

# Inside ASI

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

Spring/Summer 2009

Sharing God's Love  
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*A Focus on Homeland Outreach*

Laymen Leading the Flock

A Hand Up

I Might as Well Witness

The Privilege to Do





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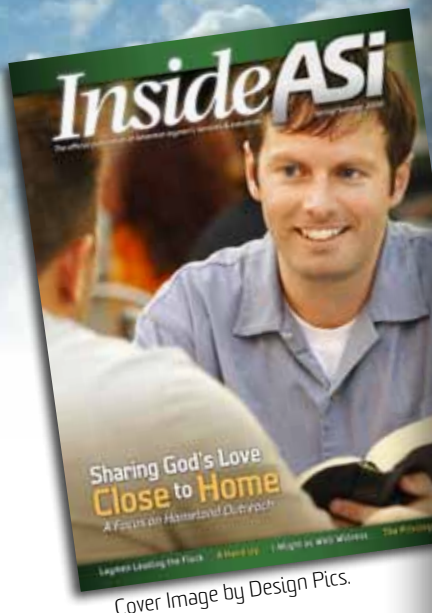
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Cover Image by Design Pics.

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## Editor's Note:

**M**y neighborhood is a comfort zone, not a mission field. Ever felt this way? I certainly have. It often seems the toughest mission field is the one we live in.

Late last year I joined an outreach-oriented Bible study with a number of non-Adventists attending. It's a wonderful experience, and so simple—we're just making friends and telling them about Jesus. Anyone can do that.

Remember what Jesus told the man healed of demon-possession: *"Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you"* (Mark 5:19).

*SN RA*  
—Steve Hamstro



# Inside ASI

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## Character and Commitment

BY BARBARA TAYLOR

I first joined the ASI family in 1993, and I can still remember my first ASI Convention. It was exciting to explore the exhibit hall and discover the many witnessing tools available. The “Members in Action” testimonies were filled with wonderful ideas as well.

In those early days, I had no idea of the many simple yet effective ways of sharing Christ. I was a newly baptized Seventh-day Adventist from a small church and I was anxious to tell anyone who would listen about Jesus. I’m sure the Lord probably cringed at some of my methods. But, praise God, He is always willing to work with each one of us.

One day, while I was asking God to tell me His will for my life, it was as though a voice spoke to me and said, “Plant a church in Copper Mountain, Colorado.” That was nine years ago. Over time our church has grown and been blessed in so many ways!

Every year people from all over the world travel to Copper Mountain for skiing in the winter, and for hiking, biking and golf in the summer. We invite them to Veggie Supper Club dinners, through which so many people have become aware of our church and have attended as a result.

Ellen White wrote, “A Christian character can be symmetrically and completely formed only when the human agent regards it as a privilege to work disinterestedly in the proclamation of the truth and to sustain the cause of God with means” (9T pg. 127). I’ve learned just how true this statement is. Only through a daily commitment to witnessing will we develop a Christ-like character.



Every day I ask the Lord to put someone in my path to whom I can witness. And it amazes me how someone will come into my office, sit next to me on a plane, or somehow come into my daily activities.

On the back of my business card is a website for Bible studies. The other day, a lady who works down the hall came into my office

and mentioned the website. She then told me that she’d studied religion at university. As we continued to visit, I gave her the magazine *Hidden Secrets*. She took the magazine and said she would read it.

Every one of us is needed to help carry out the mission of ASI, to be actively involved in Sharing Christ in the Marketplace. Ellen White wrote, “Hundreds, yea, thousands, who have heard the message of salvation are still idlers in the marketplace, when they might be engaged in some line of active service. To these Christ is saying, ‘Why stand ye here all the day idle?’ and He adds, ‘Go ye also into the vineyard’ (Matthew 20:6, 7). Why is it that many more do not respond to the call? Is it because they think themselves excused in that they do not stand in the pulpit? Let them understand that there is a large work to be done outside the pulpit by thousands of consecrated lay members” (AA pg. 110, 111).

