

NOTEWORTHY



Kindness Takes a Bow

By Bonnie Dwyer

Can you laugh at the genocide speaker?" That was the question one Massachusetts high school student had after listening to Carl Wilkins speak about the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, because Wilkins included humorous moments as well as horrific ones in his description of the event.

Wilkins was an Adventist Development and Relief Agency employee who stayed in Rwanda when all other Americans were evacuated, and consequently was able to save the lives of many children in the orphanage

near his home. The Public Broadcasting Service special, *Ghosts of Rwanda*, featured his story, and because it did many high schools and colleges across the United States have invited him to speak. Response to his presentation varies, Wilkins told the people who honored him at the Adventist Alumni Achievement Awards banquet in February.

There was one boy who brought dead silence to a Maryland classroom when he asked, "Who cares about some dumb _____ country in Africa?"

In Massachusetts, the student who wondered if he could laugh was the same one who worried about the effect the genocide presentation

would have on the rest of his day at school. "It's hard to go from this class to what comes next," he told Wilkins in a letter. "Perspective isn't always such a good thing."

Wilkins, however, left the student hopeful, kind-of restored his faith in humanity, the student's letter of appreciation said.

"Start small," Wilkins tells students. "Do what you think is right, is kind."

Stories of kindness and goodness filled the day. *Christianity Today* editor David Neff spoke about the personal attention he had received from his teachers in Adventist schools and their significance in his life.

Artist James McClellan accepted

Alumni Awards Foundation 2006 Honorees

Excellence in Teaching

Phillip Binkley
Band
Loma Linda Academy

Gordon Davis
Science, Physical Education
Walker Memorial Academy

Kay Kierstead
English
Kingsway College

Amy Miller
Math, Science
Newbury Park Academy

Stan Miller
Math
Minnetonka Christian Academy

Jacques Patterson
Chemistry, Biology
Greater New York Academy

Donald Slocum
History
Shenandoah Valley Academy

Steve Walls
English
Monterey Bay Academy

Jeff Youker
Chemistry, Biology, History
El Dorado Adventist School

Excellence in Leadership

Roo McKenzie
Head Principal
Loma Linda Academy

Academy Awards

First Place
Upper Columbia Academy
Washington

Second Place
Highland View Academy
Maryland

Third Place
Highland Academy
Tennessee

Outstanding Alumni Achievement

David Neff
James McClellan
Carl Wilkins

the alumni award in the same spirit that he teaches, with all honor going to God. Drawing, painting, and teaching are his reasons to be, he told the audience. "I consider it a sacred privilege to be a teacher," he said, "and a sacred responsibility to paint."

Earlier in the day, Southern Adventist University president Gordon Bietz spoke about the need for nice Christians. The most important problem of our time is how we get along with each other, Bietz said. Adventist education exists to create community in a world of individualism.

The master of ceremonies for the evening told jokes and said he had been working on more award ideas for the foundation. He suggested giving out Golden Linkett awards. When he showed organizers the idea they told him, no, it wasn't Oscar, not even a Oscar Meyer.

The thank-you speeches that the awardees gave were not Oscarish, either. Although the honorees did mention the people who had supported them in various ways, their lists were not as long as those that dominate in Hollywood thank-you speeches.

There was also a different tone to the introductory speeches. La Sierra University president Lawrence Geraty introduced David Neff and noted that he was one of the signers of the Evangelical Call to Address Global Warming that had made the news that week because of its political significance in challenging the current presidential administration of the United States.

Union College president David Smith introduced Jim McClellan and said that he is a remarkable teacher and an amazing man of God.

Kathy Profitt called Carl Wilkins a Christian profile in courage, an American hero, a man who was willing to lay down his life for his friends in Rwanda.

Certainly in the cases of these three men, Adventist education had created nice Christians. Kindness took a bow.

Bonnie Dwyer is editor of *Spectrum*.

Ship Linked to Joseph Bates, Adventist Pioneer, Found in San Francisco

February 13, 2006 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

[Mark A. Kellner/ANN]

The nearly-intact hull of the *Candace*, a 188-year-old, 100-foot-long, three-masted barkentine ship that once carried Seventh-day Adventist pioneer Capt. Joseph Bates on a memorable journey from Peru to Boston, has been found buried under a site for a new high-rise building in San Francisco, California.

Bates was a sea captain, but did not command the ship. He was a passenger and became a friend of Captain F. Burtody, who sailed the vessel from the port of Callao, near Lima, Peru, in November of 1823. He later became a pioneering member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and, in fact, is credited with introducing the concept of the Biblical, seventh-day Sabbath, to Ellen and James White and other early Adventists.

"None but those who experience these feelings can tell the thrill that fills every soul, from the captain to the cabin-boy, when the order is given to 'weigh anchor for home,' Bates wrote in his autobiography. "New life, with energy and strength, seems to actuate all on board."

The ship was found in what are apparently the remains of a salvage business run in the late 1800s by Charles Hare. Among other tasks, the Hare firm dismantled old ships, but the *Candace* was not totally disman-

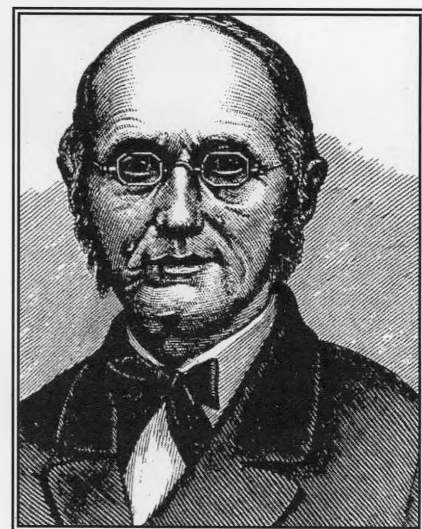
ted before its remains were buried under new construction in the city, which also sustained a cataclysmic earthquake in 1906.

Plans call for the hull to be a main exhibit at the anticipated Museum of the City of San Francisco, which is expected to open in 2008 in the former U.S. Mint building.

Bates, in his autobiography, wrote of the trials and struggles of the voyage. Both he and Capt. Bertoudy tried to give up chewing tobacco; only Bates succeeded. Bates also said he tried to lose a habit of foul language. The ship ran into a heavy storm on the way to Boston, but sustained no damage.

Finally, after about three months at sea, they were anchored at Boston harbor.

"Fifty-five miles by stage, and I was once more at home," Bates wrote. "A little blue-eyed girl of [16] months, whom I had never seen, was here waiting with her mother to greet me, and welcome me once more to our comfortable and joyous fire-side. As I had been absent from home over two years, I designed to enjoy the society of my family and friends for a little season." He soon went to sea again, however.



Joseph Bates