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The official publication of Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries.

Spring 2008



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Features

- 10 The World—Starting with Haiti
- 14 With Such an Army...
- 18 Evangelism in Your Own Backyard
- 20 Following the Mandate of Christ... Using DVDs
- 23 From the Desk to the Front Door
- 26 God Made a Way



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Also in this issue...

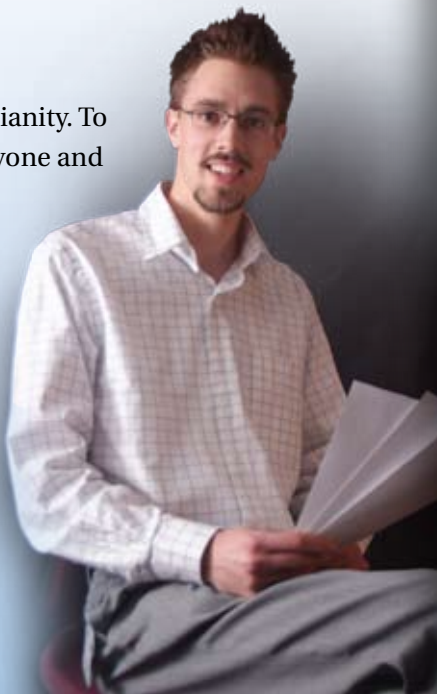
- 4 **Officer's Outlook:** Evangelism at Another Level
- 5 **By Knowing Him:** The Fatal Mistake of Missionary Evangelists
- 6 **In the Marketplace:** Mentoring, an End-Time Marketplace Niche
- 8 **New to the Family**
- 28 **Moving Forward ASI Project Update:**
Your Story Hour Reaches Across Russia
- 29 **Moving Forward ASI Project Update:**
Seeding, Weeding & Blooming

Editor's Note:

Evangelism is an integral aspect of Christianity. To step out and share the gospel, to tell anyone and everyone that there is salvation, grace and endless love in Jesus Christ.

Evangelism is the theme of this edition of Inside ASI, and herein we present stories of how God has used ASI members to reach out both abroad and close to home. It is my prayer that these stories will not only bless, but inspire you to join in the effort of winning souls for Christ.

SH
—Steve Hamstra



Inside ASI

ASI President:
Donna McNeilus

**Executive Secretary &
Treasurer:** Ron Christman

**Vice President for
Communication:** Danny Houghton

Inside ASI Editor: Steve Hamstra

Layout & Design: Mark Bond

Copy Editor: Ann Parish

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ASI Corporate Office
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904

Telephone: 301-680-6450

Fax: 301-622-5017

Email: asi@nad.adventist.org

Online: www.asiministries.org



Evangelism at Another Level

BY VIOREL CATARAMA

In 2000, the New Beginnings DVD project spearheaded by ASI and It Is Written transformed the landscape of evangelism, empowering hundreds of laypeople to hold public evangelistic meetings. This user-friendly evangelistic tool put new meaning into the phrase “even a child could do it,” with everyone from middle-school students to seniors accepting the call to preach the Word of God.

“All around the world enthusiasm for active witnessing is spreading like wildfire on a dry, windy day.”

By design, the training promotes perpetual lay participation in ongoing Bible studies conducted in communities around the world. These Bible studies are a lasting means of sharing the gospel, reaching out to the community long after an evangelistic series is over.

At Spring Council 2007, the General Conference affirmed its partnership with ASI in their “Train Them Now” initiative, and committed to produce the next generation of New Beginnings DVD evangelism. This will catapult lay evangelism to another level. With the support and active involvement of the divisions of the world church, global participation in the “Train Them Now” initiative will not only result in an abundance of trained laypeople, but will bring exponential growth to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In this magazine, you will discover how thousands of laypeople have been trained to hold Bible studies in their homes using the New Beginnings DVD. You will read many wonderful stories of how

lives were changed because of their involvement in evangelism. How beautiful it is to see so many priceless souls accepting Jesus.

ASI continues to strongly promote evangelism, doing whatever it takes to motivate and encourage a wide spectrum of laypeople to make the connection between profit for shares and preaching for souls. All around the world enthusiasm for active witnessing is spreading like wildfire on a dry, windy day. ASI members have embraced the concept of training and equipping laypeople everywhere, enabling them to



Viorel Catarama (left) conducts a lay evangelist training session in Tanzania.

share Christ with their friends, family and neighbors. Requests for ASI volunteer training teams are pouring in from around the globe, a confirmation of the burning desire to learn ways for more effective sharing of the gospel.

“Train Them Now” is not the only program equipping laypeople for more active service. Many outstanding tools are available to those interested in becoming a greater personal witness. What have you done in service to our Lord? How are you telling your neighbors, co-workers, friends or loved ones that Jesus loves them and that He is coming soon? The signs foretell the lateness of the hour in our world’s history. Sharing Christ in the Marketplace is our goal, and we must maximize our impact. The tools are there. The need is there. We must get involved, and we must train others and invite them to join the countless number who are working diligently to hasten Christ’s soon return.

Viorel Catarama is ASI vice president for evangelism.



The Fatal Mistake of Missionary Evangelists

BY KEN NORTON

There are certain terms used in Adventism today that immediately bring up mental pictures. Take for instance the term *missionary*. For decades a “missionary” has been seen as one trudging through the jungle with a tattered picture roll, swatting mosquitoes and living in a grass hut.

And then there’s the term *evangelist*. It conjures up scenes of crowded outdoor canvas tents or, for the younger of us, packed church sanctuaries or auditoriums ringing with words preached by a dynamic man of God.

There is nothing wrong with these mental pictures. What is wrong is that, for many Adventists, the term *missionary* always means someone who goes “way over there” and *evangelist* means somebody who “is way up there” as a spiritual giant and proclamation professional. This is sad.

Scripture and Ellen White paint a very different picture—one that comes closer to home in every way.

First, it’s interesting to note that the Bible never uses the term *missionary*. The word “missionary” is derived from the Latin *missionem*, meaning “the act of sending.” By removing the “em” and adding “ary,” we English speakers have created a definition for missionary as “the one who is sent.”

So why doesn’t the New Testament mention missionary along with other witnessing roles such as prophet, pastor, or teacher? Maybe God never wanted us to think that being a missionary was just the role or job of a select few.

The term *evangelist* has an equally interesting origin, one rooted more closely in the original language of the New Testament. Without going into any linguistic gymnastics, the term *evangelist* in the original language literally means “one who declares the good news.” The scriptures do point out that

there were those who did this as a full time ministry (Eph. 4:11), but they in no way had exclusive rights as the only ones who could share the good news about Jesus (2 Tim. 4:5). Actually, it is quite the contrary.

Ellen White, writing for the *Review and Herald* in her later years, tells us,

“The members of God’s remnant church in this our day depend too largely on the ministers to fulfill the commission of Christ to go into all the world with the gospel message. Many have seemed to lose sight of the fact that this commission was given not only to those who had been ordained to preach, but to laymen as well. *It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of saving souls depends alone on the ordained ministry.* All who receive the life of Christ are called to work for the salvation of their fellow men.”

{RH, March 24, 1910, emphasis mine}

The Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20 is for everyone who claims the name of Christ. We have all “been sent” to “share good news.” We are *all* missionary evangelists. To our families and our communities here in the U.S. and to the farthest reaches of foreign lands—this is our mission field, and you are the missionary evangelist.



Ken Norton is director of LIFE (Lay Institute for Evangelism) in Orlando, Florida.



Mentoring: An End Time Marketplace Niche

BY DENISE HAYDEN

ASI members have been uniquely called to serve. I started my own business in 1988 because my skills and personality demanded more of a challenge than I was getting from corporate employment. Fine Line Services, Inc. (my business) became an ASI member in 1991. Attend-

ing the ASI convention



one's life to make a difference in corporate and personal life management, customer service, and community fellowship. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." Matthew 28:19 (KJV).

God has blessed me over the years to ascertain that character and influence are my best witnessing agents. Transforming those witnessing agents

**Mentoring
is simply the
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develop.**

made all the difference in my thinking and approach toward witnessing. "Sharing Christ in the Marketplace" redefined my business motives, aligning them with my Christian aspirations. It began at the source – the Word of God. The Bible says, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us" 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV). And what's my marketplace word for ambassadors? Mentors.

Mentoring is simply the process of one person helping another to grow and develop. For example, an estab-

lished business owner volunteers to help an aspiring business owner with brainstorming ideas and formulating a business plan, then arms the aspirant with tips and techniques of the trade. A Christian mentor has a responsibility to go even further. A Christian mentor testifies of the power of Jesus in

into a practical marketplace sharing utility has been quite a blessing to discover. And, as the CEO of my own business for more than 20 years, it is apparent that God is blessing me with specific resources to bless others – that is the mentoring niche.

Perfect strangers have invited me to speak one-on-one with them regarding business ideas. They invite me to speak at professional business groups without asking for credentials or degrees. Middle and Junior High Schools request presentations to their students. Preaching during evangelism campaigns, working on volunteer mission trips, speaking at numerous churches, all of these presented opportunities to share. That's God calling! And when He calls, the reply is simply, "Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth." Because the Bible says, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" Ephesians 2:10 (NIV).

