

La Sierra University Teaches Evolution

PART ONE OF TWO

On May 22, 1999, the *Press-Enterprise*, the newspaper published in nearby Riverside, California, reported on what is taking place at La Sierra University. Shortly afterward, we reprinted a summary (which is reprinted on pages 7 and 8 of this present report).

Our report was entitled *La Sierra University Rejects the Bible, Christianity, and God [WM-902]*.

Reading the report, you discover that the title was a remarkably accurate statement of fact. We will reprint much of that article near the end of the present report.

A new aspect to the crisis has developed since then. As more of our people have become aware of the astounding fact that LSU is no longer a Christian institution, they are increasingly voicing their concerns and urging responsible leadership in our denomination to take action! Something has to be done! Frankly, a lot has to be done! That entire educational facility needs to be overhauled.

There are teachers and administrators at La Sierra University who should be discharged. They should not merely be transferred to other schools to infect them with their agnostic theories.

Here are several quotations which will support what I have just stated, and provide you with additional information. As you will learn below, the administration at LSU is adamant that it is not going to change, and faithful believers are just as urgent that changes must be made! The minds of Adventist youth who are lured to LSU, thinking that it teaches Adventist beliefs, are, in many cases, being irreparably harmed.

— PART ONE —
STATEMENTS BY
THE PRESIDENT OF LSU

This report will begin with several statements by Dr. Randal Wisbey, president of La Sierra University. They clearly establish that Wisbey shares the “long ages of evolutionary development” taught by the LSU Biology Department. But Wisbey also goes beyond that—and repeatedly maintains that all Seventh-day Adventist schools should teach all the modernist theories of worldly colleges and universi-

ties!

Randal Wisbey’s May 18, 2009, statement in response to complaints:

“ ‘Naturalistic evolution’ is a phrase that either in code or direct definition implies a perspective of ‘atheistic evolution.’ We reject this implied atheistic charge. Every one of our science faculty share the goal of students experiencing a vibrant Adventist Christian faith while pursuing their education in the sciences.”—*Randal Wisbey, Statement made May 18, 2009, in response to complaints.*

Wisbey goes on to say this:

[La Sierra provides] “an excellent setting for examining the evolutionary process—a subject that is foundational to the modern biological and behavioral sciences,” and it is La Sierra’s “commitment to responsibly address difficult issues” and to “consider a variety of views.”

On November 21, 2008, Wisbey delivered a major philosophical address to one of the largest organizations of Adventist Ph.D. professors.

This important 7-page speech was given to the *Adventist Society of Religious Studies*. In this pivotal address, entitled *Nurturing the Adventist Mind*, he declares that **Seventh-day Adventists should integrate “Adventist thinking” with a “vast array of intellectual disciplines.” In other words, bring as much of the false theories and teachings found in worldly universities—into our schools.** As an example of how our denomination “needs” to be integrated, he cites the need to bring every aspect of evolutionary theory into all of our schools!

“One example of how the church needs this integration is in the vexing issue of the relation of Adventist thinking to the natural sciences as pertains to the history of life on planet Earth. On the one hand, for more than a hundred years Adventists have believed that ‘the book of nature and the written word shed light upon each other. They make us acquainted with God by teaching us something of the laws through which He works.’ On the other hand, we recognize that ‘creationists do not have an adequate explanation’ for ‘radiometric dates of many millions of years . . . The most difficult question is probably the apparent sequence of radiometric dates, giving older dates for lower layers in the geologic column and younger dates for upper layers.’

“What Adventist colleges and universities can do is to provide a supportive environment and conceptual assistance not only to their students but

also to the whole church in addressing this issue effectively by reexamining our understanding of both the ‘book of nature’ and the ‘written word.’ In the process, Adventist colleges and universities can be examples of thinking faithfully.”—*Randal Wisbey, “Nurturing the Adventist Mind,” speech given to the Adventist Society of Religious Studies, on November 21, 2008,*

In that speech, Wisbey cited Karl W. Giberson’s book, *Saving Darwin*, as an example of how we as Seventh-day Adventists can engage in reexamining our understanding of nature and the Word of God.

