

The Medical Evangelist

which has now become the denomination's main periodical *The Medical Evangelist*. By 1866 as the Church became conscious about the importance of health and wholeness the Church branched out with the beginning of a new health publication *The Health Messenger*. With a strong connection between Adventists and the press it therefore comes as no surprise that the early founders of Loma Linda would very early on create their own publications as a means of disseminating the message of health and healing.

The first serial periodical at the College of Medical Evangelists was aptly named *The Medical Evangelist*. With encouragement from Ellen G. White 40 cases of type and a job press arrived in Loma

Linda in 1908 addressed to John Burden who said that until then he "knew nothing about printing." However within a few weeks the first issue of the "little paper" called *The Medical Evangelist* was published with Burden serving as the first editor.

Early contributors to *The Medical Evangelist* read as a "who's who" list of denominational and institutional leaders. In addition to Ellen G. White other contributors included George W. Abbott, J. J. Lucas and Mrs. Risley Bryock. Rollmer Press, Magan and Thomason. Early Loma Linda faculty did more than just write for *The Medical Evangelist*; they supported it financially. In one issue published in 1919 there is a note that "Elder G. W. Tarr has donated \$100 to *The Medical Evangelist* to be

applied to a publication fund. This fund will give us a substantial financial backing and will be drawn on in making the paper bigger and better as conditions permit. Elder Tarr believes *The Medical Evangelist* has a mission and he believes it strongly enough to put \$100 into it."

The Medical Evangelist continued publication from 1908 until 1962 almost uninterrupted with the exception of a few months during World War I. Throughout the years formats have changed as did editors. The last issue of *The Medical Evangelist* appeared during the last month of the first year when our institution was renamed Loma Linda University. It carried the story of the 50th commencement of the institution and the first commencement service to be held as a university. In 1962 the magazine was succeeded by *Medical Advances* which is now known on campus as *Life*.

Last year 2005 marked a major initiative started by the department of archives and special collections in collaboration with the office of university relations to digitize *The Medical Evangelist* and other campus periodicals. They are now available electronically to be searched through our departmental web site at <<http://heritage.llu.edu>>.