Recently, I mentored a young lady who needed immediate advice and guidance. As I listened to her

describe the situation, I observed that she had an abundance of youthful energy, sound ideas, sincere determination, and a multi-discipline background which could translate in the marketplace as essential “start-up capital.” Basically, with few to no assets she wanted to start a business. Just the way I started 20 years ago.

So I heard God saying, “Show her what I showed you.” The Lord had sent her to someone with the experience and background to help her plan properly. And that is why Christian mentoring is so important. I was ready to share, because in my life and hers, “...God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work” 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV).

Effective Christian mentoring is discipleship. It leads to improved knowledge, skills, and performance by providing personal access to important know-how, principled tips and techniques, and savvy practices. “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed” Proverbs 16:3 (NIV).

As a mentor, the knowledge and ability to communicate the “preparedness” message in a clear and convincing manner is critical. Preparedness for the rigors and extreme joys of business ownership and preparedness for the second coming of Jesus Christ are synonymous themes. Sharing Christ in the Marketplace is the unique mentoring mission of ASI members. “They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor” Isaiah 61:3 (NIV).

Mentoring is such a special end-time marketplace niche because our role as Christian professionals at this time in earth’s history is so important, and the Word promises “...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth” Acts 1:8 (KJV).



Denise Hayden is the founder and CEO of Fine Line Services, Inc. in Bowie, Maryland, and is a former president of the ASI Columbia Union chapter.

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Organizational Members :

Big Foot Technologies

Abe Sendros, Spouse: Liz

Apopka, FL 32703

Abe, his wife, Liz and 4-year-old daughter Sara live in suburban Maryland. A third generation Adventist, Abe works for Big Foot Technologies, a small multi-national software company based in Florida and involved with commercial web development.

Carla Minor Insurance Agency Inc.

Carla Minor, Spouse: Patrick

Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Carla is a State Farm Agent in historical Stone Mountain Village, Georgia.

She and her husband Patrick have been married for 17 years and have two children, Kayla

and Patrick Josiah. Carla has been an exclusive agent with State Farm for 11 years, and loves sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in the workplace through conversation and publications.



Creative Interior Finishes

Mark Jones, Spouse: Vickie Lynn

Long Lake, MN 55356

Mark provides unique and specialized finishes for walls and woodwork, as well as finish carpentry and small custom furniture building. Mark joined ASI because he's looking for ways to share the Good News. He'd met ASI members at other church functions, and they strongly encouraged him to join.

End Times Like These Ministries

Michael Johnson, Spouse: Denise

Moorpark, CA 93021

End Times Like These Ministries trains lay people in evangelism. They also assist churches in becoming year-round community Evangelism Centers.

JC Construction & Electrical Export

Justine Charles, Spouse: Elmore

Miami, FL 33177

JC Construction & Electrical Export supplies materials for construction and electrical work throughout the Caribbean. They are also involved in multiple ministries, including shipping tracts and other materials to Caribbean islands.

JSB Inc

John Beall, Spouse: Marilyn

Eau Claire, MI 49111

JSB provides financial sales and services, including securities, life insurance, and financial planning. John has been active in the church, through both Sabbath schools and being an elder.

McClearen Design Studios

Brenda McClearen

Nashville, TN 37216

McClearen Design Studios provides clients with art direction, graphics, photography, print, music industry support, publications, and web support. They join ASI hoping to serve the Lord more effectively.

McDermott Orthodontics

Charles McDermott

Spouse: Diane

Columbus, IN 47201

Missions Made Possible

Kenneth Guill

Orlando, FL 32806

Missions Made Possible provides emergency flights for those in need of sudden medical transportation.

They also assist other organizations with their transportation needs.

Kenneth has been active in his local church as well, serving as an elder.

Morning Star Therapeutic Riding & Ed Center, Joan Blech

Victorville, CA 92395

Morning Star Riding Center is an equine-facilitated therapy center.

Horses are used to provide physical, mental and emotional therapy for

both children and adults. Vocational education in equine and health industries is offered as well.

Orphans International Helpline

Jean Florvilus

Berrien Springs, MI 49103

**See 'New Member Spotlight' on pg. 10.*

Rogers Quality Construction

Marvin Rogers, Spouse: Donna

Monroe, WA 98272

Rogers Quality Construction specializes in residential construction and remodeling.

The Silverado Group Int'l LLC

Joe Pimentel, Spouse: Karina

Vernon, VT 05354

The Silverado Group is an executive search firm to the health care industry. The group also has an executive interim placement division, placing interim leaders into health care roles. Recognizing the imminent return of Christ, Joe wants to dedicate his business to supporting the ministry work in these final days.

Unruh Chiropractic

& Wellness Center

John Unruh, Spouse: Angela

Rogers, AR 72756

John has been a chiropractor for 24 years. He and his wife, Angie have been married for 12 years and they have an 11-year-old daughter. John and Angie enjoy going on mission trips where they present health talks and John provides adjustments. On their last trip to Honduras, John adjusted more than 900 people.

Wellness Is Now

Anita McGhee, Spouse: Benjamin

Helena, AL 35080

Wellness Is Now provides instruction on lifestyle change, and also offers infrared sauna, hydrotherapy, and other services. Their goal is to expand to a full lifestyle center.

Wordlaw Music and Realty
Al Wordlaw

Chicago, IL 60652

Al loves gospel songwriting and ministering through music. He is a member of the Beverly Hills SDA Church Choir and has published a book of spiritual poetry called, *Love is Our Law*. Al also serves in the Chicago Fire Department and is broker/owner of Wordlaw Realty in Chicago.

Associate Members

Jacqueline Adiele
Killeen, TX 76549

Carol Barr

Mesa, AZ 85213

Carol is vice president of Hueneme Enterprises, an outreach and study ministry. She is excited to tell the world about our wonderful friend, Jesus Christ. She joined ASI to get involved in greater outreach.

J. Brent Clemmer, Spouse: Rachell

Adelphi, MD 20783

Brent and Rachell live in Adelphi, Maryland. Brent is the owner of Oceanview Surf Shop, an online retailer of surfing gear based in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. This summer they will offer a daily surf camp for youth.

Elva Gonzalez-Gomez

Hattiesburg, MS 39402

James Huenergardt, Spouse: Sonia

Bishop, CA 93514

Jim lives in Bishop, California with his wife Sonia, daughter Charis, and son Austin. Jim is an air ambulance pilot and flies a fixed-wing turboprop. He also operates Reel Inspirations, a video production company (www.reelinspirations.com).



Urlick LaDonis, Spouse: Dacia

College Park, GA 30349

Urlick operates ChurchPond Ministries, which is dedicated to spreading the message of God's love through technology. ChurchPond also supports those who are already believers. Its drive is "Evangelism Through Technology." Visit ChurchPond at www.churchpond.com

Edgar Maghilom, Spouse: Marilou

Guelph, ON N1E 7M3, Canada

Edgar works in financial services, particularly mortgages and insurance protection. One of the reasons he joined ASI is to help organize a chapter in Canada.

Kerry Neall, Spouse: Linda

Orlando, FL 32819

Kerry and Linda live in Orlando, Florida, and have three sons, Jason (19), Ryan (15) & Matthew (11). Kerry serves as the medical director of a community emergency department in the Orlando area.

Don Pate, Spouse: Sandi

Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Pastor Don and his wife, Sandi, live in Scottsdale, Arizona. Don is founder and speaker of Between the Lines, a self-supporting ministry authorized by the Pacific Union. Since 1995 BTL has shared unique daily Bible insights on hundreds of radio stations, and was also the first entity to create "television for the Internet" starting in 2003 on btlministries.org, which also now airs on LLBN through the program, discover.now.



Shirley Shaffer

Inverness, FL 34450

Shirley operates Pure Fun, which creates, tests, and supplies basic worship tools that help Seventh-day Adventists connect with secular individuals using Bible readings, games, and music.

Raymond van den Hoven, Spouse: Debra

La Salle, CO 80645

Raymond is a Neurologist working as an independent contractor at several locations. He is also very active in his local church and in witnessing to patients. He joined ASI after being encouraged to do so by a friend.

Patrick Wavomba, Spouse: Selina

Tolleson, AZ 85353

Patrick is a professor at a Methodist university, and he holds a Masters in Theology from Andrews University. He is excited to share his talents and services wherever possible to hasten the Lord's soon return.

Barbara Weimer, Spouse: Bill

Woodridge, IL 60517

Barbara is a teacher and also serves as Youth Leader at the Naperville, Illinois SDA Church. Barbara is author of *God's Show and Tell*, which will be published this year by Hart Research. Barbara and her husband Bill have been married 28 years and have three children: Kelly, Billy and Alisa.

**Fletcher Academy, Inc.**

Fletcher Academy, Inc. seeks a President/CEO. Applicants need extensive management level experience. Desired qualities include strong Christian commitment, proven team building expertise, and strong business and financial acumen. Resumes should be directed to Diane Sedgwick, RN, MHA, diane.sedgwick@ahss.org or 828-697-9054. To learn more about FAI visit www.FAIncorp.org.