Giberson calls himself a “Christian evolutionist.” The subtitle of the book is: “*How to Be a Christian and Believe in Evolution.*” But should our people be trying to connect the two? In reality, it cannot be done. **We are either genuine disciples of Christ, and worshipers of the living Creator God, who, according to the Bible, created our world in six days and commanded us to commemorate it by sacredly keeping the Seventh-day Sabbath,—or we become practical agnostics who accept theories about origins that atheists have carefully pieced together** over a period of more than one hundred and fifty years.

Tragically, in his first footnote in the above address, **Wisbey declares that the Bible teachers at LSU, as well as a number of leaders of other Adventist colleges and universities, are in agreement with his determination that Adventist schools must boldly unite with the worldly universities—in teaching the very same subjects, theories, and concepts!** Here is this footnote:

“I wish to acknowledge my colleagues in the School of Religion at La Sierra University who have generously dialogued with me in preparation for the writing of this paper. I have also been encouraged by conversations with members of the Association of Adventist Colleges and Universities who heard an earlier version of this paper presented during its 2008 Mission Conference.”—*Ibid.*

Wisbey essentially discards the Bible (and Spirit of Prophecy) as useless. He does this in his declaration that, apart from the wisdom of educated moderns as taught in their schools, mankind will never find its way through the dark maze of life.

“Over the years I have been involved in many conversations that remind me of the difficulty of finding a way through the myriad of life choices young adults face. As Dante wrote in the *Divine Comedy*:

“ ‘In the middle of this road we call our life, I found myself in a dark wood, with no clear path through’ (*Dante Alighieri, The Divine Comedy, Inferno: Canto I*).

“In many ways, this struggle to find the path that

provides clarity and direction is one in which all of us are constantly involved with. This is certainly true for our students as they are increasingly faced with a world that demands the very best of them. Careful academic preparation is imperative for those who are committed to making a difference through their work and leadership.

“For the Adventist Church, it is also clear that we are dependent upon finding properly trained individuals who will guide and support the work of a global community, consistently and ably providing resources in a rapidly changing and challenging environment. We need people who can think with clarity and purpose, whose opinions and commitments are born of a broad understanding of opportunities and challenges. Adventist higher education can help our community navigate these exciting times through our work of properly training the very ones who will one day lead our denomination.”—*Ibid.*

Is the *Office of Higher Education* in the General Conference worried about the educational direction in which La Sierra is headed? According to Wisbey, it is not.

In the above address, **Wisbey boasts that Adventist educational leadership ranks LSU at the top as one of the two best in Adventism,**—along with 125 outside colleges and universities—in which to send our youth for a preparation for their life work in the church and in the world! Does Wisbey really believe this? Can this really be true?

“Last year La Sierra University was inducted into the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll—an honor we were delighted to share with Union College and 125 other outstanding institutions in the United States.”—*Ibid.*

Then, in this major address to the *Adventist Society of Religious Studies* in November 2008, Wisbey turns to a favorite topic: the need for Adventist schools to adopt modern evolutionary theory. Here are his words:

“Another way in which we faithfully serve the best interests of our church involves the integration of Adventist thinking with a vast array of intellectual disciplines. How does our faith inform our understanding of the natural, social, and health sciences? What about the humanities? And what of the growing interest in the performing and visual arts—theater, music, and the fine arts? And how will our understanding of current ethical issues—environmental, social, and biomedical—be guided in a uniquely Adventist perspective if we do not rely upon our universities and colleges?

“One example of how the church needs this integration is in the vexing issue of the relation of Adventist thinking to the natural sciences as pertains to the history of life on planet Earth.”—*Ibid.*

Remarkably, at this point in his comments on

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the value of evolution, **Wisbey quotes the individual in charge of our Geoscience Research Institute, who, he says, has stated that Creationists do not have valid answers to questions about purported long ages of time!** Wisbey is trying to implicate every educational thought leader in the church in his drive to make modern evolutionary theory the orthodox teaching of Adventism.

Here is this quotation:

“We recognize that creationists do not have an adequate explanation for radiometric dates of many millions of years . . . The most difficult question is probably the apparent sequence of radiometric dates, giving older dates for lower layers in the geologic column and younger dates for upper layers.”—*James Gibson, director, Geoscience Research Institute, “Frequently Asked Questions.”*

Since Dr. Gibson actually said that, we would suggest that he read pp. 167-207 in our book, *The Evolution Handbook*. In careful detail, this 41-page chapter, entitled “*Inaccurate Dating Methods*,” nicely unravels the radiodating enigma—by showing that, due to a variety of scientific reasons and evidence, neither radiometric dating nor radiocarbon dating can provide any valid means of measuring earlier time spans, or dating earlier specimens. Therefore neither can be used to support or prove the speculations of evolutionists.

