

CENTER FEATURED IN EXHIBITS

by Jim Ford

Several new displays were constructed in the Center's exhibit area. In the spring, in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the formation of the General Conference in 1863, an exhibit was mounted in the large hall display case outside of the Center, describing the organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In the summer, an exhibit on Uriah Smith, an early church leader, was mounted. In late September two new exhibits were mounted. One is called *The Bible Through the Ages* and shows the development of the Bible from the earliest days of writing to the present day. The other exhibit, called *Andrews Treasures*, was put up in conjunction with the campus-wide celebration of the many treasures squirreled away across campus. This one focuses on a number of the very significant items in the Center's collection that don't usually get seen due to their rarity and fragility.



Merlin Burt talks with two attendees to the *Andrews Treasures* exhibition featured during Andrews University's Alumni weekend.



Rhonda Root, Professor of Art, describes the tapestry from Abusson, France on display in the Art and Design Gallery.

With Rebecca May and the team at Andrews University's department of Integrated Marketing and Communication, the Center was an originating and driving force behind the *Andrews Treasures* exhibition staged across the Andrews University campus from September 26 to October 26. Many of the "treasures" displayed elsewhere on campus came from the Center. Examples include prints, paintings and a tapestry that were on display in Smith Hall, and *Pitcairn* (the missionary ship) artifacts which were on display in the Seminary. Altogether there were nine different venues for the exhibition. It formed the theme for the 2013 Alumni Homecoming weekend as well.

Jim Ford, Associate Director / Care of the collection is one of the many hats worn by Jim. This particular responsibility becomes a little more stressful when items are on display instead of safely tucked away in the vault.

Carol Beal enjoys working on models of houses and has completed several. After her retirement from the finance department at Andrews University she devoted more time to her hobby. The idea came to her to construct a model of the James and Ellen White home on Wood Street in Battle Creek, Michigan. She consulted with Stan Hickerson, a local pastor and church historian, who gave her detailed sketches of the home and many helpful tips regarding the furnishing and decorations. She was even able to use the same paint as the restored home in Battle Creek.

She generously loaned her model for display during Alumni weekend and was present to answer questions.





Merlin Burt speaking in Peru to the crowd gathered to reflect on the 150 years since the organization of the General Conference.

KEEPING THE VISION ALIVE

by Merlin Burt

Twenty-thirteen, as usual, has been a busy year of traveling and presentations for me. I welcome the opportunity to share on Adventist Heritage and Ellen White however I have had to limit the number of invitations I accept.

Earlier this year in the spring, April 12-15, 2013, I presented two talks on “Lessons From Battle Creek,” for the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the General Conference. The presentations will be published in a volume by the White Estate. These were presented for world leaders of the church who were assembled for the annual spring meetings of the General Conference with about 250 leaders present.

Later in April the Hope Channel of Brazil conducted an interview with me on the organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The following month, in May 2013, the Hope Channel program broadcast the presentation on G. I. Butler from the 2013 Spring Meetings in Battle Creek, Michigan.

A few weeks later, May 26-June 1, 2013, I lectured at the Seventh-day Adventist University (IAENE) in Cachoeira, Bahia, Brazil. The Ellen G. White Research Center there, led by Gerson Rodriguez (a former student worker at the Center), organized their annual theological week that took place from May 26 to 30. Their theme centered on the 150 year anniversaries of both the official organization of the General Conference and the first major health vision of Ellen White.

On the final Sabbath, June 1, the planned symposium on Adventist history was canceled because of the tragic death of the treasurer of the University. In lieu of the symposium I joined their church family in mourning the death of our colleague in Brazil.

I was the weekend speaker for the Ohio Conference Camp Meeting at Mount Vernon Academy, June 14-15, 2013.

The following month I gave a presentation at the Sabbath convocation at the William Miller Farm, Low Hampton, New York, for the New York Conference on July 27, 2013.

An enjoyable Sabbath was speaking and fellowshiping at the Buchanan Seventh-day Adventist Church Barn camp meeting August 23-24, 2013.