It is when we commit to sharing God’s Word with others that our characters become strong. As the saying goes, “What you are is God’s gift to you. What you become is your gift to God.” Together, let’s allow the Lord to develop Christ’s character in each of us as we commit to do the work to which He has called us.



**Barbara Taylor** is ASI vice president for recruitment.

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# A Source of Inspiration

BY HENRY MARTIN

Soon after my wife and I were baptized, we were introduced to ASI. Among the many attractive characteristics of the organization were the camaraderie and fellowship we saw among its members. To this day, 35 years later, the ASI members I meet are spirit-filled Christians, dedicated to sharing Christ wherever they are.



In our fast-paced society and uncertain times, it is so important that we remain close-knit, connected and praying regularly for one another. We must be ready resources for fellow Christians as well as for our clients, customers, patients and neighbors.

The Bible is filled with texts encouraging us to act as “salt and light” in our churches. Or, as Paul put it, to “equip the saints for the work of service, to build up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12). Sound like ASI?

There is even biblical advice for us in these tough economic times. Allow me to put a modern interpretation to Habakkuk 3:17,18: “Though the fig tree does not blossom, and there are no grapes on the vine, nor olives on the tree; when the fields produce no food, and there are no livestock in the stalls, nor any inventory in our showroom, nor cars on the lot, yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.”

Faithful ASI members, whatever their vocation, can take such inspiration from that verse! Other community members may inquire how it is that your business prospers or survives, when others are suffering so much. Or why, even if you're struggling, you remain joyful. These are opportunities to lovingly share your faith.

Hebrews 10: 23-25 reads, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking

our own assembling together as is the manner of some, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching.”

Along the same theme, Ellen White writes, “Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to

work for God” (COL pg. 326). ASI members are people committed to this message, to encouraging one another and serving the Lord. Let me share an example:

I well remember when ASI members Tom and Vi Zapara sold their 1,500-employee business, Zee Medical Products. It was even reported in the *Wall Street Journal*. After the sale was complete, Tom said, “I sure want to be broke when the Lord comes back.”

That was both an unexpected and immense source of encouragement to me. Together, my wife and I began to pray for God to show us when the time was right to sell our 55-year-old family enterprise and enter into full-time service. Within two years an opportunity developed to leave our career in the automobile business and begin work with a supporting ministry.

I firmly believe that when we place everything on the altar before God, He will reveal how our talents and possessions can be used for His purpose. I encourage you to focus on Christ, not on the many things of this world. You too can be an inspiration to someone, just as Tom Zapara was to me.



**Henry Martin** has recently retired after serving for 14 years as assistant to the president at Weimar Institute, prior to which he was a career automobile dealer. Henry was also ASI president from 1987-1989.

# Fishers of Men

BY DARRY CAMPBELL

Several years ago I was invited to go on my first mission trip to Thailand. I had never wanted to go overseas for any reason. But I had a sincere desire to share the gospel and to be useful to the Lord. So I agreed to go, with the understanding that PowerPoint sermons and health-related materials would be supplied.

About two months before leaving, my wife, Ginny, and I were informed that we had to write our own sermons. There was nothing available for Buddhist audi-

ences. While I had offered the sermon for my local church a few times, creating sermons for foreign Buddhists was in a totally different league. I decided to cancel rather than make a fool of myself.

While studying my Sabbath school lesson that same week, a quote from Ellen White leapt out at me. It said (paraphrased), "When planning to do God's work we should never consider failure. In God's work there is no failure except if we fail to go." I felt like those words were writ-

ten just for me.

So to Thailand we went. We had the privilege of witnessing 27 lovely people take their stand for the Lord. My wife and I are now preparing for our seventh trip to



Thailand, and we've seen over 200 souls baptized.

Now let me share a more personal story. Last spring I presented a lay evangelism workshop in Madison, Wisconsin. Friday night, during the opening session of the workshop, I asked each of the attendees to make a list of 10 names—people they have a burden to share the gospel with. I then asked them to pray for God to give them witnessing opportunities with those on their list.

Not asking my students to do anything I wouldn't, I prepared my own list. It included my daughter, Karen, and her boyfriend, John.

