

LETTERS

Love your (Iraqi) neighbor

It was great to read in *FOCUS* around the time of the invasion of Iraq the opposition to the war at the university. It was certainly in keeping with words of Christ, such as "Blessed are the peacemakers. . ." and "Love your neighbor."

I can't see Christ going out with a sword—or a weapon of mass destruction—and killing the neighbors He said to love. If we have to criticize the government and its activities, and be called "anti-American" by some, we must remember that our first allegiance is to Christ—not to the government in Washington.

Marlin A. Field (att.)

The price of freedom

We have been rather slow in responding to what we believe to be a very biased article, "America's Troubled Image Abroad" in the Spring 2003 *Focus*. We have lived through the time of WWII and all its horrific events. I, personally, grew up in a family of 10 on a Wisconsin farm and was drafted into the US army at the end of the war. In the fall of 1950, I hitchhiked from Wisconsin to attend EMC and completed the course for the ministry by working every penny of my way with only the help of the Good Lord. I thank God for the wonderful wife I found at EMC and for the 51+ years He has given us together.

We have worked for 40 years in the full-time ministry of the SDA Church and continue to be active in church activities. When we attended EMC we were proud that our school placed a great deal of emphasis on the spiritual aspects of education. Our country had just gone through a very sobering and painful world war. Those of us who have served our country and church for many years feel that it takes a dedicated amount of energy to hold the "Flag of Freedom" high. It took an untold amount of sacrifice to bring freedom and peace to the world we live in.

"What America wants, America gets!" "What does President Bush want?" These statements in the Spring 2003 *Focus*, hardly

reflect the spiritual aspect of what we feel our school should stand for.

Of course we need the cooperation of "Old Europe" and the United Nations. But where was "Old Europe" and the "League of Nations" when Hitler and Mussolini and Tojo were preparing their countries and marching toward conflict and then thrusting our world into a terrible, bloodletting war?

Should our school be a part of the Neville Chamberlain philosophy? We would all be doing a "Hitler Salute" in an unbelievably oppressive police state, if this were the case. My mother was born in the middle of chaos in 1905 in Austria-Hungary and my father's people came from the Ukraine of Russia—our family values "Freedom!" Many in America take for granted the freedom which we enjoy and the price that it costs to maintain it.

Douglas McArthur once made the statement that the price of freedom is "Eternal Vigilance." Colin Powell recently stated very clearly the objectives of our nation in these words: "Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return, is enough to bury those who did not return."

Al Klein (BA '54)

Salty provocation

Some of the letters in your Summer 2003 issue indicate that you have achieved an august status as a university publication. Such a magazine is hardly worth its salt without causing a certain amount of ire among its readers. When you provoke one to request a dismissal from the mailing list, you stir up a host of others to read and investigate the cause for themselves. Now, which of these is your greatest asset?

Johann Thorvaldsson (BA '56, MA '58)

2004 alumni group tours

RUSSIAN RIVER CRUISE from Moscow to St. Petersburg July 5-18 (14 days), with a precruise option to Helsinki, July 1-6, and a postcruise option to the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, July 18-25. This tour will include a visit to Zaokski Theological Seminary.

SOUTH PACIFIC TOUR, September 26-October 21 (26 days in Australia and New Zealand with an optional four days in Fiji). Australia will include the Great Barrier Reef and the Sydney area with Sabbath at Avondale College. In New Zealand we will visit both the North and South Islands to include Christchurch, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Rotorua, Auckland and the Bay of Islands. In Fiji we will visit Fulton Adventist College.

SOUTH AFRICA TOUR, November 1-18 (18 days), will include Johannesburg, Pretoria, Kruger National Park, Swaziland and Zululand, the Garden Route from Port Elizabeth to Capetown, and four days of sight-seeing in the Capetown area, to include Helderberg College.

For detailed information or to reserve space, contact Dr. Merlene A. Ogden at 269-471-3781 or e-mail ogden@andrews.edu.

Letters to *Focus* are welcome and should be sent to Editor, *Focus*, University Relations Office, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI, 49104-1000 or by e-mail to: ivan@andrews.edu with "Letter to *Focus* Editor" in the subject line. The editors reserve the right to edit for content, style and space. Opinions expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the editors or university officers.