby managing also to distort God.

Most of these stories said something about relationships—between one human being and another, or between God and human beings—and they sought to drive home the point that we need somehow to do better at just being human beings; we need to discover what the finest human qualities are. That discovery starts by asking: How does God look upon people? How does He value a human being? And does this say something about how I should look upon and treat the people I meet on my journey through life?

The predominant quality of God that says more than any other about His attitude to people is *His willingness to forgive*. And the presence or absence of precisely this quality is what creates or destroys relationships between people. Jesus taught: Freely you have received, and, therefore, equally freely you are expected to give (see Matt. 10:8).

One day (see Matt. 18:21, 22) one of the disciples said to Jesus: “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother



when he sins against me? Up to seven times?”

Jesus replied, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

A Question of Attitude

It is not the arithmetic that is flawed; it is the mind-set. Reaching for a better humanity moves away from any notion of “an eye for an eye,” or of score-settling, or of “how-many-times-has-who-done-what-to-whom.”

It is somehow easier to judge than it is to forgive; to point a finger; to shake the head, even as I sit insecurely perched on the self-made mountain of my own mistakes. And the sins I condemn the most in others are those that echo mine.

Here’s a serious comment from the writings of Ellen G. White:

“He who is unforgiving cuts off the very channel through which alone he can receive mercy from God. We should not think that unless those who have injured us confess the wrong we are justified in withholding from them our forgiveness. It is their part, no doubt, to humble their hearts by repentance and confession; but we are to have a spirit of compassion toward those who have trespassed against us, whether or not they confess their faults. However sorely they may have wounded us, we are not to cherish our grievances and sympathize with ourselves over our injuries; but as we hope to be pardoned for our offenses against God we are to pardon all who have done evil to us” (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 113, 114).

Tall order? Yes, but this is God say-

ing to me, through His inspired servant, “This is how I want you to live life.” God is in the habit of being very direct. “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (Eph. 4:32).

Strange Story, Strong Lesson

One of the stories told by Jesus, recorded in Matthew 18:23-35, particularly drives home the importance of the point I am making. Here we meet a high-ranking steward in a king’s service who had built up a huge debt with his master. The debt was, as far as we can tell, way beyond his ability to settle. He was hopelessly sunk, and there was no way he could redeem himself. And this is where the story begins.

The debt he owed was so large that we cannot conceive of it in monetary terms. “Ten thousand talents.” Ten thousand was the highest figure used in reckoning, and a talent was the largest monetary unit. Simply put, the figure was beyond our grasp. Even so, the servant kids himself; he thinks he can pay it back, given a bit of time; and that is all he asks for—time. But his master sees the hopelessness of his situation, knows that this irresponsible steward could not possibly repay the debt he had recklessly accrued, and so cancels the debt.

But the story does not end there. We meet a parallel incident with one or two major differences. The servant who has just had his debt forgiven meets a fellow servant who owes him what, by comparison, is a pittance. He threatens him, and when he is not able to repay his debt immediately he has him cast into prison.

Yes, there was a difference in the size of the debt. But the greatest difference was in the spirit of master and servant. When the master gets wind of this he calls in the servant and says to him: “You useless, contemptible creature: Didn’t I just forgive you a huge debt because you begged me to? Shouldn’t you have shown some mercy to one of your colleagues to reflect the kindness I had extended to you?”

That is God’s question to me and you as we journey out into life. You and I will surely meet our own version of this scenario.

We find in this story a message of warning and judgment. It teaches a lesson that runs through the whole of the New Testament: To receive forgiveness from God, I must be willing to forgive. To be treated with compassion, I must be willing to be generous to other people.

Divine and Human Forgiveness Interlocked

Said Jesus in the fifth beatitude: “Blessed are those who show mercy, for mercy shall be shown to them.” He also said: “For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you” (Matt. 6:14, 15).

But you can only truly forgive someone who has wronged you if you have some sense of compassion and a degree of understanding for that individual. The sentiment is well described by the psalmist: “The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made” (Ps. 145:8, 9).

Compassion and understanding make



for a better humanity. Humanly speaking, they proceed from an acknowledgment that we are frail and frequently at fault. It stands apart from the continuous traffic between good and evil within me. What would you rather be governed by, a clumsy and maybe not-so-gifted leader who has the capacity to understand and show pity, or an efficient technocrat whose dedication to the letter of the law—or policy—makes him/her cold and somewhat brutal?

I say to people accustomed to placing high premium on being “right,” “*There are times when it is better to be kind than it is to be right.*”

Compassion and mercy grow out of some heartfelt understanding for the other person’s misfortune and distress. It means taking the time and energy to become involved in the suffering and misfortune of someone else. Compassion cannot be entertained at a distance. And maybe for that very reason understanding and compassion are somewhat rare. To entertain and express these sentiments you have to allow people to get close to you—often closer than comfort wants; and you must allow yourself to be pulled into their lives. It demands time, and is often emotionally exhausting. But it’s the best way to live.

Way to Go

As we journey through life we will meet individuals who may not have been schooled by the best institutions and who may not have the right to add letters after their names, but who have a special gift in their ability to understand people. And they find time to make the effort. They are often on the quiet side, observant and perceptive. They listen more than they speak, and you sense that they have time for you. Sometimes they will surprise you not by their cleverness, but by the depth of their insight. They are healers; they understand.

To really be able to understand someone you have to be willing not just to step into their shoes, but to walk around in them for a while. I am reminded of the words of Søren Kierkegaard: “For the rights of understanding to be valid one must venture out into life . . . and not only stand and watch others fighting

and struggling—only then does understanding acquire its official sanction, for to stand on one’s leg and prove God’s existence is a very different thing from going on one’s knees and thanking Him” (*The Journals of Kierkegaard*, [Harper & Row, 1959], p. 68).

Probably one of the greatest gifts that any human being can give to another is to make the effort to understand them. It is so important to know that you have someone to whom you can go at any time and know that they

Charity does not look for limits; it looks for opportunities

will not laugh at your dreams, your hopes, and your failures; and to know that they will not misuse your confidence; you will not be left feeling naked. It is good to have someone to whom you can go and find the tensions of life relax, to find peace. It requires no lavish surroundings and no costly entertainment. It just requires a bit of time and interest.

Now, how does all of this tie in with the parable with which we began? The parable was about forgiveness. Forgiveness leads to closeness rather than distance; to understanding rather than indifference; to healing rather than hurt.

The parable is surrounded by a number of questions: What are the limits that I can justifiably hold to in relationships with a person who has done me wrong? “How many times, Lord, do You reasonably expect me to forgive—my colleague? my roommate? my son? my husband? my wife? Lord, knowing the gravity of what has happened, surely You do not expect me to go on and on and on? Where can I reasonably draw the line? When it is enough?”

