Remember Them That Are in Bonds

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Remember Them That Are in Bonds

by Betsy Mayer

When much of the Christian world was celebrating Good Friday, my dear friend Sung Hoon Kang was taken to prison. No, he is not a criminal. He just happens to be a Christian who cannot conscientiously take up arms against others. However, his country, South Korea, requires twenty-six months of military service from all males, and there are no provisions for conscientious objectors. Therefore, his appeal to be assigned to noncombatant service was denied, and he received a prison sentence. If a South Korean tries to get out of his military requirement by skipping the country, they take one of his relatives to prison instead.

Sung Hoon is a gifted and godly young man with a marked genius for media production. A graduate of Hartland College, he is also a talented violinist and, until last November, served as the designer for Last Generation magazine.

In one of his last emails to me, Sung Hoon shared the details of his trial and the charges brought against him:

They accused me of avoiding the army requirement without any justifiable reason. I told them that I have no desire to avoid the duty to [my] country. I told them of my religious convictions and that I’m willing to do an alternative service if possible. I realized that all of the officers were very open and kind. I could see the Holy Spirit had already softened [their] hearts.

The judge said that he understood my religious convictions, but by the current law of the country, it’s not a justifiable reason for not bearing arms. He expressed that it’s very unfortunate that the current law doesn’t allow any alternative service for conscientious objectors. He expressed that he’s sorry for me.

According to the law, they could give me anywhere from a one-and-a-half to a three-year sentence. I got a one-and-a-half-year sentence, which is the least they could give. They will take me away in two weeks (Friday, April 6th).

They asked me if I had any final words. I said, “I love my country and its laws. As a God-believing Christian, I don’t want to give any idea that Christians don’t respect the laws of the country. But when it contradicts God’s law, Christians must choose God’s law rather than the laws of the country. And I want you to know that my love for my country and its laws, as well as my love for my God, will not change.”

They nodded, and that was the end of my trial. My mother was in tears—tears of joy and sadness, perhaps. But we all thanked and praised God for His mercy, care, and love.
Please continue to pray for my brother, also. After the trial, he went to the army department and submitted a written statement saying that he would not bear arms. Praise the Lord! I don’t know when will be his trial, but from looking at my case, it would take at least a few months.

Your brother in Christ,
Sung Hoon

Sung Hoon has never expressed the desire that he could be spared imprisonment. His ongoing requests were for strength to stand strong for his convictions, regardless of the consequences. It’s not that he wanted to go to prison, but he truly believed that God had the power to overrule in his situation if this was His will. He also believes that there might be a very real reason why God wanted him in prison.

Paul reminds us in Hebrews 13:3 to “Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them…. I pray that the word of his testimony will be powerful in that prison, and that many will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus through his life.

Why I Chose Hartland College

Sung Joo Koh: “Hartland College is very unique compared with any other college, because it has policies and rules based on counsel from the Spirit of Prophecy that keep us away from many worldly things. I have enjoyed being here. If I hadn’t come here, I don’t know if I would ever have known Christ as my Saviour. I thank God that He allowed me to study at Hartland College. I’m sure that He wants me to be His mighty worker in these last days.”

Isabel Larrotta: I don’t regret coming here, for I’ve found Christ and the purpose He has for my life. Now I understand why He inspired me to choose elementary education as my major. Nothing can change my delight of seeing in the children’s eyes the desire to follow Christ, when I have contributed in the effort for their salvation. I came without any good reason, but now God has shown me the reason.

Tashien Copening: “I wanted a true education in how to educate others. I wanted to be able to give something more to my students as an educator than the standard system can give. Also, I saw other graduates and desired to receive the instruction they had.”

Ian Whitlock: “It is the only school (that I know of) that comes close to the standards set forth in the Spirit of Prophecy in regard to doctrine and education. It is providing me with a quality of education that can’t be found in any other institution.”
“What do you want to be? What do you want to do with your life?” my mom asked when I graduated from high school.

I told her, “I want to get married and have kids.” However, since I’ve been at Hartland, I’ve seen that there are more important things for me to do first.

I first visited Hartland’s campus as a counselor for Piedmont Valley Youth Bible Camp. I was captivated by the peace and quiet I found, but more than that I saw that the students really knew their Bibles. The spiritual atmosphere was a lot different from what I was used to. Even as a fifth-generation Seventh-day Adventist, I knew very little of the Bible. I wanted the knowledge that these students had. I wanted the type of Christianity that stands strong through everything.

