

# Church News

## The Revelation of Salvation - Angel Manuel Rodriguez

**Editor's Note:** *The Moral Influence theory has begun to "influence" many in recent years. As you can see from the following study, this theory contains some serious flaws. I share the following with permission from the Biblical Research Institute of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to make you aware of this problematic teaching.*

**Q:** How are we saved? What is the moral influence view of the cross?

**A:** For centuries Christians have attempted to explain how Jesus' death on the cross saves us. We call these explanations "theories of the atonement." One of them is known as the "moral influence theory" of the atonement. I will summarize its content, its strengths, and, finally, offer an evaluation of it.

**1. Summary of Its Teaching:** There are slight variations of the moral influ-

ence theory, but among its central aspects we find the following ideas. First, the cross is understood to be the supreme revelation of God's love. There, God identified Himself



with us to the point of going through what we all experience, namely, death. Second, the manifestation of God's love was so full that as a result we are transformed by it. That is called "the moral influence of the cross." The voluntary death of Christ on the cross awakens in us love toward God; it changes our attitude toward Him and moves us to exemplify His love in our lives.

Obviously, there is ab-

solutely nothing wrong with this understanding of the saving efficacy of the cross. Scripture attests that the cross is the most glorious manifestation of the sacrificial love of Christ toward sinners (e.g., John 3:16), and His death should move us to manifest the same quality of love in our lives. But some significant weaknesses in this theory limit its usefulness.

**2. It Denies a Central Aspect of the Atonement:** One of the fundamental problems of the moral influence view is that it rejects the substitutionary nature of Christ's death. The idea that God had to kill the innocent instead of the guilty in order to save us is considered a violation of justice. Yet the witness of Scripture is that Christ died as our substitute (e.g., Isa. 53; Mark 10:45; 2 Cor. 5:21).

*Continued on page*

### Inside this issue:

School Report	2
Personal Ministries Minute	3
Safety Issues	4
Church Directory	5
Treasurer's Corner	6
Church Calendar	7
From the Pastor's Desk	8

### Mother's Day Brunch



**When:**

Sunday, May 18  
from 9-10:30AM

**Where:**

The Family Life Center

**Who:**

Everyone

## School Report—Gay Knapp



**Y**our Inez Wrenn Adventist School has lots of news! I am excited to share the following information and events with you.

\* We officially have a new principal for next year! Mr. Mark Anderson has accepted the invitation to head up our school this coming year. Mark comes to Inez Wrenn School with a wealth of successful experience as a principal and teacher. He is currently at the Highland Elementary in Portland, TN where he has served as the principal and teacher of various grades for many years. We look forward to welcoming him to our school and church and look forward to many years under his able leadership.

\* As we sadly bid farewell to Mike

Stovall as school board chair we also look with appreciation to Tammy Kellogg for accepting the position for the coming school year. She has been nominated by the school board and now we just have to make it official through the proper channels for church office. Thank you to Tammy for taking this volunteer position!

\* We are happy to announce that we have been approved by the Southern Union Office of Education to offer ninth grade this coming year. They

have expressed confidence in our program and in the quality education they believe our students are receiving. A big thank you to next year's teaching staff for taking on the added load that this program involves. At the same time we are excited to know that some in our eighth grade class are planning to stay and continue their education as ninth graders at Inez Wrenn School.

ject has already produced some impressive findings. These findings include the following facts.

1. Students in Seventh-day Adventist schools score higher than the national average. (The national average includes students in public, private, and parochial schools.)

2. Students in Seventh-day Adventist schools achieve above their

personal predicted achievement at every ability level **REGARDLESS** of size of school, **REGARADLESS** of the number of students in the classroom.

This means...

1. Students in Seventh-day Adventist schools score above the national average in **READING, MATH, LANGUAGE ARTS, SOCIAL STUDIES, SCIENCE, and SOURCES OF INFORMA-**

**TION.**

2. These results are the **SAME** for small schools with small classes as well as large schools with large classes!

We can praise the Lord for this confirmation of the quality of our schools. At the same time we need to personally do everything we can to assist every child in attending our schools. Our children will experience a quality education where faith and learning are integrated.

### *Statistics to Shake Us*

**36 Years** is the median age of American citizens.

**58 Years** is the median age of people in our North American Division churches including the children who are not yet baptized. (Have you looked around our sanctuary at Sabbath School time and counted the number of adults in attendance who are not in their retirement years?)