The questions all have this in common: they think in terms of limits. I have to be able to draw the line some-

where. Surely even God does that, doesn’t He?

The answer to this type of thinking is simply to accept that charity does not look for limits; it looks for opportunities. Love does not constantly have a need to qualify itself. How often should I forgive? The question itself is wrong. It has nothing to do with times. It has to do with mind-set. It has to do with learning to be a better human being.

There is a better humanity to be reached for, and you can find it. You just have to care enough to make the effort. Life becomes so much richer; the air so much purer and easier to breathe. That is what God expects of you and me as His children.

A nun in Mother Teresa’s community in Calcutta, no doubt influenced by that well-known prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi, penned these words:

“Lord, when I am hungry, send me someone in need of food;
When I am thirsty, someone who needs water;
When I am cold, someone who needs to be warmed;
When I am hurt, someone in need of healing.
When my cross becomes heavy to carry, Lord, send me someone whose cross I can help to carry;
When I am poor, send me someone in need;
When I am too busy, someone who needs a few moments of my time;
When I have been humbled, send me someone I can praise; and
When I need to be understood, send me someone who needs my understanding.”

It is a difficult prayer to live, yes, but it’s worth the effort. ■

* Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture texts are taken from the New International Version.

Jan Paulsen is president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Silver Spring, Maryland.



Going Home

Princess looked around the wire enclosure of the animal shelter where she had been taken. With so many dogs in the shelter, the place smelled bad. Some of the dogs barked all the time. Some dogs snarled at the others. Some crouched hopelessly in a corner.

Princess was a 7-month-old black-and-white Border collie pup. Until being taken to the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) shelter, she had never been out of the backyard of the place where she had been raised. To make matters worse, her owners had never had much time for her. Now she was very frightened.

The SPCA operates a shelter for homeless animals, and the people who work there love animals. Even though the caretakers were gentle and took good care of all of them, the animals still seemed to know that this was not their home.

Each morning Princess woke, daintily ate her food and drank her water, and then sat looking out through the wire. Someday someone would come and take her home.

Late one afternoon Jason and his mother arrived at the SPCA. They wanted to adopt a dog. Jason had spent a lot of time getting ready for his new pet. He had a bed, a dish, and a toy all ready. How excited Jason was!

A helpful woman showed Jason and his mother to the kennels. There were big dogs lunging at the wire fence and smaller ones jumping up and down, begging to get out. A handsome young German shepherd jumped at the fence. "Look at me, look at me," he seemed to bark.

Jason spoke to the German shepherd pup. No, this was not

the one, he thought. Just then he looked back in the pen and noticed Princess sitting still, her shiny black eyes watching him. Somehow Jason knew that Princess was the puppy he had come for.

Princess wasn't afraid of Jason. She seemed to know he would love her, and that he had come to take her home. She crowded close to Jason, and lifting her head proudly, she walked carefully across the parking lot as they headed for the car. Her body quivered with excitement. She was going home.

Just as Princess was waiting, we too are waiting for Jesus to come to take us home. He has everything ready for us, too. He has been planning for this special trip for a long time. What an exciting time when we will go home at last.

Family Time

On Tuesday (or whatever day you like), invite your family to worship God together.

- ✎ Ask an adult at your family worship to tell a story about a time when they were away from home and suddenly had a chance to go home. How long did it take to get ready? How did they feel?
- ✎ Ask if anyone has ever had a dream about going home to heaven.
- ✎ Look around your house for some magazines that you can cut pictures out of. Set your timer for 10 minutes to give everyone time to find and cut out a picture that would show what "going home" means. Write "Going Home" on top of the picture, and then show your picture to the others at your worship.
- ✎ Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, letting everyone at your worship who can read have a turn at reading at least one verse.
- ✎ Sing a song about heaven. Need some ideas? Look in The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal ("Jesus Is Coming Again," No. 213, or "When He Cometh," No. 218).
- ✎ Be sure to thank Jesus for making a home for us where we can live with Him forever, and where we will all be safe and happy.

CRISIS CONTROL

Four ways to manage heated discussions

BY REX D. EDWARDS

“What causes fights and quarrels among you?” (James 4:1, NIV). Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves” (verse 1, Message).

THE CHOIR DIRECTOR IS FIRED. HALF OF the ensemble vote with their feet out of sympathy for their ejected leader.

A board member refuses to serve because she is in disagreement with the chair leadership style.

The youth confront the deacons concerning the need for more money for Pathfinder activities.

A pastor is put on administrative leave. A group of protesters defect and meet for separate services.

The church board becomes deadlocked over whether or not to endorse a more contemporary worship style.

One crisis after another. The church is called to prayer, but the cumulative effects of friction in the church produce a sense of foreboding. Confidence and trust disappears and a shrinking membership is a real possibility.

Can such congregations be hopeful? I believe they can.

What It Means to Be the Church

First, at some level these people have to believe that their system, their way of being the church, is a sound and faithful one; that there is a message in their method that, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, people can be trusted to be fair, gracious, honest, and faithful.

The second reason congregations in crisis can have hope is their lifelong trust that Jesus meant what He

said about the church's durability. There are other forces at work here besides committees and groups. Church members have to remember who they are—Christians willing to trust one another because they trust the Lord of the church. They need a gift of grace, a glimpse of what the word “church” can mean and how people, in Christ, can differ profoundly and still respect, trust, and even love one another.

But words come easily; the behavioral realities are hard. Respect, trust, and love translate, first of all, into listening to one another. It's futile to tell people that their feelings are inappropriate. All you can do with feelings is have them. It is not only futile but presumptuous to tell someone they have no reason to be angry when they are angry.

At the same time, people need to be reminded that anger is a highly contagious emotion. It rouses anger in the hearers, which intensifies opposition and makes it more unreasonable. We do not persuade people by fighting with them, but by talking with them. A tug-of-war makes the opposition dig in more deeply. We get people to understand our position by trying to understand theirs: “I know how you feel . . .” “I can see why you say that . . .” etc.

There are those who say that to suppress anger is unhealthy and dishonest. To show anger with a person, it is argued, is a sign of openness and trust, a demonstration that makes possible a constructive resolution to the conflict and puts the relationship on a higher level. But I have never shown heat or irritation when I was not sorry afterward. People may forgive it, but to forgive is not to forget; the damage to the relationship remains. I know that repression

can build up pressure—"There is no one as dangerous as an enraged Quaker"—but the anger can be displaced by a better emotion, such as sympathy and concern.

Exploding in anger does not clear the air; it poisons it. Bad temper is not the mark of a strong and free personality, it really reveals immaturity.

