

## Study Bible to be published by Andrews University Press

An international editorial team of Adventist Bible scholars has begun work on a new study Bible to be published by Andrews University Press, according to President Niels-Erik Andreasen. Andreasen made the announcement on March 4 in connection with meetings of the Board of Trustees.

Andreasen said the editorial team is preparing a work designed for lay Bible students around the world. “The Andrews Study Bible will provide the tools necessary for any Bible reader—no matter the level of theological training—to navigate the Scriptures in a meaningful way,” he said.

Those tools will include an extensive study note and reference system, general articles on important theological and interpretive principles, maps, charts and indexes, all prepared for the general reader. Andreasen said that the heart of the Andrews Study Bible will be one of the standard English translations of the Bible commonly used by conservative evangelicals. The ultimate purpose will be to produce a work that is academically credible, theologically sound and practically useful for the individual reader, and for wide distribution in Adventist evangelism.

Andreasen, who is chair of the Andrews University Press Board, said that discussion about the project began nearly a year ago. “This is a very important initiative from the Andrews University Press and it is already receiving wide support. Mark Finley, vice president for evangelism for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Angel Rodriguez, director of the Biblical Research Institute and Gerry Karst, general vice president for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, who also chairs the Andrews board, are serving as consultants on the project,” he said.

“I’m very excited at the prospect of what this study Bible will do,” said Finley. “Besides the tremendous value it will have for untold thousands of readers around the world in the years ahead, its production now will help scholars of the church to think as evangelists and its use will help the evangelists of the church to think as scholars.”



Jon Dybdahl, retired president of Walla Walla University, and former Seminary professor, is the general editor of the Andrews Study Bible.

Development of the publication, the first of its kind in Adventist publishing, has been delegated by the Andrews University Press Board to an oversight group called the Andrews Study Bible Project Committee, chaired by Andreasen. Members include Karst, Finley, Rodriguez and Denis Fortin, dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary; Juan Prestol, undertreasurer of the General Conference; two members of the Press staff; and Jon Dybdahl, named in January as general editor of the Andrews Study Bible.

Dybdahl is the recently retired president of Walla Walla University in College Place, Wash., and long-time professor of world mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Since accepting the general editorship, Dybdahl has quickly recruited a team of more than a dozen scholars to begin the editorial production.

“I am particularly excited about the impact this project can have on the church and the world,” Dybdahl said. “If it can bring church members and those who are seeking God into direct contact with the Bible in a

meaningful way, the possibilities of what can happen are limitless.”

Andreasen said the project has been able to move ahead quickly because it is supported, in part, by a grant for start-up and development costs from the General Conference.

Members of the Project Committee met with Dybdahl and the editorial team to formally commence work on Sunday, March 2, at the Sutherland House. The team continued its work on March 3, accepted assignments, signed contracts and returned home to start writing.

## “Blessed are the Peacemakers” — celebrating the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Over the course of several days between January 15–21, Andrews University students and faculty reflected on the ideals of Martin Luther King, Jr. through a series of programs and special events under the theme “Blessed are the Peacemakers.”

A highlight of the week was the University Forum presentation by Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, the best-selling book that was adapted into an award-winning film. Sister Prejean shared her experiences as an advocate of the poor in New Orleans, which led to her work on behalf of death-row inmates, as well as the families of murder victims.

“Sister Helen Prejean’s visit to Andrews University offered a refreshing perspective on how to love our neighbors—in a practical, meaningful way, albeit a difficult way,” said Kathleen Dayle Schwarz, a junior anthropology major. “While so many of us simply sit back and admire the good works of Christ, a few people in the world are actually acting out that love. Sister Helen’s sacrifices for the most despised men and women of our society demonstrate an answer to a higher calling.”

The first Creative Arts Exposition held in conjunction with the holiday took place

at the Howard Performing Arts Center on Sunday, Jan. 20. K–12 students in public and private schools in Berrien Springs submitted artwork that illustrated the theme “Blessed are the Peacemakers,” and were judged in their age category. More than 150 individual entries were submitted. The awards ceremony also included musical performances by students from local schools.

On Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 21, Andrews University held a convocation and awards ceremony, honoring a number of local citizens and organizations with the 2008 MLK Freedom of Legacy Award for their service to the community. Recipients received the award and congratulations from the University’s president, Niels-Erik Andreasen, and Heather Knight, provost. Recipients included Princella Tobias, founder and CEO of the *Benton Spirit Community Newspaper*. Other recipients of the Legacy of Freedom Awards were David Cooke and David Brown of Great Lakes Eye Care, for service to the Berrien Springs community and medical missionary work in developing countries; Band of Brethren in Christ, who seek to improve the community through helping develop talents of leadership, education and inter-

generational mentoring programs; Stella Greig, who throughout her career as a professor has worked to develop deeper cultural understanding at Andrews University; and Lynn Gray, an emergency medical physician whose work as a member of the Andrews University Board of Trustees has contributed much to building unity among diverse University stakeholders.

Carolyn Schrock-Shenk, associate professor of Peace, Justice and Conflict at Goshen College, delivered the keynote address, “The Task is for Everyone: Peacemaking as a Way of Life.” While a competent academician, she prefers to label herself as a practicing maker of peace and conflict resolver. She revealed that her most challenging peacemaking assignment has been “to make peace with myself” after becoming paralyzed from her chest down.

The day’s events concluded with student-led panel discussions. Representatives from Social Workers Acting Together (S.W.A.T.) and the Andrews Pre-Law Club approached the central subject of peacemaking. Members of ACTION, a student-led social advocacy group, also led a presentation on “Peacemaking in Darfur: Challenges and Possibilities.”



**Clockwise, from top left:**

Sister Helen Prejean, best-selling author, spoke for University Forum on Jan. 17.

Carolyn Schrock-Shenk from Goshen College delivered the keynote address on Jan. 21.



Recipients of the 2008 MLK Freedom of Legacy Award, L-R: David Cooke, Princella Tobias, Stella Greig, David Brown, Dan Jennings, representing the Band of Brethren in Christ. Not pictured: Lynn Gray.

Local K–12 students submitted artwork that illustrated the theme “Blessed are the Peacemakers.”

## “2000 Years of Christianity in Africa”

From February 7–9 scholars from various disciplines, universities, and religions converged at Andrews University to discuss “2000 Years of Christianity in Africa and the Diaspora,” part of the Black History Month celebration.

The seminar’s two keynote speakers were Charles Bradford, former North American Division president and author of *Sabbath Roots: The African Connection*, and Craig Keener, author of fourteen books and professor at Palmer Theological Seminary. The seminar also featured lectures by a number of religious and historical scholars, including Keith Burton, author of *The Blessing of Africa*; Joan Francis and Douglas Morgan of Columbia Union College; Bertram Melbourne of Howard University Divinity School; Ganoune Diop, director of the Global Missions Study Center; and Kofi Owusu-Mensa, author of *Saturday God & Adventism in Ghana*. Following the lectures, members of the Andrews community responded to the speakers, and audience members engaged in a question-and-answer period.

Bradford kicked off the weekend with a university chapel service on Thursday morning in Pioneer Memorial Church, discussing “The Great African Prophets.”

“As an attendee at many of the sessions, I was impressed by the extensive scholarship presented by the many scholars involved with this project, as well as by the active audience participation,” said Heather Knight, provost. “Certainly, there is wide

interest in this topic as it relates to the spread of global Christianity and the growth of Adventism in Africa and among the African Diaspora in particular.”

On Friday evening, Keener lectured on “Defending Black Faith,” drawing material from a book of the same title that he coauthored with Gary Usry. “I don’t know what is more strange—that I am a white guy speaking at a conference on Black Christianity, or that I’m a non-Adventist speaking on the Sabbath,” said Keener.

