

FORUM

AAF Newsletter
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Newsletter of the Association of Adventist Forums

March 1984

Invitation from AAF President

by Lyndrey Niles

A few weeks ago, Christmas decorations were in place, and the whole nation seemed to be temporarily at peace. Caring and sharing were everywhere demonstrated as mankind expressed goodwill to all.

Now the reality of living in the eighties has returned. Orwell's 1984 has arrived, and we fear the future. Politicians continue to debate Lebanon, El Salvador, and Grenada; investors worry about the economy; and sports enthusiasts anxiously contemplate the outcome of the 1984 Olympics.

The truth is that Seventh-day Adventists are no less worried about the future. Our one certainty is the second advent of our Lord, but the likely course of events between now and then, and our response to these events, sometimes scare us. Social issues, church organization, and doctrine compete for the attention of leaders and laity alike, but very little opportunity is ever available to discuss these topics satisfactorily. Thus we find ourselves with a broad spectrum of possible solutions, but limited oppor-

tunities to decide answers.

The Association of Adventist Forums has long tried to provide those opportunities through chapter meetings and through its journal, *Spectrum*. In a few weeks, March 15-18, another AAF-sponsored activity will take place, in Loma Linda, Calif. The second National Conference, "The Search for a Usable Future," promises to provide challenging lectures and meaningful discussions on topics of immediate concern to all Adventists. A preview of some of the highlights appears in another section of this newsletter, and it is well worth your reading. Permit me to extend a personal invitation for you to attend this conference and be part of what will be a historic meeting.

At the national conference, the task force on church structure, sponsored by the Association of Adventist Forums, will discuss their report printed in the March issue of *Spectrum*. The task force has come to their conclusions, after more than two years of study and reflection, independently of the Adventist Forum board. The recommendations emerged from research carried out by people with a variety of relevant disciplines and experience. The task force also solicited and received comments from a wide range of laypeople and denominational leaders active and retired. As you read their report, I am sure that you will want even more to attend the national conference.

The Association of Adventist Forums expresses sincere thanks to all who have made our efforts successful in 1983, and invites our members to comment and respond on the role of the Association of Adventist Forums in 1984—to help us all in our search for a usable future.

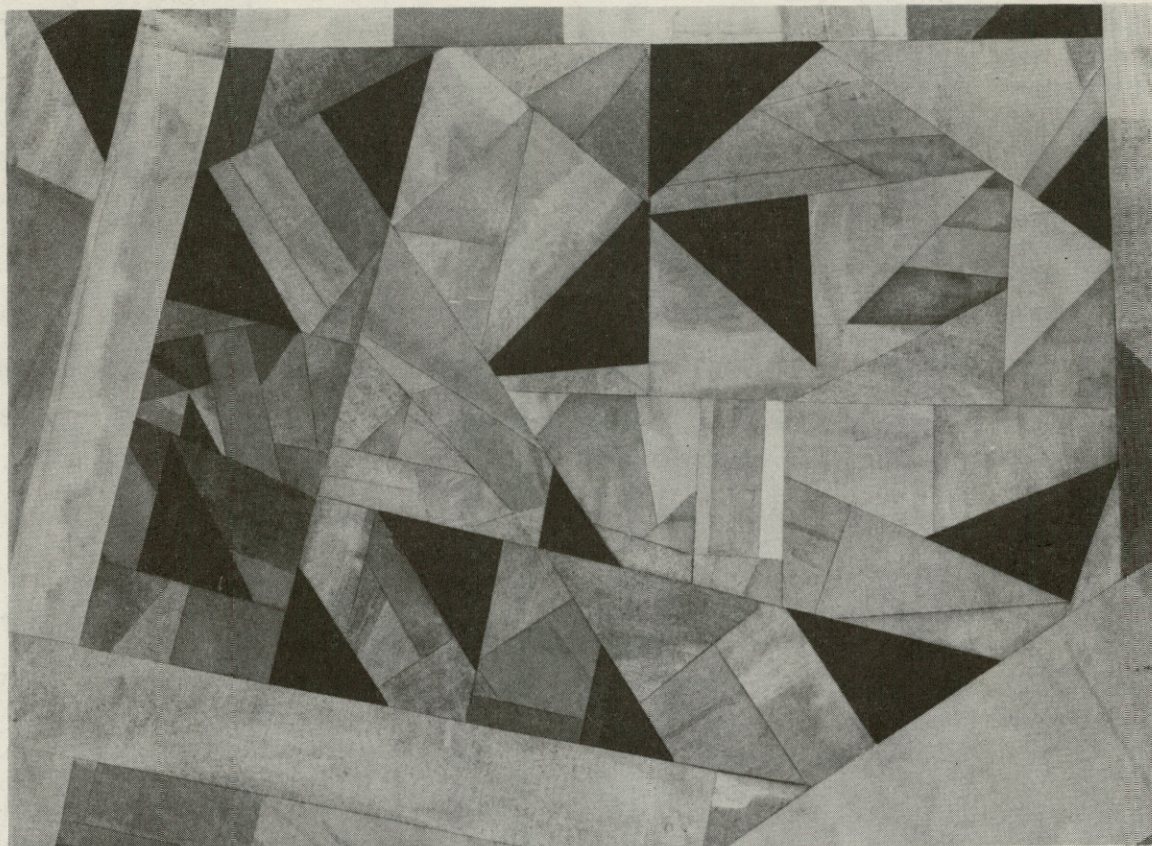
Lyndrey Niles, professor of communications at Howard University, is president of the Association of Adventist Forums.