Karen was a prodigal in every sense of the word: twice divorced, somewhat estranged from the family, and living a wild, worldly life.

That night as I prayed over my list, I earnestly asked God to somehow touch Karen's heart and give her the desire to come back to Him. On Sabbath, during the workshop's second session, our group prayed for all of the names on each of our lists.

Sunday morning, I was awakened by a telephone call. It was Karen. The first thing she said was, "When can we start Bible studies?"

Ginny and I gave Karen and John their first Bible study that afternoon. Long story short, Karen and John are now married and have been baptized as well.

Ellen White wrote, "No sooner does one come to Christ than there is born in his heart a desire to make

**"What is our  
duty to God?**

**Follow Jesus.**

**Our duty to  
everyone else?**

**Lead them  
to Jesus."**



known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus, the saving and sanctifying truth cannot be shut in his heart" (Steps to Christ, 78). If this is true, why don't we have 16 million Adventist lay-evangelists turning the world upside down? What is holding us back?

When it comes to witnessing, there are two basic questions we all ask. Where to go, and what to do? The Bible gives us those answers in Matthew 4:19. Jesus said, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." It sounds simple, but the whole gospel challenge is wrapped up in that one short sentence. What is our duty to God? Follow Jesus. Our duty to everyone else? Lead them to Jesus.

A Bible story I closely identify with is that of Moses at the burning bush. Look at all the excuses Moses used. "Who am I that you would send me?" "But I wouldn't know what to say!" "What if they don't believe me?" "I don't talk too good." And finally, "Can't you just send someone else?" The story of Moses is the story of God's

people today. We use those same excuses.

So, with all of those excuses, how did Moses become one of God's great leaders? He just went.

Hebrews 11 tells us about God's great heroes. In verse 34 the writer shares their secret: "Out of weakness [they] were made strong!" All of the great Bible heroes had weaknesses. But when they were willing to serve, God made them strong and they accomplished great things.

When we follow Jesus, our work for Him will never fall short. The only shortfall is if we do not step out in faith. Each one of us is capable because God is capable. What has the Lord asked you to do? Follow Him and He will make you fishers of men!



**Darryl Campbell** has been manager of Rhodes International since 1972. He is also vice president for evangelism for the ASI Lake Union chapter.

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## Organizational Members

### Axis Foundation, Inc

#### Cordell Thomas

Spouse: Yuriam

Perris, California

Axis Foundation provides intervention and motivational services for "at-risk" youth in Southern California.

### God Will Provide Ministries

#### Victoriano Parilla

Browns Mills, New Jersey

God Will Provide Ministries is involved with medical mission outreach, literacy and humanitarian programs, and the operation of a media ministry.

### Green Cord Enterprises

#### Troy Montana

Spouse: April

Ravenna, Texas

Green Cord is a singing, preaching and teaching ministry. They offer revival and lifestyle seminars, along with presentations on doctrine and prophecy.

### H W Ranson, Jr

#### Lorraine Ranson

Appomattox, Virginia

H W Ranson provides logging services, including building logging roads and decks. They also take down old houses and reclaim the lumber for various uses.

### His Image Ministries

#### Nwmiko Madden

Montreal, Quebec

His Image Ministries uses various media to share the gospel with people living in urban areas.

### Level 13 Apparel

#### Michael Mathews

Spouse: Paige

Cleburne, Texas

Level 13 Apparel produces screen-printed and embroidered clothing.



### Mid America Cabinets, Inc.

#### Bob Hosteter

Spouse: Sylvia Hosteter

Gentry, Arkansas

Mid America Cabinets manufactures kitchen cabinets for the multi-family market. Bob is also very active in his local church.

### Neal Capital Management, LLC

#### Greg Nelson

Spouse: Wendy

Fallbrook, California

Neal Capital Management provides investment management services.

### Rosehaven

#### Charles Sterling

St Helena, California

Rosehaven is a residential care home for the elderly.

### Safe to Surf

#### Skipp Shimek

Spouse: Kelly

Fort Pierce, Florida

Safe to Surf develops and sells Internet protection software, including parental controls.

