

AMERICAN UNION NEWSLETTER

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
REFORM MOVEMENT
International Missionary Society

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CAUSE BROTHERLY LOVE TO CONTINUE

Elder Gary Foster

In *Hebrews 13:1* we are given a positive command: "Let brotherly love continue." The original word here translated "let" means "to cause." However, the word "let" in *Romans 1:13* means "to hinder."

The injunction in Hebrews is, "Cause brotherly love to continue," showing that we have an obligation to promote brotherly love, even when it is not at first reciprocated, or when injury is intentional and the provocative insults are constantly coming to you. It is always a test of character as to how we respond to those who mistreat and offend.

Paul acknowledges the love manifested toward the brethren by the Thessalonians (*1 Thessalonians 4:9-10*), but he strongly encourages them to increase that love, for saints in the books of heaven are measured according to the dimensions of the soul, which measures their love for their brethren, not just the ones we like but the ones that seem naturally unlikable.

We read in *Romans 12:9*, "Let love be without dissimulation." The word "dissimulation" means hypocrisy. The Chinese definition of a hypocrite is "a false face for a true," since in that language there was originally no equivalent for the word "hypocrite."

There is a close kinship between a false face and a falsehood, and the latter word is the child of a disgraceful coward.

Have you known someone who manifested a loving interest in others when face to face with them, only to undergo an entire change in attitude when the people have gone from their presence? That is the very attitude that Paul was speaking about when he said, "Let love be without dissimulation."

Peter says it this way: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned [not hypocritical], love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." *1 Peter 1:22-23*. "Love must be the prevailing element in all our work. In the representation of others who do not believe as we do, every speaker must guard against making statements that will appear severe and judging. Present the truth, and let the truth, the Holy Spirit of God, act as a reprover, as a judge; but let not your words bruise and wound the soul..."

"Let not one rasping word be spoken. Let all sharp speeches that you are disposed to make, be kept to your individual self. Be as true as steel to principle, wise as a serpent, but harmless as a dove. If your words are not to hurt anyone, you will have to speak only the words that you are sure will not be harsh and cold and severe. . . . Of all the people in the world, reformers should be the most unselfish, the kindest, the most courteous, learning Christ's ways and words and works." *Evangelism*, p. 303

More like Jesus we should be; more like Jesus is our need, both in word and in deed.



WEDDING BELLS: Br. Robert Watts and Sr. Geanina Bistriceanu had a beautiful wedding in the Emmanuel Church at Coloma, California, on July 25. This was in "gold" country and was the state's oldest church. We wish them God's richest blessings in their new life together. They are making their home in Sacramento, California.

BAPTISMS: Br. Miguel Molina and Sr. Maria Molina were baptized in Tampa, Florida, on April 17.
Br. Alejandro Bolanos was baptized at the Youth Camp in Dillard, Georgia, on July 18.
Welcome to the new members! May God richly bless you.

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE: We are continuing work on the course and hope to complete it soon.

MEDIA CENTER

Upon the initiative of the American Union President, Elder Gary Foster, and with the consent of the American Union Board members in March 2004, efforts are being made to start a new Media Center in the spacious wing of the beautiful church in Denver, Colorado.

The mission of this Media Center is to spread the gospel far and near through videos, DVDs, CDs, books, magazines, and pamphlets. Educational presentations and music of a spiritual and uplifting nature will be recorded and offered to our church members and friends of the truth.

As soon as more information is available, you will be notified in the *Newsletter*.

INTERNATIONAL HYMNAL

The American Union has begun piano recordings of all of the songs in the *International Hymnal* on CDs. This is being done in Loveland, Colorado. The first two CDs have already been made at the studio by a professional musician.

Each CD contains 20 songs, and they sound beautiful. An album of 40 CDs should cover the entire *International Hymnal* and will be available through the American Union Media Department in Denver to all of those who appreciate our church hymns. They are to serve to God's honor and glory.

We now need sponsors for individual CD productions. Be one of them! The recording of each CD costs \$50 per hour, and it takes five hours to make a master copy of one CD. The total cost of producing one CD is about \$250. We will need 40 master copies, which will contain all 700 hymns.

It would be nice if each church in the Union would sponsor the production of two CDs. This would ease the expenses for the American Union. Individual sponsors are also very welcome.

For sponsoring the production of two CDs, you will be rewarded with a whole album of 40 CDs when they are all made.

If the Lord moves you to offer help with this project, please contact:

Sr. Nevenka Doemland, American Union Secretary
P. O. Box 478, Loveland, CO 80539-0478
Phone: 970-667-1582 or
E-mail Nbrajdic@aol.com

Thank you and God bless you!

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Do you have a new *International Hymnal*? Order yours now from the Publishing Department at (562) 923-7912.

CALENDAR

2004-2005

1. ~~Northeast Field (Brooklyn) evangelistic meetings: August 15 – September 12~~ (Cancelled)
2. Richmond, VA, youth training: September 3 - 5
3. Elizabeth, NJ, evangelistic meetings: September 22 - 25
4. American Union Board Meeting in Denver: September 26
5. Rhode Island, evangelistic meetings: October 3 - 17
6. Northeast Field Young People's Rally: October 8 - 10
7. Bronx, NY, Family Reunion: November 11 - 14
8. Brooklyn, NY, evangelistic crusade for young people: December 24 - 27
9. International Youth Conference, Sydney, Australia: December 27

PRAYER REQUEST:

Sr. Elizabeth, Marietta, Georgia, Church, is requesting prayers relative to the custody of her son Jonathan. Her divorced husband requests the son to be with him every weekend, which would prevent the son from attending church with his mother. Pray that the merciful Lord will work things out for Elizabeth and her son, for the happiness of the family and to God's honor and glory.

CHRISTIAN NELSON:

Thanks be to the Lord for answers to prayer. Br. Christian is doing really well and even walks without a cane. He appreciates and thanks you for your prayers for him. Please continue to pray for a complete recovery.

AMERICAN UNION BOARD MEETING:

The American Union Board will be meeting in **Denver** on September 26 instead of in **New York**.

ELDER STEINAR MYHRE:

He has moved and is now located in the Riverside, California, area. May the Lord bless him and his wife in the work there.

REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES:

Whenever you have activities in your churches or fields, please send us a report, giving highlights of the meetings in 2-3 sentences but not more than one page. Thank you.

The American Union Newsletter is published monthly 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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