When I went home after camp, I told my mom, “I think I want to go to Hartland College.” She had never been to Hartland in her life and had heard only bad things about it. Her response shocked me.

“Elisabeth, I have been impressed that you should go to Hartland, but it needs to be your decision.” Because my mom did not pressure me to come here, I was able to really hear God’s call for me to train for missionary service.

Now I am in my third year at Hartland College. Because many things were not easy for me at first, I was forced to look at what I want in my life, where I’m going, and what’s truly important.

One thing that I have really come to value is the principle of “no dating.” Because of this, I can go about my business, do my studies, learn about the Bible, and have friends of both genders without the thought, “I need a boyfriend. Somebody’s going to think I’m gay because I don’t have a boyfriend.” I enjoy the freedom of being single without looking weird. I know that God has a special person for me one day, and when I am patient to wait on Him, I am much happier.

Above all, I have seen that if I can reach just one soul through my influence, my life is worth something, and I can die knowing that I’ve accomplished something for God. Having a worldly career and a nice house are no longer my priorities. Now my focus is to draw people closer to Jesus through the example of my life and the words that I speak.”
“I’m sure that God led me to Hartland,” says Ana Maria Freitas of Brazil. “I realize that I could have left Hartland a different person after only six months.”

By age 29, Ana Maria was a speech therapist studying to become a certified teacher in Portuguese grammar and literature. Providentially, a friend from the university introduced her to the Seventh-day Adventist message. After studying with him for a year, she started to attend the local SDA church regularly and soon became a member. Months later, Colin and Russell Standish came to speak at her church. “When they spoke about Hartland, I immediately wanted to come,” Ana Maria said. She gave up her studies and applied to Hartland College.

“It was a very hard decision,” Ana Maria recounts, “because I had almost finished my university studies, and I loved what I was studying. But I knew that the university was not the best environment for me to grow as a new Christian.”

Ana Maria is currently a junior majoring in health ministry and minoring in agriculture. She says, “I always wanted to be a physician, but I was not able to study medicine at the university in Brazil. I’m grateful that now I can help people to have a better and healthier life based on prevention rather than curing with drugs.”

Conversion and Righteousness by Faith class especially made a great impact on her. “Now I am more aware of how to be prepared for the last days... I realized that I don’t have any strength in myself to overcome sin, and my hope is that I will leave Hartland with much more confidence in my Redeemer to help me live a godly life.”

When Ana Maria began her studies at Hartland College, she determined that she would not ask for help from the Missionary Training Fund until it became necessary. For two years, Ana Maria worked very hard—almost twice the requirement, in fact—but she still could not pay off her bill. Finally, she applied for help from the Missionary Training Fund. Now she says, “I’m still working hard! But I’m not working two times what I am supposed to work. I decided to dedicate more time to study my Bible and my Testimonies and other religious books. This was the main reason that I came to Hartland—to take time to study about my Savior. And I found Hartland to be the best place.”

“My vision for the future is to do what Jesus did, according to Matthew 4:23, ‘And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.’ I am praying that God will lead me in this endeavor.”

Your continued gifts and prayers enable students like Ana Maria to get solid Bible-based training at Hartland College. Thank you for your sacrificial offerings!
Music has a way of touching the heart in a way the spoken word never quite reaches,” said Pastor Garland Day, local Seventh-day Adventist minister.

On April 20, 2007, the Three Angels’ Chorale of Hartland College had the unexpected opportunity to sing on the steps of the Orange County Courthouse in memory of students and faculty killed at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The service concluded with the tolling of the bells for each victim.

A similar memorial service was held the previous night at the Orange County High School. When someone asked where a choir could be found to sing the next day at the morning service on such short notice, Pastor Day replied, “Hartland College!”

“What’s Hartland College?”

“They’re right in your backyard,” Pastor Day answered.

When Betsy Mayer, director of the Three Angels’ Chorale, received the call, she said, “Of course we’ll come!”

