



Thank you!

That was the predominant theme of the letters which quickly arrived as soon as the winter issue hit mailboxes. Merlene Ogden's impact on alumni has been felt far and wide. Many wrote to express their appreciation of the way she opened up the world to them through her teaching and tours. Others expressed their approval of the new Study Bible currently in production and reminisced about the good times at "Our Dear A.U." Keep 'em coming.

Don't forget to write

Letters to Focus are always welcome. To ensure a range of viewpoints, we encourage letters of fewer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for content, style and space. Opinions expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the editors, university employees, officers and administrators.

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Memories of Dr. O.

I was captivated with memories as I read Delmer Davis's article on Dr. Ogden in the Winter 2008 Focus. I found myself smiling over memories of an enthusiastic Dr. O. urging a busload of tired travelers on to go see yet another Wordsworth house, and remembering the temptation—which was sometimes overpowering—to sleep though a presentation as we rolled along in the bus. And I still cannot stay in a hotel without remembering her description of thoughtless American tourists who carelessly leave their beds unmade.

The European study tour led by Dr. O. and Malcolm Russell was a highlight of my undergraduate experience at Andrews. It also awakened in me a love for traveling and history, which served me well while I was a student missionary in Japan, and which eventually helped inspire me to pursue graduate work in history.

Thanks Dr. O for the trip. Thanks Delmer Davis, Don May, and Focus for the article, interviews and cover photo that brought back such vivid memories,

Nancy Driscoll Engle (BA '86)

Just seeing "Mother Merlene" grinning at me from the window of a tour bus transported me back to the European Study Tour of 1974. That amazing 11-week trip was one of the highlights of my life.

She did indeed think of every detail to make the trip educational, fun and unforgettable. The credit I earned for the tour completed my master's degree, so she planned a graduation the last Saturday night of the tour. We improvised academic gowns from raincoats (don't remember what we did for caps!), found someone who could play "Pomp and Circumstance" on a recorder, and had a hilarious processional and ceremony. "Mother Merlene" understood that it was a milestone in my life, and that it needed to be observed.

Your writers did a great job of portraying the many facets of Merlene Ogden. She continues to be an inspiration to thousands

of students who were fortunate enough to study, travel and worship with her.

Thanks for giving her credit for her major influence in shaping Andrews University.

Pat (Horning) Benton (MA '74)

It was wonderful to read the article about Merlene Ogden in the last issue of Focus. She has handed down my favorite English teacher when I attended Andrews. I still have a book of poems by Robert Frost that I purchased for her American Literature class and notes in the margins of things she said. I am wondering if she is still doing any tours and, if so, when her next one might be.

I also worked in the Physics Department for a couple of years while attending Andrews and remember Bruce Lee as just a very nice boss. He and Donald Snyder were both there at that time and it was just a great place to work (even though I was not a physics student—far from it!). And do you know where Donald Snyder is now?

I enjoy your magazine.

Jannelle (Schmidt) Noller (BS '65)

I wanted to express my appreciation for the article on Dr. Merlene Ogden (A Career of Service and Leadership) in the winter edition of the Focus. As a member of the 1976 Andrews University Summer European Tour I can attest to the superb way in which "Dr. O" conducted her tours and made them a special experience for each one of the attendees. Now, some 32 years later, I still have fond memories and great friends emanating from that tour. Dr. Ogden's commitment to her students and her special projects is well known, and appreciated, by hundreds, if not thousands, of her alumni around the world. She exemplifies the best of what Andrews University can offer.

Wayne Malcolm Schafer (att.)

How we enjoyed the latest Andrews University Focus, especially the focus on Merlene Ogden. You have certainly captured the life and spirit of Merlene in a wonderful way and made us aware of how many lives she has touched through the years.

What a pleasure it was to work with her during our affiliation years with Helderberg College. Her guidance was invaluable in raising the academic standards of the College and helping us to see beyond our own horizons. Our visits to Andrews were always challenging and she did so much to make our stay worthwhile and help us settle some of the problems that we faced. We certainly salute a great lady who did so much on an international scale to raise the academic standards of so many institutions and we were proud to be a part of Andrews University.

Thanks once again for an interesting magazine, we enjoyed reading about fellow alumni and also what is current at Andrews University. Wishing you every success and blessing and may the influence of Andrews University continue to touch the hearts and lives of alumni in many parts of our globe. God bless.

*David (MA '74, EdD '76) &
Veronica (MA '75) Birkenstock*

Hopes for the Study Bible

To learn from "Focus" Vol. 44, No. 1, that Andrews has embarked on the task of publishing a new study Bible designed to be a tool for any Bible reader resonates powerfully and deeply with me. This is not simply because I am an Andrews graduate nor because two of my children are also alumni of this institution.

Kudos to Andrews for sensing the importance of this work at a time when there is the need for unity on some of the doctrines/teachings we vehemently propound in our evangelistic programs. Some of us lament the differences held by clerics, as well as by lay persons, who pass on only what they honestly grasp and believe. I pray that this Study Bible will go

a great way in assisting us in speaking the "same thing" when witnessing.

Go forward with this project! The Andrews Study Bible Project Committee can be assured of my prayers as it undertakes what I consider a heaven-inspired task.

John R. Josiah (MA '88)

Great News; a Study Bible: I assume it will include commentary. There is the rub. Could it happen to be simply an update of *Bible Readings for the Home Circle*? Not with Jon Dybdahl at the helm.

But then a real concern arises, could it be a 21st century rewrite of Daniel and Revelation and/or slavish to the Conflict of the Ages series?

May Dybdahl's task force keep in mind that the book of Daniel was written to combat the hellenization of the young men of Jerusalem and the book of Revelation was written to give eternal assurance to beleaguered Christians under Rome.

Let the editors be true to the text, not bound to a 19th century New England Eschatology.

Tom Zwemer (att.)

Proud to be an alum

I'm writing because I'm an Andrews alum (grad date Dec 2005) and I've got something to say, besides I like seeing my name in print! I spent my full higher education tenure at Andrews as a full-time Meier/Burman Hall resident. Since I only have 300 words to express myself, I'll say that not only did my time at Andrews change my life for good (I mean literally too! I met my wife during my freshman year), and broaden my worldview, but I'm one of few who sings the praises of the AU café!

I loved everything about my time at AU, my classes, the dorm life, campus activities like AFU, etc. Those who now attend Andrews are fortunate to be where so many have been before. I have a feeling that I'm

running out of words, so I'll conclude by saying that I'm absolutely proud to be an AU grad. Akil Spooner, AU. Here's to you "my dear AU."

Akil Spooner (BBA '05)

Perils of punctuation

Consider the lowly parentheses. They are most often used to enclose a brief explanation or to signal nonessential information. But in a unique circumstance (the Class Notes section in your winter 2008 issue, for example), an unfortunate use of parentheses can impart volumes of (unintended) meaning. Indeed, it can suggest entire life experiences that were never had (by me).

It is understandable how you would (innocently) assume "Thomas" is my maiden name, but please note: I now have a compound (consisting of two words) surname. I added "Treadwell" to my last name in honor of my grandmother, the last of the Treadwells in my family line.

There is no Mr. Treadwell (never has been, mostly likely never will be). (Best) Regards,

Devon Thomas Treadwell (BA '78)