The World—Starting with Haiti

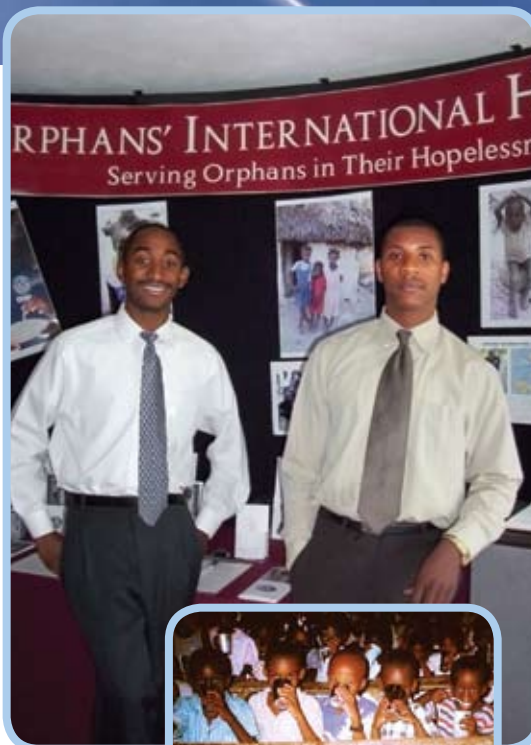
BY ANN PARISH

Jean Florvilus, a theology major at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, knew perfectly well what kind of response his advisers were looking for. He just could not bring himself to make it. “When you have completed your B.A.,” they kept asking, “what do you envision yourself doing next?”

“Going into all the world,” he kept answering, “preaching the gospel to every nation.”

“Yes.” They would sigh. That is the gospel commission of Matthew 28: 19-20, and it applies to all God’s followers. But how, specifically, did Jean see himself as starting to fulfil that commission? As a pastor? A teacher? An evangelist?

What about an evangelist to all the world? That was as close to an answer as Jean could get. Since high school, he had seen himself reaching all the world in ten years. And though he had tried, he could not imagine himself as a church pastor. The sheer breadth and unlikelihood of his dream did not satisfy him any more than it satisfied his advisers.



Putting those troubling thoughts aside, in 2003 Jean—with his cousin Brian Ladiny, also at Andrews studying for his M. Div.—joined a five-day mission trip to Haiti. Jean and Brian were Haitian-Americans with generally cheerful memories of their ancestral homeland.

But this mission trip took them into remote north-western Haiti, and what they learned and saw was unbearable. Routine medical treatment was non-existent. During the mission, families walked up to 17 or 18 miles so the visitors could test their blood pressure. Moreover, Jean and Brian saw tiny children walking the streets with plates in their hands, begging for food. Where were their families? They learned there were none. They learned that, from malnourishment, disease, and neglect, one in four children there would die before age five. Also, this part of Haiti was a center of voodoo practices. These children, if they survived, had

little chance of hearing the authentic gospel of Jesus Christ.

Back in Michigan, Jean and Brian could not get Haiti's children out of their minds. They had to do something, but what? Food and the gospel—both were badly needed. But how? They fasted and prayed for an answer. As the academic term ended, Jean was impressed that they should check their college accounts and, rather than spend everything left in them on clothing and gasoline, dedicate funds to feeding the stomachs and souls of Haiti's hungry children. Brian joined him in this act of faith.

Between them, they sent \$1,900 to the small Adventist church in Bombardopolis with a request that the funds be used to feed the neediest children one good meal a day. The church agreed, committing to the daily feeding of five children. Word spread quickly, however, and soon far more children were showing up for the meal. Jean and Brian told classmates and teachers at Andrews of their project, and they too contributed money and prayers for the program's success. Pastors of local Adventist churches heard, and soon they and members of their congregations were giving to feed children in Haiti and to share with them knowledge of Jesus' love. The program grew rapidly, and by the end of 2004, 213 children in Bombardopolis were enjoying one substantial meal each day.

Also that winter, contributors began asking Jean for letters acknowledging their gifts, for tax-reporting purposes. Oh! Suddenly Jean realized that running a continuing charity required more than prayerfully receiving money in one hand and passing it out with the other. He sought advice from Max Church, a retired professor at Andrews, who gave Jean guidance and introduced him to Arnold Lampkee, experienced with the legal complexities of establishing non-profit organizations.

Lampkee, a member of the Church of God, asked



for details of their program. When he heard they were working in Haiti, he shouted joyously, "Hey! Brothers!" Though not, like Jean and Brian, of Haitian descent, he had been giving to Haitian causes for 25 years. "I will help you," he exclaimed. "I don't care that you are Seventh-day Adventists! If we can't get along here on earth, how will we manage it in heaven?"

With help like this, with more prayer and fasting, and with the blessing of God, the personal mission of two earnest students to "do something" for hungry children in north-west Haiti became in 2005

a 501(c) 3 non-profit charitable organization registered in Michigan. Its official name became Orphans International Helpline (OIH).

Its name and its mission recall Jean's youthful dream of evangelism to all the world. As the OIH website puts it: "There are [more than 6.6] billion people in the world and nearly half the world's population are dying because of lack of food. Six million children under the age of 5 die as a result of hunger and malnutrition every year (UNICEF). More than 78% of the developing world's urban population now live in slums (UN—Habitat)... OIH has dedicated itself to caring for the needy and to coming to the relief of those suffering from starvation."

Along with becoming an official non-profit charity with a 7-member board of directors, OIH hoped early on to join ASI. Not wanting to pay ASI's membership dues with money siphoned from donations to Haiti's children, the directors tried advertising for a partnering sponsor to pay the dues. This attempt failed; but now, only two years later, a more solidly established OIH is financing its own membership and foreseeing the blessings and further growth that learning from fellow ASI members will bring.

Much has happened since that official establish-

ment in 2005. Jean and Brian completed their academic programs—not easy, for both were full-time students, each working at one or two jobs, and also working as full-time volunteers in OIH. “However,” said Jean shortly after his graduation in 2006, “we have learned that education is not only based on books and research papers. We have found a way to make our religious education here at Andrews more practical. Everything we learned from our classes we put into practice—and we never failed any class... All our efforts and techniques are... from what we have learned in school. When we do our research papers, we always try to make them applicable to our ministry and make good grades. Thus despite all challenges that we may face . . . we still believe that it is a perfect time to do such ministry while in school.”

Having received his M. Div., Brian, though still connected with OIH, now serves as associate pastor of Gethsemane SDA church in the Greater New York Conference. Jean works full time for OIH in its Berrien Springs office. Olga Brady of Troy, Michigan, who handles public relations, is another OIH pioneer, having shared this vision since 2004.

Meanwhile, back in Haiti, the work begun in faith and hope continues, on a much stronger footing. Bombardopolis, the once-desolate center of unemployment, hunger, and voodoo, is now becoming a center of nurturing evangelism. There OIH provides housing, food, and Christian love for 60 orphans and runs a school for 375 children, providing rare worthwhile employment for 16 adults—12 as teachers and four as support staff.

The building housing both the orphanage and school—a rented one—has become too crowded, with six children or more housed in each room. OIH has developed plans for a more suitable building on five acres



with 32 rooms—home to 128 children. At this site OIH envisions an orphanage, a school, and an agriculture program.

Plans are in the works for an OIH mission trip to Haiti this summer to emphasize health ministry. Medical doctors, dentists, and nurses are needed as volunteers.

As for going into all the world? That dream remains intact and is much less amorphous than it was when Jean entered college. He now says, “We do have plans to expand our ministry around the world as it is stated in our mission statement. Our long-term goal is to have orphanages in every country and to reach the most destitute orphan child.”

The OIH website quotes Isaiah 58:10-11:

“If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.”

OIH adds: “In response to this calling, OIH provides the word of God, food, clothing, shelter, and educational, medical and agricultural programs to thousands of orphans in underdeveloped areas of the world: Starting with Haiti.”

Visit www.oihonline.org; e-mail info@oihonline.org; or call 800-704-7611 to learn more.

Ann Parish owns the Ethical Ghost, a freelance writing and editing business. She lives in Lancaster, Massachusetts.

Included & Involved

Mid-America & Pacific Union

ASI chapters sponsor youth evangelism

Looking for a way to involve local youth, the **Pacific Union ASI chapter** last year sponsored “Finish the Work,” a youth-led evangelism team that visits California churches for revivals, evangelistic series, and weekend programs. The “Finish the Work” team had such an impact not only on the churches they visited but also on the participating youth; the Pacific Union chapter sponsored them again this year.

Michael Tuazon leads the team, which comprises about 20 committed youth – though they will often bring more on their trips, inviting any young person interested. The “Finish the Work” team will visit any church that invites them, and since ASI has begun sponsorship, they’ve done seven full-scale weekend programs and numerous smaller events.

“Finish the Work” youth experience a wide range of outreach activities, including door-to-door evangelism, Bible studies, song services and sharing testimonies. The results have been outstanding. After an evangelism weekend at the Fresno Asian Seventh-day Adventist church, 26 individuals asked to be baptized. And two teenage girls who came along with the team that same

weekend asked to be rebaptized. One of them told Michael she had never known Jesus as a friend until that weekend.