Dealing With Crises

So when a crisis erupts in a congregation, what strategies are necessary in order to reach reconciliation?

1. Acknowledge the conflict. When people feel deeply about an issue and begin to become angry, the least helpful thing one can do is appear not to take the conflict seriously or, worse yet, convey the sense that those who are feeling angry have no reason or right to do so.

In the middle of a heated conflict, it may be a good idea for everyone to acknowledge the depth of feelings and therefore the integrity of the individuals involved; to call a conference between the principals, not to resolve the conflict but simply to acknowledge it.

2. Listen actively and aggressively. I'm convinced that the most devastating bureaucratic behavior is not to listen, to be too busy, too preoccupied, to hear. We can model a way of active listening by making certain

that contending individuals have every opportunity to be heard, publicly and privately.

John Greenleaf Whittier, in a desire to be heard by his angry New England

listen. We can telephone the contending persons and say something as simple as "I know you feel deeply about this. I want to make sure I know exactly what your thinking is."

When we listen to the anger, frustration, and passion, remember that beneath all that is a deep love for the church and an intention to be faithful. Listening to brothers and sisters is an expression of the inclusive love we believe is of God. And when people who feel excluded are included, they begin to trust again.

3. Allow for "inclusive conversation."

When committees and boards must deal with difficult issues, several dynamics always happen: a few individuals do a lot of talking while

the rest listen, wishing later that they had expressed themselves. An "inclusive conversation" is a device by which each member of the body is encouraged and given the opportunity to express his or her opinion about the issue at hand.

The chair can say something like: "We're obviously divided on this issue, yet it's quite important that we hear one another before we vote. So I'm going to ask everyone to say where he or she stands on the matter while the rest of us listen carefully. We'll challenge one another, argue, and discuss later. For now, it's important that each of us



neighbors, put his dissent in a poem that began:

"O Friends! with whom my feet
have trod
The quiet aisles of prayer,
Glad witness to your zeal for God
And love of man I bear.

"I trace your lines of argument;
Your logic linked and strong
I weigh as one who dreads dissent,
And fears a doubt as wrong."

Then Whittier went on to a ringing and beautiful statement of his convictions. He just wanted someone to

Staying in Stride

As a young farmboy in north central Ohio, I remember going with my father to watch harness racing at the county fair. Dad taught me the evils of gambling but also the joy of seeing well-bred horses run. These were trotting horses. Each horse pulled a sulky in which the driver was seated. As the horses ran, their heads seemed to float around the track. On the far side of the oval they presented a beautiful picture of unity and purpose. I knew they were competing for the prize, but it was an unforgettable image of a group heading for the same goal.

Sometimes a horse would break stride. When that happened, the horse's head reared up. The unity was clearly broken, and the scene was marred. When one horse broke stride, those near would often follow the lead. The scene of tranquil unity changed to chaos. Often there would be a wreck with injury to the horses and drivers. In a similar way the unity of the church is marred when individual members break stride with God and fellow members. Their rebellion usually causes others to follow. Chaos can result.

It is comforting to know that a horse that has broken stride, if it submits to the direction of the driver, can regain stride. It is even possible for the restored horse to win the race. That should be an encouragement to us all.

Taken from The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching, Keith Willhite and Scott M. Gibson, editors.

“speak, and that the rest of us listen.”

It requires patience, discipline, and time, but an “inclusive conversation” prior to voting on a divisive issue will help the group make a decision that represents the will of the majority and, more important, a decision that has at least the possibility of unanimous support.

4. *Humor.* It is difficult to summon

humor on demand. But it is not difficult to use humorous elements to articulate our common human experiences of stress, worry, fear, anger, hope. Sometimes a simple human story conveys that, and laughter blesses everyone who understands, for a moment, the common human ground upon which we all stand.

Humor can soften the worst vicissitudes. The Norwegian poet Björnson said the event in his life he remembered with the most pleasure was the time a mob of pseudopatriots stormed his house. They were angered by remarks he made in the parliament that they considered disloyal. When they had broken the windows, they marched off down the street singing the Norwegian national anthem. Björnson said he sat amid the broken glass and roared with laughter, because he had written the anthem they were

singing so self-righteously.

When each voice has been heard, understanding fostered, and hopefully the issue resolved, sing the doxology. And maybe the whole church can learn from it about listening and laughing and singing our way through the difficult issues facing all of us in the days ahead.

A church grows during its crises. We don't seek controversy because it can be beneficial, any more than we seek sorrow for that reason, but if a church can hold together in love, it does its best learning during disagreements. ■

Rex D. Edwards is an associate vice president and director of Religious Studies at Griggs University.



Are You the Problem?

BY DON WOOD, Associate Instructor, School of Journalism, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

Often articles are written about problem people in our churches, but the assumption, generally, is that someone else is the troublemaker. Problems inevitably arise in churches, some serious enough to tear them apart. The root of most church problems is difficult relationships between individuals or factions within congregations. The poor relationships are often caused by self-centeredness, inner turmoil, faulty beliefs, and/or personal fears. It may be time to stop peering over our shoulders and start staring in our mirrors.

You may be the church's problem if:

- You cannot be a happy servant of God without having an office or title.
- The offices you hold become “your” offices.
- You fear involvement in leadership by people of other ethnic groups or races.
- Differences in education level are viewed as potential threats to the church order.
- Being on the church board is the ultimate recognition of your significance among the members.
- You avoid all involvement except administrative meetings.
- You see prayer meeting as a waste of time.
- You spread damaging information or falsehoods about fellow members for the purpose of hurting their influence and neutralizing their effectiveness.
- You actively listen to gossip or complaints about members, and never try to get the other sides of the stories.
- Service, to you, is only administrative, rarely evangelistic or supportive through personal effort.

If the enemy is you, then you need spiritual help. God is able to help you overcome the fear that causes you to be divisive and hurtful. Let Him take control of your life, and let Him lead His church His way.



Hope for Borneo

Indonesia, the largest Muslim-populated country in the world, provides a huge Global Mission challenge. Its more than 200 million people crowd into nearly 14,000 islands that spread between the Indian and Pacific oceans, providing stepping-stones between continental Asia and Australia. Although the vast majority of Indonesians profess Islam, many still believe in the spirit world and mingle ancestor worship with Islam or Christianity.

Adventist work began in this densely populated country nearly 100 years ago. Today the challenges are greater than ever, but Global Mission is making the unreached people of Indonesia a high priority, and Global Mission pioneers are touching lives with God's love.

