



# Why *Spectrum* Matters: And how you respond matters, too | BY CHARLES SCRIVEN



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Only the passion, intelligence and faithfulness of an *engaged* membership can energize Adventism. Every member makes a difference. Every voice deserves a hearing.

Through our journal and website, *Spectrum* gives everyone a chance to speak up—and talk back. Through these media, we are now touching 400,000 people a year. (Yes, 400,000.)

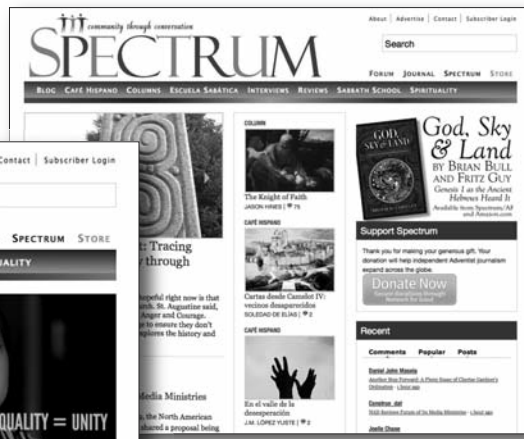
The number needs, actually, to leap upward. *Spectrum* is Adventism's best and longest-lived platform for *open, honest conversation*. Scripture itself is the inspired record of such a conversation, and Jesus himself proposed truthful conversation as the right means of addressing conflict, achieving reconciliation, and advancing the church's mission.

So, open, honest conversation is a value that matters, a key to authentic Christian community. When voices unfettered by fear or stale orthodoxy engage the Holy Spirit's promptings, the church begins to think and live its way into better answers and deeper concord.

Amid harrowing cultural change, Adventism is today struggling to find itself. Too many are estranged from Adventist life, too many cynical or bored. Even the ardently engaged are too often angry or small-minded. Nevertheless, there is still vibrancy. People of every kind and color are still *pursuing* and *exploring* the Adventist way. Fired by hope and buoyed by Sabbath rest, they are attempting to *be* a people favored by grace and committed to Jesus.

It is worth investing in such a community. And just because conversation is so basic to true Christian community, it is also worth investing in *Spectrum*.

Our communication platform aims for straight-from-the-shoulder truth-telling. The journal provides in-depth reports and groundbreaking scholarship. The website delivers news and opinion on matters of immediate urgency. In response, everyone—likeable or not, knowledgeable or not, gracious or not—can chime in. Through *Spectrum*, every thoughtful Adventist can find both stimulus



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and freedom. Such Adventists can find, too, that they are not alone. Redemptive ideas, and people who believe in them, abound and bring encouragement. Even when bad news makes the truth hard to bear, the unflinching pursuit of it is encouraging.

Along with passion for truthful writing, financial generosity has powered all of this. And now as ever, gifts are leverage for new life in Adventism. *Spectrum* keeps justice for women pastors at the forefront, publishes assessment as well as appreciation of Ellen White, gives scientists and theologians an unmuffled voice on matters of science and faith. All the while, it offers new perspective on the deep meaning of Adventist convictions and experience.

Thanks to the website, conversation like this is now global. And supporting gifts matter, modest ones as well as, of course, major ones. A few years ago, \$40,000 from one individual turned a rudimentary website into an interactive, online news site and gathering place. Earlier, a gift of \$10,000 sent a reporter to the war crimes trial of an Adventist pastor in Rwanda. Today, similar gifts, together with new commitments to systematic generosity, will stimulate similar breakthroughs.

Our goal for the ***Spectrum* Global Community Campaign** in 2013 is \$250,000, about twice what we raised in 2012. Gifts will help us:

- Enlarge the editorial team and recruit additional writers/reporters worldwide.
- Pay for travel expenses entailed by timely and in-depth reporting of Adventist news worldwide.
- Upgrade the technical staff for the website.
- Finance the development of mobile platforms.

All of this must happen for the sake of Adventist renewal and for the sake of Adventist hope, which moves from one generation to another and back. In this light, we are asking you for a pace-setting commitment. Your gift will inspire others to give. And it will—it really will—help the whole church to live into a better version of itself.

Thank you for support in the past. Thank you for considering this new opportunity. ■

**Charles Scriven** chairs *Adventist Forum*.