NEWS

**Fundamentalist Adventist Sect Kills 9 Police Officers during Shoot-out in Angola:** Almost to the day of the 21st anniversary of the shootout between authorities and offshoot Sabbatarians in Waco, Texas, and in a manner echoing that confrontation, nine police officers and 13 civilians are dead....

**Bietz Announces Retirement at Southern Adventist University:** Gordon Bietz, scion of a great leadership dynasty in the Church has told Southern Adventist University that he will retire next year, at age 72, after decades of progressive presidential leadership....

**Spring Valley Academy Graduate Drafted by Professional Basketball Team:** An athletically gifted graduate of Spring Valley Academy in Ohio has been drafted by the Los Angeles Sparks professional women's basketball team....

**European Adventists Recognize International Earth Day:** Forty-five years ago, "Earth Day" made the scene in America among young counter-cultured conservationists; it is now an international celebration, recognized and celebrated officially by Adventists in Europe....
Adventist Health Institutions Expand in Five States Across America: Adventist Health facilities are planning several new building programs, in Ohio, California, Maryland, Florida, and Illinois, responding to demand directly related to an aging North American population.

Adventist Leaders Speak to Violence in South Africa & the Mediterranean: The recent loss at sea of 900 immigrants fleeing violence and poverty in South Africa has raised major concerns for the Church and its relief ministries.

Theologian Rodriguez Honored with Collection of Papers on 70th Birthday: Regarded as one of the Church's most prominent living theologians, retired BRI director Dr. Ángel M. Rodriguez has been gifted with a collection of 27 papers on three major topics central to his theological work: theodicy and the great controversy theme; the sanctuary doctrine and salvation; and eschatology.

Young Adults Gather in Dallas Suburb for Festival of Worship: A festival focusing on Jesus Christ as the Church's central and greatest reason-for-being has met with strong acceptance, both on- and offline, notably among members of the Church's Millennial Generation.

OPINION

My Take: Now and Not Yet: Columnist Raj Attiken explores the darker side of dwelling too much on our celestial future, while neglecting the tremendous challenges in the present world.
A Wickedly Delightful Screaming Baby Story: His parents buried one of their children in the mission field, but now little Isak Appel has led his family out of Africa....

Wooly Thoughts (DEVOTIONAL): If only sheep could speak, we might have a fuller appreciation for the Bible's Good Shepherd. This week's devotional studies the Shepherd through the eyes of one who knows sheep very, very well....

Lost in John 17: Educator Harry Banks immerses himself in the strangely fascinating words and phrases of John 17, a prayer of Jesus that has left him high-centered in the past....

FEATURE & THE ARTS

Loma Linda University Health Possibilities:
Our feature this week is from Briana Pastorino, Media Relations Specialist at Loma Linda University Health, who shares a heart-stirring story of two people who were severely disabled in accidents, but whose spirits were far from crushed....

New Spring in an Aging Earth:
Photographer/poet Mervyn Weir shares from London a whole gallery of spring delights, both photographic and literary....

ANNOUNCEMENT

We Are Not Changing: The Adventist Review Is:
The venerable Review & Herald Publishing Association is
closing, and the *Adventist Review* is cutting back on issues. That said, *Adventist Today* remains even-keeled and well-engaged by subscribers and visitors....

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Fundamentalist Adventist Sect Kills 9 Police Officers during Shoot-out in Angola

By AT News Team, April 22, 2015: Last Thursday police arrived to serve a warrant on the leader of an Adventist splinter group in Huambo Province and members of the sect began shooting. When the gunfire was over and Julio Kalupeteca was under arrest, nine police officers and 13 civilians were dead, reports the ANGOP news service.

Shock spread through Luanda, the capital of the African nation, on Monday when the murder of the police officials, including two commanding officers, was announced. “The Angolan Head of State Jose Eduardo dos Santos is profoundly shocked,” stated the official Angola Press Agency. He expressed his “profound consternation” and condolences to the relatives of the victims, stated Eugenio Laborinho, the nation’s chief of police and fire services.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church Light of the World group began in the early 2000s. Kalupeteca has taught that Christ will return in 2015 and in recent years urged followers to sell their homes and possessions and move to rural areas, according to a bulletin from the international Prensa Latina New Agency. In 2012 the sect tried to stop a vaccination campaign against polio and last year urged people to refuse to cooperate with the national census.

The “dissident branch of the Seventh Day Adventist Church … has 3,700 followers in Angola,” reported the All Africa news service. It is unclear how many there may be in other countries.

The majority of the 24 million residents of Angola are Catholics, a legacy from the time when it was a colony of Portugal. In recent years Evangelical Protestant denominations are gaining many converts. A total of 83 denominations are officially recognized in the country, including the Seventh-day Adventist Church which had nearly 255,000 members at the end of last year in 3,000 congregations.

There are also “1,200 other religious organizations, including many cults,” according to the government’s Ministry of Culture. Some of these groups are very aggressive and often engaged in conflict and competition, which sometimes leads to violence.

In some ways this is similar to another disastrous event that occurred in Waco, Texas, in 1993. United States Federal officers attempted to arrest the leader of the Branch Davidian cult for hoarding automatic weapons and were met with gunfire. Police officers were killed and after a standoff that lasted for weeks, a final assault on the cult’s compound started a fire that killed many civilians, including children.

“Religion is a powerful thing in people’s lives,” a scholar of religious movements told Adventist Today. “When extreme fundamentalism gets out of control it can lead to violence, not matter the theological roots of the belief; as we know so painfully from more recent events involving Muslim fundamentalists. Adventists are not immune to this kind of thing.”
Bietz Announces Retirement at Southern Adventist University

By AT News Team, April 23, 2015:  Dr. Gordon Bietz told the faculty yesterday at Southern Adventist University (SAU) that he will end his two decades of leadership at the institution a year from now in the spring of 2016. The board has already established a search committee for his successor, according to the Times Free Press, the daily newspaper in Chattanooga.

During his tenure both the enrollment (now 3,100) and the budget at the university has doubled and nearly $80 million of construction projects have been completed. SAU now offers 14 graduate degrees, including one doctorate (in nursing). He told the newspaper that he hopes to break ground on a planned $28 million student center before he leaves next year.

Bietz has lived in the Chattanooga area for much of his life, even though he was raised in California. He was president of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference and senior pastor of the Colledgade Adventist Church on the university campus before he was appointed SAU president.

