

A Toast to the Many Teams! | BY BONNIE DWYER

Better Together

Together we can make it happen!

Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

When a paper that I wrote as a journalism major at Loma Linda University's La Sierra Campus was published in *Spectrum* in 1977, I found myself on the team of authors for the Volume 8, Number 4 issue that included Dort F. Tikker, Wilfred M. Hillock, Donald McAdams, Dave Schwantes, Elvin Benton, Darren Michael, Willis J. Hackett, Fred Veltman, William Wright, and Wayne

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Judd, none of whom I then knew other than by name. Well, Elvin Benton was the father of my friend Roy Benton. And I had met Wilfred Hillock, because he taught at La Sierra where I had just graduated. But our teamwork happened in the publication process, not in a room together, or on a field or sports court. Our coaches, editors Roy Branson and Charles Scriven, worked with us individually and then orchestrated the publication of our work. And we were better together.

For fifty years, teams of writers have come together in similar fashion and their collective efforts have combined to create a place of openness and significance within the Seventh-day Adventist community. These

writers with their ideas, observations, and reporting have changed our world. Given us hope. At least, that is what they did for me after I moved away from Southern California's robust Adventist community. As a new stay-at-home mom in a new town with few friends, *Spectrum* kept Adventist thinking a regular part of my life. So I was happy to accept an occasional assignment as a freelance writer for the magazine.

Then, in 1998, I accepted the position of *Spectrum* editor and I developed a greater appreciation for additional teams that became very important in the process of publishing a journal: the artists, photographers, and designers that we celebrate in this issue of the journal and with an exhibition of art at the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration Conference, September 14–16, at La Sierra University. Their art has changed our vision of Adventism. Additionally, there are the very special teams that worked in the *Spectrum* offices and on the editorial advisory board over the years, all seventy-six of them. And with the creation of the website, another team emerged and made *Spectrum* into something to be read not just quarterly, but daily. And of course, the team that made sure that it all got paid for—the Adventist Forum Board of Directors.

As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Adventist Forum, I want to thank the many teams that have come together over the years, giving us their very best. Thank you, thank you, and again I say thank you. To our readers, our friends, our families.

What a grand adventure!

What a platform for the future!

BONNIE DWYER is editor of *Spectrum* magazine.