2011 Fall Meeting

Presentation Title: Rescuing the Remnant: LeRoy Froom and the Definition of Adventism

Speaker: Dr. Paul E. McGraw
Professor of History, Pacific Union College

Date/Time: October 22, Sabbath, 9:30 a.m.
(note earlier meeting time to allow question & answer session to immediately follow the presentation)

Place: Tierrasanta SDA Church
11260 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92124
Church phone: 858-576-9990

DIRECTIONS:
From Orange County:
I-5 south to I-805 south to Hwy 52 east to Santo Rd south to Clairemont Mesa Blvd left (east) to 11260. (SDA church is nicely nestled between a Lutheran and a Catholic church on a hill to the left of the boulevard.)

From Riverside/San Bernardino:
I-15 south to Clairemont Mesa Blvd/ Hwy 52 exit. Turn left (east) and proceed two miles to church on left.

From San Diego/South Bay:
I-5 or I-805 north to I-8 east to I-15 north to Clairemont Mesa Blvd then right. (east) two miles to church on left.

From East County:
Hwy 52 west to Santo Road, then south to Clairemont Mesa Blvd, then left (east) one mile to the church.

About the Topic & Speaker

From its inception, Christianity has struggled with the definition of what is or is not an authentic form of the faith. The question of legitimacy has faced every emerging religious group. From its inception in the nineteenth century, Seventh-day Adventism struggled with the question of whether acknowledgment by other Christian groups was desirable or simply a sign that it had compromised its calling. In the years immediately following Ellen G. White’s death in 1915, the Seventh-day Adventist church faced a new reality, living not only in a rapidly changing world, but for the first time having to find their way without the aid and guidance of their prophet.

While many within Adventism were satisfied to continue to present themselves as outside the mainstream of Protestant Christianity, one man in particular believed it was important that Adventism articulate a coherent definition of what it was historically, but also what it would become in a post Ellen White world. That man was LeRoy E. Froom. Beginning in the late 1920s until his death in 1974, Froom sought to create a definition of Adventism, which not only maintained its claim to a unique status among Christian denominations, but also allowed it to be recognized as authentically Christian.

Froom’s “progressive” definition of Adventism differed markedly from the mainstream of the church in his day, but today he would be deemed by many as “conservative” or even “traditionalist” which leads us to ponder the following questions:

1. Is possible to definitively define Adventism?
2. Froom offered fresh perspectives on issues ranging from the Shut Door movement, Adventism’s historic aversion to the doctrine of the Trinity and the “Versions Controversy.” On each of these issues his critique, if not totally new, moved Adventism forward in its understanding of its history. Today, even in the progressive circles of Adventism, do we really broach new and unique issues about Adventism’s past?
3. What in Adventism’s past is worth holding on to?
4. In Froom’s quest to legitimize Adventism most of the resistance he met stemmed from
opposition to the “unique” elements of Adventist belief. Did the Evangelicals of the 1950s succeed in scrubbing Adventism of its uniqueness? If so, is that for the better?

Paul E. McGraw is a Professor of History at Pacific Union College where he has taught for thirteen years. For fourteen years before coming to PUC, he pastored in the Potomac Conference. He received his Ph.D. from The George Washington University in 2004. His dissertation “Born in Zion?: The Margins of Fundamentalism and the Definition of Seventh-day Adventism” traces the interaction between Adventists and Evangelicals Fundamentalists over the question of whether Adventism deserves the designation “cult.” More recent publications include: “The Memory of the Huguenots in North America: Protestant History and Polemic” in The Huguenots: History and Memory in Transnational Context, Essays in Honour and Memory of Walter C. Utt and “Legacy” in the forthcoming book by the Ellen White Project. He is also working on a biography of LeRoy Froom for the Adventist Pioneer series.

2012 WINTER MEETING

February 18, 2012

Editor, Christianity Today

(topic to be announced)

SDAF NEWS

SDAF has a new website...
www.sandiegoadventistforum.org. We apologize for the pregnant pause between meetings due to the rescheduling of our spring retreat and for the gap in our online presence following the mysterious disappearance of our link on the tsdachurch.org website…but we’re back with a stronger online presence than ever! Please visit our new website for meeting announcements, news, history, contact information, officers, to join or renew membership or to order or renew media subscriptions, etc. Perhaps most notably, you will soon be able to download mp3 files of not only the most recent meeting but also earlier meetings back through 2001 (the 20 years prior to 2001 are still being digitized and will be available later). Of course, you may also order CDs and/or audiocassettes of any meeting from our archives back to 1981. Our email address remains sdaf.org@gmail.com

Membership renewal: At the spring 2011 SDAF Board of Directors meeting it was voted to change the membership year to a calendar basis and to extend the 2010-1 membership year six months through December 2011 to facilitate the switchover. It was also voted to extend CD & cassette tape subscriptions through December 2011. Therefore, renewal time will be here shortly so…why not process your renewals online this time. Before renewing your CD or tape subscription you might consider switching to the mp3 download mode to save precious resources, including our time and your money!

San Diego Adventist Forum

Membership / Subscription Application

Name(s) _______________________________________
Address _______________________________________
City __________________ State ___ Country ________
Postal Code ____ -_____ Phone (____) ____________
Email _________________________________________

2012 membership
(single $30 / couple $40) $__________

2012 meeting recordings
___ Compact Disc format
   (domestic $50 / international $60) $__________
___ Cassette tape format
   (domestic $50 / international $60) $__________

SDAF Newsletter
___ Email version (free)
___ Printed version
   (US/Canada $10, others $15) $__________

Tax-deductible contribution $ _________

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ _________

Mail with payment to:

SDAF, PO Box 421320, San Diego, CA 92142

NOTE: soon mp3 files of recent meetings can be downloaded directly from our new website store at www.sandiegoadventistforum.org.