Joe Ward, director of tourism for Orange County and event planner for the occasion, was very glad that the Three Angels’ Chorale could contribute to the memorial service. “It was great to see the participation from the local church communities. Everyone I know has the victims of the Virginia Tech massacre in their hearts, and that loss is difficult. The choir was absolutely a wonderful touch to have.”

When the service was over, students and staff distributed Glimpses of Glory, an issue of Last Generation magazine about heaven, to appreciative people who said, “The choir sounded so good! Where is Hartland College?”

“That was lovely. Thank you so much for coming out.” The choir also received invitations from various pastors to sing at their respective churches.

“I saw a number of people wiping their eyes,” Pastor Day said. “It was a tremendous opportunity to witness, and at the same time be involved within the community. And we need to do more of that. Salt’s no good as long as it stays in the shaker. What it does best is to create thirst that only the Water of Life can quench.”

Just as the choir was leaving the courthouse, a gentleman from the crowd came running up with a big smile. Introducing himself as Steve Satterfield, he commented, “This was a wonderful event commemorating a horrible, unspeakable event. But it’s uplifting for the community to come together, and we appreciate your part in it. It was beautiful! I just came over to say ‘thanks.’”

We praise God for enabling the chorale to once more comfort hurting people by lifting their hearts to Him on the angel wings of heavenly music.
"I have read the first Last Generation you sent to me," wrote Paul to his uncle. "There were a couple of good write-ups in there."

Paul is in prison for murder in Australia. He killed both of his parents over a property estate dispute, and now he is behind bars for 25 years. Paul did wrong, but God has brought good out of it. Paul did not know God, but now he is at rock bottom, searching for light and truth.

Speaking of one of the articles in Last Generation, Paul says, "The one that got my attention was the Korean boy who lost his father, and his mother got remarried to an American serviceman and then moved to America. Their hardships, life adjustments, his life experiences, and how he found his niche in life were very interesting!"

Gary, Paul’s uncle, and his wife Glenys Romano live in Tasmania and love to witness about their faith. They use the Last Generation magazine whenever they can. When they sent Paul the magazine, they did not know how he would respond. But Paul has now begun to surrender his heart to the Lord.

"I sent Paul a copy of Last Generation," says Gary, a retired airline pilot. "It was just what he wanted.... Paul now has lots of questions and has asked for an Adventist chaplain, but the prison system is under the chaplaincy of several faiths other than Adventists, which complicates matters."

Paul is now sharing the Last Generation with others. "I hope you don’t mind," he wrote, "but once I have finished reading an issue, I will put it in the unit for others to read. There are lots of lookers, but a few here will read it from front to back. In just this very small way, I can be of service to my Lord."

Maybe Paul doesn’t realize it yet, but he will likely have souls in the kingdom for his "small" service to the Lord. His impulse to share his newfound faith with others is evidence of the power of God in his life.

Paul knows we are at the end of time. "I realize our world cannot keep going with all the garbage going on," he says. "And each day that passes, more and more evidence comes to me that the Scriptures are true."

Paul wants to be saved and live eternally with Jesus. "I just hope I will be among the chosen ones," he says. "I have a lot of questions I would like to ask." Perhaps the Last Generation magazine, along with Gary and Glenys, will have to be the SDA “chaplain” he is asking for. Keep up the flow of magazines, Gary and Glenys!

Whether it be in prisons or on street corners, you can find souls everywhere who are hungering for light and truth. Encouraging others through the pain and trials of life is a great way to witness, and Last Generation is uniquely designed to do just this.
Hartland ministry report
June-July 2007

Here at Hartland Media Services, our goal is to spread the everlasting gospel through a variety of media and technology. Our students and staff work together to produce high quality products that will reflect that message. Our biggest project has been the Everlasting Gospel Network (EGN), an evangelistic website reaching every corner of the globe. “Through EGN, we are seeking to reach people who haven't had the chance to hear the message,” says Mark Bruno, executive producer of EGN.

Recently, EGN gave birth to EGNtv. The idea for EGNtv started as a radio station project. Eventually, that vision increased to Internet television channel EGNtv. Its mission: to enlighten the world.

EGNtv is aimed toward non-Adventists, specifically toward the unchurched, but many Adventists also tune in to our broadcasts of Hartland convocations and camp meetings. We are currently working to develop programming that will appeal to non-Adventists, yet will draw them to Christ. Our plans include health programs, practical sermons, Christ-centered music, and Bible studies to challenge and encourage commitment. We want Christ to be seen in everything that we film.