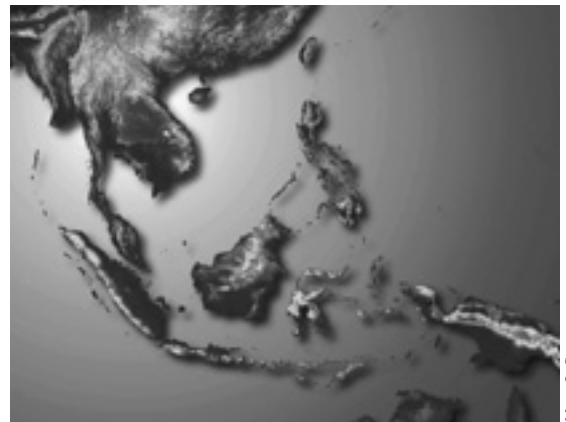


OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS: The supernatural is almost a daily part of life for people in Borneo. In Kalimantan (the Indonesian side of the island), a crippled man lay sleeping. In his dreams Layna (inset) saw an envelope coming down from heaven. He reached out and opened it. He read the message: "You must remember the seventh-day Sabbath." The following week he and his family began keeping the Sabbath. Last year a young Global Mission pioneer, Koneng, his wife, Sintak, and two children (pictured) arrived in Layna's village—Lalang Ledo. He soon

began visiting with Layna and others. Fifteen people have now been baptized, and 10 more, including Layna, are ready to be. In the next village four families have requested Bible studies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To receive Global Mission newsletters or join the Global Mission Prayer Ministry, simply call 1-800-648-5824.



MAP © CARTEESIA



FROM HEADHUNTER TO GOD LOVER: Global Mission pioneer Daniel has recently established a new group of believers in Apong, Kalimantan. Daniel is a Dayak—an indigenous native of Borneo—and was involved in tribal warfare in which he beheaded his enemies. In recent years the Dayaks have captured international attention for ferocious warfare and cannibalism. Today Daniel loves rather than hates. As a result of his work in Apong, already eight people have been baptized and 20 more are preparing for baptism. (Daniel is using a Picture Roll recently produced and funded by the Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries [ASI].)

Adventist Review Celebrates 150 Years

BY STEPHANIE SWILLEY, WHO WAS A MARKETING INTERN FOR THE ADVENTIST REVIEW WHEN SHE WROTE THIS ARTICLE.

This past July the *Adventist Review* celebrated 150 years since its beginning as a “little paper” in July 1849.

Ellen White told her husband, James, the first editor, that the *Adventist Review* would start small and grow to “be like streams of light that went clear round the world.” That mission theme was conveyed throughout the 150th anniversary festivities.

The first of two anniversary receptions took place at the General Conference headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, on July 28. Former editors and writers, area pastors, and GC workers joined the editorial staff to celebrate the past 150 years.

“I took my camera because I wanted

to get my picture with Kenneth Wood (editor, 1966-1982) and Bill Johnsson (editor, 1982-present),” said Jocelyn Fay, former managing editor. “It was fun to see people that I knew and worked with at the General Conference.”

The 64-page 150th anniversary issue was unveiled at the reception. The special issue focuses on how the four principles of the magazine—spirituality, message and mission, diversity, and reader interaction—have shaped the *Review* over the years.

The topics are explored in four meditations by four contemporary authors and by looking at four selected years in the *Review’s* history—1855, 1897, 1944, and 1995.

Included within is a special heritage

poster that readers can pull out and keep. The issue can be purchased at any Adventist Book Center or can be ordered for \$4.95, including shipping and handling, by calling toll-free 1-800-456-3991.

The first Stream of Light Award was also presented to Lois Peters, a Maryland resident, for her humanitarian contributions.

“I am just so honored. It makes me realize how good God is,” said Peters. “I hope this will stimulate us even more to continue the philosophy to bless everyone we come in contact with.”

The award recognizes someone who exemplifies

the magazine’s strong emphasis on local and international missionary work. Peters’ name stood out from a long list of candidates as someone who has dedicated her life to helping others.

From her humble beginnings in Jamaica, Peters came to the United States and earned an associate degree in nursing from Atlantic Union College. Armed with this degree, she started Peters’ Pediatric Nursing Team in her own home with just one patient.

It didn’t take long for God to bless her ministry. First-year revenues passed \$1 million, and only when she sold the 700-employee company did she learn that it had become the largest pediatric home health care company in the country.

She identifies God as the secret to her success, saying, “Any door the Lord opens for me, I’ll walk through it.”

Whether she’s traveling to Rwanda to share her pediatric expertise or providing beds for 100 traveling school kids, her positive attitude and giving spirit act like a stream of light to all around her.

As former General Conference president Neal Wilson puts it, she’s a woman with a big heart. Bill Johnsson agrees, saying, “Lois is a superb choice. She embodies all that we had in mind for this award. She has compassion and interest in others. She has great energy and the ability to translate ideas into action.”

Each guest received a scented candle with the “Streams of Light Around the World” message written on it, and guests could have their pictures taken next to life-size cutouts of both first *Review* editor James White and current editor William G. Johnsson.



A SHINING LIGHT: Lois Peters received the first *Adventist Review* Stream of Light Award for her commitment to serving others. “Any door the Lord opens for me, I’ll walk through it,” she said.

PHOTO BY CARLOS MEDLEY

Adventist Review also awarded a total of \$1,000 to four writing contest winners. The editors had challenged GC employees to delve into their Adventist heritage and find interesting stories in their family history or write an inspiring devotional piece. Look for the winning entries in future *Review* issues.

And as a grand finale, Johnsson and previous editor Kenneth Wood combined lung power to blow out 150 anniversary candles.

Local television and print media covered the event, and many greetings came from local government and religious leaders honoring this occasion, including U.S. senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland.

“This is indeed an important milestone, not only for the magazine, but also for the progress and growth of the Seventh-day Adventists,” noted Sarbanes. “Maintaining institutions is no small task, but perpetuating a magazine of such quality and depth is a tribute to you and your predecessors and to the high standards adhered to by the Adventists.”

On July 29 the celebrations continued, this time at the *Review* and Herald Publishing Association in



PHOTO BY JENNIFER BARIZO

LIKE STREAMS OF LIGHT: From its beginning as a “little paper” in 1849, the *Adventist Review’s* mission has been to be like a “stream of light” around the world. This July the *Review’s* staff celebrated 150 years.

Hagerstown. The magazine has been published by the *Review* and Herald since 1855.

More cake was cut and punch served for the 260 publishing house employees. The team of designers and desktop technicians, including Bill Tymeson, Stephanie Kaping, Reger

Smith, Jr., and Bill Kirstein, who lay out the magazine each week work out of Hagerstown.