**51% of people leaving** our churches in N.A. are in their 20's.

**Birth-13 Years** is the most strategic age to accept Jesus. A person's spiritual identity is set at age 13.

\* Did you know that our school is taking part in a division-wide research project to identify the strengths and weaknesses of Adventist education? Yes, for the last two years parents, students, and teachers have filled out questionnaires and students' standardized achievement test results have been followed.

Over 3,000 students in grades 3-9 and 11 enrolled in S.D.A. schools are participating. This ongoing pro-

## School Report -Continued

\*A BIG THANK YOU to all who have volunteered at the school this year. Each person's time and efforts have contributed to the success of our mission. Whether you cleaned, repaired, supervised, answered the phone, sold fruit, prayed, served lunch, have driven for trips, taught in the music program, or donated money your contribution has been appreciated.

You have helped to make a quality Adventist Christian education affordable and successful. Thanks!

\*Upcoming events are as follows.

-Awards Night at Inez Wrenn School on Monday, May 12, 6:30 p.m. in the FLC.

Come and enjoy the evening as each child is recognized for their accomplishments. Also there will be an exhibit of some of the most recent art projects including acrylic paintings by the students in grades 3-8.

-Eighth Grade Graduation on Thursday, May 22, 7 p.m. in the church. A reception will follow in the FLC.

We have five wonderful eighth graders this year. Stephanie Bailey, Nathan Chung, Eric Hickman, Bethany Jenkins, and Tara Spurrier will be receiving their diplomas. We encourage you to come out and celebrate this milestone.

- August 11, the first day of the 2008-09 school year.

As we close out another school year on the hill let's thank God for His blessing and provision for our needs. Let us pray for each of the students to stay close to Jesus as they go about their summer activities. Let us begin planning now how we can support the school this coming year through volunteering at work bees, serving in fruit sales programs, serving as hall monitors, making financial contributions, or praying on behalf of the students and teachers.

Thank you again for your support.

Gay Knapp, Principal

## Personal Ministries Minute - Kevin Zais



**I** forgive you." These are perhaps some of the most powerful words known by man. Forgiveness is so easy to

talk about, yet so very difficult to live at times. We all have a hard time forgiving one another, and forgiveness, the process of forgiving and being forgiven is vital to our peace of mind and our relationship with God as well as each other. Picture forgiveness as a bridge for a **minute**. When an injustice stops the flow of love, we seek the way back to love over the bridge of forgiveness. Let us also, for a **minute**, picture the meekness involved to forgive an injustice, meekness = accepting an injustice with patience and without resentment.

Peace comes when we really believe

that God through Jesus Christ has forgiven us and continues to be willing to forgive us when we confess our mistakes and weaknesses to Him and to each other.

"Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;" Heb 12: 14-15

"Bring your petitions, and return to the Lord. Say to Him, "Forgive all our sins and graciously receive us, so that we may offer you the sacrifice of praise" Hosea 14:2

Praise for how great our God is.

Let us always remember that the mandate of forgiveness is so central

to our faith, that to ignore it is to ignore our very salvation.

So in this **minute** let us look at **The Model Prayer**.

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matthew 6: 9-15

## Safety Issues Here & There - Jerry Coyle

**T**he Lord has blessed the Crossville congregation with a beautiful and functional property on which to worship, study, witness and play. Perhaps you have been here since its purchase years ago, or maybe you're new. We have all been blessed by our Heavenly Father with life, and **LIFE IS PRECIOUS**. We are duty bound to practice safety in all of our interaction with one another. Sometimes we need a little reminder.

Several years ago your Safety Committee studied some safety issues concerning our convenient drive-up at the church entrance. The covered area has been a great blessing to many who, for personal reasons, wish to deliver and/or pick up passengers closer to the door. That is no problem.....that's the reason for the drive-up. We are not trying to discourage that practice. The committee felt that it would be well to go over the plan and emphasize ways in which the plan would work more smoothly and more safely.

Drivers face an attractive sign near the church door, which designates the point at which passengers should be delivered and/or picked up. There is a **RED ARROW** as the designated area for passengers to be delivered upon arrival or awaiting their ride home. This is very, very important from a safety standpoint which we will explain below. First let us tell you that the following practice can be accomplished safely and painlessly **IF THE DRIVER WILL GO FORWARD UNTIL THE DRIVER'S**

**WINDOW IS EVEN WITH THE PILLAR WHERE THE MAILBOX IS ATTACHED**. This accomplishes a favorable situation for pedestrians coming up the steps from the parking lot or going to the parking lot by means of the stairway. The car or van will not be blocking the way for pedestrian traffic.



