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Meet the Man Behind the Words

Boyer Writes 190th Poem as McDonald Road Church Poet Laureate

By Melissa Turner, editor

Adrian Boyer sits in the quiet of his library at home, with bookcase-covered walls holding his 5,000 volume collection. "I love literature. And I love writing poetry," Boyer says with a warm smile.

Boyer has received the distinction of being McDonald Road's poet laureate, as he wrote a poem for the church's dedication in 1985 and has been writing poems each month for the Manna since 1988. This month's Manna poem marks Boyer's 190th poem published in the church newsletter.

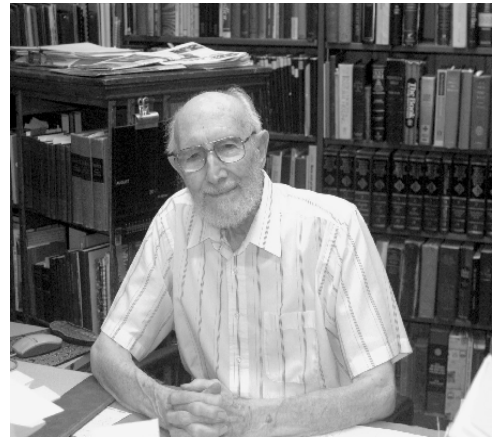


photo by Melissa Turner

Adrian Boyer, McDonald Road poet laureate

as he could find odd jobs to pay for his tuition. In college, Boyer found more opportunities for writing on the school newspaper staff and in writing poems for each of the sections of the school yearbook.

After college, Boyer found work at a newspaper in North Carolina, where his room and board was paid for. But soon Boyer's funds were depleted and he had to return home to New Jersey to find more steadily-paying work.

Boyer met Bette-Jane at the terminal in Washington, D.C. when he arrived from North Carolina. They had met in New Jersey during his college years. After he had found work at the Veteran's Administration, Boyer asked Bette-Jane to marry him. "I thought he was never going to ask me," she says, with a twinkle in her eye.

After working in the insurance business for 14 years, Boyer received a job offer to work as a sales representative for Battle

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McDonald Road in Verse...

"There's a Chapel in the Valley. . .down McDonald Road a way,

Where the Faithful every Sabbath. . .come to worship and to pray.

"There's a Chapel in the Valley. . .where God's Chosen find a Place,

And with one accord they worship. . .every Sabbath by His Grace."

~written by Adrian Boyer for the McDonald Road SDA Church dedication in 1985

Boyer and his wife, Bette-Jane, also happen to be charter members of the McDonald Road Church. The second week the church met, Boyer was asked to teach a Sabbath school class. He spent the next 25 years teaching that class, just recently retiring from that position.

Boyer was born in Buffalo, N.Y. on December 15, 1912. He spent his school years in New Jersey, where he was raised by his grandmother and went to church school for all but two years. It was during Boyer's academy experience that he discovered literature and his interest in poetry.

"I had a good teacher who stressed literature and poetry. She would sit behind her desk and read to us at lunch," Boyer reminisces.

One day Boyer wrote his own poem in class and his teacher took notice of it. Later on, for his academy graduation, Boyer was invited to write the class poem and the lyrics for the class song.

Following academy, Boyer attended Washington Missionary College off and on

Pastor's Challenge



Pastor Paul Carlson

Is the Sabbath an Arbitrary Test of Obedience?

Have you heard that before? Perhaps we should consider how Jesus treated the Sabbath. He usually got into the most trouble on Sabbath, didn't He? Mark 2 is a good example.

"One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. And the Pharisees were saying to him, 'Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?'" (Mark 2:23-24, ESV)

Where's that rule? In the Sabbath commandment it says, "you shall not do any work." And yet it doesn't define what is work. It was the Mishna that defined 39 different kinds of work, according to human thinking. But God didn't come up with that. Jews did.

Notice Jesus' extraordinary answer. "And he said to them, 'Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, in the time of

Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?'" (Mark 2:25-26, ESV)

In other words, Jesus reasoned, under certain circumstances, people are more important than rules. Even the Sabbath, He says, was made for us; we aren't made for the Sabbath. It was to be a blessing, but they were making it a burden and a curse. The Pharisees would have the disciples starve till sundown. God was saying, let them relieve their pangs of hunger.

So what do you think about the One who gave us the Sabbath defending and explaining it in this way? Does He sound arbitrary?

They thought Jesus was loose and heretical. Today they would use another word—liberal. In fact, Jesus wasn't ever criticized for being a conservative or a fanatic, but for being liberal and heretical. Actually, liberal is a very good word. Have you ever heard of the elder on Sabbath morning calling for a conservative offering?