(Although nearly a thousand pages in length, *Evolution Handbook* is available from us for only \$7.00 a copy ppd or only \$1.00 a copy, plus shipping, in small boxful quantities.)

Here is the remainder of the above statement by Wisbey. **He states that by adopting these modern theories, the ability of Seventh-day Adventists to think more clearly will be greatly improved:**

“What Adventist colleges and universities can do is to provide a supportive environment and conceptual assistance not only to their students but also to the whole church in addressing this issue effectively by reexamining our understanding of both the “book of nature” and the “written word.” In the process, Adventist colleges and universities can be examples of thinking faithfully”—*Ibid.*

Immediately after that statement, **Wisbey emphasizes once again the urgency of our people coming in line with the thinking of worldlings about us.**

“One of the more important contributions the Adventist learning community provides on behalf of the denomination is in establishing Adventist credibility through participation in external academic communities and conducting research that increases the sum of human knowledge. When demonstrating the intellectual soundness of Adventist faith, our professors contribute to current theologi-

cal, scientific and ethical conversations.”—*Ibid.*

Wisbey adds that another reason why Adventists should adopt the teachings of modern intellectuals is because we are already enjoying all the entertainments which the world has to offer anyway! We might as well indulge in all the rest.

“Because we live in a global community—connected by the Internet and by satellite television—we listen to the same songs, wear the same clothing, watch the same movies, and give adoration to the same actors and athletes. This is the world our church must address, and our faculty and students have much to offer to this intriguing, and daunting, work. A valuable resource that Adventist higher education offers the church is research that enables the denomination to better understand itself.”—*Ibid.*

Elsewhere in this speech, Wisbey mentioned, as a plus factor for LSU, the time spent by students in helping others in the community.

“On our campus, over the past school year, La Sierra University students logged some 45,000 hours of service to benefit others.”—*Ibid.*

That truly sounds laudable; but **it should be remembered that, for years, La Sierra has instructed its students to spend their Sabbath afternoons cleaning and painting houses in the greater Riverside area!**

That fact was revealed in an article in the *Pacific Union Recorder*, a number of years ago. **The staff at LSU are proud of the fact that they train students to use Sabbath hours to do many of the things which they do not want to bother with on Sunday or during the week.**

— PART TWO —

STATEMENTS BY

LSU BIOLOGY TEACHERS

In addition to Randal Wisbey’s astonishing statements, here are several others about the problem at La Sierra University:

La Sierra University Biology Department teaches naturalistic evolution as the best explanation of the living world. **According to retired La Sierra biology professor Larry McCloskey, “nothing makes much, if any, sense outside of this unifying theory.”** In effect, this theory nullifies the historicity of the Genesis account. The Seventh-day Adventist Church affirms the Genesis account of a literal six-day creation, and recognizes that denial of this brings into question a number of other fundamental beliefs, which cannot be redacted [edited or changed].

Dr. Larry McCloskey, now retired, taught in the Biology Department at LSU for a num-

ber of years.

His *Biology 112 Syllabus* was actually a mixture of quotations taken from his slide presentation and his Biology 112 syllabus. For example, in the third lecture, slide 10, McCloskey made this statement:

“There is nothing ‘theoretical’ about the evidence supporting evolution. The research about evolution is ongoing and continues to support and refine Darwin’s original ideas. No data have been found to refute the idea. It is the single unifying explanation of the living world, and nothing makes much, if any, sense outside of this unifying theory.”—Larry McCloskey, *Biology 112 Syllabus*, LSU publication.

Gary Bradley is a current biology teacher at LSU. One of his slide sets, *Hominin Evolution*, was published only this year by LSU, for use in its biology classes as required viewing. (“*Homminid* is an evolutionary biology term, and means “any of a family of primates of whom the only surviving species is man.”)

The slide set can be viewed on *Scribd* on the internet. Look for *Gary Bradley, Hominin Evolution, Biology Capstone, 2009, LSU*. It clearly reveals that Bradley believes that humans evolved over a very long period of time, a position that is clearly different from the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, or our historic beliefs. We are not here discussing random philosophy; Creationism is a solid, historic Adventist Bible doctrine, fully supported in the Inspired Books.