Despite SAU's conservative reputation, Bietz is known as a progressive leader in the denomination. He convened about 100 Adventist scholars and thinkers at the beginning of the 21st century to talk about the future of the Adventist movement and invited David Neff to speak (among others); the editor of Christianity Today who was raised an Adventist and served as a pastor in the denomination up until the early 1980s but then left. Bietz is also the only Adventist to complete a leadership residency at Harvard University.

Bietz comes by his leadership ability honestly. Both his father and his uncle have significant places in the denomination's history. Pastor Reinhold R. Bietz (Gordon's father) was a vice president of the denomination's General Conference (GC) from 1968 through 1974 and came close to being elected GC president. He was president of the Pacific Union Conference and before that the Southern California Conference, the Southern New England Conference and the Texico Conference. After his retirement, he spent ten years directing leadership training events for denominational administrators. He died at 99 years of age in 2005. A statement he wrote in 1954 for Ministry magazine give some idea of his foresight and compassion: "Divorce and remarriage is the most perplexing and bewildering problem facing the church today."

Dr. Arthur L. Bietz (Gordon's uncle) was one of the first in his generation of Adventist administrators to earn a PhD; at the University of Southern California in 1946 focusing on religion and psychology. He was head of the division of religion at Loma Linda University's Los Angeles campus for a number of years and served as senior pastor at the Ellen G. White Memorial Church in Los Angeles. Later he was senior pastor at the Glendale City Adventist Church in a nearby suburb and served as top executive of Glendale Savings and Loan Association, a major financial institution in the state. He maintained a radio ministry for many years which started when he was pastor of the Adventist congregation in Berkeley (California) where the main campus of the University of California is located. He wrote a number of books which have recently been republished as eBooks by Amazon.

Gordon Bietz summarized his approach to faith and life for the Chattanooga newspaper with this statement: “When students ask me for advice I have just three words: love your neighbor. I don’t think we have begun to grasp the depth of those words and put them into practical application in our everyday lives. If we loved as Jesus loved, and sought what was best for others rather than ourselves, we could truly change the world!”

“Gordon reads widely and listens carefully,” his senior vice president, Dr. Robert Young, told the Adventist Review. Bietz told the denominational journal that his major achievements at the university are “a well-established collaborative leadership style” and a strategic plan for the future of the institution. He has served on the boards of a
number of civic groups in the Chattanooga area, including the Better Business Bureau, the Rotary Club, the symphony orchestra and Arts Build, according to the Review.

Bietz will be 72 years of age when his term ends next spring. He intends to spend more time with his grandchildren, clearly a well-deserved opportunity.
Spring Valley Academy Graduate Drafted by Professional Basketball Team

By AT News Team, April 19, 2015: Andrea Hoover, a graduate of Spring Valley Academy (SVA), an Adventist school offering Kindergarten through grade 12, has been drafted by the Los Angeles Sparks, a professional basketball team in California. SVA is serves the Dayton (Ohio) metro area and is located in the suburb of Centerville. Hoover is a member of the Kettering (Ohio) Adventist congregation.

Hoover and University of Dayton (UD) teammate Ally Malott are the first two women from the university to be drafted by teams in the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA), reported the Dayton Daily News. Hoover was selected with the 31st overall pick in the third round. Last month Hoover led the UD Flyers to the team’s first entrance into the Elite Eight, or the regional collegiate basketball finals, by beating the Louisville Cardinals 82 to 66 on March 28. “This one was all about Andrea Hoover,” declared sports news outlet ESPN about the win.

Hoover, a 5-foot 9-inch point guard, led the UD Flyers in scoring this season with 17.4 points per game. She also averaged 3.2 assists and 6.3 rebounds. Over her collegiate career, Hoover scored 1,838 points, ranking fourth in UD history, noted the Dayton Daily News. Hoover set a UD record for made three-point baskets—239 over her career. Furthermore, she had three double-doubles and scored 20 or more points in 14 games this season.

Hoover received the Charles R. Hendall Memorial Award at the annual OASSA Scholar-Athlete Awards Reception, which recognizes an individual student-athlete who has demonstrated achievement in academic and athletic effort, according to Hoover’s UD Flyers webpage. She received A-10 First Team and Academic Team honors for the third-consecutive year, and she was named to the Capital One Academic All-District Team.

Hoover will soon graduate with a degree in sports management with minors in communication and psychology, according to her profile on the Senior CLASS Award website. She has a cumulative grade-point average of 3.68, and she hopes to one day coach college basketball. She has been named to the Atlantic 10 Commissioner’s Honor Roll five times and has also made the UD Dean’s List in five out of her six semesters as a Flyer. The website also notes that Hoover’s “faith is a big part of her personality, and she has served as the team’s prayer leader last season.”

In addition to her athletic and academic efforts, during her time at UD Hoover has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, the American Cancer Society, and DECA, which offers an after-school program for disadvantaged children.

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European Adventists Recognize International Earth Day

From CD EUDNews, April 22, 2015: The Inter-European Division Public Relations department has released a statement recognizing Earth Day, highlighting the denomination’s teachings on environmental stewardship: “God made our world with brilliant creativity and tender care. He created humanity to take care of and take pleasure in the planet, with rest and recreation in perfect balance,” states an official Adventist denominational statement on the topic.

“God is Creator of all things, and has revealed in Scripture the authentic account of His creative activity. In six days the Lord made “the heaven and the Earth” and all living things upon the Earth, and rested on the seventh day of that first week. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of His completed creative work. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished it was 'very good,' declaring the glory of God.”[1]

The United Nations International Earth Day promotes a view of the Earth as the entity that sustains all living things found in nature. It honors the Earth as a whole and our place within it. It does not seek to replace other events, such as Earth Day, which has been celebrated by many people around the world on 22 March since the 1970s, but rather to reinforce and reinterpret them based on the evolving challenges we face.

The world has been slow to respond to the emergencies posed by global warming and the damage human activities are causing the planet. In 1972, the United Nations organized the first UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. It marked the beginning of a global awareness of the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species, and our planet.

In 2009, at its Eighth Session, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues requested special rapporteurs to prepare a study on the need to recognize and respect the rights of the Earth. At its Ninth Session, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will discuss the findings of the study, as well as works toward establishing a Declaration on the Rights of the Earth.

“But the big decisions that lie ahead are not just for world leaders and policy-makers. Today, on Earth Day, I ask each one of us to be mindful of the impacts our choices have on this planet, and what those impacts will mean for future generations,” said the General Secretary of the UN, Ban-Ki-Moon.

