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Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition (The President's Page)

Jo Ann Davidson

Andrews University, jad@andrews.edu

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Jo Ann Davidson

As I write this column a few days after Thanksgiving, the spirit of that day fills my heart with joy. A chief reason: ATS scholars have just returned from Colorado Springs where they spent three days with the Evangelical Theological Society at their annual conference. Subsequently, ATS held a two-day conference around the theme "Issues of Creation and Prophecy" at Denver's South Church.

During the evangelical meeting, ATS theologians presented papers on a number of subjects, among them: The Hebrew Concept of *Sheol*, Clean and Unclean Foods of Leviticus 11, Typology of the Book of Hebrews, The Creation Account in Genesis 1 and 2, and Issues in Biblical Narratives. We thank God not only for opportunity to fellowship with our evangelical brothers and sisters, but to share the Seventh-day Adventist worldview and theological perspectives with them as well as to be blessed by their scriptural

Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition!

insights.

Bringing me particular pleasure were the many favorable comments from among the 1,300 evangelical scholars who are now receiving the *Journal of the Adventist Theological Society*. While the General Conference Ministerial Association has for years sent alternate issues of *Ministry* magazine to hundreds of thousands of non-Adventist ministers (with results far exceeding our human expectations), the ATS outreach is a first for the church to non-Adventist theologians. What wonders of witness God is opening to the honest hearts of our evangelistic colleagues as we enter critical days for our nation and the world!

Our Global Mission

I'm delighted to tell you that ATS is indeed now an international asset to the church. During the past year ATS has sponsored Bible conferences in many countries, including Austria, Germany, Australia, Singa-

pore, Myanmar (Burma), Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, and the Philippines. Our brothers and sisters have returned to their homes with a new commitment to God, the church, and its mission.

On the national scene, our Denver meeting, despite a glitch in advertising, was well attended. I especially thrilled to the keynote address by Bill Knott, an associate editor of the *Adventist Review*, who bid us linger at the burning bush and learn there, as Moses once did. Other specials: Gerhard Pfandl—from the General Conference Bible Research Institute—discussed trends in Adventist theology; Alexander Bolotnikov, from Zaokski Seminary in Russia, compared the biblical flood story with Near-Eastern myths, and pointed out the crucial differences. Pastor Larry Lichtenwalter made us yearn to wash our robes in the blood of the Lamb, as he opened Revelation 7 for us. Ed Christian, editor of *JATS*, drew important parallels between September 11 and last-day events.

Ed teaches religion and English at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania. Despite his full-time load, this talented scholar edits *JATS*, one of the two major publications of ATS. This journal contains the papers and sermons presented at ATS meetings and the national theological conferences. Our other publication, *PD*, is edited by Roland R. Hegstad, who

lends his expertise to making *PD* the quality publication you are now reading.

Hearing him think up new ways to help establish God's kingdom during ATS business meetings is inspiring!

Pass the Ammunition

Also during the past year, a number of you have linked your means with ATS in providing funds to translate the Old Testament into current Russian speech. Our treasurer, Ed Zinke, tells me that contributions have exceeded \$25,000! And translation leader Mikhail Kulakov says that his team is now putting finishing touches on the first five books! Praise the Lord!—perhaps I should add, “And pass the ammunition!” We must do more. We *will* do more. Watch for further news in *PD*.

Perhaps you're not yet a member of ATS. If you thrill with me to what the dedicated members are achieving, I'm sure the nearly 10,000 members worldwide would love to welcome you. If you've read to this point, I need not tell you what ATS is all about. If you'd just like to support ATS projects such as the Russian Bible translation or mailing *JATS* to evangelical theologians, we'll thank you heartily! Our mailing address is: Adventist Theological Society, P. O. Box 86, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. Tax receipts are available on request. □