Although the Pharisees observed the Sabbath in an arbitrary manner, Jesus certainly didn't. The Sabbath actually gives us opportunity to reflect on all the memories that are associated with it, from the creation of the world in six days to the Exodus and even the death of Jesus on the cross. Within the context of the great controversy, we are to remember these evidences that God is not as Satan has represented Him.

So there is a beautiful reason for the Sabbath and it is not meant to be anything arbitrary at all, but something beneficial. Most of all, the God behind the Sabbath is anything but arbitrary.



Manna

The Manna is the official newsletter of the McDonald Road Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is published monthly and distributed to members and friends of the church. Items of interest to the McDonald Road Church family should be submitted in typewritten form at the church office (see address, fax number, and office hours below) or by email to Manna@mcdonald.southern.edu.

Materials for this newsletter should be submitted no later than the third Friday of each month prior to publication. To ensure accuracy, submissions by telephone are not preferred.

Head of the Church	Jesus Christ
Pastor	Don Gettys
Associate/Youth Pastor	Kent Crutcher
Associate Pastor	Paul Carlson
Church Secretary	Kim Rollins
Newsletter Editor	Melissa Turner

The church office is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise announced. Visit our church Web site at <http://mcdonald.southern.edu>

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Sermon Schedule

- "Spreading the Flame" Sabbath, September 3
- by Pastor Kent Crutcher
- "Freeing the Flame" Sabbath, September 10
- by Pastor Paul Crutcher
- "Living with His Power" Sabbath, September 17
- by Pastor Don Gettys
- Pathfinder Sabbath Sabbath, September 24

The Promise

By Adrian Boyer

*“And this is the promise that He hath
promised us, even eternal life.”*

1 John 2:25

I

Though we may never meet again
In this sad Life of Care,
We'll all unite one Day to greet
Each other over There.

II

We'll fellowship together then
Beside the tideless Sea,
And hold sweet Converse with our
Friends
Throughout Eternity.

III

The Promise God has given us,
That we need never part,
Nor feel that longing Loneliness
That grieves the aching Heart.

IV

“Ye blessed of my Father, Come,”
Our Saviour's Voice entreats;
Then we shall all with one Accord
Assemble at His Feet.

V

No parting Tear the Eye shall dim;
No disappointing Sigh
Will there be heard or woeful Word,
In God's Sweet Bye and Bye.

VI

In a little While, Though long it seem,
Our waiting will be o'er,
And we shall never say “Good-bye”
To our loved Ones anymore.

VII

So pray that Patience may possess
Your Soul and thus endure,
For in the End you can depend
God's Promises are sure.

Support Our Troops!

*Get Involved with McDonald Road
Church's Service Personnel Ministry*
Contact Ann Davis, Service Personnel
Ministry Director, at 396-2966 or e-mail
her at scottsmom1983@yahoo.com for
more information on how you can help.

Adventurers Celebrate Investiture, End of Year

By Cathy Still

The Adventurers are off and running for another great year. Registration was Aug. 10, and this year promises another outstanding group of kids and their families. Already on the schedule are lots of fun activities and outings. This year there will be a special class for the 4-year-olds called the "Little Lambs." They are indeed precious little lambs, and are so excited to be included with the "big kids."

The club has already met for the first time on Aug. 17 with a potluck supper under the pavilion. It was a great evening of fellowship, and gave everyone a chance to get acquainted. After the meal, the kids divided into their classes, and had a full evening of activities. Some of the older kids began the requirements for the Geologist award.

The Adventurer Club is an active ministry for kids ages four to 10 and their families. Parents are integrally involved with their child at each meeting. Look for the Adventurers every other Wed. evening from 6-7:30 p.m. in the family center. You will see an eager group worshipping, praising and learning about their God.

"Boyer" continued from page 1

Creek health foods, which was eventually bought out by Worthington Foods. Boyer and his wife enjoyed working for the health food industry. They would make their rounds to the camp meetings throughout the Southern Union, putting on demonstrations and promoting Worthington products. "We were able to go to camp meetings with all our expenses paid and we took the kids with us. It was great," Boyer says.

Boyer retired in 1977. He has been enjoying reading, writing poetry and keeping up with friends ever since. He has also been actively involved with volunteering at the Samaritan Center over the years, helping pick up donated items from the drop-off bin behind the Village Market and delivering them to the center.

Feature

Seeing the Face of Jesus

Re-discovering God's Passion for Social Service, Loving Our Neighbors as Ourselves

By Melissa Turner, editor

There is a story I heard when I was a teenager that comes back to haunt me every now and then, as it has just recently as I've now been thinking about our roles as disciples of Jesus Christ.