Another production by Gary Bradley, produced with the full approval of LSU, is *The Fossil Record, Spring 2009*. In it, he teaches that all living creatures in our world, nothing excluded, slowly evolved from more primitive forms of life. Go back far enough and there is nothing but worms, and then amoeba, and finally raw chemicals.

Of course, all this is ridiculous speculation. Read our 992-page book, *The Evolution Handbook*. The scientific evidence for Creationism is overwhelming! The evidence for evolution is a speculative maze of confused thinking and theories.

Lee Greer is another biology teacher at LSU. His UNST/UHNR 404B Presentation is yet another attempt to indoctrinate the young minds who come to LSU for knowledge.

The April-May 2009 issue of a local journal, *Riverside Magazine*, mentioned, as a news note,

Greer’s project to use sunlight to help produce electricity for LSU, and for sale to the community. Here is part of the news note:

“LSU biology Professor Lee Greer is leading a project that will consider multi-million-dollar bids for photovoltaic arrays that will be situated on campus.”—*Quoted in Riverside Magazine, April-May 2009*.

Explaining why he is interested in conducting this project, Greer is quoted by the magazine as saying this:

“As a biologist and an evolutionary biologist concerned about bio-diversity on the planet, it is an ethical concern of mine,” Greer says. ‘It’s a pocketbook issue as well.’—*Ibid*.

— PART THREE —

STATEMENT BY

A CURRENT LSU BIOLOGY STUDENT

Louie Bishop is currently studying at La Sierra University, and tells what he is being taught there right now. Bishop received a B.S. in Business from the University of California at Davis. Afterward, he attended the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism. He then worked as a Bible worker for two churches in Trinity County, California.

“I came to La Sierra University knowing the popular scientific views regarding life on earth. I previously attended a secular university, where evolution was taught. That is one reason I chose La Sierra University to begin pre-medicine classes. The first day of General Biology 2 I sat down only to see Charles Darwin’s face on the first slide. In my opinion, there would be no problem with that, except for the fact that **we were taught only evolutionary principles of life for the next several weeks, and were told they were the truth.** In fact, **we were told Evolution “is the single unifying explanation of the living world, and nothing makes much, if any, sense outside of this unifying theory.”**

“After a few class lectures, I sat down to talk with Biology department head Dr. Wilson. Though it has now been almost five months since that meeting, I distinctly remember him saying “I was afraid this was going to happen.” In other words, he was not looking forward to the day when someone would take a stand and speak up concerning the teachings of the Biology department. Not to go unsaid, I have had many good conversations with members of the Biology department, including Dr. Lee Greer. He has taken the time to talk with me for over an hour on a number of occasions, providing me with

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Continued from the preceding tract in this series

reasons for his views of life on earth. I respect him for the fact that he has studied both the Bible and science to a great extent, and is convicted concerning what he believes. **Yet what he and many others teaching Biology at La Sierra believe and teach involves many assumptions and, most importantly, is contradictory to the clear messages of the Bible.** This fact was made clear to me when I attended one of Dr. Greer's worship "breakouts." **He talked about the Biblical Creation accounts in detail, and concluded that Genesis chapters 1 and 2 are contradictory accounts. The message I received was a message of doubt toward the Bible,** which is no doubt what many other students were led to feel. **I can now believe this is happening on a Seventh-Day Adventist campus, because I've seen it with my own eyes!**

"It is a fact that Evolution is being taught and promoted by professors of Biology on the La Sierra University campus. They are obviously welcome to hold such views, yet I believe they have come to the wrong place to promote those beliefs. I know that La Sierra was founded for the purpose of raising up young people to share God's message of mercy and truth with the world—young people who, out of their own free will choose to say "What does the Bible say?" **Yet many young people on the La Sierra University campus are being led to doubt their beliefs.** I asked my lab teaching assistant during Winter Quarter what her views were concerning Evolution vs. a literal Creation week. She ended up giving me her testimony at La Sierra. She told me that she was the daughter of a Seventh-Day Adventist pastor, and that she came to La Sierra to study Biology. After going through General Biology and being presented with the theory of evolution, she wrestled with her faith in God and seemed to find some middle ground. She then took a Senior Capstone course entitled *Religious, Social, and Moral Aspects of Biology*. **She was presented with all the 'evidence' that seems to support Evolution, and now considers herself to be an agnostic.**"—Louie Bishop, statement made June 5, 2009.

