

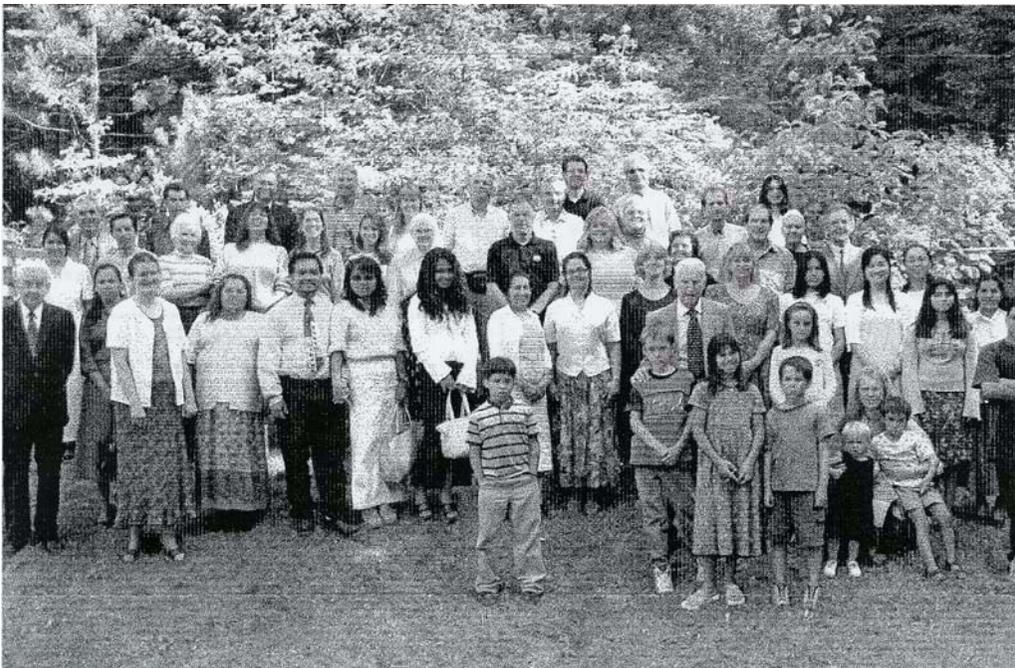
AMERICAN UNION NEWSLETTER

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
REFORM MOVEMENT
International Missionary Society

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NORTHWEST/SOUTHWEST FIELD CONFERENCE, JULY 1 - 4, 2004 CAMP ALTA, CALIFORNIA



ASLEEP IN JESUS

Sister Mercy Ortiz de Zepeda
September 24, 1942, to August 27, 2004

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. . . . [T]heir works follow them" Revelation 14:13 (NKJ)

After two years of illness, endured with much patience and faith, Sr. Mercy has silently passed away. "Mom always felt sustained by the prayers, visits, phone calls, and cards from fellow believers," a daughter told me. During her illness, Sr. Mercy expressed only grateful resignation to God's will.

On Thursday, September 2, a large group of relatives, friends, and acquaintances demonstrated their affections and final respect to her memory. Those who knew her best testified with one voice to her life of piety and caring. A deep desire was expressed to live a life like hers. Sr. Mercy had kindly instructed all her children, "When I open my eyes in the resurrection, I want to meet each and every one of you. Live in such a way that not one of you will be missing."

During the service, her son told about a group of young people—one of these was present at the funeral—to whom Sr. Mercy gave

Bible studies. They went to Central America and raised up a church. She diligently shared the gospel.

Sr. Mercy rests, awaiting the Life-giver's call. Her husband, Jorge, her mother, Sr. Lolita Solares, three daughters, a son, and eight grandchildren survive Sr. Mercy. We, her family in the Riverside church, also cherish her glorious hope of a resurrection reunion.
—Elder Steinar Myhre



GOSSIP THE WAY TO HAPPINESS?

Taken from the *"Evergreen,"* November 1982
by Helen Martin

God has granted us the marvelous talent of speech, but Satan wants to use this talent in his fashion.

One of the most destructive ways of speaking is gossip. Gossip is not discussing news events, but talking becomes gossip when the conversation is combined with fault-finding, exaggerating people's faults, ruining another's reputation by putting him down, and also misjudging peoples' motives, thus putting them in a bad light.

How does gossip start?

- (1) Curiosity—people wanting to know about other people's lives;
- (2) Jealousy—people trying to elevate themselves by putting others down;
- (3) Hatred—people trying to hurt someone else.

Many reputations have been ruined, never to be repaired because of someone's idle words.

Gossip has been a problem in the church ever since it has been in existence. What does gossip do to a church? Through strife caused by gossip, the Holy Spirit will leave the church. If envy, jealousy, and evil-speaking are cherished by some members, it will bar the way for the Holy Spirit's working.

By gossiping we open the door to let Satan in. That's why there is so little true friendship in the world today. We should close our ears to gossip and speak well of everyone. If a wrong has been done, the only person we should tell it to is the one who committed the wrong.

Only by faith and prayer can we refrain from evil thinking, which can lead to gossip. We should encourage others and help them instead of talking behind their backs. May our words be as apples of gold in pictures of silver, ever ready to uplift and encourage is my prayer.

* * * * *

"But if ye bite and devour each other, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." Galatians 5:1

PRAYER CLOSET

Edith Jankowski (daughter of Sr. Gruen) had major surgery this month. It will be a long recovery.

Charly Grujich (health).

Pat Atencio (health—kidney).

Lambert Hazelhoff (health).

Believers in Florida (hurricanes).

MEDIA CENTER

Correction: In the September issue we informed you about the new Media Center and the production of CDs. Please make all checks payable to the "American Union Media Center." Also, it was stated that the musical CD of the new *International Hymnal* was piano recordings. This was in error—the songs are played on the organ and piano. They are very beautiful. Refer to the August issue of the *Newsletter* for more details.

CALENDAR

2004-2005

1. ~~Elizabeth, NJ, evangelistic meetings, Sept. 22–25~~ (Cancelled)
2. American Union Board Meeting, Denver: Sept. 26
3. Rhode Island, evangelistic meetings: Oct. 3 - 17
4. Northeast Field Young People's Rally: Oct. 8 - 10
5. Bronx, NY, Family Reunion: Nov. 11 - 14
6. Brooklyn, NY, evangelistic crusade for young people: Dec. 24 - 27
7. International Youth Conference, Sydney, Australia: Dec. 27 - Jan. 2, 2005

Please send us brief but detailed reports of your events to include in **your** *Newsletter*

Editor's Note: We regret that we were unable to open a few of the CDs sent us. Also, sometimes there was insufficient information for publication, such as only notes..

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