

# FORUM

AAF Newsletter  
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## *AAF Plans 1985 Conference on Geology and Creation*

by Edward Lugenbeal

**T**he Association of Adventist Forums will sponsor a conference, and two field trips, on science and religion in the summer of 1985, according to Glenn Coe, past AAF president and current director of special projects. Entitled "Geology and the Biblical Record," the conference will bring together scientists and theologians for an in-depth consideration of important issues in "creation-science." Coe points out that the conference and field trips will take place shortly after the 1985 General Conference Session.

The conference will consist of two distinct phases, says Coe. Richard M. Ritland, Ed Hare, and Edward Lugenbeal, beginning July 28, will lead a 10-day field trip in Wyoming and Utah that will provide 50 participants with a first-hand view of critical geological evidence. Following the field trip there will be a four-day series of meetings, which will begin August 8, in Yellowstone National Park. A second field trip will be held immediately after the conference, begin on August 12, and will provide another 50 applicants the opportunity to balance theory with field observations. The four-day conference will be open to all applicants; the field trips will be limited to 50 applicants each on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The pre-conference field trip will begin at Dinosaur National Monument, in Vernal, Utah. The post-conference field trip will begin in Cody, Wyoming, and will conclude in Vernal on August 22. Details about logistics and costs will be released at a later time.

Participants in the pre- and post-conference field trips will visit sites of exceptional geologic (and scenic) interest:

- (1) The breathtaking vistas and rich geology of the Wind River and Big Horn Canyons;
- (2) Ancient glacial deposits preserved at the base of the Wind River Range near Fremont Lake, Bull Lake, and the Trail Lakes;

- (3) One of the oldest archaeological sites in the Northern Rockies, Mummy Cave;
- (4) The volcanic mountains and famous fossil forests of the Yellowstone region;
- (5) The remarkably well-preserved fossil fish and energy-rich oil shales of the Green River formation near Green River, Wyoming;
- (6) The dinosaur bones displayed in the rock layers of Dinosaur National Monument;
- (8) The spectacular peaks of the Grand Tetons near Jackson Hole. (The Grand Tetons will provide the backdrop for Sabbath activities on both the pre- and post-session field trips.)

According to the field trip leader Richard M. Ritland, the conference and its associated field trips will discuss a broad spectrum of issues, including some of the crucial problem areas which "creation-science" has been prone to avoid or overlook.

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*Edward Lugenbeal is vice president of the Association of Adventist Forums.*

## **30 Newspapers Carry Spectrum Story**

by Penelope Kellogg Winkler

News stories based on "Casting Out Demons: Adventists and Exorcism," an article written by Debra Gainer Nelson and published in *Spectrum*, Vol. 14, No. 2, appeared during January 1984 in over 30 newspapers across the country.

The Religious News Service adapted a story appearing Dec. 24, 1983 in the *Los Angeles Times*, written by the religion editor, John Dart. The *Times* story relied primarily on Nelson's study in *Spectrum*. John Dart also obtained further interviews

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## Mid-West, California Elect Representatives

Central Pacific and Lake Region AAF members have elected regional representatives.

Dr. Norman Sossong, of St. Helena, Calif., is now Central Pacific Regional representative. Specializing in internal medicine, Sossong practices at the St. Helena Hospital, as well as having his own private practice. After receiving his Ph.D. in physics, and M.D. at the University of Chicago, Sossong took his residency at Kettering Medical Center.

He has held AAF chapter memberships in the Berkeley, Seattle, Walla Walla, Chicago, Kettering, and PUC chapters. His top priority to the Forum is to keep it healthy and vibrant during the time of doctrinal turmoil among Seventh-day Adventists.

"I see the Association of Adventist Forums as one of the only organizations devoted to free and open discussion of topics of concern to Adventists," says Sossong.

Donald Gillespie, Lake Region's new representative, is director of Health Care at Home in Stevensville, Mich. The facility is affiliated with the Adventist Health System North. Gillespie received his masters at California State University, and his doctorate in sociology at Western Michigan University.

Before 1983 he was assistant professor of sociology and social work at Andrews University. He also taught sociology and social work at Pacific Union College.

Gillespie is committed to fostering open and effective communication between the national office and the various regions, and encouraging active participation in regards to *Spectrum* and the national association.