“Climate change is not only real, it’s here,” said Adventist leaders for the denomination’s Inter-European Division. “For decades, we’ve been warned by scientists and evidence that this was coming, and yet, for decades, far too many have ignored the warnings. The issue of climate change is one that we ignore at our own peril.”

“We have had a planet to manage,” the Earth Day release continued. “What have we done with it? God gave us a wonderful earth to live on in harmony and love. Will we stand by while drought and famine, storms and floods overtake our planet or will we take a stand – together? Let us always remember that God’s Creation and Creatures deserve dignity.”

Adventist Health Institutions Expand in Five States Across America

By AT News Team, April 20, 2015: Kettering Health Network (KHN), the Adventist health ministry that serves the Dayton (Ohio) metropolitan area, announced last week that it will build a new $49 million cancer center designed to meet the needs of an aging population that is increasing demand for oncology care. The 120,000-square-foot, five-story comprehensive care facility will be built on the campus in suburban Dayton that includes Kettering Medical Center, Kettering College and the Kettering Adventist Church.

"It adds another quality health care asset to the region," Bryan Bucklew, president of the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association, told the Dayton Daily News. The new cancer center will provide a wholistic approach with massage therapy, counseling for patients and their families and even a cafe with a menu designed to meet the nutrition needs and tastes of cancer patients, in addition to chemotherapy and radiation therapy, stated Elizabeth Koelker, director of oncology services for KHN. "The focus is on survivorship from the first day of treatment throughout."

KHN “is a faith-based health network, addressing the healing needs of the mind, body and spirit," Koelker was quoted in the newspaper. "Eighty percent of cancer care is delivered in an outpatient and this cancer center is a direct response to the needs of our community."

The number of cancer patients coming to Kettering hospitals for treatment has spiked dramatically in recent years, Koelker told the newspaper. There are now 13.7 million cancer survivors living in the United States. The survival rate has increased from 49 percent in 1975 to more than 68 percent today. The number of new cancer cases will outstrip the number of oncology specialists by nearly 1,500 in the next decade according to the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Ground-breaking for the new facility is scheduled for May 14. The first phase of the facility will open next year and include only the first three floors so that there is space for expansion and new treatments, new technology which is constantly being developed.

KHN operates seven other hospitals in the Dayton area and is building free-standing emergency rooms in Springboro and Eaton, suburbs on the southern and northern edges of the metro area. It also plans to build a 32,000-square-foot medical office building on Main Street in Springboro. Dayton has the largest Adventist presence of any metro area in North America.

Expansion in Other States

A public hospital district east of Bakersfield (California) is negotiating an affiliation with Adventist Health, the denomination's network of health institutions on the west coast of the U.S. Tehachapi Valley Hospital ran out of funds in the middle of a building a new facility and has offered to provide the $25 million needed in exchange for a 25-year lease of all the district's facilities, reports the Tehachapi News. It will also take over operation of community clinics in California City and Mojave. The deal must be confirmed by voter approval later this year, but the district feels confident enough of approval to have pushed ahead with the construction schedule.

In another California town, Lodi Memorial Hospital has voted to affiliate with Adventist Health and is awaiting final approval from the state's Attorney General, Kamala Harris. There were only positive comments at a hearing conducted March 31 by Deputy Attorney General Jami Cantore. The Adventist “emphasis on preventive health care will be of great benefit to this hospital," stated Lodi City Councilman Alan Nakanishi at the hearing, as reported by
the Lodi News. “And there is a spiritual component,” enthused Annette Murdaca, a civic leader known for starting Lodi House, shelter for women and children. The Adventist health ministry will invest $100 million over the next 13 years if the affiliation is approved, starting with a $2 million donation to the Lodi Memorial Hospital Foundation. The investment will pay for upgrades to the hospital’s intensive care, obstetrics and surgical services as well as retain and recruit physicians for the area.

In Maryland, Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) is making another attempt to get state approval for construction of a new 201-bed hospital about six miles northeast of the location in Takoma Park where it has been located since it was opened in 1907. The move is necessary because Takoma Park has become a neighborhood where the volume of traffic into the hospital is simply too much and because of aging facilities. It will cost $373 million, including $34 million to renovate the old facilities, according to the Montgomery Gazette. Earlier plans were blocked by a campaign organized by a nearby Catholic hospital that believes there is no need for two hospitals so close to each other. WAH shares a campus with Washington Adventist University, and historic neighborhood where the Adventist denomination moved its headquarters in the early 20th century and just six miles south of the office complex where the General Conference is located today.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held March 31 for a new Florida Hospital facility in Apopka. The 120-bed unit will cost $203 million to complete and is set to open in the spring of 2017, reported the Orlando Sentinel. It is located “at the intersection of Ocoee-Apopka and Harmon roads, a crossroads visible from State Roads 429 and 414,” the newspaper said. Apopka Mayor Joe Kilsheimer was quoted saying that the new project is “a magnet for economic activity” in a part of the Orlando suburb that is mostly undeveloped. No decision has been made about what to do with the existing facility when the hospital moves to the larger new building.

In Illinois, the board of the joint operating company formed by Adventist Midwest Health and Alexian Brothers Health System has voted to call the merged network of hospitals in the Chicago area Amita Health. It will be the third-largest hospital network in the state, according to the Daily Herald.

Financial Issues, Positive and Negative

Some 24 Adventist hospitals joined in efforts to prevent harm to patients and saved $108 million from 2009 through 2012 as recently documented in a study in the Journal of Patient Safety. The study is based on data from 21,000 patients and measured the incidence of infections, bleeding, pressure ulcers, etc.; things to do not occur because of the patient’s ailment, but because of the care they receive.

“Some believe that hospitals have no financial incentive to reduce adverse events,” said Terry Shaw, chief operations officer for Adventist Health System (AHS), “but our … study shows that there is a financial benefit to improving patient safety. It proves that doing what is right is also what is best for business, challenging us as health care providers to be both excellent caregivers and good stewards of the resources that we have to care for patients.”

The project was lauded by the journal Government Health IT. “If all U.S. hospitals could achieve reductions in patient harms comparable to those of Adventist, the annualized cost savings would range from $6 billion to $13 billion.” AHS operates 45 hospitals in 10 states across the American south and Midwest.

On March 24, AHS agree to pay the U.S. government $5.4 million to settle a false claims case for providing radiation oncology services without proper supervision to Medicare and Tricare patients. Medicare is the government program that pays for health care for senior citizens and Tricare is the health insurance program for military personnel and their families.