Ted Wilson, president of the *Review* and Herald, said he’s proud of the *Review’s* 150-year history. “It tells me we have a long heritage and it’s guided by something other than a human endeavor. It obviously has a mission.”

Adventist Review has brought thousands of reader-inspiring and interesting stories over the past 150 years, but the story of its beginning is truly one of God’s leading and guidance. To a penniless preacher came the word of God that he must “print a little paper.” James White listened, and in July 1849 came the first issue, called *Present Truth*.

“We look back with a good degree of pleasure to the month of July 1849, when we published the first number of the little paper called *Present Truth*,” White said. “We sat down to prepare the matter for that little sheet, and wrote every word of it, . . . Destitute of means, our hope of success was in God” (*Review and Herald*, June 17, 1880).

Readers responded by sending in



PHOTO BY JENNIFER BARIZO

A HUFF AND A PUFF: Editors William G. Johnsson (present) and Kenneth Wood (1966-1982) combine lung power to blow out 150 anniversary candles.



INTERNS AT WORK: Summer interns Jennifer Barizo (right) and Stephanie Swilley pose with the life-size cardboard versions of first *Review* editor James White and current editor William G. Johnsson.

money for printing, and soon the church paper, now called *Adventist Review*, settled into a weekly cycle that continued unbroken as 10 editors helmed the magazine through world wars and depressions.

The *Review* continues to look for new ways to spread its message. Taking advantage of the World Wide Web, the magazine will launch its Online Edition this fall. And their newest plan? To put the *Review* in the home of every newly baptized member.

"Many of our subscribers have partnered with us to offer encouragement to new Adventists, to help them know Jesus and His love, and have a closer connection with the church," said Charlotte McClure, associate publisher. The New Believers Plan was started this year, in cooperation with local conferences. More than \$100,000 has already been donated by *Review* readers, and more than 11,000 new subscriptions have been started. "These generous people have donated \$25, or often much more, toward one-year subscriptions for recently baptized members," she added.

In an effort to attract new subscribers, the magazine has cut subscrip-

tion prices for new subscribers to the lowest in its 150-year history (all prices are converted to 1999 dollar value).

"During this anniversary year, we've slashed the price of a one-year subscription to just \$19.99 for anyone

who has never subscribed or has not been a subscriber for the past 12 months," McClure said. "And this is a great year to subscribe, because next year, along with the 40 weekly issues, subscribers will get six extra issues from the General Conference session in July 2000."

The magazine has fulfilled Ellen White's prediction to be like streams of light around the world. What started with 1,000 copies of an eight-page paper has grown to more than 750,000 copies each month in 121 countries.

Already the World Edition of the *Review* appears in English or other languages in seven out of the 12 divisions of the world church, with an eighth inquiring about the possibility.

"I expect this trend to continue. The *Review* has become recognized as one the chief agencies to hold Adventists together," said Johnsson.

The *Review* has a unique place in church history, according to Johnsson. "The story of the *Review* is the story of the church, with the *Review* very often the leading edge of the church. I am amazed and grateful to the Lord for His leading during these 150 years."

AWR Letter Box

Dear friends at AWR: "I'm glad to listen to your Japanese program. I think it is very interesting. I want to study the truth in the Bible."—**Masaru**, Japan.



"One night while I was trying to tune in to another station I came across your radio program. I thank God for the help I continue to get from your programs, as I now tune in every day for spiritual nourishment."—**James**, Kenya.

"Your broadcasts are a real blessing for those of us who live in the countryside and have no church. You give us the opportunity to learn many practical things for both our physical and spiritual lives."—**Vontaly**, Madagascar.

For more information about Adventist World Radio, write to: 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904-6600; or call toll-free: 1-800-337-4297; e-mail: awrinfo@awr.org; website: www.awr.org.

For Your Good Health

Obesity and the Immune System

People who are obese appear to have a greater risk of impaired immune system function and artery damage than people who are not excessively overweight, according to researchers at Appalachian State and Loma Linda universities. They studied 116 women who were mildly to severely obese and 41 nonobese women, all between the ages of 25 and 75. Even after taking into account such factors as cholesterol levels, psychological well-being, and physical fitness, the researchers found that obesity is associated with several "alterations in immune function." While the results are preliminary, researchers will continue studies to determine the clinical implications of these alterations and whether weight loss, exercise, or nutrient supplementation can help ameliorate them.—*Journal of the American Dietetic Association*.

"For Your Good Health" is compiled by Larry Becker, editor of *Vibrant Life*, the church's health outreach journal. To subscribe, call 1-800-765-6955.

NEWS BREAK

Religious Liberty Protection Act Passed

On July 15 the United States House of Representatives passed the Religious Liberty Protection Act (RLPA) by a vote of 306 to 118. The bill now goes to the Senate, where opposition is expected to center on an amendment, defeated in the House, that would limit RLPA's application to civil rights laws.

RLPA is intended to restore the level of protection to free exercise of religion claims in the United States to where it was before 1990. Prior to that year the U.S. government was required to show that an action burdening the practice of religion was necessitated by a compelling interest. In a 1990 case, the Supreme Court largely abandoned that standard, holding that no religion-based exemption need be given to a law that is facially neutral and generally applicable.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA) also sought to reinstate the pre-1990 standard, but the Supreme Court ruled that RFRA was unconstitutional as applied to the states. Support for both RFRA and now RLPA has come from a wide coalition of religious groups, of which the General Conference is a member.

At issue in the Senate will be the question of whether religious belief should constitute a valid defense to viola-

tion of a civil rights law. The question arose after landlords in three states were charged with marital status discrimination for refusing, based on religious belief, to rent their premises to unmarried couples, says Mitchell Tyner, an associate general counsel for the GC.

Capstone Social Ethics and Religious Values Fund Opened

Church organizations and members now have the opportunity to invest in "socially responsible" funds. A new program designed by Capstone Asset Management follows the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The result is a series of funds entitled Capstone Social Ethics and Religious Values (SERV).

SERV enables individuals and groups to invest in portfolios that do not conflict with Adventist beliefs and values. A SERV fund will not invest in companies dealing with alcohol, gambling, pornography, tobacco, or other such concerns. David Deluccia, senior vice president of Capstone Asset Management, says SERV's portfolios are designed in harmony with the church's religious and health principles.

In addition to providing information in the development of SERV, Adventists will continue to be involved

Society's Tough Call

BY CYRIL CONNELLY, ASSISTANT DEAN FOR ENROLLMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

The August 5 issue of the San Luis Obispo County *Tribune* carried a story about the Tarver family, who were known for their hard work and respectability by their Texarkana, Texas, neighbors. This close-knit, law-abiding family grew to include four daughters. The parents had warned the girls not to question the past, and three of the four didn't ask why their parents had no Social Security cards, wedding photographs, driver's licenses, or checking accounts.