A mission program from the San Diego area takes place in Tijuana, Mexico every three weeks to provide the people there with food, clothing, a shower and literature. One day at the Tijuana mission, a young girl and her youth pastor were confronted by a man who was covered with a soiled, smelly garment, matted hair and beard and followed by a swarm of flies.

The man held his right cheek as he spoke to their translator in Spanish. The translator asked if the girl and the pastor would be willing to help the man get cleaned up. They agreed and turned to get some supplies. As they came back toward the man, he removed his hand, and to their horror, the flesh of his cheek fell to the ground, revealing a maggot-covered crater.

The girl ran to the front of the group's van as the pastor leaped frantically for the rear of the van. A few moments later, the girl came back from her safe haven and confronted the man with an outstretched hand. As the pastor returned to the scene, he saw the girl was scooping maggots out of the man's cheek with her hand.

Struck by awe, the pastor asked the girl later on, "How did you do that? Didn't you throw up when you were at the front of the van? That's what I was doing at the back of the van, and I just assumed that you were too."

The girl explained to the pastor, "No, when I was at the front of the van I prayed to God: 'Please God, help me to be able to see Jesus' face in this man! Give me the strength to take care of him!' and as I was cleaning his face, I was cleaning the face of my Jesus!"

The underlying principles in this story

beg us to ask ourselves if we, as Christ's disciples, are purposefully setting out to love our neighbors as ourselves each day. Paul reminds us of the importance of doing things in love: "If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing," I Corinthians 13:3.

Pastor Dwight Nelson, in his recent book, *Pursuing the Passion of Jesus*, expounds on the social service God asks of us in Isaiah 58. Nelson points out the difference between "Orthodoxy" [Greek: "right opinion"] and "Orthopraxy" [Greek: "right action"] or "talking the talk" and "walking the walk." So

what is the "walking the walk" that God speaks of so passionately in Isaiah?

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?" Isaiah 58:6, 7.

Doesn't this passage from Isaiah 58 sound strikingly similar to what Jesus mentioned in Matthew 25? "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was in prison and you came to visit me," Matthew 25:35, 36.

God is passionate about helping those in need. And He will bless us, as He blessed that young girl from San Diego, when we step out in faith to lovingly touch the face of Jesus in others. Let's reach out and share the love that we have received, and, in so doing, we will see the face of Jesus in those whom we help and love along life's way. And, in turn, they too will see the face of Jesus through our actions of love to them.



Critter Corner

Uncle Burney's

"Woodchucks and Kudzu"

How much kudzu could a woodchuck cut if a woodchuck could cut kudzu? The fact is, they can cut a lot of it and eat it too. My son and I have been putting our boat in at the same boat ramp on the Tennessee River for the past 17 years. There is a long bank along one side of the parking area that is covered with kudzu most of the year. Nearly every time we go fishing during the spring and summer, a family of woodchucks or groundhogs (as some people would call them) is there to greet us. You would never know that they were there except they love to stand up just on the edge of their burrows barely above the green leaves to look around. These particular groundhogs have bright rusty-colored fur from digging their burrows in the red clay. The real color of these chunky little animals comes in various shades of brown with gray and black-tipped fur. They are hibernators and come out only after a long winter's nap to start eating right away. Since kudzu vines come back year after year from their roots, the woodchucks can eat all the leaves they want without destroying their cover. It seems that kudzu and groundhogs were made for each other. The leaves grow back very fast much to everyone's dismay, except for the woodchucks. This kudzu vine not only covers their holes, but it also provides hidden pathways to their favorite feeding spots where they seem to all gather as a family and dine on what else? Kudzu leaves.

Kudzu was imported for cattle food but has not been as glorious as our Agriculture Department had hoped. It's a vine that has taken over many forest and roadside banks and it has devastated farms and destroyed valuable natural plants. It has, however, helped in some ways to cover up some very ugly spots. Not many miles from where I live, during the summer there is a beautiful green valley with roll-

ing waves of kudzu vines. But during the winter, this lush green valley becomes an ugly valley of rusted, beat up old automobiles. Even here woodchucks have found a home under the old cars and are getting fat on the kudzu. On the good side, this kudzu plant has helped to prevent erosion in many areas where loggers carelessly cut down the forest for timber. It has also provided some food for cows and the blossoms provide nectar for hummingbirds and for bees



to make their honey.