— PART FOUR — STATEMENTS BY CONCERNED CREATIONISTS

Christina Harris is a Ph.D. research chemist in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

She obtained her B.S. from Oklahoma State University, Ph.D. at the University of Colorado Boulder campus, and did postdoctoral work at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

She was baptized in New York City in 2003.

Although she never attended LSU, her comment about the situation is well-worth reading.

The following letter was written to the members of the Board of Trustees of La Sierra University, which includes the presidents of the General Conference, Pacific Union Conference, and several other conference presidents:

"June 8, 2009

"Dear Pastors Paulsen, Schneider, Graham, and Officers of the Board of Trustees (Arnold Trujillo, Ted Benson, Kelly Bock, Tony Anobile)

"Undoubtedly, you are aware that the evolution-creation debate is a growing point of concern in our Adventist educational system among various church leaders, pastors, and lay-members. This open letter addresses my concerns about theistic macro-evolution being taught at La Sierra University as the preferred worldview. I am a converted Seventh-day Adventist Christian, a Ph.D. scientist, and Creationist according to the Genesis account—a literal creation week consisting of seven literal, contiguous, consecutive 24-hour days . . .

"While it is conceivable to believe in God and hold to the idea of Darwinian-style evolution occurring over the course of billions of years, **for a Seventh-day Adventist in a Seventh-day Adventist setting, these beliefs are untenable and irreconcilable. Consequently, those professors finding themselves unable to accept and promote these fundamental beliefs should naturally seek employment elsewhere**—perhaps at a public or other non-SDA college or university. —There are many options.

"Having taught chemistry at the university level, I am acutely aware that young adults of college age are greatly impressed by what their professors think, say and believe. **Those parents who want a truly Seventh-day Adventist education for their young people should be able to obtain what their hard-earned dollars have paid for; otherwise, a public institution of higher learning would be more suitable and less expensive.**

"As Seventh-day Adventists, with a clear statement of our belief in creation posted for the world to see, why do we not strive to be the head in this important debate? God has designed that His ambassadors be the head and not the tail; why should we clearly take on a position that will place us at the tail?

"I challenge the leadership of LSU and the leaders and laity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to hold to and support the Bible truths that our name represents. I close with the following quote taken from the pen of inspiration:

“Since the book of nature and the book of revelation bear the impress of the same master mind, they cannot but speak in harmony . . . Inferences erroneously drawn from facts observed in nature have, however, led to supposed conflict between science and revelation; and in the effort to restore harmony, interpretations of Scripture have been adopted that undermine and destroy the force of the Word of God. Geology has been thought to contradict the literal interpretation of the Mosaic record of the creation. Millions of years, it is claimed, were required for the evolution of the earth from chaos; and in order to accommodate the Bible to this supposed revelation of science, the days of creation are assumed to have been vast, indefinite periods, covering thousands or even millions of years. Such a conclusion is wholly uncalled for’ (*Education*, pp. 128-130).

“Sincerely,

“Christina R. Harris, Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist, Kalamazoo, Michigan.”—*Open Letter to the Board of Trustees of La Sierra University*.

Clifford Goldstein, editor of the Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide, has deep feelings about this matter:

“What amazes me isn’t so much that people can believe in evolution (after all, I used to), but that those who do still want to be Seventh-day Adventists. I can respect someone who, believing in evolutionary theory, rejects the Adventist Church entirely. I have no respect for those who think they can meld the two.

“For anyone, especially our young people, struggling with these issues, I say: Keep seeking with a fervent and honest heart. As long as you stick to the Bible (and Ellen White’s books and articles) you will not go wrong. **For those among us who have already decided—despite the Bible and Ellen White—on evolution, there are plenty of other churches for you.** Ours isn’t one. **And to those teaching in our schools who believe in evolution and yet take a paycheck from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, I say: If you honestly reject a literal six-day creation in favor of theistic macroevolution, fine; now turn that honesty into integrity and go somewhere [else] where you won’t have to cloak your views under the anfractuosity of language.**”—*Clifford Goldstein, Seventh-day Darwinians, article published in 2003 in the Adventist Review*.