However, EGNtv is not limited to English-speaking people. Currently, Spanish programming is being developed side by side with English programming. Future plans include Chinese programming, too. Our goal is to operate separate Spanish and Chinese channels, as well as an international channel.

“EGN, however, is much more than our streaming video over the internet,” says Chris Knight, producer of EGN. “Everything that is produced by EGN has the same mission: to enlighten the world with the glory of God, to communicate the gospel to the entire earth. Our message is simple: God cares about every aspect of your life: physical, mental, and spiritual,” Chris says. Everything EGN produces – audio CDs, DVDs, and even short promotional – reflects this message.

Four or more times a year, one can view live programs on the website. Selective programming is also available to be watched anytime. This project is still in the construction phase, but God has blessed our effort tremendously thus far.

Currently, we are filming in a multi-facility building that is also being used for classrooms, large gatherings, and several other purposes. This offers less than ideal settings for filming. In order to produce new programming, EGN is seeking to build its own studio. This project will cost an estimated one million dollars, but EGN is stepping out in faith. In spite of limited space, we have already constructed several sets to film pilot programming. Meanwhile, our program development team is rapidly developing new programs that will air on a regular basis once EGNtv has 24/7 streaming.

Exciting things are happening at EGN. Please pray for our ministry as we seek to enlighten the world – one viewer at a time. Stay tuned to EGNtv.com for more updates.
Picture yourself getting on a plane. You look at your ticket and it reads, “Destination—Zimbabwe, Africa.” You are on a mission to spread the gospel to the people in Africa. After three months there, your next stop is Malaysia, then the Philippines. Repeat the process and add several other countries. Continue this for another sixty to eighty years. Do you think by that time you would have been to every place in the world? The answer is no. The world is a vast mission field, and one person alone cannot evangelize everybody. That is why God gave us the method of literature evangelism.

Over the years, Hartland Institute has contributed to various types of evangelistic activities, including Bible work, preaching, health seminars, and media work. Nevertheless, out of all these, literature evangelism has reached more fields than any other. Hartland Publications works to get books and free literature into the hands of people in need. Every month, ten to thirty shipments are sent overseas. People are hungering and thirsting for truth, and the only way some darkened areas of the world can be reached is through literature.

“Graduates from Hartland Institute go out into the mission field, and they have a need for these books,” says Johny Carmouche, director of Hartland Publications. “Because of this, we provide free literature and books for the people.” Hartland Publications has provided Bibles to one man in particular, and he has been blessed because now he can study God’s Word with his people. “It does my heart good to be able to work this program out,” comments Johny.

Hartland Publications (HP) continues to print books. Five thousand copies are printed for each title, including books by Drs. Colin and Russell Standish. Many in third world countries cannot afford even one book, and this is where HP comes in. Letters flow in every day, many of them requesting Spirit of Prophecy books. Through the help of the free literature fund, these silent missionaries are sent all over the world.

“Your books are truth-filled and thoroughly biblical,” writes a brother from Africa. “My life has been greatly changed as a result of reading your publications. One thing I like is that it always points to the Scriptures as a source of faith—not to theologies which are misleading. From the first time I read your books, I started to regard the Bible as the only teacher in my life.”

Rodney Millin, a Hartland graduate and evangelist in Zimbabwe, is also one of HP’s faithful customers. Boxes of free literature have been sent to Zimbabwe to minister to the people there. Thanks to your donations, Hartland Publications is able to accomplish this important evangelistic work.
Several years ago, the church I attended in Australia had a sudden influx of university students. As nice as this was, no one knew what to do with them. Fellowship dinner became a big issue because of so many hungry extras. A small group of us were really on fire and wanted to do something, so we organized CARE groups: Christ’s Attitude Reflected in Everyone. Caring for these university youth was the basic requirement, because they were away from home and needed help settling in.

We’d meet at the church Friday nights, then split into groups. We eventually decided we’d cook for them, too. The Friday night meetings have three very important components: eating together, Bible study, and testimony and sharing time, with prayer requests. One hears of miracles happening and sees people change. When a lukewarm church member hears testimonies, especially of non-members, fires are lit in their hearts.