Overall, AHS is prospering financially and it has shared some of it surplus with at least two higher education institutions affiliated with the denomination. Both Union College, the Adventist college located in Lincoln (Nebraska) and Southwestern Adventist University in Keene (Texas) were recently given $2 million gifts by AHS.
Adventist Leaders Speak to Violence in South Africa & the Mediterranean

From ANN, April 21, 2015: As many as 900 migrants died when their boat capsized in the Mediterranean on Sunday as migrants from North Africa seek to make it into Europe fleeing violence and poverty. At the same time there has been an increase in attacks on immigrants living in South Africa.

Italian and foreign ships and helicopters worked into the night to find possible survivors. So far this year a total of 1,500 have died attempting to cross the Mediterranean. The numbers hurt or killed in South Africa are less clear.

“We are deeply moved by this latest tragedy in the Mediterranean Sea,” said a statement released by Andreas Mazza, a spokesperson for the Inter-European Division of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. “It is striking to see the pain and suffering wrought by this disaster, that touches some of the world’s most vulnerable people. People, who are searching for a better life. People, who are claiming back their dignity as human beings.”

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean region is outraged by the recent, current xenophobic attacks against foreign nationals in South Africa,” stated a release by Pastor Paul Charles, communication director of the denomination’s Southern Africa-Indian Division. “There is no justifiable reason to warrant the senseless violence and prejudice bringing shame to a new and free democratic South Africa.”

The European statement continued, “There are issues of prevention we cannot walk away from. We cannot ignore the huge humanitarian crisis in northern Africa. The Bible says that we are all of one spirit, and that ‘if one part suffers, every part suffers with it.’ That is the reason why we suffer and mourn all together, today. May the Lord bless all relatives and friends of the victims with comfort and peace.”

The South Africa statement continued, “To embrace true freedom means to renounce a spirit of domination, abuse or violence against people. Without reservation, our leadership and almost 3.5 million Adventists in Southern Africa condemn all these senseless and horrendous acts of violence and hatred which has also affected members of our church.”

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency and Adventist Community Services organization have been mobilized by the denomination in South Africa. “We have identified persons who have been displaced by xenophobic violence,” said Pastor Tankiso Letseli, union conference president in the country. Adventist volunteers are “on the ground providing food supplies and further aid to … 1,500 persons daily in the Durban area. We are currently providing cooked meals in the Chatsworth and Chesterville areas.”

Pastor Mpho Rantsoabe is coordinating a team that has identified “hot spots” in the Johannesburg area for the purpose of responding and intervening. “We are also trying to mobilize the support of ADRA International … so that we can increase our reach.”

The South Africa statement also said, “We all, each one, regardless of our nationality, color or creed are made in the image of God (Colossians 1:15) and take the issue of human dignity very seriously. This constrains us to treat one another as brothers and sisters and an injury to one affects us all. The collective fabric of South Africa is diverse and dynamic and must be preserved at all costs without violence or the shedding of blood. Human dignity elevates every person we meet to the status of one with infinite worth, a person to be respected, loved, and honored.

“The Bible commands … how we should treat one another. ‘If a foreigner lives with you in your land, you are not to mistreat or oppress. Foreigners living among you must be treated like your own people. Love them as you love...
yourself …’ (Leviticus 19:33-34) May God help us renounce all forms of violence, coercion and violations of people’s consciences and physical and emotional integrity. May He grace us with the strength to embrace peace in all its dimensions. May He give us the determination to uphold every person’s dignity. May He also create in us the will and the passion to work for the freedom of everyone until the One who is coming comes.”

_The Adventist News Network (ANN) is the official news service of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination._
Theologian Rodríguez Honored with Collection of Papers on 70th Birthday

By AT News Team, April 24, 2015: Many of the biggest names among Adventist Bible and religion scholars are among the authors of *The Great Controversy and the End of Evil*, a volume of essays published on the 70th birthday of Dr. Angel M. Rodríguez, retired former director of the denomination's Biblical Research Institute (BRI). Dr. Gerhard Pfandl, the book’s editor and a retired BRI associate, presented a copy to Rodríguez during a meeting at Loma Linda University earlier this week, reported the *Adventist Review*.

Rodríguez has served the Adventist movement as a pastor, professor, college president and BRI director. He retired in 2010 but continues to be part of the scholarly group on a part-time basis, as does Pfandl. The younger staff (the current full-time personnel) are considerably less well-known than Rodríguez who has one of the most out-standing reputations among living Adventist scholars.

The new book contains 27 papers written by colleagues about three main areas of Rodríguez’s work: theodicy and the great controversy theme; the sanctuary doctrine and salvation; and eschatology. It is available on the BRI Web site for $11.99 until July, a discount from its regular price of $19.99, the *Review* stated.

Rodriguez was born in Puerto Rico and is fluently bilingual. Amazon Prime provides eight of his sermons in Spanish on line. He earned a ThD degree at Andrews University (AU) and served as president of Antillian College and academic dean at Southwestern Adventist University before joining the BRI staff in 1992.

He has 182 listings in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index and is the author or editor of more than a score of books, as well as many scholarly papers. Adventist Today could not find a complete bibliography for his work. He has been called “the most able defender of the Adventist faith in our time” by Dr. Woodrow Whidden, at religion professor at AU.

Rodriguez has published in major academic publications outside the denomination and is a member of both the American Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion. He participate in and has been published by both the Adventist Society of Religious Studies and the more conservative Adventist Theological Society.

“Millions of Adventists around the world have been blessed by Dr. Rodríguez’s books, his columns in the *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World*, and his teaching and preaching,” states his listing on the BRI Web site. His two most recent books include a collection of papers by several authors on ecclesiology that he edited: *Toward A Theology of the Remnant* and *Message, Mission, and Unity of the Church*, but published by BRI.

“The event was appropriately celebrated by remembering God's goodness in the life of one of his servants," the *Review* quoted Gerald A. Klingbeil, one of its associate editors who was present for the birthday celebration this week. “We also shared some ice cream, a favorite of Dr. Rodríguez's, reminding everyone that the best is yet to come.”
Theologian Rodriguez Honored with Collection of Papers on 70th Birthd...
Young Adults Gather in Dallas Suburb for Festival of Worship

From News Release, April 24, 2015: More than a thousand Adventist young adults from across the southwest United States convened in Arlington (Texas) for the fourth annual Young Adult Festival of Worship. Pastor Helvis Moody and Pastor Tyrone Douglas inspired the Millennial generation gathering with preaching centered on Christ Jesus as greater than all. In addition to the over 1,100 attending in person, hundreds more around the world tuned in on line for the event, specifically contoured to spiritually encourage new generations of believers. Moody is young adult ministries director for the Southwestern Union Conference of the Adventist denomination and Douglas is youth director for the denomination’s Southwest Region Conference.