Encouraged by the Lord’s blessing thus far, there are high hopes for the future. Michael has plans to establish

a training program in Loma Linda, California, to conduct better training for the “Finish the Work” team and other youth. “We’re really into training and mentoring these kids,” says Michael. “There’s a whole army of young people who want to be everything God wants them to be.”



The “Finish the Work” youth evangelism team sponsored by the ASI Pacific Union chapter.

The **Mid-America Union ASI chapter** has sponsored Youth for Jesus evangelism programs at two schools, Maplewood Academy (a 9-12 boarding school), and Minnetonka Christian Academy (a K-12 day school). The two student-led programs are modeled after the Youth for Jesus campaign held every summer in the ASI convention city.

Minnetonka’s Youth for Jesus ran from March 7 to April 4. The Maplewood campaign was completed on March 8, and resulted in 41 people making a decision to follow Christ.

Some remarkable stories have come about through these campaigns. Kevin Sears, Youth for Jesus coordinator, shares the story of Yesenia. While going door-to-door, Kevin met Yesenia, who confessed that she had made a commitment to begin studying the Bible with her four children. “I told God I would begin teaching my kids the Bible,” she later told Kevin, “but have procrastinated. Then Saturday morning I repented and told God I would begin teaching my kids as I had promised, and then you guys showed up that afternoon.” Yesenia and her children began Bible studies and have also started attending church.



Kevin Sears (right) and a Maplewood Academy student lead a Youth for Jesus evangelistic meeting on the Maplewood campus in Hutchinson, Minnesota.

There’s also the story of Julius, who was so nervous about giving his first Bible study it made him sick. But the Lord worked through Julius, and the people he studied with earnestly sought the truth. After leaving the Bible study, Julius was jumping up and down with the biggest grin on his face.

Julius was also one of the students who presented sermons as part of the campaign. The first person to discover Biblical truth from his sermons was Julius himself, for he was a Catholic. Julius was baptized during the Youth for Jesus campaign, and his brother made the same commitment the following week.

The Lord has richly blessed the Mid-America Youth for Jesus programs and the “Finish the Work” team in the Pacific Union. Your prayers for those who have heard and believed, for those who heard and have not yet believed, and for the young people who participated are greatly appreciated.

With Such an Army...

BY SHIRLEY BURTON

Photos by Alden J. Ho.

They were enrolled at some of the nation's most well known schools: Harvard, Brandeis, Wellesley, Brown, Princeton, Rutgers, Boston University, Eastern Michigan University, and the University of Michigan. All were Seventh-day Adventist youth trying to maintain their religious roots on secular campuses.

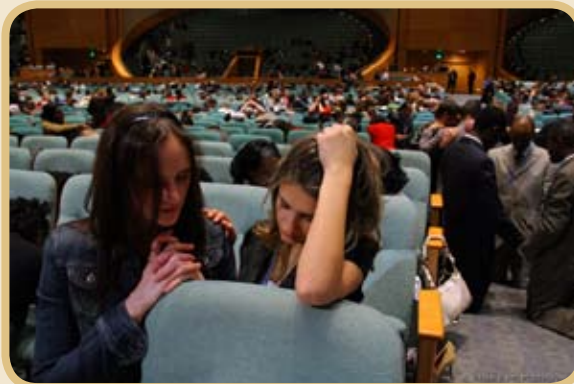
There was another common characteristic. All wanted something more from their religion than "anecdotes and entertainment." And then they heard about CAMPUS at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

A ministry supported by the Michigan Conference, CAMPUS was established as the Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students. The message of CAMPUS and its mentor Samuel Pipim reached these students.

Dr. Pipim's challenge for spiritual and academic excellence fell on willing ears and hearts. Students liked his can-do, tell-it-like-it-is, traditional Adventism. Committed to Dr. Pipim's "higher than the highest" philosophy of excellence, these scattered students began dreaming what they called the great experiment in 1999.

"The idea of this experiment was the result of a growing desire among students on North American university and college campuses—both secular and Adventist—for a different kind of Adventist youth movement," explains Israel Ramos, now a pastor in the Michigan Conference. "We wanted to see if we could mobilize existing youth and young adult ministries that are fully committed to the distinctive message and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church towards the proclamation of the three angels' messages," he says.

They networked among themselves, seeking "serious Bible study, intense prayer, an uncompromising



GYC 2007 Attendees uplifting each other in prayer

lifestyle, and boldness in sharing Christ with others," Israel points out.

Naming their great experiment General Youth Conference (the name has since been changed to Generation of Youth for Christ), the core CAMPUS group planned an annual five-day meeting for third week in December, vacation time on most campuses. GYC

launched in 2002.

"We hoped for 200," Ramos says. But when 400 pre-registered, organizers were forced to close registration. Another 100 came anyway, packing into Pine Springs Ranch in the Southeastern California Conference.

Meetings began at 6 a.m. and ended at 9 pm. There were eight hours of workshops on Thursday and Friday as well as six hours of plenary sessions. Sabbath and Sunday were packed with inspirational messages, deep Bible study, and singing from the Adventist Hymnal. "Intense as it was, the young people loved it," Ramos reports.

Response was so overwhelming, the Michigan "missionaries" under the direction of their first president, Andrea Oliver, quickly planned another conference for 2003. 700 were expected at Ann Arbor, Michigan, but more than 1,000 showed up. Nearly 1,600 converged on Sacramento, California in 2004. Outreach Day was also inaugurated in 2004, with GYC participants knocking on 5,000 doors in the California capital.

Such phenomenal growth in GYC attendance meant campsites were no longer suitable venues. GYC has now moved to hotels and convention centers.

Once 3ABN began live coverage of GYC in 2004, the organization began to attract youth around the world. In fact, young people from 15 countries have signed on to GYC's end-time witnessing philosophy. GYC was no longer an experiment; it became a global movement.

More than 2,500 registered for GYC 2005 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, with Sabbath attendance nearly double that. GYC 2006 in Baltimore, Maryland, attracted 2600 registrants, and an estimated 4,000 attended on Sabbath.

Long-term evangelism was introduced in 2006, as four GYC Bible workers stayed for seven weeks after the convention, studying with contacts made on Outreach Day. They also trained 200 lay Bible workers for the GYC evangelistic series which followed in the spring and resulted 40 baptisms.

In 2007 GYC convened in Minneapolis, Minnesota—during one of the coldest Decembers on record!

Newly-elected president Justin McNeilus wondered if anyone would even show up for Outreach Day—especially those from Florida and California who weren't really dressed for the weather. But show up they did. "They were so pumped up by the end of the week," Justin explains, "that 1,148 youth filled 25 school buses to be taken to their parts of the city—and 180 were denied seats." Another 230 engaged in street ministry on that sub-zero, snowy day.

On Outreach Day over the past two years, GYC attendees have prayed with more than 1,000 people, distributed 10,000 pieces of literature, and left 20,000 invitations to Bible study – of which more than 2,000

have been accepted. Nearly 500 accepted invitations to Bible study have arrived by mail since the Minneapolis GYC this past December, and more are added weekly.

What makes GYC so attractive to young people, you may ask? Israel Ramos, a former

president of GYC, has an answer. "It's not entertainment, downgrading of the Church's distinctive doctrines and practices, the adoption of contemporary worship styles, nor an outlook of ease and fun," he asserts. "Young people are attracted to GYC because it seeks to offer them what they really want, yet never knew existed; a Bible-based revival, demonstrated by true Adventist teaching, godly living, missionary commitment, and excellence in all aspects of life."



Attendees conducted door-to-door evangelism in Minneapolis.



Over 1,000 youth braved the bitter cold to participate in door-to-door evangelism around Minneapolis.

Testimonies enhance that philosophy. Justin Kim says, "I graduated from Brandeis with a double major in Biology and Sociology – even spent a year at Harvard on stem cell research. But it just didn't appeal to me anymore. I didn't want to wait until I'm old and dissatisfied with my life to realize it's too late." He now finds being a youth pastor in Battle Creek, Michigan, much more fulfilling.

Amy, a law student, realized, "I did not have to leave evangelism to my church pastor or my Bible teacher. I'm pleased that GYC is producing a generation of young people who are daring to influence rather than be influenced."

Stephanie and 30 others committed or re-committed their lives to God through baptism in a hotel swimming pool.

Enthusiastic GYC attendees put their weekend of inspiration into practice during Outreach Day, with the faith that God will do something great. In Baltimore, youth were an answer to prayer. Answering the door was a teary-eyed woman who had just had a miscarriage. "I was just crying out to God that if you're real, send somebody to me to let me know you are there," she explained. Eagerly requesting Bible studies, she asked the youth at her door, "Please come in and start right now."

In Minneapolis, a GYC outreach team met one lady who had begun trying to keep the Sabbath after watching 3ABN. Learning of the convention, she attended GYC on Sabbath—"just to see what you all are about." She is now taking Bible studies.

Describing this army of youth, a visitor observed, "None of them tries to bring attention to themselves—in dress, hairstyle, or in any other way. Their happy, bright countenances and their ready smiles tell of the love for Jesus that shines forth from their hearts."