However, one of the daughters, using a friend's computer, discovered that her mother had no identity and that her father was using the Social Security number of a dead uncle. This computer search appears to have set in motion events that have led to the arrest of the parents as escapees from a Louisiana prison more than 27 years ago. The father, sentenced for armed robbery, had 10 years left on his sentence; the mother had less than a year to serve for burglary.

NEWS COMMENTARY

Iberville Parish district attorney Ricky Ward states, "We can't let someone who escaped from a maximum-security facility just get away with it. We can't say, 'We aren't going to prosecute you because you did well after you got out.'"

The couple maintain that they have shown their worth to society since 1972, and in a plea to return to their family Mr. Tarver states, "We have proved that we can be honest and responsible people."

A tough call for society. This real-life dilemma calls for the examination of grace, good works, responsibility, forgiveness, mercy, and consequences. On the one hand, justice demands the fulfilling of the prison sentence. On the other, mercy acknowledges that they seem capable of living responsible lives.

If you were the judge, how would you rule?

NEWS BREAK

in an advisory role. Gary DeBoer, an associate General Conference treasurer, says a committee composed of members from Loma Linda University, the Mid-America Union, the General Conference, and Adventist Health was established to serve as an advisory board to monitor compliance with Adventist values and principles.—*Adventist News Network*.

Indian Leader Calls on Adventists to Support Refugees

Narendra Mohan, a member of India's Parliament, pleaded in a July 29 interview for Adventist churches to support the displaced people in northern India. More than 400,000 people from Kashmir and Jammu need help because of religious terrorism that has forced them out of their homes with no hope of returning.

"India, the world's largest democracy, is totally committed to religious freedom, yet there are areas in which religious liberty is looked upon with skepticism," said Mohan to Richard Fenn, associate director of the General Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department.

For the most part, however, India enjoys "unity in diversity." According to Mohan, the nation's constitution forbids restrictions on religious freedom.—*Adventist News Network*.

News Notes

✓ **José and Adly Campos** report 80 baptisms thus far as a result of their "Building a Happy Home" evangelistic series in Nairobi, Kenya. During the meetings José, associate director of the General Conference Publishing Department, presents Adventist doctrines while his wife, Adly, presents principles of building better marriages.



✓ **Arnold Trujillo**, an associate director of the Pacific Union Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department, was recently elected president of the Hawaii Conference. Trujillo replaces J. Lynn Martell, who became vice president of development at Loma Linda University and Loma Linda University Medical Center in California.

What's Upcoming

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Sept. 1 | Monthly Focus—Adventist Heritage |
| Sept. 4 | Men's Day of Prayer |
| Sept. 4 | <i>Adventist Review</i> Promotion |
| Sept. 11 | Family Togetherness Week begins |
| Sept. 18 | Hispanic Heritage Week begins |

Going Places

My boy leaves for Andrews University this month, 25 years after his dad first made the trek down Highway 401, west along Interstate 94, past Ellen White's resting place in Battle Creek, Michigan, and into Berrien Springs, just 100 miles shy of Chicago.

There's a certain satisfaction when one's offspring chooses to walk in the ways of his father. There is also a liberal dose of apprehension. What's in store for this young man on the campus where I found myself, gained confidence, caught a glimpse of the breath and scope of my church, rubbed shoulders with the baby boomers who are now administering our church, and secured a Christian education that has withstood every curve tossed at me from the mound of business and commerce?

Will Adrian prove as good a roommate as Donald Coleman did for me? Will they keep each other focused on the religious and the academic instead of the romantic and the extracurricular?

He is so young, so innocent, so unprepared to leave the nest. The boy can't even get his clothes from his body to the closet without giving them a holiday on the floor or the back of a chair.

Only yesterday, it seems, I held him in Doctor's Hospital, his mother weary from the painful and exhilarating journey that gave him life. We fretted and worried as he fussed and fumed through his first few years of life. Oh, the painful slights and stares of disapproval as he proved incapable of sitting quietly through divine service. If it weren't for dear Auntie Maria McClean, always ready to provide relief when other members offered frowns, we might have gone around the bend.

Now look how he's grown—a handsome, loving, gentle giant, with a quiet spirit that is the antithesis of his bawling, brawling childhood.

Two summers ago he shot past me, growing six inches almost overnight. It was about then I finally admitted I couldn't carry his shorts on a basketball court and stopped

accepting his frequent one-on-one challenges.

There is no stopping the march of time. My father's old Pontiac LeMans ferried me into the unknown in 1974. The car is long gone; my father is close behind. As we repeat history my old minivan will have to suffice for the premillennium trek. There's so much I want to tell him, so much I want to save him from, protect him against. I want to tell Sheldon:

*My son is
so young,
so innocent,
so unprepared
to leave.*

In choosing a profession, find a passion and embrace it. Life's challenges are easier faced and conquered when your days are marked by a consuming passion.

Every profession, every calling, can be used to bring honor to your God and good to your fellow human beings. So it matters not whether your major is psychology or graphic arts or wellness or business administration; what matters is your willingness to be used by God.

Never forget your Pathfinder Pledge, especially the last part: "I will be a servant of God. I will be a friend to man." That is the noblest epithet one can leave for others to contemplate.

Choose your friends wisely. The most enduring lessons you'll learn will take place outside the classrooms. Therefore, if you must acquire wholesome habits, positive life skills, a strong, compatible life partner who will help you grow, you must choose wise, positive "teachers" who model their life after Christ.

Join a choir or a band, do drama, play sports, be part of campus ministries—or do them all. The years 1974 to 1978 were the best years of my life. The next four can be the same for you. God be with you, my son. May He guide you into His truth and show you the path you should take. He did it for me. I know He will do it for you—if you let Him.

Royson James is a columnist for the Toronto Star.



Home Is Where the Church Is

A new church every Sabbath—life on the road.

BY LINDA SUTHERLAND

IN NOVEMBER OF 1992 MY HUSBAND AND I sold our home in Colorado and nearly everything we had accumulated over the years. We even sold our cars at the garage sale. Then we bought a tiny Maltese puppy and headed for Montana in our box-shaped motor home. “Old Blue” had shown us some good times, but a home it was not. So we picked up a new 35-foot motor home and a tow vehicle and began a whole new life together. Full-time RVers.

My husband is a non-Adventist, and my only stipulation for this nomadic lifestyle was to be able to go to church every Sabbath. And therein lies an adventure!

