

FORUM

AAF Newsletter
Remove if you wish

Newsletter of the Association of Adventist Forums

June 1985

Advisory Council Chairman, Invites Benefactors, Sponsors

by Robin Vandermolen

With 105 members, the *Spectrum* Advisory Council has reached its largest size yet. The growth has come steadily. However, more members are needed if thousands of potential new readers are to receive materials introducing them to *Spectrum*.

No matter how hefty a ticket price you pay to attend your local symphony orchestra concert, your orchestra probably could not exist without financial subsidy. Likewise for your local art museum. Similarly for public television. The best and most vital aspects of American culture exist because of the generosity of philanthropists.

At one time it was thought that if *Spectrum* could attain an optimal number of subscribers, it could be self-supporting. It is now recognized that *Spectrum*, along with many other small specialty journals, will always need financial backing from loyal supporters.

Spectrum has emerged as a strong component in the nurturing of our Adventist academic, professional and intellectual community. Outside of large Adventist metropolitan and college churches, little is done to keep this group stimulated, informed and involved. *Spectrum* fills a vital role in its outreach to this community.

Every dollar spent in nurturing the professional group within our church is multiplied many times over, because this group, if retained within the church ranks, will give back so much in terms of future leadership and support. We solicit your contributions to *Spectrum*.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Board of the Association of Adventist Forums, three groups of contributors were formalized: *Contributing*

Members are those who donate \$100 per year. They are entitled to one year's free subscription (five issues) of *Spectrum* along with one copy of a book published by the Association of Adventist Forums. However, these individuals are not members of the Advisory Council.

Sponsors are those who pledge \$1,500 over a three-year period, payable either as a lump sum, or in installments. These donors are listed on *Spectrum's* back cover, and will automatically become members of the *Spectrum* Advisory Council, upon receipt of the first \$250 of their pledge. They also receive three years of *Spectrum* mailed by priority mailing immediately after publication. They receive one copy of all books published by the Association of Adventist Forums.

Benefactors are those who pledge \$3,000 over a three-year period, payable either as a lump sum or as installments. They are eligible for all the benefits listed above for donors, but in addition will receive two free registration tickets to any conference sponsored by the Association of Adventist Forums.

The listing of the donors on the back cover of *Spectrum* has become an important symbol. The list of names not only honors the major financial contributors to the journal, but demonstrates the strength of support that *Spectrum* enjoys within the Adventist community.

Please mail your contributions to: Box 5330, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912.

Robin Vandermolen, an anesthesiologist at the Glendale Adventist Hospital, is the chairman of the Spectrum Advisory Council.

From Polls to China Visitors— A Year at the Angwin Chapter

by Alice Holst

During the 1984-1985 school year the AAF chapter at Angwin, California, has had monthly meetings with 100-200 people in attendance. The chapter is under the direction of Richard Hughes, Ph.D., chairperson; Margaret Huse, M.D., associate chairperson; and Alice Holst, Ed.D., secretary-treasurer. Speakers have included visitors to and members of the Pacific Union College faculty.

Truth—No Trivial Pursuit

In May, Ted W. Benedict, Ph.D., professor of communication, San Jose State University, spoke on "Truth—No Trivial Pursuit." During 17 years as a professor at Pacific Union College and 20 years at San Jose State University, Benedict's area of special academic interest and concern has been persuasion. His lecture reviewed the most familiar modes of reasoning, analyzed their weaknesses, and suggested that far more concern should be shown for procedural integrity in the search for truth than is commonly found in the church.

In April, Roy Branson, Ph.D., editor of *Spectrum*, official journal of the Association of Adventist Forums and senior research fellow at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics in Washington, D.C., presented a discussion entitled "Adventist Identity—New Directions." He pointed out that there has been a traditional point of view in interpreting many aspects of biblical teachings from an Adventist perspective that take on legalistic or covenant overtones. He pointed out that the same biblical teachings, (e.g. the Sabbath and sanctuary) could be viewed in other motifs with equal validity and with possibly refreshing new implications. The two motifs suggested were a "holy war" or "conflict" setting and a "glory due to God's presence" setting. A discussion followed the presentation.