## San Diego Discusses Distrust of Clergy

by Dana Lauren West

Within the Central Pacific Region are several active chapters. They hold pertinent forums that interest not only local members but national chapters as well.

The San Diego Chapter of the Association of Adventist Forums invited Thomas Mostert to address members regarding "Clergy versus Laity: A Candid Look at a Dangerous Trend." The meeting took place Saturday, Jan. 14, 1984, with an at-

tendance of approximately 200. Mostert, previously president of the Hawaiian Mission and also the Mountain View Conference, is president of Southwest California Conference.

In his introduction, Mostert stated that there were signs that the laity was increasingly losing its trust in church leadership. In the Pacific area, tensions seemed to surface at the recent South-eastern California Conference constituency meeting. There, resolutions were passed that would increase interaction between the conference and the laity and allow for more laity participation. Mostert suggested that the laity's distrust and frustration may stem from an increasing number of failures by church leaders.

In order to respond legitimately to needs for change, Mostert stated that an understanding for God's plan for conduct of his work must be present. Drawing from biblical examples, Mostert cited several chapters in Numbers where the children of Israel rose up against authority and the events that took place after each incident. He suggested that Matthew 18 emphasized the importance of direct communication in resolving difficulties.

Mostert noted that present situations of tension within the church could be improved by implementing better parliamentary procedure, insisting on an advanced agenda before each meeting, and acquiring information before taking a vote.

Three things, concluded Mostert, are necessary for change: trust, honesty, and openness. If they are present, the church's mission is assured. A question and answer period was held after the 75-minute presentation.

Dana Lauren West is the editorial assistant of *Spectrum*.

### Order Form for 1984 AAF Conference Tapes

Tape No.	Speaker & Title
1	Kenneth Woodward, "Use and Misuse of Religion"
2	Bryan Wilson, Ronald Lawson, "Growth Stages of a Church"
3 & 4 (\$10)	Taskforce on church structure
5	J. Butler, S. Daily, G. Schneider, L. Tobler— Four personal religious experiences
6	Charles Teel, "Modern Day Beasts and Remnants"
7 & 8 (\$10)	S. Arceo, W. Douglas, J. Kelly, "Lessons from the Third World" Charles Stokes, "Megachurch, Megafailure?"
9	Lyndrey Niles, closing address

Tapes cost \$5 each except where noted. Entire set \$45.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Tape Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

Cut out this form, enclose it with a check in an envelope addressed to:

TAPES, AAF, Box 5330, Takoma Park, MD 20912

Price includes postage and handling

## 1984 Elections for New Regional Representatives

by Claire Hosten

Several regions, the Southern, the Eastern Canadian, and both the Northern Pacific and the Southern Pacific, will hold elections for regional representatives during 1984. The incumbent representatives of these regions have already declared continuation candidacy (as per the AAF constitution). They are Grace Emori (Southern), John Brunt (Northern Pacific), and Mike Scofield (Southern Pacific). The Eastern Canadian region was created this past March at the 1984 meeting of the AAF board and is currently vacant.

Regional representatives are expected to serve as liaisons between the national association and the chapters, help organize new chapters within their regions, sustain the growth of existing chapters, and attend the annual AAF board meeting. The term of office is two years; each representative may serve up to three terms. Like the majority of the board members, they volunteer their time; representatives must therefore be strongly committed to supporting and fostering the goals and growth of the Association of Adventist Forums.

The four regions holding elections this year serve the following areas:

*Southern:* Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee;

*Eastern Canadian:* Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island;

*Northern Pacific:* Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Alberta, and British Columbia;

*Southern Pacific:* Arizona; the Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura counties of California; that part of Kern County, Calif., that lies south and east of the Tehachapi Mountains; and that part of Santa Barbara, Calif., that is served by the Southern California Conference.

Region members are encouraged to submit nominations to the AAF executive secretary. Nominations must include a) a written endorsement of the candidate by at least 10 national AAF members; b) a description of the candidate's qualifications; and c) a statement, signed by the candidate, of his or her willingness to serve. The deadline for submitting nominations is August 13, 1984.