I have a Seventh-day Adventist directory to help us locate the churches. It's rather obsolete; there are new churches, closed churches, churches held in various other locations, and some with incorrect addresses. But my husband is persistent and true to his word. He goes to great lengths to see that I attend church every week. (He says I'm a nicer person when I go.) Sometimes he drives 40 miles in one direction, and has offered to go as far as 50.

It was his idea to keep a photographic journal. So every week we find the church nearest our RV park and take a picture. Then on Sabbath I write a note card to attach to it. It has become a practice I enjoy: noting details about the sanctuary, whether the church is friendly, input during Sabbath school, if there is a music service, and sermon notes. One of the many blessings is the abundant musical talent in our churches.

The RV parks we stay in are mostly resort membership parks. They give city maps and business locations and list-

ings of churches in the area among other information we RVers need. Almost all Christian churches are listed, but rarely is the Adventist church one of them. We've discovered, too, that often the phone book listings have much more information on other churches. My husband has commented several times that he feels we don't want people to know where we are.

We've tried using the phone listings in the Seventh-day Adventist directory but find ourselves listening to a machine. That's fine, but we would appreciate having the time of worship, time of Sabbath school, and the location of the church left on the telephone. Because we use pay phones, our calls can't be returned.

Having signs directing us to the church is very helpful. We wish more of our churches used them. Sometimes there isn't a church where the sign indicates, but we search on until we find it.

Every Sabbath is a surprise in the summer. Camp meetings—some churches hold Sabbath school, some close completely, and some leave a note and location of the camp meeting on the door for visitors. I really like that.

I have mentioned many times that coming to the Seventh-day Adventist church is like coming home every week. It's my source of peace and strength and stability. Every service is similar, the faces friendly, the atmosphere comforting, a real sense of family. I find I'm just one of many travelers. So often I've met someone who knows or is related to someone I know. Some of the churches are supported by “snowbirds” (those who winter in the warm climates), such as Desert Hot Springs, California, and Yuma and Parker,



He says I'm a nicer person

Arizona. These are very loving people, and most are far from home.

Coming home

We visited 106 different churches in 41 states during one period of our travel time. This has been such a positive witness for my husband, even though he doesn't attend with me. One such time was at Fairhope, Alabama, when several people stayed after church to keep me company until he came for me. He's also encouraged when I visit a church more than once and find a positive Spirit-led congregation where it was lacking before. The Spirit is doing a great work in the San Antonio, Texas, church.

We're nearly always invited to a potluck dinner after church, and I know someday Larry will come with me. At Galveston, Texas, Mrs. Wolf took us out to lunch. She's 96 years old, and what a witness she was to Larry. She left a lasting Christian impression on him. At Kamiah, Idaho, we enjoyed the couple who stood outside and waved as we drove into the parking lot. What a unique greeting! Our Father places us where we may be blessed or be a blessing to others.

America is called a "melting pot," but Americans tend to live and work in ethnic communities. Our churches reflect this. I have been spiritually enriched to worship with Cubans for

Christmas at Clermont, Florida, and Norwegians at Ottawa, Illinois, though many churches are a mixture of all God's children.

Before 1993 I'd had very limited exposure to the African-American community. What joy and love I've found in their churches. The churches are full, and they're in no hurry to end worship service. How they love the Lord! The sermons are power-filled and straight from the Bible. I was amazed at how often they sing through each service without ever opening a hymnal.

At Littlerock, California, a young woman sang "A Shelter in the Time of Storm." I'll never forget it. That was my first experience in an all-Black church. How I wanted to hug the babies.

I met my friend Edna Brown at South Bend, Indiana. She reminded me of someone dear to me when I was a child. So I told her. It was just what she needed that day. We've corresponded ever since. At Ridgeland, South Carolina, we met the pastor, and he offered to ask a family to invite us for Thanksgiving dinner. The church was so friendly; I was hugged on all four sides at once.

Homestead, Florida, was wonderful with so many people from the islands nearby. My husband commented that Seventh-day Adventist youth look and act differently from the kids we see on the streets. Praise

God! At Belle Glade, Florida, I felt safe in the arms of my church family, though two people had been murdered just two blocks from the church the night before.

Warm, Welcoming Churches

Monroe, Louisiana, was such a warm and welcoming church and, like all the other churches, the children were quiet and reverent. When most faces are those of strangers, it's really nice when someone remembers not only your face but your name. This happened at Hillsboro, Texas, after five years between visits. At McKinleyville, California, six women offered to wash my feet at the ordinance of humility on a Communion Sabbath. The Grand Junction, Colorado, church gives small loaves of home-baked bread to visitors.

Many churches are still active in Investment and Ingathering. Community involvement is strong in many churches: Kent, Washington, has meals for the homeless; Cottonwood, Arizona, has a Christmas pageant for the public; Ellenville, New York, was honored by the state for Community Services. Also, seminars and health fairs are strong nationwide.

It's really important to have someone sit with you when you're a visitor. Lake Havasu City, Arizona, is aware of this, and Yreka, California, takes you under their wing. It was hard to choose



when I go to church.

which churches to mention.

But last of all I want to mention the "Whistler" who can't sing a note but whistles every hymn at the Grays

Harbor Hoquiam, Washington, church. What joy!

It'll be a new church again this Sabbath and so good to be *home*. ■



Linda Sutherland is retired. She lives and travels with her husband, Larry, and their Maltese terrier, Trinket, in their 35-foot motor home.

Sweet Dreams and Hairbrush Lyrics

Finally, a chance to find out if my plans for my life are the same as God's.

BY REBECCA CHABOT

THE COLD SUN FILTERED THROUGH THE pine trees and dappled the path at my feet as I made my way toward center campus. I pulled my coat around me to shut out the winter cold. Although the season had been unusually warm, I had forgotten that the walk to the administration building was as long as it was.

As was often the case, I was lost in thought. In fact, I was flat out daydreaming. Recently graduated from college, I had taken a secretarial job on campus in order to pay the bills while I figured out where to go to graduate school. After seven months of endless paperwork and answering phone calls, I was getting the itch to get on with my life, but I didn't know where to get to.

Do I Dare to Dream?

Recently I had begun to consider music as a possible career move. In the back of my mind, it had always been there. Ever since I could remember, I had wanted to sing. I thrived on it, practically lived for it.

When I was a little girl, I used to dance around my room, per-

forming for the baby-sitter. Pretending my long nightie was a pretty evening gown, I'd use a hairbrush as a "microphone." In my imagination I was in front of an adoring crowd of thousands.

But over the years people told me that the music business was a long shot, that it was too hard, that I needed to be practical about my life and not live in a fantasy world.

So I went to college and got a four-year degree. And I'm glad I did. I loved college, and everything about it.