An unexpected surprise was the introduction of Pastor Hsu Hua who was the head of the Seventh-day Adventist church in China when Mao Tse Tung installed the People's Republic of China. From that time he spent most of his years until 1979 either in jail or under house arrest. He came to the United States with his wife to visit their relatives. Hsu Hua reported that since 1979 many

Protestants—including Adventists—have begun meeting each week for worship services

Women in Ministry

"Women in the Ministry: Past, Present, and Future" was the topic addressed in February by Becky Lacy, M. Div., associate pastor of the Corona, California, church. Pastor Lacy gave a brief history of the important leadership roles held by women during our church's history. During the 1950s and onward, despite increasing church membership, participation by women in church administration at all levels has decreased significantly and inexplicably. Interest is rising now to change this situation. Several women, who like Pastor Lacy received graduate degrees in theology from Andrews University, currently occupy positions as associate pastors.

She drew attention to the frustration felt by women pastors with training and experience equal to male colleagues at not being able to perform all the duties of pastors because they lack ordination. Although they counsel couples and prepare candidates for baptism, women pastors cannot perform either marriages or baptisms.

Also, their inability to become chaplains, which requires ordination, is a serious limitation to service which, she feels, is greatly needed in military and public hospitals.

At the January meeting, Larry Mitchel, Th.D., associate professor of religion at Pacific Union College, surveyed the past decade of archeological activity in Syria and Palestine. The past ten years have not produced any major revolutions in dating, Mitchel explained, but our understanding of certain transition periods such as Early Bronze IV has certainly improved.

Major new finds include: (1) the large tablet collection from Elba, (2) probably the earliest arched gate in Palestine, and (3) a very large neolithic village on the outskirts of Amman, Jordan.

The Methodist Heritage of Adventism

In December, Greg Schneider, associate professor of behavioral science at Pacific Union College, discussed "The Methodist Heritage of Adventism." He drew on his own

research to suggest forms of religiosity that Adventism has in common with early American Methodism. First, formal organization and a stress on the church as an instrument rather than a system of theological doctrine is shared by the two traditions. Secondly, Schneider suggested that Ellen White's use of the phrase "experimental religion," as well as her concern for perfection derived from her Methodist background.

Thirdly, Methodists, as their name suggests, were methodical. In revival technique, in pastoral care, in teaching members how to tell their personal experiences, the Methodists had clear and demanding guidelines. Adventist revivalism reflects these methods. With the pragmatic concern for method and results, come also a certain anti-intellectualism. Within this philosophy, education is valued for the respectability and usefulness it affords but not for learning's own sake.

Finally, the ways of organizing experience that the two traditions have in common involve a psychological split between the new and the old nature and a social split between church and world. This way of viewing the world is especially reflected in the ideology of the family as a haven in a heartless world.

The Visible and Invisible Church

Jack Provonsha, director of the center for Christian bioethics at Loma Linda University, discussed in November, 1983, the difference between God's visible and invisible church. Although the two overlap, he said, they are not identical. One cannot precisely identify God's invisible church.

Since Baby Fae had died immediately prior to the meeting, Dr. Provonsha also explored the ethical implications of that case. The audience's questions concerning Baby Fae occupied the entire discussion period.

At the October meeting, H. Roger Bothwell, senior pastor of the College church reported the results of a questionnaire given to the approximately 100 students in the "Life and Teachings of Jesus" class at Pacific Union College.

The survey is taken at the beginning of the school year and again at the end to see if students change their minds. One of the results of the survey shows is that a year at Pacific Union College does make a difference in the spiritual attitudes of the students.

Examples of the questions are: (a) Are you a Christian? (b) When would you choose for the Lord to come, and why? (c) Would you be saved if Jesus came today? (d) What would you give in exchange for your soul?

Alice Holst is secretary of the Angwin Chapter.

ON THE ROAD WITH WALTER DOUGLAS

by Claire Hosten

The Director of Chapter Development for the Association of Adventist Forums, Walter Douglas, professor of church history and mission, Andrews University, has been busy encouraging and reviving current chapters, as well as starting new groups.

On the first weekend in June, Douglas visited the Toronto Chapter. The previous month, on May 18, he helped Karl and Ken Walters, a department chairman at the California State College to start the San Luis Obispo, California, chapter. Norman Sassong, a physician at Angwin, California, and regional representative of the central Pacific region, was instrumental in arranging Douglas' visit. The chapter is comprised largely of college and university students.

Douglas indicates that as director of chapter development he has several goals. More university students should be attracted to AAF. He is writing to local chapter presidents in university areas requesting that they send him names of students.

More weekend retreats should be held by chapters to get students more involved in the church and the Association of Adventist Forums. Organization of regional seminars is also needed. A successful seminar held recently at Andrews University is an example.