People would bring their friends from all over the place. We had an outreach camp so they could bring even more of their friends. And they did! At the start of the second year, we had about forty youth, and at its end, about sixty, in six CARE groups. The group as a whole would do just as the early church did. We’d go from house to house, just visiting, helping, and supporting one another. The bond was and still is really close.

We had been running our youth camps just like the Sunday churches. Normally, we’d have only one spiritual meeting on Sabbath, and that’s it. The rest of the time was games and all sorts of things. Then someone invited Peter Gregory, a Hartland graduate, to speak at our third youth camp.

We protested, “No way will the youth sit through eight sessions!” But by the end of camp, the youth just couldn’t get enough of the messages he brought. That was really our first exposure to present truth, and a real testimony to us leaders of the power of the Word.
CARE groups are more like support groups. Friday night Bible studies are fun, but they’re not baptismal studies. Without these CARE groups, if you didn’t want to do baptismal studies, you’d quickly get lost, because church is too formal and big. You’d backslide or just leave. So the groups are like nets which hold people till they’re ready to take the next step. There’s no pressure, but when a person is ready, someone will study for baptism with him or her.

My wife and I, and a group of other Hartland students have recently joined forces with the local Culpeper SDA Church to build a CARE group here. It started with three non-baptized attendees, three students, and two church members. Soon the non-baptized attendees started bringing their friends and relatives. Now the group has almost doubled to about sixteen regular attendees.

Filipe Ferreira, one of the students who works with me, says, “We don’t see many results when we’re doing the Bible study, but afterwards, when we’re relaxed and talking, that’s when everything starts to click. The Holy Spirit pours out huge blessings, and we see our CARE group members growing and wanting to know more about truth, and starting to realize the real issues.”

Another one of my student colleagues, LaiEn Hao, observed, “Lives have been touched just by our simply caring for them, by just being their friends and talking with them. We’re blessed with so much truth that we just have to share with others.”

**NEW STAFF**

**The Fowlers**

“Lord, please give us an affordable house in the country and a ministry,” Chris and Carrie Fowler prayed. They never dreamed how He would answer their prayers.

The Fowlers, originally from Maryland, found out about Hartland six years ago when Don and Barbara Ball, also current staff members at Hartland, invited them to a convocation. “We really liked it,” said Chris, “and we have been coming to the convocations for a while.” At the last convocation Chris got into a conversation with Johny Carmouche, director of Hartland Publications. When Johny found out that they were looking for a job and a house, he said, “Did you know there’s a house available? And there’s a position open right here at Hartland Publications.”

From that point, the Lord continued to open the doors for the Fowlers to come. “Things were happening that never happened before,” Chris marveled. “God was most definitely leading every step of the way.”

When asked whether they like their new home, Chris and Carrie replied in unison, “We love it!” Even though they were lacking some home furnishings at first, the Lord provided everything they needed, and more. The rest of us at Hartland have already grown to love this young couple and their four-year old daughter, Jasmine. Praise the Lord for His leading!
Ever since the Teutonic invasions of the Roman Empire, Germany has been through many cycles of division, unity, and conquest. Whenever Germany was divided, it was weak; but whenever united, it became a conquering power and expanded its territory and influence. The Alamanni (ancient Germans) had united and conquered a large section of central Europe, from the Rhine to the Oder Rivers and from the Baltic Sea in the North to the Alps in the South. Germany, unified around the papacy, became the most powerful political region of the Holy Roman Empire for much of the Middle Ages. Then the Reformation divided that country and left it weakened, thereby enabling the Reformation to take healthy root.

This cycle of unification and expansion has been repeated again and again. Through the Thirty Years’ War, the Franco-Prussian War under Bismarck, and the First World War under Kaiser Wilhelm, Germany attempted to expand its territories and political influence. But roughly twenty years after World War I, the nation was in shambles economically and very disunited politically. Promising to unite and expand the fortunes of Germany again, Hitler became the dictator-savior that led a powerful and united Germany into the Second World War, another war of expansion.

When Germany surrendered in May of 1945, it was disarmed and divided into two sectors in an effort to prevent Germany from ever instigating another war. But within a decade, Germany began to re-arm and joined NATO, ostensibly to help protect the West from Communist expansion.

