

inside the church

20-year project leads to publication of first book

by DAN DILLON

It takes a strong commitment to stay with a project for 20 years, particularly when the last 10 years are spent listening to people tell you 'no.'

But for a Boring woman, the commitment paid off and late last year Catherine Fox saw the book she had worked on for nearly two decades, writing and looking for a publisher, finally get into print.

"What A Year May Bring Forth" tells of the year the Fox family spent as missionaries in Brazil. It isn't an average missionary story either, according to Mrs. Fox.

"It's not the usual missionary story," she said. "It's kind of controversial."

Because of its controversy, some publishers shied away from the book, fearing it might discourage potential missionaries from going out into the field.

"It's kind of a story of a failure," Mrs. Fox said.

One publishing company told her she had a "negative attitude towards missions." But that isn't so, she said. "I don't have a negative attitude towards missions."

Because the Fox family stayed just a year in Brazil, some might have viewed their mission as failed, causing other publishers who want only "success stories" to stay away from the book.

However, one publisher, Mark Maxey, himself a current missionary in Japan, disagreed with those other publishers. And last year published it through his California company, Go Ye Books.

He explained his decision in the forward to "What A Year May Bring Forth."

"When it comes to missionary biographies, success is the key to being printed and read. . . Unfortunately not all stories have happy endings," he wrote. "Lifetime missionaries are few, ten-year missionaries are some, but one-term and less missionaries are many."

"The latter group suffer the most. Because of having 'failed' before they got started they never have a chance to redeem themselves on the mission field."

"It is an eternal verity that we learn more from our failures than our successes. In that sense, we have much to learn from Catherine Fox's book," he concluded.

Ironically, Mrs. Fox said, the publishing company that deemed her book "negative" publishes a magazine with a column written by Maxey. That will be one of the vehicles used to market the book when he reviews it in a future issue.

The book is "a day-to-day story of what the life was like," said Mrs. Fox. "It wasn't hard to put together. Each chapter is a month and I kept a diary. I never could have done it if I didn't have that."

It was almost 10 years after Catherine, her husband Ken, and their three sons, Norman, Gary and Vern, who was born in Brazil, returned that she began writing.

"I'm not a writer," she said. "I just got a real strong urge that I wanted to get this down on paper."

During the day she is an administrative aide working with handicapped children at North Powellhurst Grade School in the David Douglas School District. She is now busy on another project, however.

With "What A Year May Bring Forth" in print, Mrs. Fox is at work on a biography of her youngest son, Vern, who died shortly before his 21st birthday.

Her husband Ken keeps busy acting in theater groups throughout the metropolitan area and spends a lot of time at rehearsals. It is during those absences that she writes, she said.

"I have so many things I should be doing, it's hard for me to just sit down and write, so I have to discipline myself."

If there is a message to potential missionaries in "What A Year May Bring Forth," it isn't necessarily one of warning, said Mrs. Fox.

"Take things as they are and make good out of whatever comes," she said. "But, go into it with the idea you're going to make good of it."

That, too, is a lesson learned after 20 years spent reaching an audience.



Catherine Fox

Series on cults set

Understanding religious cults and sects as the "unpaid debts of historic Christianity" will be the focus of a public lecture and discussion series beginning at 7 p.m. this Tuesday, Feb. 16, at Community Presbyterian Church in Sandy.

"The emphasis will be on helping professing Christians to understand what motivates people to join cults," said the Rev. John Van Lierop, 60, who has been an ordained Presbyterian minister for 37 years and who once taught college-level philosophy in Portland.

"We want people within the historic churches to be able to affirm their own beliefs and to help their children and other loved ones avoid being drawn into a cult," he said.

He defined a cult as a

"group that to some degree uses brain washing and has a powerful, charismatic leader who holds almost dictatorial powers over his followers."

He defined a sect as a "group that has deviated from historic Christianity on various fundamental principles" but which does not necessarily have a powerful, dictatorial leader at all times.

The following cults and sects, some of which Van Lierop said are on the "fringe of historic Christianity," will be featured in the lecture and discussion series: Jehovah's Witnesses, Feb. 16; Mormons, Feb. 23; Church of Unification (Moonies), March 9; Unity and several similar groups, March 16, and the Church of Scientology, March 23.

There is no charge for the series of classes.

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THE SABBATH

Christ's followers kept the seventh day after Calvary



Luke 23:52-54 Christ died on Friday, the preparation day. The Christian world acknowledges that the day which is called Good Friday was the day of the week on which our Lord died.

Luke 23:54-55 The Sabbath drew on, as the sun set on Friday evening. The women who had followed their Lord and heard His gracious truths spoken were now eager to embalm the body of their beloved Master. They saw where He was laid to rest and returned home.

Luke 23:56 They had such regard for the Holy Sabbath that they refused to anoint the body of Christ during that day. They "rested the sabbath day according to the commandment." If the Sabbath was to be done away with at the death of Christ, then why did these women observe it? Then, too, why did Luke years after put this 56th verse in the INSPIRED RECORD? The HOLY SPIRIT, who inspired its writing, would never have permitted it, if the seventh day was to be superseded by the first day of the week.

Luke 24:1 "First day of the week." The women will do on this day that which they refused to do on the Sabbath. If the first day is now to be regarded as the SABBATH, they knew nothing about it.

To Be Continued...

Sandy Seventh-day Adventist Church

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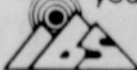
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