“Our Arizona young adult community jumped online joining the young adult festival,” stated Pastor Benjamin Lundquist, director of young adults for the denomination’s Arizona Conference. “We were incredibly blessed as a generation was celebrated, Jesus was uplifted, and leaders were challenged. It’s time these festivals begin happening all across the country.”

As part of the day’s worship, participants spent time Sabbath afternoon at Mission Arlington, a faith-based organization that serves neighborhoods in the Dallas-Forth Worth Metroplex with compassion, community-building and caring assistance. Engaging community children with songs and smiles and popsicles, young adults were immersed in the joy that comes from sharing Christ’s love.

“I’ve got to say, there was something special about seeing young adults gather to serve the community,” said Debora Obeng, a 21-year-old software engineering major at the University of Texas Arlington campus. “The interactions with the communities we visited were the most inspiring aspect of festival.”

In an interesting turn of events, during the final worship session, tornado sirens went off signaling severe weather approaching. Evacuating downstairs to a standing-room-only space, the young adults continued undaunted. The worship leaders adapted seamlessly to an impromptu acoustic set. While the storm raged outside, Moody challenged and called all to live 24/7 lives of worship to which the young adults eagerly responded. “It was refreshing and encouraging to see so many young adults with a passion for worship and a willingness to serve their community for Christ,” said Douglas.

Saturday evening was devoted to fellowship as Encounters Café provided young adults with a chance to enjoy table games, refreshments, and loads of laughter. Finally, the group headed out to enjoy broomball at Ice at the Parks, a nearby ice skating centre. Needless to say, the laughs continued as dozens of young adults took epic falls in their efforts to score goals. “Our only disappointment with the festival was the inability to play broomball online,” quipped Lundquist from Arizona.

The Young Adult Festival of Worship aims for next generations to honor Christ Jesus as Lord by expressing grace, embracing fellowship, and pursuing intimacy with Him. This invitational Sabbath gathering intends to inspire the young adults of the Southwestern Union and beyond to live 24/7 lives of worship for the fame of Jesus Christ.

Resources from the festival are available on the Web at: festival.ygchurch.com
Young Adults Gather in Dallas Suburb for Festival of Worship - Adventis...
My Take: Now and Not Yet

by Raj Attiken, April 23, 2015:

In her 2015 book, *Heretic: Why Islam Needs a Reformation Now*, Ayaan Hirsi Ali argues that a religious Reformation within Islam is the only way to end the terrorism, sectarian warfare, and the repression of women and minorities in the Muslim world. Ali, born in Somalia and raised a Muslim, grew up in Africa and Saudi Arabia before seeking asylum in 1992 in the Netherlands, where she went from cleaning factories to winning a seat in the Dutch Parliament. Currently, she is a fellow at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Drawing some parallels to what Martin Luther attempted to do for the Church of his day, Ali proposes five things that need to be reformed in Islam – central precepts that have made Islam resistant to historical change and adaptation. One of the five precepts she identifies for reform is Islam’s emphasis on the afterlife over the here-and-now. This fixation on life after death and disregard for life before death, she posits, tends to “erode the intellectual and moral incentives that are essential for ‘making it’ in the modern world.” Worse yet, she observes, there is a fatalism that creeps into one’s worldview when this life is seen as transitory and the next is the only one that matters. In a chapter titled “Those Who Deserve Death,” Ali describes at length how the focus on the afterlife and its rewards, inculcated in Muslims since childhood, makes martyrdom a very appealing and desired option. Martyrs have all their sins forgiven and automatically ascend to the highest levels of paradise. Death – not life on earth – is their goal, the event that matters because it leads to the prize of eternal life.

My intent here is not to offer an assessment of Ali’s arguments and proposals. Instead, it is to invite reflection on the fact that Christianity also places emphasis on the hereafter, holding out to the faithful the promises of an eternal future in heaven and an earth-made-new. That the second coming of Jesus ushers in this long-anticipated future is a central tenet of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Jesus, in his teachings, and the writers of both the First and Second Testaments describe elements of the future home of the redeemed in highly desirable and blissful terms.

Despite how attractive and desirable this long-awaited “kingdom of heaven” is, its anticipation does not require that Christians renounce life on this earth, or even worse, seek to end it. Unlike the version of Islam that Ali describes in her book, Christianity’s focus on the future does not depreciate or devalue life in the present. Instead, Christianity urges engagement in this life with the intent of transforming it for the better. Christians are to be “salt” and “light.” They are to “seek justice, help the oppressed, defend the cause of orphans, fight for the rights of widows” (Isaiah 1:17, NLT). Jesus affirmed, “God blesses those who work for peace” (Matt. 5:9, NLT).

Jesus announced the “good news” about the coming kingdom. He also declared that the kingdom of God has arrived – now! Many of his miracles were dramatic exhibits of what happens when life in the present is overlaid with features of the kingdom to come. In the kingdom to come there will be no blindness, so he will give sight to the blind – now! In the coming kingdom there will be no one that is lame, so he will heal the lame – now! In the future kingdom there will be no death, so he will raise from the dead a widow’s only son, the daughter of Jairus, and Lazarus – now! Lives were incredibly transformed when Jesus dragged the future into their present!

The Good News that we bear to the world is not only that a new world is coming; it also is that God is active in this present world. In the world to come there will be no hunger; Christians will, therefore, participate in God’s work to relieve the current world of hunger. In the world to come there will be an abundance of water; Christians will participate in God’s work to bring clean water to the villages, towns, and cities of the world now. In the world to come there will be no sickness; Christians will join in God’s work today to eradicate disease and to bring healing to the sick. In every way possible, Christians will drag the future into the present by being engaged in God’s present activity to bring relief, healing, justice and liberation.
It is not coincidental that Christian volunteers and Christian organizations have played a major role in reducing childhood mortality, illiteracy, hunger and other global social ills in recent decades. Christians have not only proclaimed the hope that there will be abundance in the world to come; they have also been involved in creating a world of possibility for those who spend their days scrapping and scraping to survive. Despite their many failures, the Christian Church, Christian ministries, Christian initiatives, and Christian organizations have, historically, played a significant role in making the world a better place for individuals and communities. The Church’s “success” in this regard over the centuries is unmatched.