Perhaps Ellen White sums up GYC best with these words: "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!" (Ed 271)

Shirley Burton has retired twice – first as communication director at the General Conference, then as communication director for ASI. She is now a freelance writer living in Lincoln, Nebraska.

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Evangelism in Your Own Back Yard

BY EMILY THOMSEN

“We have a mission field right in our very own backyard,” says Jason Williams, a former member of the Radiant Living Team based in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Radiant Living Team is a youth-led ministry that focuses on both outreach, specifically to the cities of North America, and in-reach, to the churches in those cities. They minister to churches by encouraging unity, and to communities by offering practical seminars and evangelistic meetings.

The Radiant Living Team, led by Yamil Rosario and comprised of eight Bible workers, has a unique approach to evangelism. “Evangelism is not an event,” Yamil says, “It’s a lifestyle.”

Yamil and his brothers, Jay and Jeffrey, became interested in evangelism as a result of attending the Mission College of Evangelism in Gaston, Oregon. After completing the course there, they began to travel from city to city conducting evangelistic seminars. They became disappointed in the effectiveness of the method they used and looked for a way to do a more thorough work.

As a result, the brothers developed the Radiant Living Team concept and enlisted the help of other Bible workers. With the help of Scott Richards and Fountainview Academy in British Columbia, the RL Team launched its first program in 2003. The size of the RL Team fluctuates each year as Bible workers come and go. Now, rather than swooping into a church, presenting an evangelistic series, and then leaving, the entire RL Team may spend as long as nine months in one church. They’ve developed a four-phase strategy:

- Equipping the Saved
- Seeking the Lost
- Keeping the Found
- Cloning the Concept

In order to equip church members, the RL Team first seeks to build unity within the church. “We like to see the young people working hand in hand with the older, each one learning from each other,” says Jay Rosario. “We young people have energy, but we need the

wisdom of the older members of the congregation.”

Next they develop programs to deepen relationships among church members—small group Bible studies, social events with icebreakers and time for testimonies. Sometimes the RL Team finds it necessary to go back to the basics. “Just because a young person has grown up in the church doesn’t mean they understand where we came

from or even what we stand for,” Rosario says. Reviewing the foundations of Adventism, they train church members in effective evangelism, inspiring them with the vision of ministry to which God has called each of us.

In the second phase, the RL Team requires church members to be involved in outreach. They look for ways to meet the needs of their community, inviting people to events such as health and wellness expos; seminars on smoking-cessation, depression recovery, Christian apologetics or Bible prophecy; or classes in healthy cooking, natural remedies or stress management. “Sometimes people are turned off by an invitation to a Bible study, but they can be reached by health-related ministries,” says Season McDougal, a former RL Team



A Radiant Living small group Bible study.

Owen & Brandon Schroeder



The Radiant Living Team: (from left) Jay Rosario, Alicia Keyer, Toni Minikus, Jeffrey Rosario, Melanie Penfold, Brandon Schroeder, Yamil Rosario & Jacqueline Shelley.

Health Coordinator. "Then they tend to be more open to hear spiritual things."

The third phase involves connecting existing church members with newly baptized members, encouraging a relationship that ensures the new member will continue to grow in his or her faith. The RL Team offers follow-up programs to encourage spiritual growth as well.

Finally, in the fourth phase, the focus returns to empowering church members to develop an evangelism lifestyle so that the RL Team can extract themselves and move on to another location without the church losing its outreach focus. They believe every church should be an evangelistic training center. And, Yamil says, "A church should be a spotlight in the community and make people wonder, 'Wow, why are those people so happy? What do they know that we don't?'"

Yamil says some people think the methods the RL Team uses are out of date and don't reach people anymore, especially young people. However, the fact that the average age of the current RL Team is only 23 disproves this fear. In fact, Kevin Scott, an elder from the Surrey SDA church outside of Vancouver, says their youth is to their advantage. "Because the RL Team is youth-led, it has a powerful ability to catch people's attention, simply because such spiritually-minded young people are so different from the norm," Scott says.

"The everlasting gospel never goes out of date," Yamil says. "If the gospel message is preached in its purity, it will accomplish its task." He then explains: "When young people see that there is a place for them in ministry, in evangelism, they catch the vision and become missionaries first, then mechanics, teachers or doctors second." Rosario says several young people the RL Team has studied with have now gone to Mission College of Evangelism or a similar program, and more than 10 are now actively involved in evangelism themselves.

Surrey's pastor, George Ali, says, "I saw a revival among the members of my church." David Ellis, pastor of the New Westminster church, says, "I wish I'd had the RL Team working with me 30 years ago. I can only say that their presence with us did something for our church that nothing else has done."

Further proofs of the RL Team's effectiveness are the stories of Jordan, Mark and Genevieve.

Jordan, who was baptized in 2004, tells how a

friend invited him to some Bible studies where he met a guy his own age who was teaching the Bible with authority. After the Bible stud-

ies, the same guy (one of the Rosario brothers) kept calling Jordan and knocking at his door until Jordan agreed to come to some meetings.

When he saw other young people his own age preaching evangelistic sermons he thought, "This is something I need to be a part of!" He was amazed at the firm grasp the other youths had of church doctrine. Now Jordan says, "Nothing can be more exciting than serving the Lord, giving all to Him, and not knowing what's going to happen tomorrow."

Mark explains how reading the Bible as a result of his contact with the RL Team changed his life. "First when you read the Bible, it isn't really interesting," he says. "But once you keep reading it becomes more and more interesting... I don't really know what happened to me, but I changed, and I decided that I was going to give my life to the Lord."

For Genevieve, her determination to attend the RL Team's seminars caused strife at home. As her interest in the Bible grew, her father got angry and threatened to throw her out of the house if she converted. Despite his disapproval, Genevieve convinced him to come to her baptism in 2005. He sat in the front row. Afterwards, he seemed happier and wanted to know what Genevieve had learned about the Bible. "Inviting one of the RL Team into your home is like inviting an angel in un-awares!" Genevieve says.

Though the RL Team has been in Vancouver for all of its five years, they visualize establishing a similar outpost in every major city in North America. Pastor Ellis says, "I hope that their mission and inspiration will spread like a prairie fire, igniting many churches around the world."

Williams explains that there are 97 million people in the major cities of North America. "The question I have to ask myself is, how many of them are ready for the coming of Jesus?"

Emily Thomsen is a wellness coach, massage therapist and writer living in Collegedale, Tennessee.

"Evangelism is not an event, it's a lifestyle."

Following the Mandate of Christ...



Newly-trained evangelists in Guatemala with their DVD players.

Using DVDs

BY GAIL BOSARGE

Jesus left us with simple instructions: “Go; teach; baptize.” It was a message for all of His people.

Ellen White wrote in the September 11, 1913 Review & Herald that the work of sharing the gospel with the entire world will be finished by active lay people, lay people who can establish personal and lasting relationships that traveling evangelists cannot.

In 2005, General Conference and ASI leaders came together to find a means by which an army of lay workers could “Tell the World; Tell Them Now!” With much prayer for divine guidance, they determined that the New Beginnings gospel presentation DVDs – developed in 2000 by It Is Written and ASI – and battery/electric/solar-powered DVD players would be the means. But the key would be lay people training other lay people. Trainers would answer invitations from world church leaders;

they would teach and equip local pastors and lay people to do DVD evangelism. Those trained would then in turn train others.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, “Train Them Now” has grown to be one of the most highly coordinated, successful joint evangelistic ventures ever undertaken by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its laity. It has exceeded all expectations.

Action began when 18 ASI volunteers were trained to become trainers. Those volunteers committed to travel at their own expense anywhere in the world as needed. For more than a year small training teams have traveled across North America and through nine world divisions; more than 18,000 pastors and lay-people have been trained; over 17,000 have been equipped with DVD players, New Beginnings DVDs, and printed sermon outlines in their local



Darry Campbell speaking in Thailand.

language. Volunteers have answered calls to train at 56 sites in 22 countries.

Trainers teach team evangelism. A team consists of a presenter, an assistant, a host, and a technician.



Newly-trained DVD evangelists in Korea.

For cottage evangelism each person invites two people, which means a maximum of 12 people (including the team) at the small meeting place. The presenter speaks, and the assistant rehearses each sermon as well, in case the presenter cannot speak for any reason. The host provides light refreshments, and the technician ensures that all equipment is operational.

Friendships are formed as the weeks pass. The local church pastor becomes part of the group so that attendees who choose baptism may be thoroughly prepared.

Leasa Hodges is a businesswoman from Dodge Center, Minnesota, and ASI's vice president for youth evangelism. She coordinates the Youth for Jesus ASI evangelism campaign that precedes each ASI Convention. Leasa witnessed her first Train Them Now meeting in the country of Moldova in January, 2007. Though temperatures were 30 degrees below zero, 1,200 people came to be trained, many walking long distances.

Since then she has organized ASI training teams for Bulgaria, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Rwanda, Philippines, Ukraine, Congo, Nicaragua and the United States. Sometimes it takes days for people to travel, often on foot, to training sites. "They want to learn how to share Jesus in their communities," Leasa says.

