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## Passing the Torch (The President's Page)

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Jiri Moskala\*

I have had the privilege of serving as president of the Adventist Theological Society for two and a half wonderful years (July 2002–December 2004). It is time to pass the torch, and with great joy I now put it into the hands of Larry L. Lichtenwalter.

Larry is the senior pastor of the Village Seventh-day Adventist Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan, where he has served for almost 20 years. This exceptional period of ministry to one congregation obviously says something about him as a person and as a pastor. His church members love him so much that they still want to keep him. As an adjunct professor of church leadership at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Larry inspires many Andrews University students, who love to listen to his sermons and stimulating lectures.

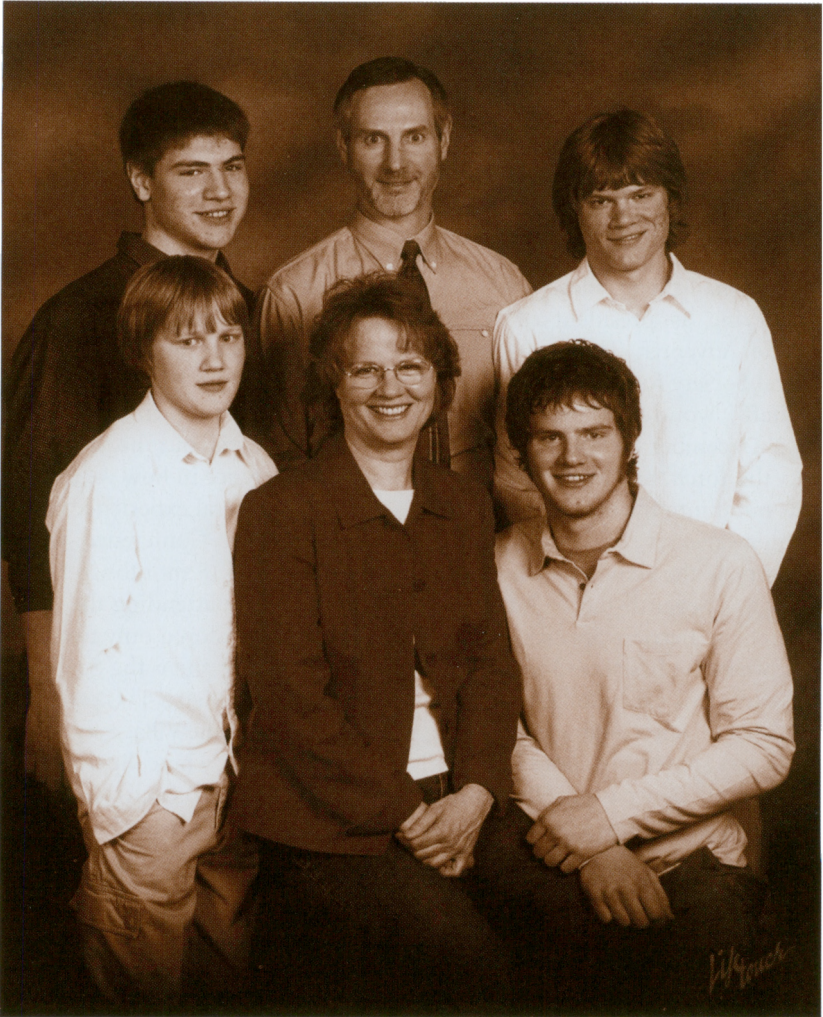
Larry first studied theology at Southern Adventist University and then completed his M.Div. degree at Andrews University. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on “Eschato-

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logical Paradigm and Moral Theory in Contemporary Christian Ethics.” His passion is to link our blessed hope in Christ’s return to practical everyday life, as our hope should make a difference in how we live.

Larry’s pastoral experience began in the Potomac Conference, where he interned for 18 months in Luray, Virginia, before attending the seminary. He has pastored only two congregations since then: the Seabrook church in the Metro D.C. area for seven years and the Village church in Berrien Springs, where he lives with his wife Kathie (Baasch) and their four sons, Erich, Ehren, Ethan, and Evan.

Beyond his pastoral responsibilities and experience, Larry has been involved in evangelistic meetings in the Ukraine as well as the U.S. He has authored many publications including books and scholarly articles. His works include books on Jacob, Joseph, David (three volumes), Esther, and Ecclesiastes. He enjoys preaching and writing from the Old Testament, but his current



**The Lichtenwaller family clockwise from top left: Ethan, Larry, Erich, Ehren, Kathy, and Evan**

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scholarly interest is in the Book of Revelation. He has memorized Revelation and recently recited it in a dramatic presentation at the close of an evangelistic series (it took 95 minutes). He has not only preached more than 50 sermons from Revelation, but also teaches seminary students how to do likewise in their ministries. He is nearing completion of a monograph on ethics in the Book of Revelation, which will be followed by two more volumes unfolding aspects of that enigmatic book that few Adventists even think about.

A much-sought-after speaker for camp meetings and workers' meetings, Larry has a repertoire of topics ranging from ministerial ethics to leadership, from personal moral life to what it means to let Jesus be Lord of your life.

Larry remembers a comment the late Edward Heppenstall made to him in a chance meeting after he finished his Master of Divinity studies: "Larry, if you ever stop studying, you will be dead from the neck up, and you won't be worth anything to God's church."

Larry links a fine sense of humor with a pastoral heart. Though not my pastor, he was the first to pray with me and for me when I moved to America. It is a real blessing to have him as a friend. Jesus is his model, and according to the divine pattern he seeks to live.

As ATS grows, new ways for advancing and maintaining unity and integrity are necessary developments. I pray that Larry will enjoy God's guidance, wisdom from above, a double portion of the Holy Spirit, firm faith, deep love, anchored hope, and an abundance of creative thoughts in his leadership position.

### Good-bye and Hello

Many thanks go to Elder Roland Hegstad, who with great enthusiasm has for more than nine years edited *Perspective Digest*. He gave this magazine his skills, creativity, sweat, and probably not a few tears to make it a readable medium for theological truths. A million thanks, Roland, for your faithful service! I wish you many bountiful and peaceful years in joy and good health without the pressure of deadlines. May God continue to bless you abundantly.

I cordially welcome our new *Perspective Digest* editor, Gary Swanson. (See "Work Station One" for a more thorough introduction.) The officials of the Adventist Theological Society are delighted that he has accepted this challenging responsibility. We wish him God's generous blessing in his ministry, so that this magazine will continue to be an encouragement, light, and educational resource to its readers and thus a special tool to the glory of God.