Keener surveyed African presence in the Bible, beginning with the Old Testament and working chronologically into the New Testament, which is his area of specialty, and devoted most of his presentation to Paul’s treatment of race relations. Noting the familiar “Slaves, obey your earthly masters” passage of Eph. 6:5, Keener stated that the original Greek indicates that Paul was referring not to field slaves, but rather to household slaves who were capable of upward social mobility and even attaining freedom.

He pointed out repeated calls in the Book of Romans for unity in Christ between Jews and Gentiles, saying “Christianity is not an exclusively white religion, but is for all people.”



Charles Bradford spoke for the university chapel and divine services at Pioneer Memorial Church.

In Bradford’s Sabbath sermon, “No Child Left Behind,” he called attention to the explosion of Christianity in Africa over the last two centuries, and particularly the prevalence of Sabbath-keeping in Ethiopia. “There will be an abundant entrance into the Kingdom,” he said.

“It is refreshing to see the Seventh-day Adventist Church begin the process of corrective historiography to counter the centuries of errors, distortions, omissions and falsehoods attributed to the continent of Africa and its inhabitants,” said Timothy Nixon, chaplain. “The Africans, the first people of the earth, are the primary characters of scripture. May we never again believe or teach the notion of a heathen or Godless Africa.”

## Drug policy research published

The Institute for the Prevention of Addiction (IPA) has been working on a major drug policy research project supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. A major part of the research was to examine the role of public health agencies in providing alternatives to incarceration for drug users. A major part of the results of this research were published Friday, Feb. 1, 2008 in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

*AJPH* is a major high-impact journal and this article has already become a part of international discussions of drug policy. The data from this article was presented last September at the London School of Economics and more results will be presented at an international drug-policy conference in Lisbon in April.

Duane McBride states, “At the IPA we continue to have support from RWJF for our work. We are very grateful for the op-

portunities they have provided for our work and our ability to present our work in major venues. In addition, we are very pleased that we can represent Andrews University in these venues.”

## Seminary hosts 3rd annual scholarship symposium

The symposium began on Thursday morning, Feb. 7, with a program featuring Daniel I. Block, the Gunther H. Knoedler Professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill. Block is an accomplished scholar and author as well as a senior translator for the *The New Living Translation* of the Bible.

During the service, Richard Davidson, professor of Old Testament Exegesis, was announced as this year's recipient of the Daniel Augsburg Excellence in Teaching Award. The Augsburg Excellence in Teaching Award is given to faculty members whose teaching emulates the high standards of Augsburg's 60 years of service.

On Thursday evening a poster session was held in the Seminary Commons, featuring a total of nine posters by faculty and students. Following the poster session, Block delivered the plenary lecture "The Tenth Commandment: A Window into the Domestic Ideology of Deuteronomy."

On Friday, from 8:30 am–12:30 pm, the symposium finished up with a variety of breakout sessions that showcased the research of Seminary faculty and students.

"Scholarship is an important part of what we do at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, and this symposium gives us an opportunity to showcase the research, creativity, and learning that hap-

pens here. Faculty and students work hard all year long, and this event gives a glimpse of what they have accomplished," explained Denis Fortin, Seminary dean.

"As we highlight the academic and scholarly contributions of our faculty and students, we are reminded that all good gifts and talents come from God," Fortin continued. "To Him we give the glory and the praise for our accomplishments and for giving us minds that can study and grapple with complex issues and themes. As we seek knowledge, we also affirm our faith in God in order to make a difference in our world."

## Happenings at the Howard



**Top:** Eugenia Zukerman, flautist, Howard Series Concert, Jan. 19, 2008

**Bottom:** The University Chorale & Chamber Orchestra, performing Handel's *Messiah*, Dec. 8, 2007

**Top:** *Amahl and the Night Visitors* Operetta in One Act, Jan. 12 & 13

**Bottom:** Health Careers Fair, Jan. 28, 2008