

## A PROFILE OF TRANSFORMATION



**Name:** Sara Joan Miles

**Hometown:** currently Kenosha, Wisconsin

**Profession:** Dean Emerita, Esperanza College of Eastern University; History of Science

**ASA Affiliation:** Fellow; CWIS; Wheaton-Naperville Chapter

**Hobbies:** Traveling, reading, genealogy, volunteering for church ministries

**Favorite Pro Sports Team:** Chicago Cubs

### When did you first discover American Scientific Affiliation (ASA)?

About 1974 or 1975 when I first started teaching part-time at Wheaton College.

### How has your personal and spiritual life been changed because of your involvement with ASA?

I had seen how one's worldview affected one's comprehension of science while teaching biology in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where students categorized things human/non-human instead of living/non-living. I wondered how a western worldview or a Christian worldview affected our scientific understanding, but I didn't know how to find out. I had, in Stephen Jay Gould's terms, two non-overlapping magisteria that I felt somehow should overlap. ASA gave me resources and encouragement to break down the barriers between the two domains and begin to integrate them. At first, this was an intellectual endeavor, but as I continued to learn from my ASA sisters and brothers, the resulting interactions of the scientific and Christian worldviews deepened and expanded my conception of God. My sense of awe, my appreciation of God's wisdom and creativity, and my (limited) understanding of God's sustaining and continuing involvement in all of Creation—including my life—increased my sense of God's omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence. I also became more aware of what it means to be a steward of Creation. Just as I am called by God to show concern and to help my sisters and brothers who worship with me each Sunday, God expects me to show concern and to help maintain the mountains, the trees, the hills, the rocks, the sun, the moon—all of Creation—that worship Him (cf. Psalm 148), that sing and clap their hands in joy at his presence (cf. Isaiah 55:12), and that are ready to declare His glory even when I am not (cf. Psalm 19, Luke 29:40).

### What is the tangible evidence of the growth you've experienced?

I think that I have a better ability to articulate the relationships between science and Christian faith. I know that some of my non-Christian professional colleagues have come to understand that not all Christians are anti-science and have shown respect for my writings (even if they don't agree with some of the presuppositions). I know that some of my Christian friends who are or have been anti-science now can see that science may be helpful to faith, even if they don't agree with some of my biblical interpretations as a result of workshops and classes I have offered.

### How long have you been a member/donor and what has ASA meant to you?

I'm not sure when I joined—35-40 years ago. As I said earlier, ASA has provided me with the resources and encouragement to grow spiritually and intellectually. Moreover, it has provided me with Christian colleagues who have stimulated and challenged my thinking and have given me examples of how to witness to professional colleagues and Christian congregations. It has valued the contributions of women. It has served as a model of a Christian professional organization that seeks to help individual Christians as well as the Church universal to grow in wisdom and revelation so that we all may know God better (cf. Ephesians 1:17-19). Finally, it has supplied me and surrounded me with the fellowship of sisters and brothers who have prayed for me and loved me and allowed me the privilege of praying for and loving them.

### What do our friends and financial partners need to know about how ASA is making a difference?

In a time when the norm for society seems to be polarization and contempt for those with whom one does not agree, ASA seeks to build bridges between individuals, between denominations, and between disciplines by demonstrating respect, maintaining intellectual rigor, encouraging critical dialogue, all the while affirming Christian faith. The result is not always agreement, but ASA helps us to value those with whom we disagree and to see the benefits that accrue to all of us when we listen carefully to each other and accept the fact that we have much to learn from one another even when we are not in total agreement.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sara Miles

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