In mid-October I traveled to Peru Union University located outside Lima. My few days were very busy. I spoke twice Sabbath morning, October 12th, to the university church including a dedication for 1,000 literature evangelists. There were more than 1,700 registered participants at the *150 Años of Historia* Conference including over 150 pastors with many professors from South American Division universities and local church leaders from Lima. On Sabbath afternoon and Sunday I made four more presentations based on the chapters I wrote for the book on Seventh-day Adventist history and mission that was released in advance of the conference. This is the first time I have published material in Spanish before English. It was nice to be with Gluder Quispe (a former worker at the Center) and his wife and others who I have met previously in Peru. The work is still growing rapidly in Peru even though resources are not as abundant as in the USA. I think sometimes growth is faster when there are fewer resources and more commitment.

I have set aside time this fall to concentrate on writing. The book, *Ellen White Issues* (working title), of which I am editor, will be completed by the end of the year and placed in the hands of the White Estate Board of Trustees who commissioned it.

Other writing projects include a development of Seventh-day Adventist theology textbook and chapters for two festschrifts.

Merlin Burt, Director / Enjoys being in Nature and camping in picturesque locations.

ENVIRONMENT

by Jim Ford

The Center is located in both the old and new sections of the James White Library. The front part, where the offices and public spaces are, has an inadequate control system for the environment. Hence we are often either hot or cold and the system is unable to adjust to changing conditions without intervention by Plant Service. This is especially severe during seasonal transitions in the spring and fall when the campus switches from air conditioning to heat and back again. The stacks portion of CAR is in the newer part of the building and the environment stays more constant, though humidity does fluctuate too much for optimal preservation of library materials of all types. The entire building is not on the year-round campus chilled water supply so there is no cooling potential for approximately half the year. This does cause unwanted temperature fluctuations since we are more dependent on outside air intake. Generally speaking, however, the temperature in the stacks area is fairly constant, but this year the stacks area has been warmer by about five degrees than it should be for better paper preservation. The office and public part of the Center is typically too cool which results in us using a raft of space heaters which sometimes causes the buildings' antiquated electrical system to trip.

Humidity is the largest issue affecting our collections. The significant fluctuations we experience are particularly damaging to paper-based collections such as ours. It causes repeated expansion and contraction of binding material weakening it each cycle. Additionally, the high humidity of summer encourages residual acid left in older paper after production to become "active" and begin to destroy the paper fibers. This is one cause for the yellow and brittle paper often found in old materials. The dry winter months also contribute to brittle paper.

DIGITAL ARCHIVE CAPABILITY

by Alice Williams

For many years the Andrews University Archives has been collecting paper documents. The Andrews University Archives is now able to receive and store electronic archival material. University records include all documents related to University business; examples include committee documents, accreditation records, research files, student records, publications, correspondence, subject and topical files. At present, the electronic archives holds more than 10,000 files, including the recent accreditation documentation, syllabi, and minutes of multiple committees.

The electronic archive is managed by the University Archivist in conjunction with ITS and the Center for Adventist Research (CAR). Access and the records of holdings are controlled by the Archivist. In addition, a dropbox for electronic files has been initiated. While smaller files can be e-mailed to the archivist,



Hygrometers are placed in several key areas to keep tabs on the humidity levels.

We live with an old building with inadequate environmental controls. We do have the vault independently cooled, which is wonderful. We also have the gas fire suppression system in the vault and the pre-action or dry pipe sprinkler system through the rest of the Center, which is great. We could wish for better environmental controls but we are grateful for what we have. We understand the HVAC people are actively working on a plan to upgrade some of the controls, which may help the situation, but it may be some years before these can be installed.

Though not exactly related to environment, security of our materials is always important. We are grateful that Campus security is working with us to provide visual monitoring of our vault area and is planning a more secure central locking system.

James Ford, Associate Director / Enjoys traveling with his family and most recently visited Alaska.

larger files can now be moved into the dropbox. Those depositing files can remove and modify their own files until the archivist removes them to the electronic archives.

Materials continue to be received from all over campus; from October 2012 thru September 2013 the Archives received 155 boxes and processed 135. At least 70 boxes of duplicate materials and student records were consigned to recycling. Student records were shredded for confidentiality. The backlog declined from 289 to 208 boxes. Total boxes (cubic feet) now processed into the Archives approaches 1150, representing a near doubling of the number processed before June 2010, consuming 66% of the available capacity. Plans for digitizing portions of the collection are being developed, representing a major goal for the coming year.

