

EDITORIALS

What Does the Lord

REQUIRE OF YOU?

BY BONNIE DWYER

In these days, post the killing of George Floyd, one frequently hears the words of Micah 6:8 quoted, the verse that asks and answers the question in the headline. It speaks to this time of examining our country's and our community's history of racism, brings it home, and makes it personal. A phrase within that verse—to *do* justly—inspired this issue, given its emphasis on what a Christian is required to *do*. This is the *doing* issue. What does it mean to *do* justice? What does it mean to pursue truth and beauty? What does it mean to live the Christian life?

To delve into this moment, when members are marching with Black Lives Matter, and preachers are discussing racism within the church, we turned to Olive Hemmings, who can preach like an Old Testament prophet and does so for us with a look at the President's photo op with the Bible. Ramona Hyman uses poetry to tell Grace's story, a reminder of marches from times past, and how Grace walked to Selma and on to Montgomery for Jimmie Lee Jackson. Maïgane Diop addresses the politics in what we *do* to "love our neighbor" as ourselves. We are pleased to introduce Maïgane to our readers as she enters medical school at Stanford University this fall.

Another medical student is featured in our Doing Science section. Robert G. Hammond earned a PhD in chemistry before enrolling in medical school. His doctoral research just happened to be on a protein within the coronaviruses. Alex Aamodt reports the story of Hammond's research and his dream to eventually establish a lab where more minorities and Adventists can be involved.

Doing justice certainly requires having a vision of how things can be better in the future. That vision thing, it turns out, also plays a big role in how we respond to current circumstances. Writing from Australia, Trevor Lloyd shares his most recent work, illuminating what happened at that historical meeting at Glacier View by helping us to understand the

"imaginative vision" of that time.

In "A Word of Grace for Your Monday," a weekly devotional message that attorney Kent Hansen writes, he recently included an examination of the story about the rich young ruler in Luke 18, asking Jesus what he must do to be saved. After Jesus confirms that it is loving the Lord with all one's heart and soul and one's neighbor as oneself, their exchange takes a turn.

"The lawyer pushes his inquiry, as lawyers are prone to do, looking for a loophole. 'Who is my neighbor?' he asks Jesus (Luke 18:9).

"There are really religious people who argue the only important thing is salvation, and other concerns, social justice, for instance, 'aren't essential for salvation.'" Hanson writes. "This is where the lawyer is going, but Jesus is going to make the point that the life God gives is not just a 'goal.' The gift of life from a God of love must be lived with love."

Living a life of love, then, is another way to answer the question of what a Christian must do. In an interview with Maestro Herbert Blomstedt, we learn about his extraordinary life and the role of music in loving God. Artist Donald Keefe shows and tells us about his personal search for spiritual faith, hope, and purpose. Inspired by the biblical story of Babel, he says he is drawn "to structures that are collapsed, abandoned, or under construction as symbols for hubris, failure, and the persistence to 'try again' in life."

We hope this collection of stories and art will inspire you to broaden your vision of what it means to seek and speak the truth, to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.



BONNIE DWYER is editor of *Spectrum*.