Australasian Region Looks for Change

by Molleurus Couperus

Molleurus Couperus, director of international relations for the Association of Adventist Forums, accompanied by his wife, Dos, spent seven weeks this summer visiting several forum chapters in the Southern Pacific Division (once the Australasian Division). They also visited groups at Christchurch and Auckland in New Zealand.

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"Spinner" by Tom Morphis, 1981.

National AAF Conference Welcomes Artists

by Bonnie Dwyer

The Association of Adventist Forums Conference in Loma Linda, March 15-18, will include an exhibit of paintings done by four artists new to the Adventist art scene. Ranging from geometric abstracts to realistic portraits the paintings will offer something of interest for all who see this exhibit.

Other art will be displayed at the conference. The work of a class taught by Alan Collins, a sculptor at Loma Linda University, will be seen during the Sabbath morning worship service. Featured in a recent issue of *Spectrum* (December, 1983), the sculptures, human-sized candlesticks symbolically portraying the seven churches of Revelation, will occupy the platform of the University Campus Church. Reproduction of children's drawings will also be featured during an unusual worship service planned by Charles Teel, Jr., professor of Christian Ethics at Loma Linda University.

In addition to art, the conference will feature speakers from Oxford University, *Newsweek* magazine, the U.S. Department of State, the Bishop of Mexico, the University of Bridgeport, as well as

both Andrews and Loma Linda Universities. For a fuller description of the conference and information concerning registration, see the advertisement inside the wraparound of this issue of *Spectrum*. Those wishing to attend the conference should fill out and mail the enclosed registration envelope. The artists whose work will be coming from different parts of the United States and Canada will demonstrate in their work a variety of styles and influences.

June Elliott is a painter living in the Los Angeles area. Although she has demonstrated a wide variety of interests in her paintings, her primary interest is portrait painting.

John Hoyt currently teaches art at Canadian Union College in Alberta, Canada. His works show a mixture of melodrama and surrealism rendered in precise realism.

Tom Morphis is a teaching assistant at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield, Michigan. His geometric abstracts are actually made up of a quiltwork of colored canvas painstakingly sewn together as if, in his own words, "A quilt-maker went Abstract Expressionist."

Theo Smith is a painter living in Southern California. His paintings combine a concern for precision with a feel for the movement of color.

Bonnie Dwyer is a graduate student in journalism at California State University, Fullerton.

Portland Oregon Chapter Studies Church Authority

by Dana Lauren West

With the help of the local conference, the Portland, Oregon Chapter of the Association of Adventist Forums conducted, December 9 and 10, a seminar series on the topic of the church.

E. C. Beck, president of the Oregon Conference, spoke on Friday evening on the basis of authority for Adventist conference administration. Beck stated that the denomination must take a pragmatic approach to organization and authority. He stressed that adequate and open communication lines between each conference and its constituents must be maintained. As a result of his belief, Beck sends out a newsletter to constituents in order to prepare them for conference meetings.

