

FORUM

Newsletter of the Association of Adventist Forums

April 1985

AAF Geology Trip: If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Pleistocene

by Dana Lauren West

Basic plans for the Association of Adventist Forums 1985 conference and field trip on geology and the biblical record are now concrete. If you are interested in receiving applications and travel instructions, please write to the association's national headquarters in Takoma Park. (For additional information, please see *Forum*, Dec. 1984.)

Registration costs \$125 for one participant, \$200 for married couples, and \$35 each for graduate students and their spouses. Registrants who contribute \$200 to \$1,000 become "Contributing Participants," and enable speakers to come who will not otherwise be able to participate. The association encourages participants to help defray speakers' travel expenses at any level at which they feel comfortable.

If you decide to join Forum's geology conference and field trip, expect to pay for your own food, lodging, travel (about 1,300 miles on each field trip), and incidentals: rock hammers, hand lenses, reference books, et cetera. Extra expenses will, however, be kept to a minimum. Plan to ride in groups instead of taking your own car. It is difficult to move in a caravan containing more than 15 or 20 cars, or to communicate effectively in the field with more than 30 to 50 people in a field study group.

Sharing motel rooms, campsites, food arrangements, and citizen band radios will help reduce individual expenses. For those who prefer one kind of accommodation to another, overnight stops will generally occur where both campground facilities

and motels are available. Depending upon the area in which conference members are traveling, lunch will vary between restaurant meals and sack lunches. Information regarding motels will be provided in time for those who want to make reservations.

According to Ed Lugenbeal, a field trip organizer and geology conference leader, the field trip involves walking a total of two to five miles—some of it on difficult terrain—within the fossil forest. Color slides will be taken of the exposures viewed so that those unable to participate in the walk can see the sites.

(This is the second article in a series of three. The third article deals with topics discussed and sites viewed.)

AAF President Profile: Planning World Congress, Advising Governments

by Dana Lauren West

The Association of Adventist Forums is composed of members from diverse backgrounds. They are involved in various professions, enjoy provocative interests, and support myriad concerns outside the association and their careers. This diversity is reflected in the members of the executive committee who work to make the AAF a significant part of the Adventist community.

When Forum president Lyndrey Niles is not guiding the association's undertakings, he is a professor of communications at Howard University, in Washington, D.C., who spends his time

teaching and advising undergraduate students. Born in Barbados, West Indies, Niles split his college education between Caribbean Union College and Columbia Union College. He graduated from Columbia Union College with a bachelor of arts in communications. Niles went on to receive his master's degree at the University of Maryland, and his doctorate at Temple University in Philadelphia.

From 1964-67, he taught on a part-time basis at Columbia Union College. In 1970, Niles accepted a teaching post at Howard in the communications department. During the last 20 years, Niles spent six years as chairperson of the communications department at the University of the District of Columbia. He has also taught part-time at the American University and the University of Maryland. Last year, Niles relinquished his position as chairperson of the Department of Communications at Howard University so he could increase his time in the classroom teaching public address, human relations, rhetorical criticism, the rhetoric of Black America, and the history of rhetorical thought.

Niles is active in several communications associations, and has presented many papers on Black preaching in the United States and on the rhetoric of Civil Rights. He also acts as a consultant to the U.S. government and to private industry. His particular expertise is in organizational structure and how organizational climate is affected by employees' individual cultures.

Aside from his teaching duties, Niles is one of three organizers of the World Congress on Communications. The congress, which holds meetings every other year, is conducted for the benefit of professionals, government officials and educators involved in rhetoric, public address, theater, journalism, radio, television and film. The conferences deal with varied topics—from speech pathology and audiology to literacy, linguistics and intercultural communications—and have been held in varied locations—Italy, Kenya and Barbados.

The Niles family remains prominent in the public life of the Caribbean country of Barbados. Among the hundreds of mourners filling the King Street Adventist church and adjacent streets for the funeral of Norman Niles, Lyndrey's father, were the nation's chief justice, its former prime minister, the current leader of the opposition, and many members of parliament. One M.P. was quoted by the *Sunday Advocate* as saying in his eulogy that Lyndrey's father "was a lawyer for the poor people and his integrity was such that he was called 'the square deal man'."

A Forum member for 12 years, Niles is now in his second year as president. He has served in other Forum capacities as well, including executive secretary, vice president, and as a member of the com-

mittees for promotions and constitution review.

Lyndrey Niles sees Forum as having a definitive role in the Adventist Church today: "Forum provides for the airing and discussion of different views without endorsing any one in particular. It also allows for levels of discussion in its meetings and publications which can not be found in other church-related meetings and publications."

AAF Board Welcomes Contributing Members

by Dana Lauren West

At their last meeting, the Association of Adventist Forums executive committee voted a new endowment category. As of January 1985, a Forum member who donates \$100 to the association will be given the honorary title of Contributing Member. Each Contributing Member will receive an advanced, complimentary copy of the first book published by the Association, which will appear this coming summer. Separate from the Spectrum Advisory Council, whose members contribute gifts of \$1500 or more over a three-year period, contributing members will give the \$100 in one lump sum. This new, tax-deductible category was created at the request of members wanting to contribute on a modest scale to expand and strengthen the Association.

