

Lost

Jack Harris, Contributing Editor

Who among us has not lost something. The list of possibilities for lost things is almost endless: Wallets, watches, keys, addresses, phone numbers, money. I bought a car last year. The manufacturers thought of people like me. If I go to a parking lot and forget where I parked, I just push a button on my key ring and the horn honks and the headlights blink. Cool.

But what does lost mean? How would you describe it? The Department of Defense commissioned someone to define the word "lost." So here it is: "An item will henceforth be considered lost when it cannot be found." Now isn't that profound? Would you have been able to do better? Just be thankful that your tax dollars are used to pay for something as clear and definitive as that.

Probably one of the most valuable things I ever lost was my "Little Black Book" No where on earth was there such a vast store of information vital to my past, present, and future. I could tell where I was supposed to be tomorrow and next week and next year. Phone numbers, little stories I could use, addresses. So I searched the "proverbial high and low." Guess where I found it two weeks later. In the glove compartment of my car where I had looked twice already. No wonder my wife says I "look like a man." Now if I may digress from my current digression, I would like to get on with the word "lost."

It is really more than a word. It is an experience. It can be a tragedy. The news media daily is full of stories about lost things. People, young, old, sick, confused. Lost airplanes, ships at sea, whole fortunes, satellites in space, planets, Noah's Ark. Readers Digest, ran a story about a lost freight train with a live and active locomotive and no engineer to control it. Hair raising! Something more valuable than anything I have mentioned is a name. Your name. My name. The church's name.

But there are other things that can be lost, and they are irretrievable and irreplaceable. Things like tempers, health, youth, eyesight, hearing, our sense of balance. Moses lost a potential throne. Joseph was headed for the top. Daniel almost made it to Kingship. Paul might have gone to the top of the Sandhedrin. But they had their eye and their heart on greater things than these. Hebrews eleven is a chronicle of those who lost the things of this world, things that millions cherish at all cost, but these heroes spurned them and chose the greater.

Samson lost. Bathsheba lost. Saul lost. Cain lost. Judas lost. Pilate lost. The saddest part of this kind of loss is that it is by individual choice and act. It doesn't have to happen. We humans actually choose to be lost. But there is hope. "For the Son of Man came to save the lost." G NV Have you and Jesus found each other?

Reflections
A devotional for members of the SDA Church.



NEWS NOTES

FROM MORT

Contributing Reporter: Mort Juberg

while maintaining the historical, cultural and moral importance of the Roman Catholic Church to the nation.

Wahroonga, New South Wales, Australia ~

"Connections," a magazine program for families, is airing on two channels, one in Australia and the other in New Zealand. The Friday evening time slots are good for families since that is typically a family night.

Kigali, Rwanda ~ Reconciliation and tolerance are on the top of the agenda of youth programs for the church in Rwanda. This current emphasis comes in response to the growth in church membership since the 1994 genocide.

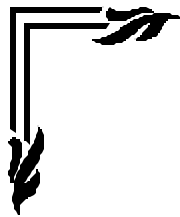
Source: Adventist News Network

Nicosia, Cyprus ~ The bombing of Baghdad hasn't deterred members of the local Adventist Church from attending services. There are more than 200 Adventists in Iraq, most of them in Baghdad.

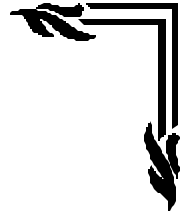
Nairobi, Kenya ~ The Adventist Church has made a special appeal to its membership and institutions to fight the scourge of HIV and AIDS.

Lima, Peru ~ The Peruvian Congress approved an amendment to the constitution that recognizes all faiths,

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Bulletin Board



Payroll Information: Checks mailed/direct deposits released: May 27, 2003

Send comments and suggestions to: Sharon Kuykendall, Editor, *Reflections*, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 Email: kuyksh@nad.adventist.org

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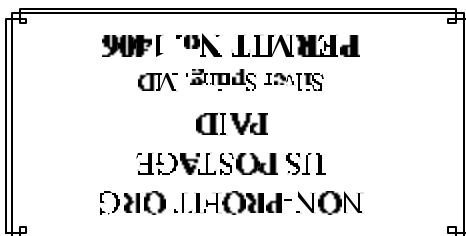
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