

# Tentative Creation Statement

1. In harmony with the basic position of the Seventh-day Adventist Church regarding the divine inspiration of the Scriptures, we accept the historical accuracy of the book of Genesis (including chapters 1-11) as providing the only authentic account of the divine creation of this earth and the creation of life upon it in six literal days, of the fall of man, of the early history of the human race and that of the noachian flood of worldwide dimensions. (See *Medical Ministry* p. 89; *Testimonies to Ministers*, pp. 135, 136.)

2. We accept the chronological data of the first eleven chapters of Genesis as providing the basis for our belief in the biblical chronology.

3. We accept the Bible teaching that the earth was unorganized and void (Gen. 1:2) at the commencement of the creation of living things during the creation week. The fossil record of past life is largely the product of the catastrophic worldwide deluge (Gen. 7:21-23) rather than being the result of a gradual or sequential development over vast periods of time.

4. We believe that in the divine plan the weekly Sabbath, the observance of which was instituted by the Creator Himself at the end of the literal creation week, has great significance. It is a continual reminder to men, especially since the entrance of sin, of their Creator and their relation to Him as His creatures. Its observance is a perpetual sign of their loyalty and their allegiance to Him. Its rest is a sign of His recreative and redemptive power, in human lives in this age, and of the whole earth in the age to come.

Note: The above version of the creation statement is the third draft, revised in the fall of 1976.

5. We believe furthermore that an understanding of the creation and nature of man and of his salvation rests on the recognition of the literal intent and factual account of Genesis. Man was divinely created in the image of God as a unique being, capable of fellowship with God. The harmonious God-man relationship was broken through the historical event of sin in Eden when man became unfaithful to the divine command and followed the suggestions of Satan to place allegiance in someone or something other than God Himself. The fall brought about for the first time the entry of sin into this world with its effects upon men and nature. "...the moral image of God was almost obliterated by the sin of Adam, . . ." (Ellen G. White, *Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, p. 1078.)

6. We also believe the Bible teaching that man's separation from God could only be remedied through the substitutionary atoning death of Christ. The cross is the basis of Christ's continuing heavenly ministry of reconciliation which will climax in the eradication of sin, the restoration of the image of God in man, and the reestablishment of complete harmony between God and man on the recreated new earth.

7. We believe that there is a consistent linking, in Scripture, of a literal creation, a factual fall, and an adequate redemption at the Cross with a short chronology of man on the earth and a biblical eschatology that looks for the imminent return of Christ. Then God's plan for total reconciliation with and recreation of His people will be complete. If any one of these Scriptural teachings is denied, the tendency to deny others will be equally strong, and ultimately irresistible.