Adventists, as do other Christians, face the challenge of maintaining a wholesome balance between life in this world and hope about the world to come. When we are consumed with the former, visions of God’s future fade and hope wanes. When we are preoccupied with the latter, we risk becoming incapacitated in our engagement with our world. Irrelevance and insignificance follow. Our voice becomes one of gloom and doom.

Our present-day sensibilities should be informed by the ways in which God has worked in the past to bring his future into the present. The Christian faith compels us to have a “now” and “not yet” focus. A wholesome expression of Adventism will include a robust balance between both foci. That’s my take!

- 1
A Wickedly Delightful Screaming Baby Story....

Sometimes SDA medical missionaries get into difficult situations. Dr. James Appel and his wife, Sarah, have had to bury a child in Chad, due to malaria. But sometimes a child can save the parents, and this time their 5-month-old son Isak (left) rescued the whole family (James, Sarah, Miriam, Noah, Isak) just by being a baby.

Here is the story, for a smile. Jack Hoehn

(Reproduced with permission of Dr. James Appel.)

The screams are almost driving me bananas. God certainly equipped newborns with lungs and a sound that can't be ignored. It's just unfortunate when you can't do anything to stop it. Like now. Except that right now, in my devious little heart I'm almost smiling as I take my revenge.

It all started with what traditionally has been a rather simple affair...getting on a plane to leave the Republic of Chad. Sarah, Miriam, Noah and Isak had already gone ahead of me to N'Djamena and were waiting for me on the Durand farm. I stayed behind to tie up loose ends in Abéché: get Abraham enough materials so the work could move forward on the eco-dome housing, pediatric ward and quad-dome OR complex; run around like a chicken with my head cut off to different authorities to try and get the land issue resolved; arrange for a night watchman at the house who can water Sarah’s plants and feed her cat as well; move everything into locked rooms; get the contract and initial payment done on the well; etc.

Saji and I then get on public transport for the 11-hour ride across the Sahel from Abéché to N'Djamena. Aside from increased police controls due to heightened security to prevent Boko Haram in nearby Nigeria from infiltrating Chad, our trip is uneventful. The next day we start to pack up as we all leave on the Turkish Airlines flight right after midnight. Sarah happens to call our friend Rich, who will be watching out for our German Shepherd while we’re gone, and he mentions that a friend of his is on the same flight and it's been moved up to 9 pm from 1 am. We check online and find out that it’s been canceled.

Saji and I drive 40 minutes across N’Djamena to the Kempinski hotel where the Turkish Airlines office has opened specially for the emergency. It’s a cool 104 degrees out. We arrive around 4:30 pm and leave at 8:30, with the only solution being to get on the next Turkish Airlines flight two days from now and go to Los Angeles. To get to our original destination of San Francisco would require a 24-hour layover in Istanbul and an arrival a full three days after originally scheduled. They say that’s the best they can do, although some other stuck passengers look online and find the Air France flight from the evening half empty. This is the second flight in a row that Turkish has canceled.

We get on the flight two days later and the plane is half-full even with the two extra canceled flights’ worth of passengers on board, confirming our suspicions that the flights were probably canceled because they were too empty. On arrival in Istanbul the next morning, now already two days late, I go to the transfer desk to ask about how we can get to San Francisco. I’m told to go to the main office to see the supervisor.

The agent takes my complaint and says she’ll go see the supervisor, who will see me in five minutes. Ten minutes later I’m starting to stew and I hear them calling for her from time to time. Finally, she saunters out with a scowl on her face and comes slowly up to me. I start to explain our situation, about being stuck for two extra days in Chad, about traveling with three small children, about getting to our original destination. She interrupts me.
“I’m sorry, once it was changed in N’Djamena there’s nothing we can do.”

“But they couldn’t do anything with your Star Alliance partners from…”

“Did you accept the change or not?”

“Yes, but…”

“There’s nothing I can do.”

“Can I see someone higher up?”

“I’m the supervisor, there’s no one else.”

“But isn’t Istanbul the base for Turkish Airlines? You mean that two guys in N’Djamena can do things you can’t?”

“We don’t have a main office in here. You have to go through passport control and go outside.”

“I don’t have a visa.”

“You’ll have to buy one.”

And she walks off, still scowling. I sit there for a few minutes, feeling helpless and enraged. I finally collect our passports and boarding passes and go explain things to Saji and Sarah. Sarah says that on her Danish passport she can enter Turkey without a visa, so she can go. She leaves her backpack and just takes Isak in his Baby Bjorn carrier. She soon comes back.

“Isak can’t go through without a visa since he’s on a US passport. I’ve just fed him, though, so he should be OK.” I take Isak, and Sarah moves off. No sooner is she out of sight than Isak seems to sense it and is not OK with it. The screams begin. At first, I really try to do something to calm him. When I realize it’s hopeless, I think of an evil plan for revenge.

I have Isak in the Baby Bjorn so I just meander over as close to the transfer desk as I can get without actually getting in line or crossing the boundaries, and I point Isak’s wide-open mouth so his soul-shattering shrieks can pierce the armor of even the fiercest Turkish heart. Within minutes I’m pleased to see—as I glance occasionally over at the counter—anxious glances being cast my way. Isak continues to yell bloody murder. I keep a smirk on my face as I half-heartedly bounce him a little and walk back and forth next to the counter.

Meanwhile, Noah and Miriam are playing happily on the small luggage cart, pretending it’s a car. I continue my passive-aggressive counterattack. I am reminded of a Biblical passage about the persistent widow that strengthens my resolve, which (despite the Bible’s warnings against revenge) makes me feel that I’m on a righteous mission (at least self-righteous). Finally, I see two of the agents tentatively approach me.

“Does he need some water?” One of them asks hesitantly.

“What he needs is to recover from two days in the blazing heat of Africa and get to his destination,” I blurt out.

“I see,” says the man. “Wait here, I’ll be right back.”

Fifteen more minutes of screaming ensues before the man comes back with a bag full of baby food.

“Here, try this,” he offers.

“Thanks, but we have plenty of food for him,” I reject his offer scornfully.
After about an hour and a half of non-stop auditory assault, thanks to my 5-month-old secret weapon, finally another group of rattled agents approaches.

“Where is your ticket to today?” They ask. Since Sarah still isn’t back, I feel a little help from this side can’t hurt.

“We just want to get to San Francisco but our tickets are for Los Angeles.”

“Yes, I know.” Apparently, they’ve all been talking, trying to get the story, trying to get that baby to STOP SCREAMING! “But you want to go to San Francisco?”

“Yes.”

“OK, we’re working on it.”