On behalf of the board of ASI, Harold J. Lance, Chairman of the Board, ASI Missions, Inc., wrote this:

“The rapidly exploding reports and dialog regarding the alleged teaching of evolution in various forms in some of our Seventh-day Adventist Colleges and Universities was brought up in our ASI Missions Inc. Board of Directors meeting today.

“Given the vital importance of the Biblical Doctrine of Creation to the Christian Faith and to the Seventh-day Adventist message, **the ASI Missions Inc. Board voted unanimously to urge the top leadership of the church to weigh in on this matter with voice, pen, broadcast, and any other media or administrative vehicle that will send a clear, unmistakable signal** of reassurance to our lay members.

“It seems only fair that this dialog move to a point where parents and prospective students have a full disclosure of what our Colleges and Universities are offering, so they can make informed decisions and have realistic expectations regarding the philosophy and quality of education being offered.

“We also believe time is of the essence due to the viral internet communication technologies that are powering this dialog.

“You are in our prayers. Courage!”—*Harold J. Lance, Chairman of the Board, ASI Missions, Inc., letter dated May 27, 2009, to Don Schneider, President, North American Division, Silver Spring, Maryland*.

We are deeply thankful for faithful Advent believers, such as Dr. Christina Harris, Clifford Goldstein, and Harold Lance. We need more such influential people in high places—to speak up and lead a reformation in our denomination—which will fully return it, on all levels and in all areas, to our historic beliefs!

A fairly comprehensive analysis of the occasions in Old Testament times when God’s church was slipping into apostasy, along with the nine methods successfully used by church leaders to bring it back to purity—are clearly explained in our small book, *Bringing It Back* (\$4.00 ppd. for one or only a few dimes per copy in small boxfuls for easy distribution).

This worldliness first entered our schools because of a concern which began about the time that Ellen White died (1915)—to obtain worldly accreditation, which required the hiring of teachers who had been trained in worldly concepts in outside universities. Our 432-page book, *Broken Blueprint*, carefully explains the entire history of this tragic experience in the history of our people (\$5.00 ppd for a single copy; very low cost in small boxfuls).

The crisis was compounded by an October 1984 action to the Annual Council, made at the request of frantic college Bible teachers who feared that their liberal and new theology teachings would cause their firing, as it had Desmond Ford’s only four years earlier. In order to appease them, our Annual Council ruled that our college and university teachers have “academic freedom” (*Theological Freedom [WM-110]*).

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Would you like to contact the LSU Board of Trustees, as others are also doing?

Here are their e-mail addresses! You will now be able to send your questions, comments, and thoughts to the President and entire Board of Trustees of La Sierra University!

rgraham@puonline.org – Ricardo Graham (**Chair of Board of Trustees** – President of Pacific Union)

vpadmin@puonline.org – Arnold Trujillo (**Board of Trustees Member** – Vice President, Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists)

treasurer@puonline.org – Ted Benson (**Board of Trustees Member** - Treasurer of Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists)

kbbock@puonline.org – Kelly Bock (**Board of Trustees Member** - Education, Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists)

tonyanobile@azconference.org – Tony Anobile (**Board of Trustees Member** – President of Arizona Conference)

You may also wish to contact the LSU president:

Randal Wisbey, President of La Sierra University: president@lasierra.edu Office Phone#: (951) - 785-2020

Here is a petition, to which you may wish to obtain signatures and then send to the President and the Board:

Dear Pastors Jan Paulsen, Don Schneider, and Ricardo Graham,

We, by signing this petition, reaffirm our belief in a literal six-day creation as expressed in Genesis.

We are concerned in regards to the alleged teaching of theistic macroevolution as fact in some of our Adventist colleges and universities. And we lift our voices in agreement with the open letter from ASI Missions Inc., “that this dialog move to a point where parents and prospective students have a full disclosure of what our colleges and universities are offering, so they can make informed decisions and have realistic expectations regarding the philosophy and quality of education being offered.”

Signed:

La Sierra Rejects the Bible, Christianity, and God

On May 22, 1999, the *Press-Enterprise*, a public newspaper printed in nearby Riverside, California, reported on what is taking place at La Sierra University. Shortly afterward, we wrote a summary (which is here on pages 7 and 8 of this present report).

The rapidity with which our denomination is heading downward is breathtaking. In the present article, we shall consider one of the most recently disclosed examples.