In Bulgaria, a 15-year-old girl was among the 300 lay people trained and equipped one Sabbath. By the next Sabbath, she was holding a home meeting for six adults and also young people her own age.

ASI members Darry and Ginny Campbell live in Fall River, Wisconsin. He is plant manager for the Rhodes International frozen bread dough company at Wisconsin Academy, and she is a retired realtor. Almost 10 years ago they attended a Lake Union ASI Chapter meeting. "Prior to that I had never had a desire to do

overseas mission work," says Darry. "I did not feel qualified and had no desire to travel. But during that weekend I was impressed to get a passport. On the way home I told my wife, 'We need to get our passports.' Ginny was shocked. Two days later we received a call inviting us to form a team and hold evangelistic meetings in Thailand later that year."

"As the time to go grew closer, I began to have serious doubts," Darry explains. "I wasn't qualified to plan an evangelistic series; I wasn't a great speaker! I didn't know how to prepare sermons, particularly for Buddhists! Several times I told Ginny that I was thinking about backing out, but each time she encouraged me.

When I had just about decided not to go, I came across a passage from Ellen White that said when we are doing God's work we should never consider the word 'failure' because God knows no failure. The only failure is if we refuse to go."

It was God's mission trip, Darry decided. "If God could make Balaam's donkey talk, then surely He could help me say the right things. Since that first trip in 1999 we have made six trips to Thailand, held eight

series, and baptized about 170."

That is why Darry and Ginny are DVD trainers. "Most lay people want to work for the Lord, but like us, they don't feel qualified. They're afraid they don't know enough or that they'll say the wrong thing. The bottom line is that this is God's work. If they accept the call, God will bless, and they won't need a lot of training. If they know how to smile, invite someone to their home, and can insert a disc into a player, they've got it made!"

Darry also offered to train members of his little Wisconsin church, where attendance is only 15-20 each Sabbath. 15 people came for training and four teams committed to begin cottage evangelism.

In the meantime, they realized, "If we were going to



Chester Clark III, ASI general vice president, speaking during a training session in Zambia.



An ASI training team in Nicaragua

instruct and encourage others to start small groups, we'd better start one ourselves so we'd really know what it was about." They found that committing to start a group and actually starting one were two different things. "We didn't know where to start, but our partner, God, already had a plan," says Darry.

The next day they lunched with two women from work. Each indicated a desire to know more about the Bible. "A week later we had our first study," says Darry. When the New Beginnings studies ended, Ginny followed up with Amazing Facts lessons. Today she studies with five new people while Darry teaches a New Beginnings class at church on Wednesday evenings. From a regular attendance of 5-8 non-members, four have committed to baptism.

For 26 years one church member had prayed for her husband and family that wanted nothing to do with her "strange" religion. After DVD training she decided to play a New Beginnings DVD on her home TV. Her "couch potato" husband, who had refused studies, watched Bible lessons on his own TV! Less than a month later he attended church with her for the first time. Though he doesn't attend regularly, his attitude toward her church has softened; and, for the first time, she has hope.

Darry and Ginny continue their yearly evangelism trips to Thailand, and at home Darry is doing DVD training for the Wisconsin Conference in preparation for its large evangelistic series. Since last June he has trained 19 cottage evangelism teams in three cities.

The Alvas are ASI members from Clarendon Hills, Illinois who share a medical practice. Dr. Manuel is a gastroenterologist; Dr. Esther specializes in infectious diseases. For the past three years they have served as visiting teachers at their alma mater in Mexico, Montemorelos University. And DVD training has broadened their sphere of influence. "By divine appointment," says Manuel, "a call for training came from the Northeastern Mexican Union, the territory in which we had lived while studying at Montemorelos."

The Alvas now visit Montemorelos on a monthly basis to monitor the progress of their medical and evangelistic work. Their commitment has brought the Alvas heartwarming results. "Our older son has decided to share in our work and enter medical training at Montemorelos. We are closer as a family since getting involved. Our children are thinking more about preparing to be missionaries—a definite change of perspective."

The Alvas have teamed with ASI members/trainers Gail and Norman Reitz of Hayward, California and Steve and Brenda Dickman of Savannah, Tennessee. Norm is a lawyer; Steve is president of Harbert Hills Academy. The Alvas look forward to future assignments in Southern Mexico and Venezuela.

Elder Mike Ryan, General Conference vice-president for Adventist Mission and Strategic Planning, explains that DVD training was designed to provide lay people with a simple, easy-to-use tool for active, productive evangelism. One person or hundreds can be trained simultaneously. DVD evangelism has been taken to areas where there was no previous Adventist presence. DVDs can be shown in homes, on street corners or in big city evangelism.

The largest baptism in Jakarta, Indonesia was the result of DVD-based evangelism. In a Southeast Asian city, 80 churches were established through DVD evangelism. "It's a method that gets people involved," says Elder Ryan. "It gives people time to develop relationships with the Lord and with other believers."

Elder Ryan also shares an amazing story. In a Southeast Asian country, the house where a lay worker was staying burned down. Everything was gone except, alone in the ashes, his DVD player and truth-filled discs. When villagers heard the story, they flocked to his meetings. They wanted to see what was so holy that it could not be destroyed!

DVD training at 140 sites is scheduled through 2009, but invitations exceed the number of trainers and teams available. Willing volunteers are needed to go, teach and baptize.

"Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given" Great Controversy, p 612.

Gail Bosarge is office manager at ASI. She lives in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Ouachita Hills Academy & College is Raising Young Evangelists...



From the Desk to the Front Door

BY DEBBIE BATTIN SASSER

In 1988 Ouachita Hills Academy (OHA) was established on 381 acres of beautiful country landscape in Amity, Arkansas. The peaceful setting encourages students to focus on their Christian walk while learning valuable skills and methods for soul-winning. “While a student there, I was encouraged and empowered to be active in service at an early and critical stage in my life,” says alumnus Israel Ramos.

Out of the academy, Ouachita Hills College (OHC) was born. In 2003, college classes began with 31 students in attendance. “It is our goal to equip students to be active soul winners regardless of their chosen profession,” says Chester Clark III, OHA and OHC Bible teacher and development director. Associate and bach-

elor degrees are offered in evangelism, Christian media, Biblical studies, theology, elementary education, and secondary Christian education, with a variety of minors available including biology, chemistry, English, and business.

Cultivating God’s Garden

Students have the opportunity to earn most of their tuition expenses through the literature evangelism (LE) program. “Each semester, our students spend two or three intensive weeks canvassing,” says Chester. Students canvass in areas where they are invited to help prepare for upcoming evangelistic meetings. “As they are making sales of Christian literature, they find people who are interested in Bible studies.” More than 170,000 doors are knocked on by these students each year with more than 1,300 boxes of literature distributed during these contacts.

The Maga-Books they sell were originally developed through a project by ASI. These glossy-cover, thin paperback books were designed to be mass-produced cost effectively, to enable students to earn some money selling them door-to-door. He Taught Love – a beauti-

fully illustrated edition of Christ's Object Lessons – was the first Maga-Book published.

Many of the contacts students make while conducting LE campaigns in the nearby university town of Arkadelphia have been seeds that have germinated into a church plant there. Over the past two years, the OHC student-led group has grown to about 25–40 people meeting every Sabbath morning. They have outgrown their rented facilities twice, and would like to build or buy a church eventually, but are still waiting to see how God will provide. “This has been one of the most dynamic and energizing outreach experiences that our students have been involved in,” says Chester.

A weekly Bible study on the campus of the state university in Arkadelphia has seen regular baptisms. OHC students rented a booth space during a community fair on the campus of the Baptist university in Arkadelphia, as well as at the fair held on the state college campus. They held a free drawing and gave away final-events DVDs. “They offered Bible studies, and asked people to sign up if they were interested in joining their weekly Bible study group,” says Chester. “They are quite innovative and bold in the way they have approached these universities.”

The church plant has a growing ministry to foreign students in the Arkadelphia universities, too. “There are students from countries where it wouldn’t be possible to go as missionaries, so we are praying that some will be converted and will reach out to their families and com-



Ouachita Hills students witnessing in the community.

munities when they go back home,” says Chester.

Children are a large part of the church plant’s ministry. Recently on a Sabbath morning, OHC student Janalin Johns was studying with the children the story of

Mary washing Jesus’ feet. “Today we are going to learn about someone that loved Jesus very much,” she began. Elias, a five-year-old whose parents, Flaviu and Joann, are preparing for baptism, raised his hand: “It’s me! It’s me!”

The principle of discipleship modeled by Jesus can often be seen as the students work. “The pattern of canvassing contacts, taking studies and becoming evangelists



An Ouachita Hills student volunteering as an English instructor.

to their friends and family is just what OHC hopes will become standard,” says Eugene Prewitt, the college’s LE director. One woman, Jennifer, purchased books, signed up for Bible studies, and has just completed a second set of Bible lessons. Now her mother, sister, and daughter are all attending the local church. Jennifer’s mother

recently began making plans to share the Sabbath truth with her son.

