



# EDITORIAL ■ *from the editor*

## Stand Up and Cheer: *Hope for and by*

*Adventist Authors* | BY BONNIE DWYER

**W**hat makes you stand up and cheer for Adventism? Is it a Fox news report of people in Haiti gathering on an Adventist church campus taking care of each other? What about the significant campaign to stop violence against women called ENDITNOW, under the direction of Adventist Women's Ministries and the Adventist Development and Relief Association, that is currently gathering signatures around the world? Do announcements of increased enrollment at your alma mater touch you?

For me, it is all of the above plus the publication of books by my favorite Adventist authors. And when my favorite authors address my favorite subject—the Sabbath—I am ready to stand up and cheer.

In this issue you will find reviews of two such books: *The Promise of Peace* by Charles Scriven and *Faith-Based Caregiving in a Secular World: Four Defining Issues* by James Londis.

From the titles, you can tell that the Sabbath is not the central point of these books, but it plays a significant role in each. And I love it when articulate people give us profound descriptions of the day such as this:

“Sabbaths were, each one, holidays of hope. They were sheer grace wrapped in the ribbon of ritual,” Scriven says as he describes the Sabbaths in the Old Testament.

We featured Londis' thoughts on Sabbath as God's cure for burnout in a previous issue of *Spectrum*. Returning to them in this book, it is good to be reminded that Sabbath is about health and healing, too:

“The Sabbath rest is imbued with this multilayered concept of curing and healing through forgiveness. The command to rest implies much more than a cessation of physical labor. The Hebrews were to give time to God in worship, to their families in hours of refreshing conversation and recreative activity, and to their community in fellowship



**ADRA relief workers in Haiti distribute basic necessities.**

and service. For us today, observing the Sabbath rest means attending to the needs of imperfect relationships with God and with each other. This day reminds us that our most significant achievements are not in the world of commerce but in the intimacies we enjoy with God, family, and our worshipping community. These interactions heal us in so many ways and at so many levels, it is impossible to adequately chronicle them,” he says.

Healing is a significant topic in this issue of the journal; and we have several noteworthy authors addressing different aspects of that word.

Renowned health futurist Leland Kaiser looks ahead at a significant issue within the United States—health care.

Lourdes Morales-Gudmundsson, author of *I Forgive You, but...*, provides thoughts on a different kind of healing—healing of international relationships. She would have us consider reasons for an Adventist Theology of Migration.

We close the journal with two excellent addresses that were given by the presidents of the Adventist Theological Society and the Adventist Society for Religious Studies at their shared session in New Orleans in 2009. Roy Gane, author of five books, and Zdravko Plantak, author of *The Silent Church* spoke movingly about the healing power of the Gospel. Their presentations gave hope for the healing of Adventism and were certainly an occasion to stand up and cheer. ■

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