

AMERICAN UNION NEWSLETTER

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

REFORM MOVEMENT

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REPORT FROM NAIROBI, AFRICA

Elder Henry Dering

Did you know that in one part of the capital city of Nairobi, the people do not have electricity or clean running water?

Yes, that is the stark reality for one million destitute people who live in the second largest slum in Africa. They are deprived of the comforts and conveniences that you and I sometimes take for granted. The uneven, potholed dirt streets are littered with decaying matter and filthy garbage of broken bottles, rusted cans, greasy papers and other unsightly objects.

As one walks the narrow streets, there are steady streams of foul-smelling sewer water flowing by the small, rusted sheet-metal shacks. The sights and sounds are shocking and unimaginable to a Western foreigner. And yet in these conditions of extreme poverty and wretchedness, there were a few people who were searching for God and who in their search found a wonderful treasure—God's pure church.

On Sabbath, December 6, 2003, about 40 people gathered together to worship and praise the Lord. The building where they assembled was old, small, and very deteriorated. But they loved the Lord and were rich in faith. Poverty can sometimes lead people to the cross of Jesus.

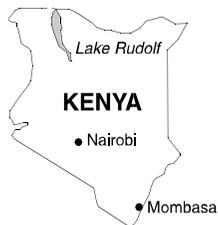
What is your attitude toward the poor? Are you willing to reach out to a slum section of a large, wicked city to help the needy and hopeless? The prophet Isaiah gives us good advice on this subject: "Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" Isaiah 58:7.

The Spirit of Prophecy says: "In the providence of God events have been ordered that the poor are always with us, in order that there may be a constant exercise in the human heart of the attributes of mercy and love. Man is to cultivate the tenderness and compassion of Christ; he is not to separate himself from the sorrowing, the afflicted, the needy, and the distressed." *Signs of the Times*, June 13, 1892.

"I think of the many cities and towns, even in our own country, that have never heard a discourse upon present truth, and have no knowledge of our faith, or of us as a people. The solemn warnings for this time have never fallen upon their ears or convicted their consciences. My burdened heart goes up to God in the wakeful hours of the night that he would work by whom he will, to warn the world of their coming doom. Who are living out their faith? Who, with singleness of purpose, are lifting up to the view of the impenitent, Jesus Christ and his matchless love? Where is the living zeal that will make the impression upon minds paralyzed with sin, that we believe what we profess, that the end of all things is at hand, and that what is done in the work of preparation must be done quickly?" *Review and Herald*, June 3, 1880.

May the Lord pour out His Spirit in Africa and in the entire world so that sinners yearning for salvation may be found.

There is still a great missionary work to be done before our Saviour's return.



Are you thankful to be living here in America and not in the poverty of Africa, India, and other third world countries?

Please pray for our believers and the people interested in the message for this time in all the world that more workers may go into the harvest fields, and that the work will soon be finished. Then may Jesus come soon and make an end of all suffering and sin.

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ATTENTION YOUTH!

Immediately after the NWF/SWF conference in July, we will have a youth campout in Yosemite National Park from July 5 - 9 (Monday-Friday). The cost is \$50 per person for the entire stay. Space is limited. Further details will be given in the next *Newsletter*. Contact Br. Christian Nelson at (916) 687-6069



Are you moving? . . .

Newsletters are still being returned each month as being undeliverable because someone has moved. Please see that we are informed when you move so that you will continue to receive the *Newsletters* each month.

Sisters Nevenka (our Union secretary) and Evelyn Holmstroem (the membership secretary) have compiled a wonderful book with all the addresses of the church members in it. This book has to be kept up-to-date and if you notify one of us, we will notify the others. Or better yet, notify your church secretary and have him/her notify us.

A lot of work went into compilation of this book and let us make it easier for our Union and membership secretaries!

Thank you.

WELCOME

A hearty welcome is extended to Elder Henry Andrade, past president of the General Conference, to the United States! He is presently ministering in Georgia. Let us pray for him.

Also, Elder Thomas DHaiti has been ordained as a bi-vocational minister in the Northeast Field. Please also pray for him.

CANADIAN FIELD CONFERENCE

The Canadian Field Conference has been scheduled from July 30 - August 1, 2004. You will be notified as to the location as soon as we hear from them.

ARE YOU A LABEL-READER?

A CSPI News Release of 8/24/98, "FDA Urged to Improve Labeling of or Ban Carmine Food Coloring," states the following relative to two food colorings, cochineal extract or carmine: "Both are derived from female cochineal beetles, which are raised in Peru, the Canary Islands, and elsewhere. They provide a pink, red, or purple color to foods ranging from ice cream and yogurt to fruit drinks. . ." The article states that colorings can cause allergic reactions, including sneezing, asthma and anaphylactic shock. Beverages were found with the carmine in them—it pays to read labels.

Also, watch baked goods labels for "partially hydrogenated" or "hydrogenated" soybean oil, etc. This is harmful to the arteries.

CALENDAR

2004-2005

1. Southwest/Northwest Field Conference: July 1-4.
2. NWF/SWF Campout: July 5-9
3. Youth Conference, Dillard, GA: July 14-18
4. Canadian Field Conference: July 30 - August 1
5. International Youth Conference, Sydney, Australia:
December 27, 2004, to January 2, 2005.

CAMP ALTA 2004 NWF/SWF CONFERENCE DETAILS

Plan *today* to come for the entire conference. Enjoy fellowship with other believers. Meet new members and interested men, women and children. Is it right to say that the Sabbath service is the most important? Dare you miss *any* of the messages God is preparing for you?

