



Naming Names | BY BONNIE DWYER

As a child, I found the begats of Matthew 1 puzzling. Why did the Bible need this long, long list of names? Would it not have been sufficient to say Jesus was a relative of David's?

A trip with my eighty-seven-year-old father answered my question in a new way. Story Corps, the program broadcast on National Public Radio, was in Sacramento. I made an appointment to interview my dad, knowing the recent death of a cousin had left him feeling a need to tell the stories he had heard as a child in his grandparents' home many years before—stories of the Millerite woman who had convinced his grandmother's mother of the soon coming of Christ. Soon I was counting generations as dad named names.

The next day, the awareness dawned again during the Adventist name game that occurs every time one is introduced to someone new, and you discover that the degrees of separation within the Adventist family are very slight. I was charmed by the fact that not only is the story of salvation specific in the Gospels, it becomes specific again in the families and generations of Adventism.

In this issue of *Spectrum*, we find the story of Adventism in historians, musicians, scientists/birders, and artist/birders, among others. We see the story stretching back in time and forward, thanks to Keith Lockhart and Malcolm Bull.

Benjamin McArthur tells the story of one historian from the 1970s who dug into the papers of Ellen White. More stories from that era beg to be told. We look forward to the day when Ronald Numbers and Roy Branson, for instance, write their own and their family stories.

Kendra Haloviak puts the stories of our ancestors and contemporaries together to offer a new way of understanding the concept of sanctuary. As we weep with our forebears, we gain appreciation for how we arrived at this doctrine and gain new insights about how to treasure it

again in a very concrete way.

This exchange of Adventist story is also what takes place on the *Spectrum* Web site. It certainly is a unique place within Adventism, where people from around the world get to talk to each other and share stories. We regularly have exchanges between college students and retirees. Crossing generational as well as geographic lines is one of the beauties of the Internet. We have highlighted this type of conversation in the Blog excerpts in this issue. And we invite you to join the online conversation regularly at <www.spectrummagazine.org>.

Lastly, there are resources available to you to search church documents to find information about your relatives. General Conference archivist Bert Haloviak can help guide you. His daughter, Kendra, told me about the session he led demonstrating the process to people at La Sierra University.

"Adventist Archives is word searchable," she said, "and you can plug in your relatives and find all kinds of exciting things. My dad was showing students, pastors, and community members how to do this. It was amazing. Ralph Watts was in the audience and dad found several things he didn't know about his family. Also, the Geraty family learned some things about Hazel McVicker Geraty. An obscure document that Charles Teel has been wanting was located. In another interesting moment, one of our graduate students learned that he is related to Fritz Guy!"

Well, I had to try it out. I went to <adventistarchives.org> and searched my father's name. Up popped a story from the 1935 *Columbia Union Visitor* about students at Mt. Vernon Academy—including my dad. Amazing.

When you get to know the people story of Adventism, you can't help but be drawn in. Welcome to this "People" issue of *Spectrum*. ■