Saturday, Herman Bauman, the ministerial secretary of the conference, discussed the authority of the local church. He fielded questions from a panel of three: Dan Patchin, a physician; Darryl

Ward, a businessman; and B. J. Christiansen, pastor of Portland's Sunnyside SDA Church. Discussion was then opened to the approximately 100 who attended. According to Bauman, the authority of the local conference and all other levels of church organization is derived from the local church.

William Taylor, president of the Portland Chapter, is pleased with the meetings and the members' responses. With assistance from John Brunt, regional representative for the North Pacific Region on the board of the Association of Adventist Forums, William Taylor plans to present subsequent presentations on the subjects of affirmation of Adventist faith in Jesus and commitments to the SDA Church.

Dana Lauren West is a public relations graduate student at Maryland University, College Park, Maryland.

New Year, New Chapters in West and Midwest

by Dana Lauren West

The Association of Adventist Forums welcomes three new chapters into the organization. The East Bay Chapter in California, the Greater Battle Creek Chapter in Michigan, and the Southern Oregon Chapter have already held meetings discussing diverse topics ranging from reorganizing church structure to genealogies in Genesis.

Brantley Johnson, acting president of the East Bay Chapter in California, was prompted into forming a chapter by a need for more vigorous discussion of current issues before the church and by the need for more lay participation in the making of church policy. The Pleasant Hills Church is the location of chapter meetings. Attendance has risen to 150.

On January 28, the **East Bay Chapter** began the new year with a task force report given by Dr. James Walters of Loma Linda University, Dr. Adrian Zytoskee of Pacific Union College, and Dr. Ordell Calkins of California State University. February 11, David Bieber, chairperson of Pacific Union Conference's Church Structure Study Com-

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mission, revealed his findings on reorganizing church structure.

Timothy Spruill organized the **Greater Battle Creek Chapter** in Michigan because he felt the church needs free, open thinking in addition to traditional historic Adventism. Many of the chapter members have recently moved from other areas, where they were active members of a local AAF chapter, and they wished to continue their growth at Battle Creek. Attendance at meetings vary from 50-60 members. Speakers have included Dr. Ron Graybill from the E. G. White Estate discussing Ellen White, and Dr. Richard Schwarz from Andrews University discussing SDA history. Question and answer periods followed both presentations. Future plans are not concrete, however, there are hopes for joint ventures with the Andrews University Chapter. The officers of the Greater Battle Creek Chapter include Timothy Spruill, president; Bruce Nicola, vice president; Rita Corke, secretary; Dale Corke, treasurer; Karen Spruill, publicity secretary; and Jerry Yeast, program coordinator.

The **Southern Oregon Chapter** was formed because the president, Donald Casebolt, had previously been attached to other forum chapters and felt a need for one in the Roseburg, Oregon area. Meetings have included informal discussions of *Spectrum* articles and articles Casebolt wrote on the genealogies of Genesis for *Origins*. Plans for next year include discussion of the historical background for the 1260 days prophecy. Officers for the Southern Oregon Chapter are Donald Casebolt, president; Joe Salidino, vice president; Dr. Jack Lott, publicity secretary; and Dr. Melvin Yeo, treasurer.

Forum members interested in organizing a chapter in their area should write to the AAF in care of Claire Hosten, executive secretary, or phone (301) 270-0423 requesting the brochure "Guide for Local Forum Chapters." In this pamphlet, the member will find information regarding the purpose and background for the Association of Adventist Forums, requirements procedures, a model chapter constitution, and the constitution of the national AAF for starting a local chapter.

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Couperus found that Southern Pacific Forum members were interested in knowing about discussions taking place in the American and European Forums, and in how various chapters could communicate more effectively with each other and the church. According to Couperus, the problem most mentioned by those in the Southern Pacific Division was a lack of openness or willingness on the part of church administrators to discuss problems, and an intolerance of any degree of variation in thought. Some Forum members said that freedom of discussion has been lost in the church and excommunication has often taken place (see *Forum*, June 1983). However, with a new divisional leadership coming to power, there is now hope that a Christian spirit of fellowship and communication will become more prevalent in the Southern Pacific Division.

Molleurus Couperus, a physician, is the AAF director of international relations and lives in Angwin, California.

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