## AAF Welcomes New Chapters, Kansas, Pennsylvania

by Dana Lauren West

Two new chapters of the Association of Adventist Forums have recently organized in the midwestern and eastern parts of the United States. During a meeting on Sunday, Jan. 29, 1984, a group voted to organize an **Overland Park, Kansas, Chapter**.

Drawing on his experience with an unorganized, Forum-like group in Ann Arbor, Mich., David Bryan, with the help of Geoffrey Rice, invited a group of individuals who had kept up with news from the AAF and *Spectrum* to an organizational meeting.

"Geoff and I decided the time was ripe in this area for spiritual dialogue similar to that found in other Forum chapters," Bryan explained.

Because of their location, it is difficult to keep up with continuing current religious debates. However, with the help of the Association and the input from local chapter meetings, Bryan is confident that a continuing spiritual education can exist.

The chapter has already heard Ronald and Janet Numbers speak on "The Psychological World of Ellen White." Bryan and Rice hope to organize other ventures in cooperation with the local church.

Also joining the national association is the **Susquehanna Chapter** located in Central Pennsylvania. Chapter President Bob Davidson stated that the group organized for the purpose of exchanging ideas and keeping up with current debates within the Adventist community.

The members, coming together from the eight to 10 area churches, have set up a think tank-type exchange. An individual or a group of members study an issue and give a presentation to the entire chapter—religious liberty issues are particularly interesting to the Susquehanna Chapter.

In February, the members viewed the videotape made during a San Diego chapter meeting dealing with the investigative judgment. The program was well-received and they are looking forward to similar video presentations.

The chapter hopes to hold six meetings a year; two formal meetings including speakers, and four discussion sessions. The officers are Bob Davidson, president; Karen Link, secretary; and Jan Reagin, treasurer.

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Dana Lauren West is the editorial assistant of *Spectrum*.

### Lake Region

The **Battle Creek Chapter** invited Roger Coon, of the White Estates to conduct a forum meeting on Mar. 10. He spoke for the Saturday morning service and again in the afternoon.

### Northern Pacific Region

The **Southern British Columbia Chapter** has organized a "think-tank" forum for its members. Chapter members interested in a certain subject will assemble for study and discussion. When recommendations are found and agreed upon, the group draws up a report to present to the entire chapter. So far they have had meetings with presentations regarding Science and Christian Belief, Viability of Adventist Education, Earth-Dating and Evolution, Adventism and Quackery, and Celebration of the Sabbath.

The chapter heard Dr. Ernest Plata, a genetic engineer, discuss "How Free is the Christian to Pursue Knowledge in his Area?" on Saturday, Mar. 10. During the morning church service, Plata emphasized the biblical perspective. The afternoon

meeting dealt with current research in genetics and its implications for the Christian.

### Southern Pacific Region

The **Los Angeles Chapter** held their book club meeting on "Christians with Secular Power" by Mark Gibbs on Jan. 27.

**San Diego's Chapter** has had several interesting meetings: former Southern College President Frank Knittel spoke on "The Truth Shall Set You Free" on February 11; Ray Cottrell, former assistant editor of the Review, addressed "The Sanctuary Problem: Its History and Implications for Seventh-day Adventists" on Mar. 10; and "The Interpretation of Scripture: Laymen's Challenge" was the subject covered by Dr. Madelyn Haldeman, professor of biblical languages at Loma Linda University on Apr. 14.

The **Monterey Bay area Chapter** invited Dr. Robert Zamora to appear, Saturday, Feb. 4. Zamora, a senior pastor at Mountain View SDA Church, spoke on the "Intellectual Survival in a Structured Community."

### 30 Newspapers, continued from page 1

with medical and psychiatric staff members at the Loma Linda University Medical Center, and included some background on the 19th century cultural roots and emphasis on modern medicine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The newspapers that reported the story were mostly dailies located in the West, Midwest, and South, with circulations around 30,000. The Tuscaloosa, Alabama, *News* was a typical example of the type of paper that carried the report.

Penelope Kellogg Winkler is *Spectrum's* editorial associate.

## Women's Conference at Andrews

"Women of Mission" is the theme of the second national conference of the Association of Adventist Women to be held at Andrews University July 11 thru July 16, 1984. This theme will be explored through discussions, papers, and workshops. For other details and registration information contact Kit Watts, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich. 49104.

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