Once a year, the students canvass in the local area, which may seem ineffective over the course of several years. However, the students have found welcoming faces at most doors, and many are happy to see the students again and again. “One man told the student at the door: ‘I already have that book, but I have been waiting for you to come back. Come, show me what else you have,’” says Chester. “When canvassing is done correctly, you don’t simply use the territory as you go over it, but cultivate and improve it.”

Training the Harvesters

Mission trips are a vital part of education and ministry at Ouachita Hills. “Our goal is to inspire our young people to have a love for reaching out to others,” says Chester. “When youth experience just once what it means to be used by God to touch another soul for eternity, they are changed forever.”

Since 1998, every academy senior class has chosen a part of the world in which to do evangelistic mission work. During the school year, OHA students occasionally go on short mission trips to complete a building project. But the senior trip always involves evangelism. Throughout the past ten years, efforts by students have reaped more than five thousand baptisms around the world. “Part of our senior year curriculum covers in-depth study of the Adventist church’s teachings—in a format that shows them how to give Bible studies, and how to defend doctrines biblically,” says Chester.

The mission trips give them practical experience through conducting a multimedia evangelistic series with New Beginnings DVDs, doing visitation, giving Bible studies, and leading people to make decisions for Christ. The New Beginnings program was developed by

It Is Written and ASI. It includes 26 presentations, meant to be used for 2-week evangelistic campaigns.

During the 2007 senior mission trip, the youth found a slightly different, new challenge. “We were encouraged by the General Conference leadership to put energy into nurturing new believers in India,” says Chester. “We worked with more than a thousand lay members in India.” These church members were trained in personal spirituality, how to study the Bible, the importance of prayer, the role of the Holy Spirit, how to give Bible studies, and how to use the New Beginnings DVDs. The Ouachita Hills project was part of the Train Them Now effort led by ASI. More than 700 lay people in India were equipped with DVD players, sermon materials, and the DVD sets. “In the first four months following the training, more than two thousand baptisms were gained by these lay people,” says Chester.

Ouachita Hills is raising up leaders who are committed to Jesus Christ and the authority of His Word. “It was on my senior mission trip to the Philippines that I caught a vision for and a love of evangelism,” says Jason Sliger, an alumnus who currently works for Amazing Facts. The educational program at OHA and OHC focuses on training youth to build a per-



An Ouachita Hills student speaks during a school mission trip to India.

sonal foundation of faith, and then share all they know and love with others—locally and around the world. “What the young people want is not entertainment, but a sense of being useful and making a difference for God,” says Chester. “Mission trips are an opportunity for young people to see that there is nothing more exciting than giving of themselves and impacting lives for eternity.”

Debbie Battin Sasser is a freelance writer living in Friendswood, Texas.

God Made a Way

BY DEENA BARTEL-WAGNER

A popular Christian song says, “God will make a way, when there seems to be no way.” The evidence of this can be seen in the outreach of Mission College of Evangelism and the vision of Louis and Carol Torres.

As a teenager, the last thing on Louis’ mind was teaching someone how to win others to Christ. During a turbulent adolescence, Louis was more interested in music, fame, power and money. After losing his mother to cancer, he turned to the world for comfort but discovered no peace there. As music became the central focus of his life, he believed that performing and fame would be what he needed.

Louis thought he’d made it when he was asked to sign with Bill Haley and the Comets as the bass guitar player. Instead, the longing for something more was pulling at his heart. When he made the total surrender to God, Louis found his life turned upside down and couldn’t wait to share his love for Jesus with others.

As Louis and Carol shared the gospel with others,



Mission College students in door-to-door evangelism.

they began to see a need for training gospel workers. “All during our ministry we had been training people to tell others about Christ,” says Louis. “We recognized that specific techniques helped people have the confidence to share Jesus with others. Carol felt impressed to write a training curriculum, but we had no idea when or how it would be used. We believed that when the time was right, God would take our efforts and use them.”

For the next 15 years Louis and Carol taught others the techniques as they held evangelistic meetings in churches. They still dreamed of an evangelistic training school but didn’t know how or when it would become a reality. Their ministry took them from the plains of the Midwest to the large cities of the East.

“The more we worked in evangelism, the more we saw a need to utilize the laity,” says Louis. “I was particularly interested in training youth to participate in evangelism. We put this into practice in the Greater New York Conference by encouraging and mentoring young

people to hold meetings in the summer.”

In 1995, Louis and Carol were invited to open an evangelism training school on the campus of Black Hills Health and Education Center, an ASI member organization. The first three-week course was held that fall, and a positive response encouraged the Torreses to plan a full three-month-long evangelistic training course.

“That was truly the beginning of Mission College,” says Louis. “As word spread, people from all over the world applied to come and study with us. During that first three-week course we had 20 students. When we announced the beginning of the three month course, we had 40 students attend.”

Louis and Carol began to envision six evangelism training schools located throughout the North American Division but couldn’t have imagine how God would lead.

Today over 800 students have graduated from the training that the Torreses have provided. Evangelism schools have been established by some of these graduates in places like Germany, Australia, Switzerland, Norway and Michigan.

After the September 11 attacks, Louis and Carol were impressed that there was a great need to open a branch of Mission College near a major metropolitan center. It wasn’t long before they once again saw God making a way for His work. “Early in 2002, we were asked if we would consider moving Mission College to the former campus of Laurelwood Academy in Gaston, Oregon,” recalls Louis. “We recognized that this would open the opportunity to work in the Portland metro area. It didn’t take long to realize that God was using this opportunity for Mission College to have access to a large city where we could further equip our students in evangelism outreach. We moved to the campus in the summer, and our first classes were held in the fall of 2002.”

Students who enroll in the Applied Ministries course receive a solid grounding in all areas of evangelism. To ensure that they fully understand the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and are able to teach them to others, each student is required to spend sixty hours carefully studying each of the doctrines from a Biblical perspective.

Additionally, students are trained in personal evangelism, public evangelism, pastoral evangelism,



Louis Torres teaching class at Mission College.

prophetic interpretation (with an emphasis on Daniel and Revelation in the context of both end-time events and the character of Christ and his role in the plan of salvation), prophetic guidance, church history, homiletics, community health education, natural remedies, Christian sales, personal finance and stewardship,

and emergency field medicine.

During the first few weeks of training, students are led through the principles of evangelism, door-to-door work, learning how to find people interested in Bible studies and how best to interact with people. “We have trained Bible workers accompany the students to model what they need to do,” says Louis. “We also have a time of debriefing following work in the field. This allows us to address any special challenges that a student may be facing.”

Even though students gain the equivalent of 40 hours of college credit – transferable to Atlantic Union College, Pacific Union College or Andrews University – they don’t do it all through book learning. “We want the students to have the experience of leading an evangelistic campaign,” says Louis. “They are involved in everything from the planning to working at the nightly meetings. Additionally, they give Bible studies, do visitation and help people make the decision to give their lives to Christ.”

Since Mission College began, more than 90 of its graduates have become full-time pastors and over 200 are engaged full-time as Bible workers. “Sometimes people have the misconception that if they come to Mission College, it means the end result will be that they have to enter full-time ministry,” says Louis. “Actually, most of our graduates return home and use what they have learned to be more effective in their communities and neighborhoods. The training that our students receive is invaluable as they continue their lay ministry among their friends and neighbors.”

As Carol and Louis labored over an evangelism training curriculum nearly 30 years ago, they knew God would make a way even if it seemed there was no way. Today, they continue to believe He leads as the work of Mission College continues and many are brought to the foot of the cross.

Deena Bartel-Wagner is owner of Verbal Oxygen, a writing and creative services firm based in Spencerport, New York.

Your Story Hour Reaches Across Russia

BY ADRIENNE REDDING

From the formidable expanse of land west of the Ural Mountains to the sparsely populated tundra rolling endlessly to the east, *Chas tvoego rasskaza* (*Your Story Hour Russia*) speaks words of Christ's love and guidance to Russian children and families seeking direction. Though circumstances often prove challenging, God always makes it possible for *YSH* to keep the stories on the air.

In 1992, *YSH Russia* began broadcasting on 2,200 government stations across 11 time zones of the former

Soviet Union. The destabilization that followed the break-up of the Soviet system caused a complete shake-up in the way programming was distributed, and as a result *YSH's* outreach was considerably reduced.

In June of 2006, a miraculous chain of events began. Just before his death, former Soviet Radio Director Alexander Akhtyrsky called Russia's leading radio network urging them to broadcast *YSH*. His enthusiasm convinced them, and by December the *YSH* team and Russian Director Dick Bayley had revised

a series of scripts to bring the program into compliance with new time restrictions, raised the capital necessary to fund the program, hired an office worker in Moscow, and brought on Yuri Chervotkin as our Russian Uncle. Yuri and Tanya Belov – our Russian Aunt – flew to Berrien Springs to record the new narrations, which were used to create 16 new masters for broadcast, and Tanya then delivered the broadcast masters personally to the program director in Moscow. That December 16th, the



Yuri Chervotkin and Tanya Belov
"Uncle Yuri" and "Aunt Tanya"

first new weekly broadcast aired to a potential listening audience of 25 million people.