Alice Williams, Archivist / Enjoys creating items for the local prayer shawl ministry.

Editor: Merlin D. Burt
Layout and Design: Katy Wolfer

© 2013 Center for Adventist Research
Berrien Springs, MI 49104-1440



Andrews University

The Center for Adventist Research is a documentary collection of Adventist-related materials. It serves as an educational and research resource for Andrews University and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Center is a part of the James White Library, a Branch Office of the Ellen G. White Estate, the Andrews University Archive, and hosts the SDA Periodical Index.

ONLINE PHOTOGRAPH SEARCH

by Juliette Johnson

Work on the photograph collection slowed this year as we re-evaluated parts of our processes and the accessibility of the photographs for our patrons. This summer we designed a new interface for searching our photograph collection which is much more friendly than using our library catalog. The search will bring up results from over 13,000 photographs, many of which have updated descriptions and keywords. Users can still access the photographs from the Andrews University library catalog, but the link to view the photograph will bring them to the new interface.

We are currently focusing on scanning photographs dated prior to 1900, many of which have been stored in our vault in personal collections. The student worker we have on this project, Kevin Burton, painstakingly researches each photograph to record as much as possible about the places and people pictured within to give our users a better search experience. Unfortunately, many of the photographs we digitize have no identifying information, and these are entered as unknown and highlighted in our new website. So if you happen to have some time, please look at this album and maybe you can help us in giving these faces and places from the past a name.

ADVENTIST HISTORY TOURS

by Katy Wolfer

Sabbath, April 20, was a cold day and there was a dusting of snow when we got off the bus at our first stop of the Michigan Adventist History Tour. At this first stop we looked at the grave of Irving Guilford, nephew of William Miller. With stories relating to William Miller, the Whites, and Joseph Bates, this tour included stories of those instrumental in the founding of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Michigan Adventist History Tour is sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and included Seminary students and their families.

Our route took us by the White home in Greenville, Michigan. James, Ellen, and Willie White moved into this home in 1867 so that James could recover more fully from his stroke. We drove by Prudence and Joseph Bates home in Monterey, Michigan and we stopped at their gravesite in the Poplar Hill Cemetery. We went to the site where the *Morning Star* was launched in Allegan, Michigan. And finally to the Allegan Seventh-day Adventist Church where David Williams shared pioneer Adventist hymns and stories. Students also enjoyed ringing the church bell.

During the week of August 4-11, 2013 Merlin Burt led 53 seminary students who participated in an eight-day New England Adventist history study tour. The tour is designed to be both an academic and spiritual experience that connects future church leaders with the message and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Students, along with a few spouses, traveled to various Adventist history sites in New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine. By visiting these sites Adventist heritage becomes a living experience for the participants. The tour was sponsored by the Center for Adventist Research and the Church History Department of the Seventh day Adventist Theological Seminary.



The new website for the Center for Adventist Research Image Database features a search box, a list of the latest images added to the database, popular searches, as well as photographs with unidentified people and places.

Please visit www.centerforadventistresearch.org/photos to access the Center's new image database website.

Juliette Johnson, Digitization Manager / Juliette recently received a box of decades old photographs showing her family history. She enjoys digitizing them for her personal collection.



Merlin Burt sharing stories of Michigan Adventist Pioneers.

On Sabbath morning, September 7, 2013, the church at the Adventist Historic Village in Battle Creek, Michigan was filled with students, spouses, and faculty for the 12th annual Seminary Heritage Sabbath. It has become an integral part of the Seminary's annual calendar as an important part of the spiritual development of pastors and church workers in training. This year, James Nix, director of the Ellen G. White Estate, was the featured speaker. Jerry Moon, Stan Hickerson, Merlin Burt, and David Williams led in the Sabbath School with stories and songs from early Adventism. Tours of the village were given by Village personnel and Jonathan Burt and the cemetery tour was given by Merlin Burt. All tours were held in the afternoon along with presentations in the meeting house which were given by Lea Daniholova, Kathy Beagles, and Katrina Blue. James Nix told stories and led in singing early Advent hymns during the evening communion service. Jifi Moskala, Seminary Dean, led in the evening communion and dedication.

Katy Wolfer, Special Projects Manager / Katy enjoys taking her two-year-old son (whom she is convinced is part fish) swimming.