But in the quiet of my mind, the places that speak the truth of one's heart and soul, I knew that my love of music and my desire to perform were as strong as ever.

So on that cold wintry day I found myself lifting my eyes toward heaven for a brief moment and whispering the prayer of that little girl with a nightie and a hairbrush: "God, I want to sing. I want to pursue my dream, but I don't know where to start. Or where to go. Or what to do. If this is what You want, then open a door for me. If You let me sing, I'll give it all to You and use it for Your good. Just let me sing."



So Far Away

Over the past few years a lot of things had happened in my life to make me wonder whether or not God answers prayers. I no longer knew exactly where He fit into my life or my world. I had just about given up hope that He was intimately involved in the little patch of the earth where I lived. God was so big, so far away, that to reach out and touch Him seemed about as reasonable as touching the sun—impossible for a little arm like mine.

So I didn't really think much of that prayer, even though the words I prayed were true and honest. I thought, *What do you think He's going to do, have someone call you up and offer to be your mentor? Or let you sing with them? You don't even know anyone in the business.*

I chuckled at my outlandish thoughts of music and dreams of performing. I would probably end up going to graduate school, not Nashville. And, I decided, that wasn't such a bad deal in and of itself. I went on with my errand and didn't really give the prayer—or my dreams—any more thought.

About a month later I got a call from my dad. It seems that he knew a songwriter in Nashville, a struggling musician who just happened to be a close friend of the family. Dad gave me Kenny's name and number. "You might want to give him a call," Dad suggested.

H'mmm . . . what could be the harm in giving it a try?

So I wrote a short letter to Kenny, introducing myself. Before I got a chance to mail it, I received a phone call from Kenny. He offered to find a job for me, a place to live, and he even said that I could sing with him. He also promised to help me learn to write songs and to teach me to play the guitar. In the space of one hour I had received the opportunity of a lifetime in answer to a prayer I had hardly prayed.

Is That You, Lord?

So in one week I'm moving to Nashville. I've been praying a lot, asking God for His guidance and strength. Amid the piles of boxes and belongings strewn about my apartment, I'm

still reeling from the enormity of what's happened. A small prayer, uttered under my breath was answered in dramatic fashion.

I don't know what's going to happen to me. Maybe I'll meet "success" on the road of music, and maybe I won't. I don't have any illusions about the hard work and frustration I'll have to face. But I won't be disappointed either way, because I know that I'll end up where God has sent me.

I used to get frustrated and depressed when things didn't go according to my life plans. I expected my prayers to be answered literally and quickly, even though I knew this to be unrealistic. And over the past three years there have been a multitude of prayers that I uttered fervently, passionately, and with my whole heart that seemed to meet with nothing but silence and indifference.

But I don't feel that way anymore. I can confidently attest that hindsight is 20/20. As I look back over the past I see how much I have grown and matured. Much of it would never have happened had each one of those prayers been answered dramatically, according to my time frame.

There is no moral to this story, no neat ending that brings everything together for my life or yours. This isn't

written to convince anyone of the fact that God works in mysterious ways, or to promise that everything will come up roses for everyone who prays. I still have more questions about my life and my future than I've ever had before. But I got what I asked for: a chance to follow my dreams and to give the glory to God. And I'm not looking back.

God answered my prayer. I don't know why He answered it, or what the final outcome will be, but I believe in that prayer and I believe that God will guide me. I trust Him. And that's more strongly than I have felt in a long time. For the first time in three years I know that God hears my prayers. I am also beginning to trust more in the way He answers them instead of becoming angry when life doesn't seem to fit my pattern.

In one week I will pack whatever will fit into my little red Ford Escort, and head south with a sign in the window that reads "Nashville or bust." Honk if you see me, and say a prayer. Because God's listening, I know it. ■

Rebecca Chabot lives in Nashville, Tennessee.



Reflections on a Personal Journey

In the gentleness of the summer breeze, somewhat surprised by how warm the summer can be even this far north of the Arctic Circle, I am on a personal journey that I have made before. Something inside me—something unfinished—compels me.

I walk slowly between the rows of graves and tombstones. Names and dates. Here and there I spot ones familiar to me. I walk past the grave of a friend from youth, and memories come back. Somehow I do not think the chosen epitaph suits him. Maybe epitaphs say more of the hopes and longings of those left behind to mourn. What a tragedy he had to die so young. Did he know the Lord? I don't know. Did I tell him? I don't think so.

I come to the end of my journey, and I kneel at two graves close to each other. This is why I have come. Names. Dates of birth and death. One a full life of more than "three-score and ten" years; the other cut short at half that length. And the epitaphs. To the older: "Rest in peace"; the younger: "By grace alone." They seem to me the right ones.

I was with my mother when we chose them. One expressed thankfulness for the good life my father had given to his family—basic but very happy living, even when surrounded by war. And he deserves to "rest in peace" until the Lord, in whom his faith was focused, restores him to life. The other was in memory of the young but somewhat troubled life of my brother. Will I meet him in the kingdom? Oh, I pray that I will. I need to meet him there. We have some "unfinished business." I need to hold him close. But if it happens, it surely will be "by grace alone."

My father died while I was attending an Annual Council—doing the Lord's business. I could not be with him. My brother died while I was on my way to attend an Annual Council. Also then I was too busy to return to "tuck him in" when he was laid to rest. Too busy doing the Lord's business.

The Lord has forgiven me. My brother would have. Sometimes it is hardest to forgive oneself. And I talk to him—or maybe it is to myself and the Lord—as I weed around the graves and rearrange some of the plants. It feels good to touch the soil.

This is a journey I have to make and shall no doubt make again.

I long for the Lord to return. I long for the promises to find their ultimate fulfillment. How appropriate it is for me personally and for my people to have as a theme for us to focus on in the year 2000: "Experience the Certainty of His Coming." That will be the spiritual emphasis of the forthcoming Annual Council. And that will be the focus of many articles, Week of Prayer readings, Sabbath school study guide material, and workers' meetings throughout the world church in the year 2000.

The people whose very name points to His coming will focus on experiencing here and now the certainty of that hope.

That certainty is a steadying factor in the life of the believer. The Christian hope is no wistful maybe. The promises made by the only One who can ultimately deliver are sure. He said: "Yes, I am coming soon" (Rev. 22:20, NIV). Therefore, the certainty can be experienced as we await the event, and we can build one another up as we live and plan in anticipation of that which will happen.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

And with that prayer lingering in my mind I walk slowly away from the cemetery.

The Lord has forgiven me. Sometimes it is hardest to forgive oneself.

Elder Jan Paulsen is president of the world Seventh-day Adventist Church. He wrote this reflection the day after visiting a cemetery 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle in Norway.

