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# AAF News and Roster

by Claire Hosten

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**T**he Association of Adventist Forums has grown to more than 5,500 members. Membership in the association includes four issues of SPECTRUM. During the last six years, 17 out of the last 18 SPECTRUMS have been mailed to more members than received the previous issue. Professionals in periodical circulation inform us that readership is always several times paid circulation.

The association emerged from groups of students and professionals, both lay persons and those employed by the church. There are now 40 chapters of the association, one-quarter of them overseas. The latest groups to form are in the United States: Atlanta, Orlando, Jacksonville and Philadelphia. Some of the chapters are small, with average attendance of approximately 20. Others have a membership of over 300, and some meetings have exceeded 2,000 people.

In Australia and New Zealand, the Association of Adventist Forums is becoming as well-known as the koala bear. Nine chapters

have now formed. In Australia there are chapters in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Lake Macquarie, Melbourne, Sydney and Western Australia. In New Zealand, chapters have sprung up in Auckland and Christchurch. Membership in these groups ranges from 40 to 200. Each chapter has its own newsletter, publishing both local and overseas news. Some also include articles. Memberships, of course, have increased in Australia, and with greater exposure to SPECTRUM, single copies and back issues are now in great demand down under.

SPECTRUM is not only read in Australia, but all over the world, including several countries in each of the following: Africa, Europe, the Far East, Southern Asia, the Middle East, South America and the islands of the West Indies. We even have members receiving SPECTRUM in the Seychelles Islands, Fiji and Katmandu.

Glacier View has dominated discussions into 1981. In Toronto, Canada, with only two days notice, information was passed by word of mouth, and more than 100 people attended a meeting on the subject. More than 2,000 also attended a meeting of the Loma Linda chapter on Glacier View. Clearly, this indicates a sustained interest by church

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Claire Hosten, executive secretary of the Association of Adventist Forums, is an attorney in Washington, D.C. She graduated from Caribbean Union College and Howard University Law School.

members in theological topics.

But other subjects also elicit interest. The chapter at Pacific Union College had to change the location of one of its meetings when around 1,500 people appeared for a showing of the cinematic adaptation of C. S. Lewis' "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe." After the showing of the film, a panel discussed Lewis' allegory and the role of this type of literature in the development of healthy children. Other topics discussed during the last 12 months at various chapter meetings in the United States and overseas include: "The Church: Its Agenda in the Eighties," "God and Time: Foreknowledge

and Providence," "Divine Foreknowledge and Human Free Will," "Dilemmas in the Institutionalization of Adventism," "The Role of the Pastor When Every Member Is a Minister," "How Can the Concept of the Individual's Ministry Be Realized Within Adventist Institutions?"

Why not let us hear from your group? Write to us, c/o Association of Adventist Forums, PO Box 4330, Takoma Park, MD 20012. And encourage those three or four people who keep insisting on reading your copy of SPECTRUM to get their own copies by becoming members of AAF!

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