Chas tvoego rasskaza was part of the 2007 ASI Convention offering. And at the convention, \$20,000 was pledged for *YSH Russia*. These funds have provided for many needs, including the original revision work done on scripts, the production

and post production work on the broadcast masters, the travel and recording contract costs generated by Yuri and Tanya, and the cost of weekly air time on the O.R.R. Network.

YSH is working to maximize the effectiveness of this opportunity to share the good news of Jesus' love and the benefits of good decision-making and successful life principles. Forty-one of the 170 *YSH* Russian stories are formatted to air once a week over the 40 stations – up from 33 stations in 2006 – supplied by the O.R.R. Network. Also in 2007, the Life of Jesus album was packaged and released for sale on CD in the Russian language.

YSH has been preparing for continued growth by editing 25 new stories and finalizing arrangements for Aunt Tanya and Uncle Yuri to come back to Berrien Springs for a recording session. These stories will be released this spring and will include a new Russian email address, giving *YSH* a new way to capture the reactions of listeners and respond to them personally.

YSH sincerely thanks ASI for responding positively to last year's request for grant monies. And please pray for *YSH's* work in Russia where so many children and families are struggling and searching for the way that will lead to peace and fulfillment.

For more information please visit www.yourstory-hour.org or call 800-987-7879.

Adrienne Redding is Development Director for *Your Story Hour*.



YSH Russian director,
Dick Bayley



Seeding, Weeding, and Blooming

ASI helps Country Life reach souls for Christ in Wisconsin.

BY TIM CRARY

Agriculture is a wonderful illustration for soul winning. The farmer plants and sees nothing, he hoes and sees nothing, he waters and sees nothing; he cultivates and still sees nothing; all tedious, backbreaking labor that requires perseverance and tenacity. Country Life in Wisconsin has for years been working in sustained, purposeful planting of gospel seeds.

Take, for example, the story of Fletcher. The product of a broken home, Fletcher's early years were spent shuttling from one household to another. His only acquaintance with

the truth was through his grandparents (seeds). His years as a young man were filled with drugs and poor decisions.

In the mid 1980s, Fletcher came to Country Life, where the staff spent many hours talking and working with him (hoeing, weeding, watering). But still for many years he strayed from the Lord. Two years ago he came back again to Country Life, still

unsure of the Father's love, yet God was making serious inroads into his life.

One day an ad for evangelistic meetings caught Fletcher's attention. He went, and a short while later he made a total and complete commitment to God. (The green shoot bursts out into full bloom).

Or there's the story of John and Sherry, who were invited by their neighbors to dine with them at Country Life (seeds). Enjoying the restaurant's food, they decided to participate in Country Life's cooking class. After completing the five-week course, John and Sherry were most impressed with the healthy results (weeding, watering).

And when their neighbor extended another invitation, this time to the local Adventist church, John and Sherry considered going, based on the positive experi-



ence at Country Life. It took some coaxing, however, as negative experiences at other churches in the past were hard to overcome. But God would not let them go, and today they attend the Adventist church (bloom).

Country Life Garden in Portage, Wisconsin received part of the 2006 ASI convention offering. Funds were used to purchase items needed to open the new restaurant, including audio/visual equipment (for hosting cooking classes and other seminars), lighting and fencing for the parking lot, and dinner plates, bowls, and other utensils. The restaurant officially opened in May 2007. The facility has also been used to host seminars and various Adventist church meetings.

Many thanks to those who helped Country Life Portage through the ASI offering. Your generous gifts have greatly helped to improve the facility and allow the ministry of Country Life to continue to reach people like Fletcher, John and Sherry, with the seeds of Christian love and the gospel – seeds that someday sprout into beautiful bloom.

Tim Crary is Executive Vice President of Country Life Ministries, Inc. For more information, visit www.country-lifeportage.org



Fletcher

ASI

ASI Abroad

Inter-American Division

In the Inter-American Division, ASI organizations have been active in numerous projects. **ASI Belize** has coordinated a project at Tubal Training and Vocational Institute, which offers instruction in the areas of computer technology, carpentry, auto mechanics, home appliance repair, refrigeration and air conditioning.

ASI Honduras is sponsoring an expansion project at Daniel Christian School, a bi-lingual school for children and youth in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. In **Colombia**, ASI in the Inter-American Division is involved with EDEM Medical Missionary Training School. Located in Supia Caldas, Colombia, EDEM promotes evangelistic programs based on health and lifestyle training, with stress management, hydrotherapy, and massage programs.

Organizing jobs for the local community is the goal of the Social Missionary Project, sponsored by **ASI Panama**. It allows local individuals to earn a living, and the outreach aspect of the project has resulted in a group of roughly 25 individuals meeting for worship each Sabbath. As the project grows, ASI Panama plans to build a church for these worshippers.

Europe

Many exciting things are also happening at the ASI organizations in Europe. **ASI Spain**, which pioneered Youth for Jesus in Europe, will sponsor a Youth for Jesus this year in the city of Seville. Members of **ASI Austria** are building a medical mission in Tajikistan. And members of **ASI Italy** have been encouraged by the impact of their health expos.



A young believer brought to Christ by Youth for Jesus in Spain.

Young people from **ASI France** will conduct an evangelistic campaign in Madagascar this summer, and after returning they will do outreach in the French city of Marseille. **Czech-Slovak ASI** has taken up a “New Beginnings” DVD project, along with sponsoring numerous other projects. And in **Germany**, first-generation Adventists have launched a radio station, and are encouraged with its success thus far. German and Austrian members have also established a training center for health evangelism.

ASI United Kingdom will hold a three-month evangelism training course this summer, and is also sponsoring the construction of an Adventist village for orphans in India. Sponsoring a total of 43 projects, **ASI Romania** has been very active. Romania is also the site for the ASI Europe convention this June, where Elder Jose Rojas will be the featured speaker and the theme will be “Work, Witness, Win.” You are warmly invited to attend.

ASI Europe is online at www.4christ2.com

Joining the Family...



Population 1,099 and growing!

Becoming an Ambassador of Christ

Ron Fleck was ready to live a "doctor's life."

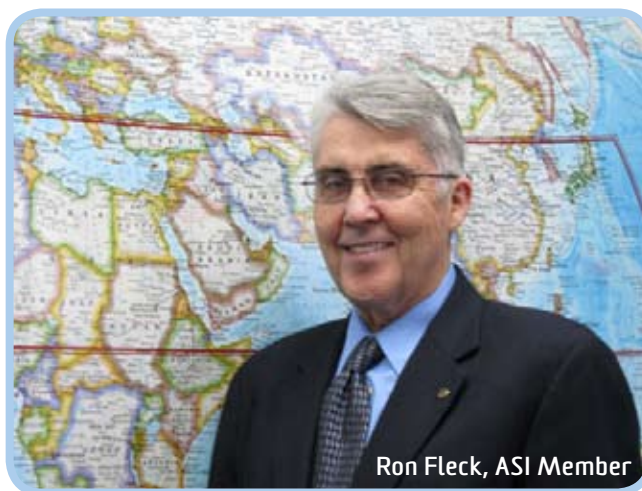
Having completed medical school and residency, Ron launched a medical practice in Superior, Montana, in 1971. "I was insecure, and trying to portray the image of a successful physician," he writes.

With the bank more than willing to loan money to a young doctor, Ron went on a spending spree, not only buying equipment for his new practice but also two new cars, a 105-acre ranch, two dirt bikes and two snowmobiles.

Working to support his new lifestyle – and pay-off his debts – Ron was seeing about 40 patients and working 14-16 hours each day. While he tried to lead a normal Adventist life with his family, Ron's preoccupation was his medical practice. And things did go well. Although he was working day and night, the debts were being paid.

Then everything started to unravel. The economy in Superior crashed, and Ron's income was halved. He sold the ranch for only half its value and moved his practice and family to Shelby, Montana. But not long afterward, Ron's wife left him, taking their five children with her.

So once again Ron packed up and moved, this time to Sheridan, Oregon. It was there that he fully turned to the Lord, desperately seeking answers. "I would work all day in my clinic seeing patients and then come home and study my Bible until the wee hours of the morning," he writes. Ron began to feel



Ron Fleck, ASI Member

closer to God than he ever had before. The Lord also blessed his practice, and after five years Ron was completely out of debt.

In 1986, Ron moved again, this time to Walla Walla, Washington. It was there that he married Bobbie, who had lost her husband to a brain tumor. Together they comforted each other's pain and grew in the Lord.

After several years of hearing about ASI and being encouraged to join, Ron and Bobbie attended a North Pacific Union ASI chapter meeting. "I was inspired to get involved with ASI," he writes. "Bobbie and I joined, and then I became involved even more with Gospel Outreach, which is also an ASI member." Ron describes what a source of joy service with ASI has been, and how he looks forward to every local meeting as well as the annual convention.

"We should primarily see ourselves as Ambassadors of Christ, and our business or profession as secondary," writes Ron. "ASI provides an incredible opportunity to network with Adventist professionals and business people to serve others in ways you could never do alone. There is no greater joy than to serve God and others, and one of the best ways to serve God is through ASI."

Would you like to join ASI? You are warmly invited to be a part of "Sharing Christ in the Marketplace." Membership information can be found online at www.asiministries.org, or by calling 301-680-6450.



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