The revenue from Contributing Members will support projects designed to increase the number of people who read Spectrum. Those who wish to become Contributing Members should use the envelope inserted in this issue of Spectrum. Please mark "For Contributing Membership Only" on the outside of the envelope.

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The Council is a group committed to providing financial stability and advice to ensure the continuation of *Spectrum's* discussion of significant issues.

Contact Robin Vandermolen, 1416 N. Louise, Glendale, CA 91207. Tele: (818) 246-0077.

Standing Ovation in D.C. for LLU Defense of Baby Fae Surgery

by Dana Lauren West

On Nov. 3, 1984, one week after Loma Linda University Medical Center surgeons transplanted a baboon's heart into a human infant, the Washington, D.C., Forum chapter was able to hear Bruce Branson, M.D., speak about the ground-breaking procedure. The chapter meeting took place in the 700-seat auditorium of Takoma Academy. Branson, chairperson of Loma Linda University Medical Center's surgery department, related to a standing-room-only crowd the events leading up to the historic transplant.

Branson was accompanied by Richard Sheldon, director of LLU's respiratory care department and chairperson for the Institutional Review Board which reviews medical findings and then helps decide when laboratory research can be first applied clinically. Both briefly touched on the history of LLU, its specialties, and the events preceding the transplant operation.

In August 1983, Dr. Len Bailey, head of Baby Fae's heart team, took a step closer to readying his procedure for human use. He approached the hospital with his research findings. Between August and November of 1983, medical center review committees requested revisions, offered suggestions, and received updates. These committees also assembled concrete information for those who would make the final decision. During February of 1984, medical school, university, and hospital committees, including legal, ethical, and general medical teams, reviewed the scientific and social facets. Outside consultants at Stanford University in California and Montefiore Hospital in New York (among other institutions) also reviewed the proposed transplant. An isolated baboon heart was pumped with pure human blood to see if any acute rejection would take place. (After 24 hours, no ill effects were apparent.) Finally, those involved conducted a final protocol review and found valid evidence to perform the operation.

During the question and answer session, Dr. Branson concluded that the Loma Linda Univer-

sity Medical Center had tried to do what they felt was best for the child, her parents, and the community. At the end of the meeting, the audience, which included a number of General Conference officers and some members of the board of Loma Linda University, gave Bruce Branson and Richard Sheldon a standing ovation.

Provonsha in San Diego Explores Justice of Baby Fae, Heroic Care

by Les Palinka

The San Diego chapter of Forum investigated the issues surrounding the Baby Fae case. On Nov. 5, 1984, Jack Provonsha, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Center of Bioethics and professor of religion and Christian ethics at Loma Linda University, met with approximately 200 people at a San Diego chapter meeting.

Initially, the presentation was to be on Provonsha's book, *Ethics at the Edges of Life*. However, because of its timeliness, he dealt exclusively with Baby Fae. In particular, Provonsha discussed several questions of justice: whether heroic care should be provided both to those who can and those who cannot pay; whether society can afford

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heroic care; and if it can, which kinds of medical treatments should receive the highest priorities.

Provonsha, a well-known bioethicist, presented samples of letters and other communications the public has sent to the Loma Linda University Medical Center since the transplant. He addressed a wide variety of questions from the audience including the ethics of transplanting primate organs into humans, the ethics of taking animal life in medical experimentation for human medical care, and the ethics of diverting resources from basic needs like world hunger in order to finance individual medical procedures.

Provonsha's presentation reaffirmed that God and the Bible are not antiquated, and that they still provide the resources for understanding and dealing with the most complex of modern issues.

Les Palinka, an attorney, is a former San Diego Chapter president.

Sydney Chapter Enters World of Film

by Bronwyn Lock and Dana Lauren West

“**C**hristian Responses to the World of Film” were reviewed by the Sydney, Australia Forum chapter on Aug. 4, 1984. Dr. Bruce Judd, an architect at the University of New South Wales, Gabe Reynaud, a full-time film-

maker, and Dr. Clive Pascoe all took part in a panel discussion which was chaired by Robert Cooper, Sydney Forum Chapter committee member.

Film and how Adventists respond to it, the effect of these responses, and the possibility of fusing both Adventist beliefs and the world of film played prominent parts in the discussion.

According to Bruce Judd, Adventist attitudes toward film have far-reaching implications for the arts in general. Judd pointed out that the Adventist Church's educational system has not and does not promote the visual arts, hence it is unusual to find Adventists involved in them. In the church at large, the arts are seen as “second class,” compared to professions in medicine, theology, or teaching, and are seen as “not really Christian.”

Pascoe and Reynaud both noted that the average Adventist Church member does not know how to develop criteria to appreciate art works or judge a film. According to them, this is due, in part, to the lack of creativity in corporate worship, and to the uninformed church body continuing to make poor artistic choices.

The main thrust of the Sydney Chapter presentation was that the Adventist Church needs to understand that the art world is neutral in itself, and that the arts and the media can be catalysts for both good and evil; therefore, it is up to the Christian to use the arts and the media effectively to communicate Christian concepts. The panel discussed what the individual Christian can do and what the Adventist Church as a body can do in order for both to accept and feel comfortable with the arts.

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