The Presentation

Since InterVarsity Press published *The Openness of God* 18 years ago, the position presented there has been the object of extensive analysis, vigorous criticism and a variety of characterizations. The harsher voices assert that open theism undermines biblical Christianity and call on Christian leaders to declare it “beyond the bounds of orthodox Christian teaching.” Others are less strident. While a few regard open theism as a modified version of process theology, others describe it as “revised classical theism,” since it retains “a supernatural view of God’s existence, power, revelation, and acts in history.” Along with considerable criticism, open theism has also generated a measure of appreciation. Even among its detractors there are those who allow that open theism has made important contributions to theological discussion. Dr. Rice will trace this interesting history and explore what future there may be for the view that God, indeed, has a future.

Questions worth pondering:

1. What picture, or pictures, of God appear in the Bible? Which are more prevalent? Which are more important? Is there a difference between the narrative and didactic portions of Scripture when it comes to the way God is described?
2. What view of the future does biblical prophecy involve? Is the future entirely determined, partly determined, essentially undetermined?
3. What does perfect knowledge, or “omniscience,” involve? Does it mean that God sees the future in all its detail?
4. Can a perfect being change? Is God genuinely affected by the things that happen in this world? Is God ever surprised? Do our prayers have any influence on God?

Attendees are encouraged to read *The Openness of God* (reprinted as *God’s Foreknowledge and Man’s Free Will*) ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) and bring it or any of Dr. Rice’s other dozen books to the *Meet the Author* discussion and book signing following the presentation.

Richard Rice, PhD

After receiving the PhD from the University of Chicago Divinity School, Richard Rice joined the religion faculty at Loma Linda University in 1974. He taught at La Sierra for 24 years and at Loma Linda since 1998. His bibliography includes 14 books and over 100 articles. His current projects include a book of the theology of suffering for InterVarsity Press. His wife Gail also teaches at Loma Linda University. They have two
children and three delightful grandchildren. Their daughter Alison is a professor of French literature at the University of Notre Dame. Their son Jonathan is a physician assistant in Thousand Oaks, CA.

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Summer meeting well attended.
On September 8, Sigve Tonstad, MD, PhD of the Loma Linda University School of Religion presented *Lost Meaning(s) of the Seventh Day* to nearly 100 attendees. There were few empty chairs in the Tierrasanta SDA Church “Board Room” during the *Meet the Author* luncheon session discussion that followed. A more detailed report of the meeting will be available at www.sandiegoadventistforum.org and where mp3 audio files may be downloaded as well as CDs & audiocassettes ordered.

Nearly 300 recordings of leading Adventist thought now available online. The SDAF top priority project was recently completed ahead of schedule. This means that 31 years of SDAF meetings (1981 – 2012) are now available for immediate downloading from our website. Chances are that your favorite contemporary Adventist theologian, educator, scientist, administrator or author has spoken at SDAF. The entire online collection is searchable by speaker, title, date & category (such as archaeology, art, belief, biotechnology, creation, culture, divorce, doctrine, education, eschatology, ethics, exegesis, faith, finance, geology, governance, healthcare, hermeneutics, history, homosexuality, marriage, miracles, mission, neuroscience, philosophy, politics, prophecy, Sabbath, science, sexuality, social justice, suicide, theology, women, youth, etc.). The downloadable mp3 files sell for half the price of the CDs and audiocassettes that also may be ordered online. **These classic lectures by some of Adventism’s foremost scholars and thought leaders make fine gifts any time of the year—watch our website for holiday discounts!**

It’s 2013 renewal time. A big thank you to those who remembered our change to a calendar year basis and renewed their 2013 membership and media subscription prior to the January 1 deadline. It’s now more convenient than ever at www.sandiegoadventistforum.org or you may use the adjacent application form. **Avoid the holiday rush—do it now!**

SDAF needs your support. As always, our meetings are open for all interested persons to attend free of charge. Our media program is sustained only through the dedication of our officers and volunteers who provide their services as a gift to the organization. To facilitate global access to our lecture archives, we committed $10,000 to the development of our website and online webstore knowing that we may never recoup this expense. We need your financial support for this project and to help us continue scheduling the quality programs you have come to expect from SDAF. Please consider giving a substantial tax-deductible year-end gift now—either on the website or using the form below.

Your feedback is requested. We welcome your suggestions, comments, concerns and prayers as we endeavor to bring you the best speakers on the most relevant topics in 2013. Your email input reaches us the quickest—sdaf.org@gmail.com!

2013 Winter meeting pending. Details regarding the date and speaker will be finalized soon. Keep an eye on your email for our next newsletter early in the New Year and visit our website regularly for the most current information.

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