

Perpetual Renewal

BY CARMEN LAU

When Jesus says He is the truth (John 14:6), He elaborates to describe His relationship with Father and Spirit, teaching us that truth is situated in relationship. The faces of others can transform a person, adding facets to one's own identity. Conversation can lead to renewal. In a changing world, the Adventist Forum Board embraces God's fixed love and grace by the practice of fearless learning and boundless curiosity.

Renewal creates a path for individuals and groups to live an abundant life undergirded by an abundant theology. Volf and Croasman assert, in *For the Life of the World*, that a successful life attends to justice that results in peace and leads to a joyful existence. This will be a justice bathed in loving-kindness, that heals sin's imprint on humanity and cultivates empathy, removing a person from a pervasively selfish, competitive milieu. The peaceful life features careful attention to signs of God's transformative presence in all circumstances. Volf and Croasman envision a fully consummated joy that will be emotionally present in the world, grounded in love, but attentive to a truthful construction of the surrounding world. Indeed, Christ followers will have times of lament, but "in fixing the community's gaze on God, joy can become a collective practice of *resistance*."¹

Spectrum's ethos features audacious listening; we know that each person was created in the image of God. An Adventist Voice need not be weird or cloistered. We are



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mindful to the cultivation of the fruits of the Spirit, as we strive to showcase ways that the Spirit is, indeed, alive and at work among all sorts of people who are unafraid to live outside the dictates of the dominant-popular, or dominant-church, culture.

On behalf of the Adventist Forum Board, I wish you a just, peaceful, and joyful year of renewal.

Endnotes

1. Miroslav Volf and Matthew Croasman, *For the Life of the World: Theology that Makes a Difference* (Ada, MI: Brazos Press, 2019), 179.



CARMEN LAU is board chair of Adventist Forum.