But it's not just a matter of "convenience" but a matter of **SAFETY**. If the vehicle is blocking a direct path from the door to the stairway, people have to choose to go around the **FRONT** of the vehicle **OR** go behind it. Children who might break away from a parent's side may pass in **FRONT** of the vehicle at the same moment the driver begins to move forward. Many of you have seen those exact circumstances happen right on our driveway. Now, what kind of a Christian could excuse such a tragedy by saying at the hospital (or funeral home), "His mother should have been watching."

Persons waiting at the door for their transportation won't have to walk more than **SIX STEPS** farther with our recommended program than they would if the vehicle is sitting straight in front of the door. **EVERY-ONE WINS** if we do it right.

Please! Let's do it in the recommended way, even if we "think" or "know" that we won't block any spot very long. Drive up until your driver's window is even with the pillar and the arrow, discharge your passenger, and carefully take your vehicle to a parking space. Again, **PLEASE** give full cooperation and make it a safe success.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH** for your consideration of this important appeal.

*Elder Jerry Coyle serves as the Safety Officer for our church.*

### Helpful Web Sites



[www.jott.com](http://www.jott.com)—this handy site allows you to set up a free account whereby you can dial a toll free number and leave a reminder for yourself or a friend and have it automatically transcribed into an email which is then placed in the recipients inbox.

[religiousliberty.info](http://religiousliberty.info)—this site makes it easy to write our elected government officials regarding key religious liberty issues. It also allows you to register for free news updates via email.

[www.bestbookbuys.com](http://www.bestbookbuys.com)—this site searches several books stores all at the same time and displays the best price for a book. It even takes into account shipping.

[www.circleup.com](http://www.circleup.com)— this free site makes gathering information from a large body of people simple and fun.

# Church Directory Update

Our church directory is unique in that it can be updated by simply adding pages as members join. It's been well over a year since our last update and we want to make sure everyone is included. If you need to update your information or are currently not listed, please fill out the form below and submit it to the pastor immediately. Also notify us if you need a directory. When submitting your information, please include a picture or contact me to have a photo made. Thank you!

## Personal Information Sheet

Please Print Legibly:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ (m/d)

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Member at Crossville since \_\_\_\_\_ (year)

Wedding Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list three different hobbies or interests that you enjoy such as photography, hiking, travel, astronomy, etc.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please list three different talents or skills that God has given you such as piano, sewing, typing, landscaping, writing etc.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please list your past experience in church work such as small group leader, sound operator, primary teacher, literature evangelism, etc:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that this information will be shared with the church family:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Revelation of Salvation - *continued*

In the atonement God Himself voluntarily assumed responsibility for our sin. This is a glorious manifestation of divine grace, not an injustice. Atonement is God's work for us; it is a matter between Him and us. No third party is involved.

**3. Narrow View of the Human Predicament:** The moral influence view presupposes that the human tragedy of sin is located in misinformation about God. We do not need deliverance from the power of sin, but from our ignorance about His loving character. Humans, it is argued, view God as a tyrant who imposes on them arbitrary demands and disciplines them.

The cross saves by changing their understanding of God. Such opinion does not square with the biblical view of sin and its impact on humans. Sin is intentional rebellion against God,

which has separated us from Him. It is not simply solved by a change in us (a subjective atonement), but by a divine intervention that removes barriers and brings reconciliation (objective atonement).

**4. Separation of Judgment From Love:** When the atonement is circumscribed to God's work in us, His judgment against sin is considered incompatible with His love. This, as we have argued on other occasions, makes love a synonym for divine indifference. Judgment against sin means that God takes our actions seriously because He cares about us. But more than that, it means that He was willing and able to assume that judgment against us on the cross. God's wrath is an expression of divine love; it reveals a God who cares for us to the point of showing us how painful sin is for Him.

**5. Love and the Cross:** Perhaps the fundamental question is how the cross reveals love. The moral influence theory argues that it shows love in that Christ, the Innocent, died there identifying Himself with us; but not dying in our place. But many other persons died on crosses. Why is the cross of Christ a revelation of the love of God, but not the others? Yes, the Sinless One died there, but there is more. He died for sinners to save them through His atoning sacrifice (Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:10).

Christ's death is indeed the greatest revelation of God's love because on it "God was reconciling the world to Himself ... not counting men's sins against them," but rather making "him who had no sin to be sin for us" (2 Cor. 5:19-21, NIV).