Woodchucks, or groundhogs, have learned to live around people and even have learned to dine on human table scraps. However, this is not a good practice. Soon they work toward your garden and that's where the groundhog wars begin. These fat, little rascals can dig under a fence or turn a small hole in the fence into a much bigger one and even occasionally climb over the fence. On one occasion, I watched one climb up a tree eight or 10 feet above the ground to eat some young leaves. They can be fairly good climbers. We have had them for pets and if they have been caught very young can be easily tamed. The problem is, when they

are grown and weigh 15 to 20 pounds what are you going to do with them then? The best way to enjoy this unique creature is at a distance. If one makes his home under your house or under your shed, get a professional to come out to trap and move him back to the woods. Usually they have multiple den entrances making it very difficult to get rid of them.

Since the late 1800s here in America, the tradition of Groundhog Day has been observed. This is a fun day and is an excuse for many people to visit the home of Punxsutawney Phil the most famous groundhog in the world. This is the time that he comes out of his hole and predicts the weather for the next six weeks. An old legend says that if a groundhog comes out of his hole on February 2nd and sees his shadow there will be six more weeks of winter. If no shadow is seen there will be an early spring. Old Phil has been making these predictions for over 119 years and who really cares if he's right or wrong. It was fun and Phil has been a great ambassador for groundhogs and other animals.

For the most part, groundhogs are very secretive except when you see them eating along the roadside. They don't seem to be afraid of cars. Their burrows connect under ground and some rooms are lined with grass and dead leaves and are used for beds where they hibernate and have their young. Remember this is all done in the dark, sometimes 10 to 15 feet under ground. These little diggers have cousins all across America like the marmot and the prairie dog. Old groundhog burrows also provide homes for snakes, lizards and box turtles in the winter.

Often as I turn the pages of the Bible, I can see down through the ages where mankind has turned a blind eye or ear to the wisdom so abundantly available to them in the world of nature. Pray for wisdom and knowledge and God will bless you and give you insight to the world He created.

Church Library Is Open, Ready for Visitors

By Carolyn Zacharias

The McDonald Road Church library, at least temporarily, has a new home. As you enter the sanctuary it is in the room to the right. Come check it out and also possibly check out a book or two, or perhaps a video, DVD or some tapes!

We will try to keep the library door open at all times for your convenience. On most Sabbaths a librarian will be available to help you make selections, and/or explain check-out procedures at the end of Sabbath School classes and after second service. If there is not a librarian present, there are simple check-out instructions and a shelf-list directory by the yellow tray on check-out shelf.

Please do not borrow materials without checking them out. That way we will know where they are, *and* can continue to leave the library unlocked. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

NEW 2005 LIBRARY BOOKS:

Following are two brand new books from the ABC on display in the library. These are now available to check out:

248.4 ASK GOD FOR A MIRACLE
Chu Church, Ginger

Ask God for a miracle and your life will never be the same again. Expect the unexpected!

133.4 HOUR OF THE WITCH
Woh Wohlberg, Steve

Penetrating insights into this apocalyptic phenomenon as it explores the controversial world of Wicca Witchcraft, *Harry Potter*, and the Bible.

Hurry!!! The early bird gets the worm—or the book!

Collegedale School System Starts Year With New Faculty, Classes

News Release from the Greater Collegedale School System

The 2005-2006 school year has started off and we have had a great beginning to the school year. As usual the summer months were busy and brought significant change to our school. We have brought two new teachers to our campus for this school year. Ms. Judy Darden takes over as the head of our inclusion program. Judy joins us from having taught in Florida and in the northeast. Judy is a veteran teacher who brings many years of classroom experience to our program. Judy will be completing her reading specialist degree in the near future.

Ms. Carrie Young has also joined our staff this year as we have opened up another first grade classroom, giving us three first grade rooms. Carrie has been teaching at OAKS for the past nine years, and we are so excited to have her join our team.

Mr. J.C. Urban joins our school system as the treasurer. J.C. comes to us from Guam where he was the accountant at the Guam SDA Clinic. J.C. also served as the treasurer of Guam Adventist Academy for a number of years. J.C. and his wife Lori have just purchased a home here in the valley.

We had 433 students in the building the first few days of school with another 8-10 students on their way over the next few weeks, giving us an enrollment of over 440 students. Most of the grade levels are full or near capacity with only second and seventh grades as the grade levels with several openings yet. We have been blessed with a higher enrollment than when we ended the 2004-2005 school year at 425 students.

We have added a number of classes to our related arts program including photography, technology communications, and robotics. Students may also choose from the wide variety of course offerings in music, art, Spanish, sign language and character education.

We are continuing our volunteer classroom chaplain program and if you are interested in becoming involved in this program, please contact Jill Howe or Pastor Don McLafferty.

Please remember A. W. Spalding Elementary School in your prayers as we start the new school year.



VBS Photos Available!



Check with Dean Saunders if you would like to get a copy of your child's photo from this year's Vacation Bible School. Copies of the slide show available, upon request, as well. Call the church office at 396-3462 for more information.