At some point, another agent comes up to offer baby food and a spoon. A little later another comes up with the offering of a diaper. The god of earth-shattering yells is not appeased. Someone comes up and checks the baggage claim ticket on the car seats.

“Do you have your passports and tickets?”

“No, they’re with my wife. Your supervisor told us that we couldn’t get them changed here, so we’re following her advice and my wife took them outside to the ticket office.”

“OK, no problem; we’re working on it.”

Finally, two-and-a-half hours of nonstop yelling later, when our plane is about to board for LA, the supervisor comes back smiling and friendly.

“We’ve changed your tickets. We normally don’t do that, but on account of the kids and the special circumstances, these two agents will help you.” She smiles and pats Miriam’s cheek like a long lost aunt.

One of the agents speaks up: “Your wife will meet you at gate 208 with the tickets and passports. We’ll help you get through security.”

They grab all our bags and load them onto the luggage cart. Isak has finally fallen asleep, literally less than a minute before they came up. I grab Noah as well as the limp form of a dead weight Isak. Miriam initially takes the hand of one of the agents, then wants mine only. We whisk straight to the front of the line of the priority security check point and are quickly on our way again. We rush up an elevator and then across many running walkways and finally to the end of the terminal and down another escalator. Sarah rushes down a couple minutes later and the two agents wave a cheerful goodbye, wishing us a pleasant trip.

We’re back on our way to San Francisco…thanks in no small part to the smallest one among us, who certainly earned his way today!
Wooly Thoughts

By Debbonnaire Kovacs, April 22, 2015  Based on Psalm 23 and John 10:11-18.  It's spring! My twins are bouncing along beside me like little balls of wool with long, gangly legs. I don’t bounce that much anymore, being an old ewe of nearly eight years, but I do feel the stirring in my blood and quicken my pace a bit. The shepherd, pacing along ahead of us with his crook, seems to have a bit of spring in his step as well. He is whistling. I like it when he whistles.

I remember when I was a little, bouncy lamb myself, leaping along near my mother, as she calmly followed him along. He always found us the greenest grass he could, but spring grass is the best. Ah, yes! Here we are. Come along, children, you need to begin learning to nibble at the grass…Oh, all right, but don’t butt me so hard, will you? The milk will come without quite such strenuous effort on your part. Ouch! Oh, yum, good grass makes good milk…

That’s better. Now we can lie down and rest…

…Time for a drink. I lift my head and see that, as usual, the shepherd is way ahead of me; he’s already making a little temporary dam of stones to make the water still so it’s fit for drinking. I’ve seen some animals gulp away at the swift, splashing water, but I don’t know how they can stand it!

Come, children, the shepherd is up and moving. Time to move on. Oh-oh, we’re going through that narrow, rocky place. I hate that! Stay close, now, stop your dashing around. You can play more when we’re through it. Don’t worry, the shepherd is with us. Do you see that long stick he carries? Believe me, he’ll see any wolf or mountain lion long before we do, and he’ll take care of it! And if one of us gets stuck, he’ll pull us out with his crook, but you stick to me, and don’t get stuck to begin with! Shh, I know it’s dark…Oh, look, the shepherd is coming. He’ll carry you, little ones.

I walk along beside him, my head lifted to watch him cradle my children. I remember when he used to carry me the same way. It’s not so dark. I’ve seen worse.

Aha! Now, see, wasn’t it worth it? Just look at this feast of grass and clover and dandelions! No king ever feasted better than this. If there are any wolves or mountain lions watching, they’ll just be jealous. Not of grass, of course, but of our good care. They don’t have a shepherd like we do, poor things. They have to watch out for themselves.

Ready for a nap? Listen, I’ll tell you a story. Once, when I was a little lamb like you, the shepherd left us with a hired hand, and when the wolves came, he ran away! Can you believe it? The sheep were all yelling, running this way and that. I lost my mother, and was screaming in fear, leaping so frantically that I fell and hit my head on a stone, when the shepherd ran up. He beat the wolves away (sent the hired man away with some strong words, too) and gathered us all up. He anointed the hurt places and calmed everyone down. I still remember the hug I got, and how the oil he put on my bruised head ran into my eyes.

Sleep, little ones. We are safe. The shepherd’s love and faithfulness will shape all our days until the end of our lives.
Lost in John 17

by Harry Banks, April 20, 2015: A while ago I felt drawn to try to allow the prayer of Christ in John 17 to come near my soul.

When I read the phrasing and the word selection, it all seemed so foreign and mysterious to the language of my inner conversation. So for the past several months I have gone back and back and back again asking, and trusting that someday a glimmer of recognition will occur at the heart level.

Seeing Words

I feel like some of my new students. I give them a reading aid that asks questions about their text book. They can look up the answers in the text book. Some of them carefully write down the answers in the book, word for word. But when I ask them to explain what they have written, they have no idea of the context, the practical meaning of the words. That’s how I feel with John 17. I see the words; I know their dictionary definition; I have even explored the Greek underpinnings of the translated words I read. But heart meaning still seems to elude me.

Glorify… Jesus says to his Father, Glorify me as I have glorified you . . . the disciples even glorify Christ, according to the prayer. I have no experience to allow me to imagine what that glorify means at an experiential level. I missed the mount of transfiguration. Didn’t hike Sinai with Moses to pick up the commands. Haven’t seen or felt the smoke of Isaiah’s temple. Bottom line: although I know a lot of words and descriptions of glory, it eludes my gestalt understanding.

In the end I figure I don’t do glory. I have no experiential comprehension of what it could be like to be in a moment or relationship of glory.

Why Go Back …

So I’ve been wondering, why go back and back and beg for understanding? …

I find some hope in the words of reassurance… Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness…

Of course, I’m not so sure I really am wanting the righteousness… The Dark Night of the Soul talks about beginners that in their fervor to understand spiritual things become secretly vain, and impatient with others. I think some of my friends refer to this as “self-righteous.” Sometimes that undercurrent of vanity seems too close to the surface for me; I sometimes wonder if I’ll ever be more than a beginner.

Nevertheless, there seems to be at least a beginning of hunger… For that I am grateful; for much of my life I’m not sure I was really that hungry.

One of the questions Jesus kept asking his disciples, Who do men say that I am? And who do you say that I am? In the prayer he says that “those that were given to him” got it. They understood he came from the Father. They understood who he was and is.

When I come back to this prayer and listen to this conversation about glory, eternal life, giving, manifesting, taking care . . . all within 24 hours of submitting to the most excruciating soul darkness of the total separation of good and evil, voluntarily embodying evil and its total banishment from his righteous Father I cannot comprehend I’m left in wonder.