In 1969 Germany began to work toward reunification, which was finally achieved in 1989. Then in 1991, it recognized Slovenia and Croatia as independent states, intentionally touching off a civil war in the Balkans. Through military intervention, Germany legitimized its role in European peacekeeping and began to get involved in military action in theaters around the world, most notably in the Middle East.

In late 2006, now in a powerful economic position, Germany redefined its military mission, taking the steps to emerge as a strong military force in the new world order. This time it is reorganizing its army so that it can be involved in up to five international theaters at once, with 14,000 troops in each place. The Financial Times of London wrote on October 14 that it is “the most radical restructuring of [Germany’s] military since 1945, turning the Bundeswehr into an international intervention force…” The Associated Press added, “It amounts to another step away from the caution and isolation born of Germany’s World War II legacy.”

So the unification and expansion cycle is underway again. Imagine how the papacy must rejoice at this! Germany and the Vatican are very friendly with each other. Rome needs German economic and military resources to manipulate the emerging new empire to its own prophetic ends and to wage a successful war against Islamic extremism. Keep watching Germany as geopolitical tensions are mounting. Germany is once again united and is gradually rearming itself for war.

Germany’s cycles of expansion and conquest have always been closely tied to the papacy’s agenda.
Have you ever seen a caterpillar? Caterpillars don’t look so pleasant up close. These wrinkly, hairy little creatures just crawl around on trees and leaves looking for food. They may look ugly, but once the transformation takes place, they become beautiful butterflies. Hartland Lifestyle Center (HLC) helps a similar transformation to take place in the people who come to the program. Such is the case for Monika Wahlen, one of our recent guests.

I’d had headaches for two months straight, so I went to the doctor. He diagnosed me with brain cancer. Surprisingly, he told me that I had had brain cancer for at least a year. Three months ago I had surgery, but since I did not want chemotherapy or radiation, I decided to go to HLC for natural treatments.

I praise the Lord for sending me to this place. There have been great improvements in my body, and especially in my spiritual life. It helped me to understand the Bible better, and I felt closer to God. During treatments, I often felt God’s presence in the room, as if He was saying, “You’re going to be okay.” Complete trust is the key to healing. Truthfully, I have not felt this good in at least nine months. I had already forgotten what it was like to feel good. I don’t feel that there’s anything wrong with my body anymore. To me, “cancer” is a foreign word.

“You look ten years younger!” my husband says. He couldn’t wait for me to share with him all the health information that I learned. I have much more strength than before, and I am now able to do again the things that I enjoy. I can exercise, walk, and cook. My husband used to do all the cooking because I was too sick to do anything. But now that God has given me new strength, I think I’ll be able to do many more things. This past January, I looked at some pictures that my husband had taken of me, and I looked horrible! But when I look at the mirror now, I feel a hundred percent better.

The friendships that I formed with the other HLC guests will remain in my heart. We bonded so tightly that it was like I had found long lost sisters. I also learned to love the kitchen. It is fun making healthy food. I will never forget this place. The location is so peaceful and beautiful, surrounded by nature and very nice people — a very nice place to relax and feel good. The experiences have been so precious to me and will be etched forever in my memory. I’m grateful for the opportunity to be a health guest. Without a cancer diagnosis, I wouldn’t have come, and I wouldn’t have received this blessing.

Please pray for Monika as she continues to face health challenges.
I have been doing some research recently about the “Doomsday Clock.” Since 1947, sixty years ago, a group of nuclear scientists have been keeping track of how close humanity is to its own catastrophic annihilation. They especially follow nuclear threats and world conflicts, though not exclusively. Using the figurative time of midnight to approximate that moment, the scientists from the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, along with a wide range of consultants, determine how close to midnight to set the clock as an expression of the state of world tensions and other elements that threaten human existence.

On January 17, 2007, they moved the clock two minutes closer to midnight. “This deteriorating state of global affairs leads the Board of Directors of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists—in consultation with a Board of Sponsors that includes eighteen Nobel laureates—to move the minute hand of the ‘Doomsday Clock’ from seven to five minutes to midnight,” they announced.

“We stand at the brink of a second nuclear age,” they continued. “Not since the first atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki has the world faced such perilous choices.”