La Sierra University (LSU) is apparently no longer an Adventist institution. For years, the leaders of that institution have been abandoning Adventist standards. The administrators and a number of the faculty have arrived at the point where they are systematically working to rid the school—and its students—of our historic doctrines.

On May 22, 1999, the *Press-Enterprise*, published in nearby Riverside, California, reported on what is taking place at LSU. That summary is here,

Our report was entitled *La Sierra University Rejects the Bible, Christianity, and God [WM-902]*.

Reading the report, you will discover that the title was a remarkably accurate statement of fact. This situation is an insult to God. Below is this summary:

on pages 7 and 8 of the tract you now have in hand.

You will, of course, want to read this for yourself. Here is a brief overview of some of its key points:

- According to Lawrence Geraty, president of the university, La Sierra stopped being a Bible school in the 1940s and 1950s. Is it really true that LSU has not had the Bible as its base for over half a century, or is he misrepresenting the facts in order to excuse his present objectives? If he is not telling the truth, then that says something about his character.

- In more recent years, students at LSC would select six classes from several subject areas to meet

their general education requirement for graduation. Four of the classes were in the Department of Religion. (A majority of the remainder of their four-year baccalaureate course work would primarily be in a major and minor field of study.)

- **Beginning with the fall term of the 1996-1997 school year, LSU started a radically different program which required a “core curriculum” of six classes.**

- The six classes are required for graduation and cannot be avoided by taking replacement courses.

- **Not only do the six classes not teach Adventist teachings, they teach non-Christian concepts.**

- Students have been complaining about these courses since their inception.

- **The situation came to a head on Friday, May 21, 1999, when a group of students sent a written complaint, in the form of a petition, to the LSU board of directors.**

- Nearly a fifth of the student body (300 of the 1,400 students) signed this petition.

- **According to the petition and newspaper-quoted comments by students, this is what is taught by those six “core courses”:**

- 1 - They “**attack what the school was founded on, which is the Bible.**”

- 2 - They have a “**total lack of emphasis on Christ and the Bible.**”

- 3 - They “**misrepresent the Christian God.**”

- 4 - Class instruction consists of “**subtle, subversive attacks on Christianity and monotheism.**”

- 5 - They teach that “**all religions are paths to the same truths.**”

- 6 - They have “**underlying humanistic (versus Christian) values and foundation.**”

- 7 - They have a “**superficial and liberal content.**”

- When interviewed by the *Press-Enterprise*, as to how the administration would respond to this student appeal, **Geraty said the university would not stop giving those six classes. “Next year . . . the course topics won’t change,” he said.**

As to the content of those six courses, Geraty said it was crucial that they continue to be given! Then he gave four important reasons why the students must continue learning what is in those courses:

- 1 - The courses “**gave the university greater control over the kinds of classes students take.**” Remember that, parents.

- 2 - “**Under the new system, every base is covered. Before, when the students could choose their own courses, it was harder for us to make sure that the students got each of the points that we want them to have.**” We have earlier quoted what the students said were the points covered in those six classes.

- 3 - “**Each of the core classes contains elements of religion.**” What does he mean by “elements”? According to the students, a twisted mythology of pseudo-religion is being dished out to them.

- 4 - “**The approach is scholarly, not Bible study,** as some students may have experienced in high school.” Not Bible-based, but supposition-based.

- “It’s not like Sunday School. It’s not like family worship. **I think it’s just a question of growing up.**” **Geraty wants the students to think the way he thinks, which, apparently, is skeptically. Then they will be “grown up.”**

The crisis is not over. Only those of you who live in southern California can effectively stop this apostasy at La Sierra University. You can do so by demanding that conference and union officials step in and make a number of extensive changes. Geraty will not listen to you. You must push this thing through—and get higher church authorities to step in.

It is time to get to work. When will we stop taking the attitude that we must quietly let apostasy take over while we wring our hands and “wait for Heaven to do something about it”?

Astoundingly, even Steve Daily (LSU campus chaplain, faculty member for about 15 years, and author of one of the most liberal books ever published in Adventism) agreed that there was a problem and the complaints of the students had not been listened to!

But there is more information than is contained in that *Press-Enterprise* article. Because he dared to speak up about the anti-God sentiments taught in those classes, Daily has been fired!

Geraty is determined that, at any cost, he must ram this through his program, to eradicate from the minds of young Adventists—their belief in Adventism, Christianity, and God.

—vj