Another reason to come for the entire conference is that the per-day cost is \$45 for adults and \$30 for those 12 and under.

The campground is reserved for our group only, with a minimum of 35 adults required (but wouldn't it be a shame if *only* 35 people come!). Obviously a great deal of planning goes into every conference, including how much food to order and prepare. So get your reservations in as soon as possible, please.

If you haven't been to Camp Alta before, log on to CampAlta.com to get some idea what the facilities are like.

—Evelyn Holmstroem

ASLEEP IN JESUS

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." Revelation 14:13

Sister Dorothy Marie Demarest passed away in Folsom, California, on March 20, 2004, after a lengthy illness. She was the loving mother of Jim, Barbara, and William, beloved grandmother of Lisa, Lora, Robert, Mark, Kristin, Victor, Victoria, Allan, Kevin, and Samantha.



Sister Demarest was born on October 29, 1917, in Colfax, Iowa. She was very active in the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement, serving as a home missionary and Bible instructor in various places. Her greatest joy was to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, and she continued volunteer service after retirement. She will be greatly missed by her family, fellow church members, and a large circle of friends all over the world.

Elder Larry Watts (her son-in-law) conducted the service. Sr. Demarest had requested her passing to be a celebration of her life rather than a sad occasion. Her works will follow her. We all want to be faithful and to see her on the resurrection morning.

"I'll See you in Heaven"

A tribute to Sr. Dorothy Demarest,

a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, great aunt, sister,
Bible instructor, home missionary, prayer partner, and dearest friend,
who lived 86 fruitful years, from October 29, 1917, to March 20, 2004

I—Sr. Demarest spoke from personal experience. She planned to be in heaven, ever since Sr. Ruth Jennings knocked on the Demarest door and invited Dorothy to study the Bible with her. Sr. Demarest gave her heart to the Lord, was baptized, and never looked back. Like Paul, she could say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). She expected to be in heaven because Jesus said He has prepared a place for her.

Will—Not *may*. Or *hope to*. But *will*, I *will* see you in heaven, she said.

See—What glorious things Sr. Demarest died waiting to see! Like Simon, when he held the baby Jesus, she will exclaim when she opens her eyes, "For mine eyes have seen thy salvation" (Luke 2:30). She lived to see Jesus—and wants you to see Him too.

You—And you. And you. In her last words, Sr. Demarest thought of *you* because she loved you and wanted to see you again. She spent her life thinking of others, like Jesus did. She wanted you to know, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness. . .and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:8). Ask Jesus to plant within *your* heart the love of His appearing.

In—Not on the outside looking in. Not gathered around the Holy City a thousand years after Christ's second coming, fearfully awaiting everlasting destruction. But inside, surrounded by angels and Adam and Abraham and others too numerous to mention, with God Himself. Inside. Experiencing everlasting life.

Heaven, that glorious place above. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man [or woman or boy or girl], the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9). For Sr. Demarest, and you, to enjoy forever.

Evelyn Holmstroem

April 2004

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Demarest/Watts family, I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and overwhelming support and love during our recent trial: The passing of Dorothy Demarest, our Great-grandmother, Grandmother Great Aunt, Aunt, Mother, Sister, and dearest friend.

As it was with her Lord, so it was with her. He was born in the Fall sometime around October 22, 04 or 05 BC (Julian calendar) (she on October 29, 1917), and died in the spring (2 days before Easter—on what is called today "Good Friday") (she died March 20, 2004). He was 33. She was 86 and five months and some 20+ days.

During the last 13 months of her life, she was sustained by a feeding tube inserted by an operation directly into her small intestine, a procedure not uncommon today. Two days after the operation, she suffered a stroke; but by sheer determination and physical therapy she overcame that handicap and, despite the inconvenience and pain of the feeding tube, used the extension of her life to put her missionary experiences on tape, which Barbara, her daughter and nurse, later transcribed. She then edited the manuscript. As soon as time and means allow, this book will be made available. We are also considering including stories told us about her and the impact of her life on others. You are invited to submit your story(ies).

She also began a book about angels and asked various people to send her stories about their experiences with angels. If you have such an experience or know someone who has made such an experience, we would be very pleased if you would write it up and send it to Barbara (blw1044@yahoo.com). You can submit it in English, Spanish, or German. (We could probably find people to help us translate from other languages into English as well.)

Her life touched many lives. During the funeral, it was asked who among the congregation of about 200 had received at least one Bible study from her, and it seemed that about half of the people raised their hands. She was my Bible teacher and prayer partner. She will be missed, but she will never be forgotten. Again, we thank you very, very much for your sympathy; but as for us, we are thankful for the great privilege God has given us in being part of her close family. Ours was the greater blessing. It was her desire that we remember her with joy and happiness. This is her legacy; and, by God's grace, we intend to carry it as long as life and time shall last, for her last words were: "I'll see you in heaven."

Again, thanks to you and thanks to God.

For the Demarest/Watts family,

Larry Watts

from their labors; and their works do follow them." Revelation 14:13

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The *American Union Newsletter* is published for members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement, American Union.

This publication is complimentary and carries items of interest submitted by members of the church. We reserve the right to make changes as necessary.

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The original Seventh-day Adventist Movement for Reform of 1914, built upon the firm foundation of the Advenist Movement of 1844.