### Turkendorf Financial Group, LLC

#### Iwona Turkendorf

Garfield, New Jersey

Turkendorf Financial Group provides insurance and financial services.

### Vonumu International

#### Sam Vonumu

Silver Spring, Maryland

Vonumu International serves underprivileged children in India by providing them with an education.

## Associate Members

### Angela August

Tampa, Florida

Angela is an independent doctor of optometry.

### Barbara Bennett

Spouse: Al

Tampa, Florida

### Karen Biathrow

Spouse: Skip

Corrales, New Mexico

Karen & Skip operate Veggie Lifestyles, Inc, a retailer of Christian books and vegetarian foods.

### Pairoj Chang

Spouse: Eileen

Eustis, Florida

Pairoj is a physician and is involved with several ministries in his local church.





HIS IMAGE MINISTRIES



ROSEHAVEN CARE HOME

### **Mary Ann Hadley**

Spouse: Bob

Joshua, Texas

Mary Ann, a retiree, serves as volunteer director of the self-supporting Ellen White Research Center at Southwestern Adventist University.

### **Edith Lawton**

Melrose, Florida

Edith buys and restores run-down properties and makes them available as low-income housing. She also serves as a women's ministry leader in her church.

### **Don Ludgate**

Spouse: Carol

Castalian Springs, Tennessee

Don & Carol operate C & D Services, which provides tax preparations. They also sell religious books and health products in addition to holding health seminars.

### **Godwin Okolie**

Spouse: Beatrice

Randolph, New Jersey

Godwin is a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch and has used his professional skills to help local church members with their financial issues.

### **William Schnorbus**

Spouse: Cecelia

Cross City, Florida

See *New Member Spotlight* on page 11.

### **Linda Walden**

Clermont, Florida

Linda is very involved with evangelism efforts in her home church and is also part of the church's support team.

### **Carol Whiting**

Harrah, Oklahoma

## **Associate International Members**

### **Moses Rod Ministry**

**Van Chawnglut**

Spouse: Grace

Aizawl, Mizoram India

Moses Rod Ministry produces witnessing materials geared toward non-Christians in India. They also provide outreach training for lay volunteers and church workers.

**Got Friends?**

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**Invite them to join ASI...**

Interested in joining ASI or recommending ASI to a friend? More information and a membership application are available online at [www.asiministries.org](http://www.asiministries.org).

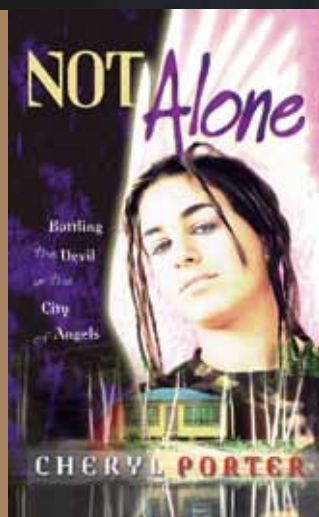
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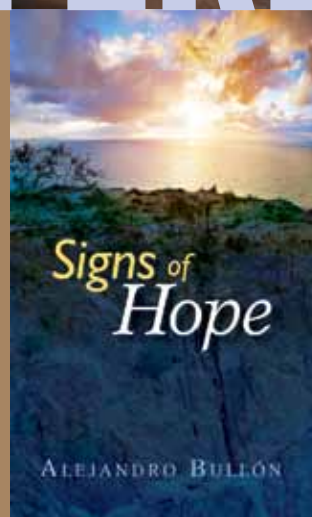
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# Laymen Leading the Flock

BY DEENA BARTEL WAGNER

**B**ill Schnorbus was head elder of the Cross City, Florida Seventh-day Adventist Church, when He received a phone call from Mike Cauley, the Florida Conference President. “Our local conference was facing a budget deficit, and this meant that there were going to be layoffs,” Bill recalls. “[Elder Cauley] told me that our church would be losing our full time pastor and asked if I would be willing to become the lay pastor.”

At the time, Bill was scheduled to enter an accelerated nurse-practitioner program at a local university. He and his wife, Cecelia, knew their decision couldn't be made lightly or without prayer. After seeking God's guidance, Bill came on board as the lay pastor of the Cross City Adventist Church in 2003.