I find myself wondering how well I’m able to answer at a heart level, who is Jesus? What level of prominence does
he have in my life?

In this prayer his whole focus seems to start with wanting to glorify his Father. Ahh, maybe that’s it. I keep being drawn back to trying to understand the manifesting and glorifying and name stuff. …

There is some admonition that says, “Do all for the glory of God. …"

Like I said, I pretty much flunk the glory test. But I keep thinking it would be nice to hang out here long enough that maybe I can be a more representative son of the King. But it probably wouldn’t hurt if I got a better idea of who this Jesus really is. Yeah, I know all the quick answers to that question, but do I know who he is so well that my being embodies his presence? Hmmm… Maybe I’ll need to hang out here a lot longer. …

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen” (Jude 1:24-25 KJV).
Loma Linda University Health PossAbilities members Jenna Rollman and Owen Daniels won the Asics LA Marathon hand cycling races in the women’s and men’s division, respectively, on Sunday, March 15, 2015.

Rollman completed the 26.2-mile race in two hours, 15 minutes and 27 seconds; and Daniels finished it in one hour, 21 minutes and three seconds.

“As with all sports at the highest level, cycling takes a certain commitment and sacrifice,” Daniels said, who trained up to 15 hours per week in the months leading up to the marathon. “It’s a commitment to make sure you are on that bike six days a week and to push yourself harder than the day before."

Daniels competed against 40 other hand cyclists and admits he had some good competition on race day. “I’m very proud to have been able to race with so many great hand cyclists. Everyone was a winner on that day because everyone accomplished what some will never get to do."

After a car accident in January 2010, Daniels was rushed to Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC), where he was diagnosed as a T-10 paraplegic. However, the 32-year-old doesn’t let his disability slow him down. “Just because we are disabled doesn’t mean we can’t race like everyone else. We are ready and just as serious about racing as any elite athlete.”

As for Rollman, riding bikes has always been a part of her life – even as a child. She started riding bikes competitively in 2009. While on a training ride in Chino on the morning of February 1, 2013, she came around a turn on a straight highway and she unknowingly closed in on a parked work truck at 25 miles per hour.
“Paralysis was instant and I was completely aware of this,” she recalled of the accident, “knowing I had just experienced my last moments of cycling, walking, running, jumping and able-bodied life as I had known it.” Rollman was airlifted to Loma Linda University Medical Center. She spent two weeks in the intensive care unit and the remainder of the time at inpatient therapy at LLUMC East Campus hospital.

Rollman, now 28 years old, started hand cycling in July 2014 and attributes who she is to her cycling journey. “Cycling has helped me through the darkest time in my life. I do not see this as an accident—more like this is exactly where I am supposed to be because this is how I can make the biggest impact on those who need it the most.”

Both Daniels and Rollman are part of Loma Linda University Health’s PossAbilities, which is a free, non-profit, community outreach program. Its goal is to provide those with permanent physical disabilities support and resources to stay active and healthy in life. More information is available at TeamPossAbilities.org.
New Spring in an Aging Earth

Photos and reflection by Mervyn Weir. Submitted April 22, 2015   While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. Gen 8:22

That verse in Genesis reminds us that the seasons will keep their cycles of change turning while the earth remains. However, our lived experience of these cycles alters year by year as the impact of man’s interventions in nature takes its toll. Thus spring has turned up fashionably late this year!

Still, West London is doubly blest when it comes to evidence of God’s handiwork, despite the impact of climate change on our environment. The crowning glory of nature in London is Richmond Park. Richmond is Eden in the raw before the creation of man. Here the animals roam free, the flowers grow wild and there is scant evidence of man’s meddling. Kew Gardens, on the other hand is very different. Kew is Eden after Adam has been given the responsibility for naming things and classifying them as he sees fit. In Kew, Adam’s creativity is everywhere in evidence, as flowers and trees are placed with precision, and plants preserved in artificial hothouses that offer the curious delight of tropical palms thriving in a west London suburb.

These pictures taken in the last week are from the two London gems of nature.

Mervyn Weir is an Adventist Creative who works across several disciplines including design, film, theatre, photography and writing. He shared with us, “I really appreciate the arts section of your magazine. I know from my personal experience that the arts are a much neglected and undervalued resource within much of Adventism. Walking in London last week, I was struck with how much variation there is these days as to the timing of the seasons. Nonetheless the beauty is always striking and in that spirit I share my thoughts and photographs.”

Welcome, Mervyn! We hope to see more of your work!
We Are Not Changing: The Adventist Review Is

By Monte Sahlin, Executive Director, Adventist Today Foundation

You may have heard that the Adventist Review will be making some major changes. It will no longer be a weekly and become a monthly. It will have the page size of the Junior Guide. It will have more pages and clearly the news cycle will be lengthened significantly. At least, that is what we have been able to glean from small announcements over the past several weeks.

I grew up reading the “Good Old Review” every Sabbath and, I confess, there is a part of me that will miss the Review. Just like the loss of the Review & Herald publishing house, it is something that nobody wanted, but the changing technology and economics of publishing has forced on us.

But I have good news for those of you who are as set in your ways as I am: Adventist Today is not changing. It remains an independent, professional journalism enterprise which serves the Adventist community and those interested in the Adventist faith around the world. It still has no other purpose and is answerable only to our readers and donors.

We are expanding! We continue to post daily news stories on the Adventist Today Web site, publish a weekly Email edition and a quarterly journal on paper or in PDF. We have added a section which is the only consistent place focusing on the arts within the Adventist faith community. We have added a Facebook edition which is updated daily and makes AT available to young people in many nations where it is easier to access Facebook via a Smartphone or mobile device than it is to go to the Web.

We will soon publish a double issue in advance of the upcoming General Conference Session with history and background information on all of the key items on the agenda. It will be provided to all of the delegates free of charge and includes articles from retired GC and union conference officers, leading theologians and well-known independent voices; people with perspective and knowledge, but no direct interest in the issues.

We will soon launch a Twitter edition which will make it possible for us to give you instant updates on unfolding events at the GC Session in July and immediate bulletins ongoing after San Antonio. Later this year we will also add a PDF edition that will make it possible for those who prefer it to get a monthly package of the news, opinion and features in a printable form.

All of this depends on your support. We do not have any other source of funding. You can subscribe for as little as $10 a year and if you would like to make a regular donation or a larger donation or leave AT in your will, please let us know. Call (503) 826-8600.

And please pray for us that our team may be guided by the compassion and vision of Jesus Christ!