Moving the clock two minutes is a major statement. When you think of it, world tensions have greatly increased in recent times. North Korea recently tested a nuclear bomb. Iran continues to threaten to develop nuclear devices. The United States claims that its own nuclear arsenal is necessary as a deterrent, and that the development of new devices, including a nuclear “bunker buster,” is essential to a stabilized nuclear world.

The “doomsday scientists,” as I call them, are perhaps a little behind the times. The Bible says, “In the last days perilous times shall come.” 2 Timothy 3:1. These scientists vainly hope that by political exhortation, cajoling, and persuasion, they can turn back the clock of international tensions and return to a state of peace. But it is not to be.

God has His own “doomsday clock.” Humanity is headed for complete annihilation. Though the final destruction of the world will be after the millennium, the second coming of Christ—which will interrupt the self-annihilation of earthlings—is indeed doomsday for those that don’t believe Him. But for God’s people, it is not doomsday! It is glory day!

Most scientists don’t believe in God. To track world tensions with a “Doomsday Clock” is essentially a testimony of that fact, the very evidence that they don’t believe the Bible. Nevertheless, they can sense the very things that God’s people already know through prophecy and which they can see for themselves.

God’s people will go through a great crisis, and many of them will lose their lives because of their fidelity to His Word. Unlike those fearing doomsday, we can say with hope, “Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” 2 Corinthians 4:17.

Recently, I spent two weeks teaching an intensive course on early Seventh-day Adventist church history at Highwood College in Australia. I was greatly inspired by how God has led this church through-out history—how He brought people together who had once been Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Congregationalists, and Episcopalians. They became unified in doctrine under the Holy Spirit. These dedicated, earnest souls started with only one thing in common: their willingness to follow the Word of God.

I noted the earnestness of these pioneers to study the issues which had initially divided them. In great love and humility, they were willing to put aside long-held beliefs in the light of God’s Word. They reconsidered and spent whole nights in prayer and dialogue. Sometimes it seemed that nothing would bring them into unity. Yet, as they prayed with great earnestness for the Holy Spirit to be their teacher, all pride of opinion was put aside, and each submitted to the lucidity of God’s Word.

We also cannot forget that at times Sister Ellen White was unable to comprehend some of the issues. Suddenly the Spirit of God would come upon her, and with amazing clarity she was illuminated with the testimony and understanding of God’s Word. One of the most amazing miracles was that almost all the cherished truths were brought into a common understanding by the early Sabbath-keeping believers who were scattered around.

There were still some areas of practice that needed to be understood, such as the health message, the educational message, the true principles of tithing, and the principles of church organization. These clarifications did not come until there was unity on the truth that sanctifies. At each step of the way, God led His faithful people into unity.

Yes, there were small fragments of fanaticism, and there were others who tried to assume roles of supremacy, but God had His hand over His chosen church. How important it is for each one of us to study that history, to know for ourselves why we are Seventh-day Adventists. Our commission, our ministry, must become our destiny. If ever there is a time to press together in truth and righteousness, it is now. I pray that every reader will be greatly stirred to be a keeper of the faith of Jesus.

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105.

May God bless you each.

Colin D. Standish, President
Upcoming Events

June 2, 2007
Sacramento, California
Speaker: Hal Mayer
Contact: 916-423-2342

June 2, 2007
Croton, Ohio
Speaker: Hal Mayer
Contact: Cell 740-360-7741 or 740-33-2475

June 9-27, 2007
Piedmont Valley Youth Bible Camp
June 17-24, 2007
Glendale, California
Speaker: Hal Mayer
Contact: 909-370-1311

July 24-2, 2007
Stewardship Ministries, PO Box 1, Rapidan, VA 22733-0001
Camp meeting
Speaker: Ray deCarlo
Contact: Kathy Stovall
540-672-3553 ext 232 or email hwm@hartland.edu

July 24-29, 2007
Camp Meeting
Speaker: Ray de Carlo
Contact: Kathy Stovall
540-672-1996 ext 232 or email hwm@hartland.edu

Fall Convocation
November 2-4, 2007
Hartland Lifestyle Center
Contact: Kathy Stovall
540-672-3553 ext 232 or email hwm@hartland.edu

July 24-29, 2007
“Behold He Cometh”
with
Ray DeCarlo, Dr. Agatha Thrash, Elder Ron Spear, Dr. Russell Standish, Dr. Ethel Nelson, Jeffrey Smith

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