

## Christ, Christianity, and the Church

“Understanding the Christian World” is the topic of the next *Religion at the Interface* lecture to be presented by Dr. Jo Ann Davidson at the Midland Seventh-day Adventist Church, Friday, February 11 at 7 p.m. In order to understand the Christian World today one must have a clear picture of the history of Christianity spanning the nearly twenty centuries since its founder, Jesus Christ, said “upon this rock I will build my church (Matthew 16:18).

Professor Jo Ann Davidson, who holds a Ph.D. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, teaches in the Theology Department of the Andrews University Theological Seminary. As a theologian Dr. Davidson is passionate teacher and prolific writer. As a mother of two young-adult children she brings to her presentations a devoted love for story telling. Dr. Davidson’s love for story telling is illustrated by her recent book, *Jonah, the Inside Story* (Review and Heralds Publishing, Hagerstown, MD).

To portray the Christian Church in the perspective of biblical history Dr. Davidson will cite Christ’s promises and directives regarding the church, Paul’s assessment from later in the first century, CE, and John the Revelator’s picture of the church down through time as recorded in Revelation 1:10 to 3:22. To this will be added historical information tracing the way in which scriptural mandates have been followed as well as at times ignored. From the church counsels of the early centuries, to the so called “Dark Ages,” to the days of the reformation, to the revival of interest in Bible study leading to the modern era -- Dr. Davidson will share her assessment of the situation in which the world and Christianity finds itself.

How should a Christian be living today? Does Christ through the Bible give us insights into what we may expect next? What is Christ’s ultimate intent for His church?

As past president of the Adventist Theological Society, as well as in teaching assignments at sister institutions to the Seminary scattered worldwide, Dr. Davidson has developed a global perspective on key issues facing Christianity as we move into the 21st century -- nearly 2000 years after Christ proclaimed, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, . . . and lo, I am with you always. . .” Matthew 28:18-20.

Dr. Davidson will also be speaking at the 11 a.m. Saturday worship service of the Midland Seventh-day Adventist Church on February 12, where her topic will be “An Ancient Honor Roll.”

*Religion at the Interface* lectures are free and open to the public. Their purpose is to assist the individual, young or old, in the lifelong process of developing a cohesive worldview, a total integration of intellectual and spiritual values into one consistent basis for faith, conviction, and life’s decisions.