Chapter officers, regional representatives, or anyone else interested in starting a chapter may contact Walter Douglas, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103. His home telephone is (616) 471-7107.

Claire Hosten, an attorney, is the executive secretary of the Association of Adventist Forums.

NOTICE FOR AAF NOMINATIONS

Before the annual AAF Board meeting, Labor Day weekend, nominations of representatives on the board for the Central, Central Pacific, Columbia, and Lake regions must be received in the AAF office by August 23.

Nominations must include: a signed statement of the nominee's willingness to serve, ten signatures of support by AAF members living in the region, and a short description of the nominee's qualifications.

Chapter News

by Claire Hosten

In *Denver, Colorado* approximately 75 people met March 23 to organize a local chapter of AAF. The name Denver Area Chapter was chosen in anticipation of participation from Boulder, Colorado Springs, and other neighboring cities.

In addition to choosing a name, a constitution was approved, pending AAF Executive Committee ratification. Officers elected to serve the new chapter include Ed Gallagher, president; Lois Just, vice president; Jane Nielson, secretary treasurer; Diana Bauer, publicity secretary; and three members at large: Keith Kendall, Mary Jane McConaughy, and Richard Yukl.

As a new chapter, a wide range of possibilities for topics exists. Ordination of women, current issues at the seminary, and the Shroud are subjects likely to be addressed by the new chapter in the near future.

The *Greater New York Chapter* in May, heard Ron Lawson, professor of sociology at Queens College and former president of the chapter, review the progress of his research into the sociology of Adventism. He has traveled by car across the United States, conducting scores of interviews with denominational and lay leaders. He will be spending another year traveling in Australia, Asia, Africa and Europe.

In March, the chapter, among other events, held a worship recital by an organ major at the Julliard School of Music, B. Bush, and heard Rev. Richard Dietz, director of interfaith activities for the Fellowship of Reconciliation, discuss "The Christian and Peace."

In February, James Londis, senior pastor of Sligo Seventh-day Adventist church, participated in an all-day meeting of the Greater New York

Adventist Forum chapter. His topic was "Women and the Church." A pot-luck lunch was served between the morning and afternoon sessions.

The *San Joaquin Valley Chapter*, in California, heard Lorna and Gus Tobler May 17 and 18. The Toblers have been actively involved in denominational work for nearly 25 years. He is an Adventist minister who served as editor at several Seventh-day Adventist publishing houses, and she has been employed by various Seventh-day Adventist organizations, most recently the Pacific Press Publishing Association.

The Toblers related their experiences in the Pacific Press case and shared their responses to the personal crises this produced. They suggested possible ways of dealing on a personal level with such conflicts and differences within the church organization. (See Lorna Tobler's article "A Reformer's Vision: The Church As a Fellowship of Equals," in this issue of *Spectrum*, pp. 18-23)

The *San Diego Chapter*, in California, heard Charles Teel, Jr., Ph.D., chairperson of the Department of Religious Ethics at Loma Linda University, speak in May on "Liberation and Evangelism—Logging a Passage Through Central America."

He said the Seventh-day Adventist commitment to take the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue and people has placed the church in unique and often times bewildering positions. Traditional North American Adventist avoidance of political movements has posed curious problems. Central America, he pointed out, serves as a near-to-home showcase in which the mission of the church has had to meet governments and social structures head-on.

For your Information: Adventist Forum Regional Representatives

Atlantic Region

John Hamer Jr.
c/o Digital Equipment Corp.
75 Reed Road
Hudson MA 01749
Tel. (617) 568-5244 (o)

Columbia Region

Theodore Agard
Radiology Department
Kettering Medical Center
3737 Southern Boulevard
Kettering OH 45429
Tel. (513) 434-0045 (h)
(513) 298-4331 (o)

Southern Region

Grace Emori
2502 Asbury Court
Decatur GA 30033
Tel. (404) 325-0360 (h)
(404) 329-3518 (o)

Central Region

Darrel Huenergardt
O'Brien, Huenergardt & Cook
Attorneys at Law
109 South Walnut
Box 490
Kimball NE 69145
Tel. (308) 235-4217 (h)
(308) 235-3617 (o)

Northern Pacific Region

John Brunt
Walla Walla College
College Place WA 99324
Tel. (509) 529-8114 (h)
(509) 527-2194 (o)

Southern Pacific Region

Mike Scofield
720 S. Webster, #112
Anaheim CA 92804
Tel. (714) 828-1348
(714) 680-2212