Cross City is a 65-member congregation filled with people who are involved in numerous ministries. Church members are active in prison ministries, men's and women's ministries, Pathfinders, the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP), *Signs of the Times* ministry, and others.

“Our prison ministry team is active in several areas,” says Bill. “Each Sabbath an elder holds services at the state correctional facility that is in the area.” The Cross City church also works with a local halfway house and county jail.

Another aspect of Cross City's prison ministry is participating in the LAMB program organized by the Florida Conference. “The LAMB program is one that is designed to impact women inmates and their children,” says Bill. “We provide various events and supplies for the children of [incarcerated] women in our area. It might be a birthday party or presents at Christmas. At



Bill & Cecelia Schnorbus.

the beginning of the school year we make sure that the children have the clothes and school supplies that they need.” The Cross City church has participated in LAMB for five years now and currently is working with seven children.

The men's and women's ministries are not only serving the church family but are also reaching others in the community. “Our Women's Ministry group makes lap covers for local nursing homes and visits and sings to the residents,”

says Cecelia. They also make sure that local families facing financial difficulties receive food baskets, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

As the men's ministry program got established, Bill thought about how to keep men interested and involved. “It seemed to me that we needed more action than just attending prayer breakfasts and meetings,” says Bill. “I talked with some of the other men and they agreed that they wanted a more hands-on ministry.”

Hands-on ministry is precisely what they got. Today a group of about 10 men provides a variety of services to the community on two or three Sundays every month. “The work we do varies with each project,” says Bill. “We might be putting on a new metal roof or doing a roof-over. Other days we might be building a wheelchair ramp.” The group will tackle just about any job from painting to construction, even lawn and bush trimming.

As they began working in the community, it became apparent that the men's group wasn't easily distinguished from regular contractors. Wanting to make people aware of their ministry, they purchased magnetic signs for their vehicles. The signs simply read “Men's Ministry, Cross City SDA Church.” As a result, the group

has received calls for help that might otherwise have never come.

This past Christmas the men's group partnered with the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. Meeting on a regular basis at Bill's home, they repaired and tuned up 65 bicycles that had been donated for children.

Another successful ministry at Cross City might seem unusual to some. "One day a member came to me and asked if we could begin a flea market ministry," says Bill. "After some thought and prayer several members decided that this was the ministry they were being called to do."

The flea market ministry is more than six months old now. The group distributes literature and takes prayer requests every Sunday at a flea market in nearby Chiefland. Each request is prayed over by small groups at Cross City that meet Wednesday and Friday nights and Sabbath mornings.

Recently a couple of Cross City members who work in a local nursing home noticed that some of the residents were reading books and literature being distributed at the flea market. They had no idea how the residents were receiving these materials. After a little investigating, they found the answer. "Another lady who works at that nursing home visits our booth every weekend," says Bill. "She picks out materials to distribute at the nursing home."

A CHIP program is forthcoming, spurred by requests from the community. "We had a very successful CHIP program for our members," says Bill. "People noticed the weight loss of some of our members and asked questions. This generated a lot of interest, and without even advertising we have had 21 people sign up for our [upcoming] CHIP program."

The Cross City church has a number of other ministries as well. These include working with a local battered women's shelter, supplying area magazine boxes with *Signs of the Times*, partnering with an interdenominational clothing and food bank and hosting AARP Safe Driving Programs at the church building.



**Pastor Bill baptizing Erma Mahoney, the first baptism at the new Cross City church.**



**The new Cross City Seventh-day Adventist Church, which was dedicated debt free.**

The Lord has not only blessed the various Cross City ministries but also the congregation as well. A while back, the congregation decided to construct a new church building. With \$114,000 in their church building fund, the Cross City members prayed over every aspect of the construction project and asked God to provide for all that was needed. "The Lord blessed this project a thousand times over," says Bill. "We completed the church and moved in debt-free with a total out-of-pocket expenditure of \$175,000. The county has assessed our building at \$640,000."