---

## Treasurer's Corner—Bob Windscheffel

What a thrill it was to count the money and do the deposit for the Church on Saturday night, April 26<sup>th</sup>! As most of you know we had an anonymous donor(s) make an offer to the Church Body. It stated that if we would meet the Budget for the Church and the Family Life Center plus give an additional \$3,000.00 towards the Family Life Center loan for April, he/she would match the \$3,000.00. Well, I started going through the Tithe envelopes and soon had the feeling that if we didn't make it we would be very close. I got everything counted and

did the computer entry, and guess what???? We not only met the proposal, we went over!! How nice is that?



I have to tell you about one envelope! There was no name on it so I think I can tell it without any problem. It really got to me, I almost cried. I thought of the Widow and her mite, and Jesus telling the people that she had given more than anyone. The only

thing on the envelope was a little note that said "Not much but all I can give. Use as you want". On the inside was a one-dollar bill and two dimes (\$1.20). I put it towards the Family Life Center thinking that God would surely bless all the donations because someone had given their all. I really believe God will truly bless that person, as I'm sure He will bless everyone that gave.

May God richly bless each one who gave in faith to Him.

# ▶ May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Morning Worship— Pastor Jeremy Vespers 7pm
4	5 School Board 5PM	6	7 Bible in 90 Days 6:30PM	8	9	10 Morning Worship— Laurel Brook Academy Choir Vespers 7:30pm
11	12 Inez Wrenn School Awards Night 6:30pm @ FLC	13 Church Board	14 Bible in 90 Days 6:30PM	15	16	17 Morning Worship— Pastor Jeremy Vespers 7:30pm
18	19	20	21 Bible in 90 Days 6:30PM	22 Inez Wrenn School Graduation 7PM	23	24 Morning Worship— Pastor Jeremy Vespers 7:30pm
25 Heritage Gradua- tion 10AM	26 <i>Memorial Day</i>	27	28 Bible in 90 Days 6:30PM	29 <u>Collegedale Camp Meeting May 28-31</u>	30	31 Morning Worship— <u>Flder Jensen</u> Vespers 7:30pm

# ▶ June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Bible in 90 Days 6:30PM	5	6	7 Morning Wor- ship—Pastor Jeremy Vespers 7:30pm
8	9	10 Church Business Meeting 6:30pm	11 Bible in 90 Days 6:30PM	12	13	14 Morning Wor- ship—Pastor Jeremy Vespers 7:30pm
15	16	17	18 Bible in 90 Days 6:30PM	19 <u>Deer Lodge Camp Meeting June 19-21</u>	20	21 Morning Wor- ship— Vespers 7:30pm
22	23	24	25 Bible in 90 Days 6:30PM	26	27	28 Morning Wor- ship—Doug Baker Vespers 7:30pm
29	30	1 Church Board 5:30pm	2 No Prayer Meeting	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5 Morning Worship— Pastor Jeremy Vespers 7:30pm

Crossville Seventh-day Adventist Church  
PO Box 645  
Crossville, TN 38557

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE.

Visit us at  
[www.crossvillesdachurch.org](http://www.crossvillesdachurch.org)

## From the Pastor's Desk



I received a phone call on the 1st of May inviting me to learn more about the work of Hope for Humanity down in South Africa. During a two week stint in July, I along with three others in our conference will tour the work being done to combat aids and other serious problems facing some of the peoples of South Africa. Because of this opportunity, we will need to reschedule once again our prophecy series. I can't help but think that perhaps this is God's way of letting us know that July wasn't the best time after all. The new dates will be the four or five weeks prior to Thanksgiving. This

means we have extra time to prepare for this big event. More Bible studies can be given, more outreach projects can be endeavored, and more friendships can be established. So far this year we have held or are holding a CHIP seminar, a free Photo shoot, a men's seminar, a Bible Correspondence school, the Bible in 90 Days, and the colporteurs are currently covering Crossville, which in turn makes us aware of Bible study interests. Now, with three additional months, we can accomplish more in way of preparations. First of all, I would ask you to continue praying. Pray that the Lord will prepare the hearts of those who should attend and if they have yet to be contacted, that He will lead you to meet them.

In addition to preparing for the prophecy series this fall, I will be busy this summer helping out with two separate camp meetings, speak for a Youth Rally in Augusta, GA at the end of June, visit South Africa's Hope for Humanity projects and attend ministers meetings. I am thankful to be a part of such a loving and supportive church that covers their pastor in prayer and joins him in working for the growth of God's kingdom. Let's pray that as 2008 pans out, we might see the Power of God displayed miraculously.

Sincerely,

*Pastor Jeremy*