



Roland R. Hegstad

Just Look Toward Orion

Ring. It was Kimberly on the phone. Kimberly is our No. 2 daughter—our caboose. She showed up 11 years after Sheryl, daughter No. 1. Her birthday is October 22, and she used to tell people “October 22 is the anniversary of the Great Disappointment; my folks expected Jesus to come, but they got me instead.” And I used to reply, “Go ahead and call it the ‘Great Disappointment’ if you want; but I don’t want to hear you referring to your birth as the ‘Great Surprise.’”

Maybe before I answer the phone you should know that Kimberly took her LSAT a few years ago, and gave up on taking law only when she learned it would leave little time for a family. Today she has husband Scott, 32; daughters Allison, 3; and Juliana, three months; and her inquiring mind in good operating order. Kimberly may not know the 14 rules of evidence, but she doesn’t take anything secondhand: she has to study it through for herself. Now, let’s get the

phone before my fax kicks in on ring six.

“Dad, I’ve been studying Revelation, and I just don’t know if I agree with the church on the trumpets. I’m 100 percent on the seven churches, I think our viewpoint on the seals makes sense, but I’m having trouble with the trumpets. So, Dad, tell me what you think, but I just want to get to the moon. I don’t want to explore the universe.”

Well, with that restriction went some fascinating information on the spiraling nebulas and flaming galaxies of trumpeldom; but if she didn’t want to play first chair. . . .

“Kimberly, the first thing to keep in mind is that you won’t find anything on the trumpets in *Seventh-day Adventists Believe. . .* A Biblical Exposition of Fundamental Doctrines. What we do have is a book published by the Biblical Research Institute that offers a consensus of Adventist theological scholarship on the trumpets. And my friend Jon Paulien of our seminary wrote his 450-page doctoral dissertation on the trumpets.”

"Oh, Dad, will you get it for me, please?"

"I thought you wanted to stay within the orbit of the moon."

"Oh, Dad, I'm already outside the orbit of Pluto. . . ."

"All right. But that still leaves you considerably inside the orbit of Jan Paulien."

Fact and Fantasy

Now, don't look for an article on the trumpets in this issue of *PD*. But there is, indeed, one by Jon Paulien on how to interpret the Book of Revelation (see "How to Separate Prophetic Fact From Prophetic Fantasy"). Also on the end-time theme: Herbert Douglass' prize-winning "Prayer for the End Time" (a Challenge Award winner), which is both stimulating and provocative.

Bruce Norman's "The Great Controversy—Can We Count on

It?" turns to the Greek text to add assurance to an old truth.

Jackie Ordelheide Smith's "The Land of Never Again" has both a thrilling theological insight and heartwarming assurance. It's short, but be forewarned: You won't read it only once! And after digesting the disturbing findings in "Frontiers of Theology," you'll need all the theological insights and all the assurance Smith and Douglass and Paulien offer.

What's that, Kimberly? What about your father's article?—the one that takes you out of this "Silent Planet" through an asteroid belt of rapturous deceptions, and into the far reaches of the universe (just look toward Orion): Doesn't it offer theology and assurance?

"Yes, Kimberly, but look at how much of the universe I had to explore before I wrote it." □

PERSPECTIVE DIGEST CHALLENGE AWARDS



You've already had a "taste" of the winners: "The Washing," by Kent Hansen; "The House of Bread," by Charles Rentfro; "A 'Testimony' From the 'Other Side,'" by Roger Coon; and "How I Became a Christian Nuisance," by Shane Dresen. In this issue are "A Prayer for the End Time," by Herbert Douglass; and "The Great Controversy—Can We Count on It?" by Bruce Norman. These and winning articles yet to appear will be identified by a *PD* Challenge Award logo. Following are winners in the three categories. Judges were theologians of the Adventist Theological Society.