

Perspective Digest

Volume 8 | Number 4

Article 1

10-1-2003

Epistles

Multiple

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Recommended Citation

Multiple (2003) "Epistles," *Perspective Digest*. Vol. 8 : No. 4 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pd/vol8/iss4/1>

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"To be known and read" by all. . .

Looking for an Acceptable Pastor

Loved your piece on Paul's relationship with the Trans-European Division office. Many men have been banished from the ministry for similar reasons—or less. Recently I came across the following report from a ministerial search committee charged with selecting a new minister for their church. (It may have originated with Stanley Maxwell, who is in Azerbaijan. Thought your readers would enjoy it.)

E.S.N.

Loma Linda, California

Report From the Ministerial Search Committee:

We do not have a happy report to give. We have not been able to find a suitable candidate for this church, though we have one promising prospect. Thank you for your suggestions. We have followed up on each one with interviews or by calling at least three references. The following is our confidential report:

ADAM: Good man but has problems with his wife. One reference told us how he and his wife enjoyed walking nude in the woods.

NOAH: Former pastorate of 120

years with no converts. Prone to unrealistic building projects.

JOSEPH: A big thinker, but a braggart; believes in dream interpreting and has a prison record.

MOSES: A modest and meek man, but poor communicator; even stutters at times. Record of blowing his stack and rash remarks in church business meetings. Some say he left an earlier church over a murder charge.

DEBORAH: One word—female.

DAVID: The most promising leader of all until we discovered an affair he had with his neighbor's wife.

SOLOMON: Great preacher, but serious woman problem.

ELIJAH: Prone to depression: collapses under pressure.

HOSEA: A tender and loving pastor, but our people could never handle his wife's occupation.

JONAH: Told us he was swallowed up by a great fish. He said the fish later spit him out on the shore near here. We hung up.

AMOS: Too much of a country hick. Backward and unpolished. With some seminary training, he might have promise; but he has a hang-up against wealthy people.

JOHN: Says he is a Baptist, but doesn't dress like one. May be too

Pentecostal. Tends to lift both hands in the air to worship when he gets excited. You know we limit exuberance to one hand. Sleeps in the outdoors, has a weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.

PETER: Too blue collar. Has a bad temper, even said to have cursed. He's a loose cannon.

PAUL: Powerful CEO type and fascinating preacher. However, he's short on tact, unforgiving with young ministers, harsh, and has been known to preach all night.

TIMOTHY: Too young.

JESUS: Has had popular times, but once when his church grew to 5,000, he managed to offend them all; and his church dwindled down to 12 people. Seldom stays in one place very long. And, of course, he is single.

JUDAS: His references are solid. A steady plodder. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. We're inviting him to preach this Sunday in anticipation of a formal call being tendered.—Ministerial Search Committee.

PD Sparks Memories

Having received *Perspective Digest* 8:3 before Sabbath yesterday, my wife, Elizabeth, and I were warmed of heart to read Gerry Waggoner's marvelous experience [in witnessing to his Ana-

baptist brethren while repairing damage from a hurricane that had hit [Ahoskie, North Carolina]. A friend tells me that there was another article in *PD* telling of the circumstances of the conversion of Waggoner and his wife from Anabaptist to Adventist. Can you point me to the article?*

Dr. "Bud" Sommerville, a longtime friend, joins me in being a loyal fan of *PD*. You'll recall that he was your onetime "roomie" at Walla Walla College. He has been my next-door neighbor for the past 45 years. Morris Wilson is a longtime member of my Sabbath school class [and a former member of the Crusader's Quartet, which sang all over the Northwest]. I chose to introduce him to *PD* with a subscription. He told me he met his wife, Joan, at WWC, and that you were the Master of Ceremonies and speaker oftentimes when the quartet would sing in other churches.

Thank you for your continued service for our Awesome God and his foot-weary people.

Claude E. Steen, Jr., M.D.
Candler, North Carolina

• What memories you revive! "Bud"

*See *PD* 7:1 2002. A tip: I've heard the Waggoners speak and sing; They'll spark a revival in your church. Contact them through the Piqua, Ohio Seventh-day Adventist Church.—R.R.H.



was my senior roommate, the last of five premed students I roomed with at WWC. As for the quartet, they were so good that the college asked them to host a lyceum program—a first at WWC. I introduced the program by telling the packed auditorium that Lloyd Wyman had been in the infirmary for much of the week with the flu. A nurse had entered with a needle so big it had to be inserted via a footrest. When Lloyd saw it, he said, “Oh, no! You’re not going to put *that* in my arm!” “Silly boy,” the nurse responded, “Object all you wish, but you’re going to get it

in the end.”

The auditorium erupted with laughter—except for the school president, who didn’t crack a smile. However, the vice president pounded his knee and out-laughed any 10 students. In the picture above, Morris Wilson holds the razor while Lloyd Wyman anticipates a shave. Eugene Wilson sports the drooping mustache, and Jim McCann is on the right. All four have had distinguished careers: the Wilson brothers in education, Lloyd Wyman in the ministry, and Jim McCann in medicine.—R.R.H.