The impact of having a new building has been tremendous. When construction began, there were no babies in the congregation. Four months after moving into the new

church, there were eight babies. "We had to turn one of the classrooms into a nursery," says Bill. "Our children's ministry has bloomed, and now we have kids everywhere. We had to build another building for Sabbath school classrooms."

By working together in so many outreach projects, the church has become a very tight knit family. "If you miss a Sabbath you get a phone call to make sure everything is okay," says Bill. "We've had members call and say they were going to be away for a Sabbath. They wanted us to know that everything was okay and they didn't need a phone call. They received a call anyway. We want people to know they are missed when they don't come."

The ministry of Bill and Cecelia Schnorbus at the Cross City church is a powerful testimony to God's ability to work through anyone willing to serve Him. "And we know that in all things God works together with those who love Him to bring about what is good—with those who have been called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

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



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# POINTING TO CHRIST

HERITAGE ACADEMY STUDENTS WITNESS THROUGH DISASTER RELIEF

BY DEBBIE BATTIN SASSER

**H**urricane Ike flooded news reports as the fierce, 900-mile wide storm left a trail of devastation along the Texas and Louisiana coast and blasted northward. Thousands of people were in need of clean water, food, clothing, and basic supplies. Countless homes were flooded, roofs blown off, and debris of all shapes and sizes was strewn everywhere. Trees had blown over and power lines were down, leaving large swaths with no electricity. Many people were stranded.

Relief agencies from near and far responded to this massive disaster. Among the first responders was a trained disaster relief group from Heritage Academy (HA) in Monterey, Tennessee. Soon after the hurricane passed, a cadre of more than 40 students and faculty arrived in Orange City, Texas.

They traveled door-to-door, assessing the condition of homes and residents' needs—an important part of the disaster relief process. The collected information was taken back to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) where it was recorded and processed for use in

coordinating relief efforts. HA students used handheld devices to collect the data. "Young people today are great at sending text messages; their fingers move like lightning," says Debbie Baker, HA president. "It was a good match-up!"

Disaster relief exemplifies the mission of Heritage Academy. "In every aspect of disaster relief, young people have the opportunity to live their faith, experience the Holy Spirit working in other people's lives and in their own, and share Christ in tangible ways," says Baker. "I can't think of another ministry that fits so well with our mission."



Heritage Academy students clearing debris left by Hurricane Ike in Texas.

All Heritage Academy students and faculty have completed Red Cross CPR, basic first aid, and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, available through the United States Department of Homeland Security. "We are trained more than most disaster relief volunteers. Knowing what to expect, how to react, and what to do gives the students confidence to get involved when the opportunity arises," says Baker.

Hurricane Ike's aftermath was just the latest in



a string of disaster relief efforts by Heritage Academy. When a tornado leveled the town of Lake Mak, Florida, an HA team helped clean up debris and assisted homeowners in recovering salvageable items. And when tornadoes struck Jackson, Tennessee,

another HA group was quick to respond with tools and manpower to remove debris and complete several rebuilding projects.

"I have seen people lose everything and have learned to appreciate the small things that tend to be overlooked on a daily basis," says HA student Sarah Unruh, who has not only served on two disaster relief teams but has led disaster relief training courses as well.

After Hurricane Katrina struck, an HA team traveled to Waveland, Mississippi, to provide disaster relief in coordination with ACTS (Active Community Team Services), an ASI member organization that links entities such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Red Cross, or Salvation Army with volunteers from Pathfinder clubs, churches or school groups.

The HA group distributed ice, water, baby food and other supplies to victims of Katrina. "Every time a car drove through the distribution line, we offered to pray for the occupants," says Unruh. "There were a few people who said no to us, but later they came back to ask if we could pray for them." Disaster relief involvement often places HA students in circumstances where they have opportunities to talk with individuals about God.

Later, HA students and faculty helped rebuild the New Orleans First Seventh-day Adventist church. "I have learned that just as Jesus taught in the Bible, it is more blessed to give than to receive. As I give my time and energy to help others, it has taught me to love others more," says HA student Rachel Burton, who has participated in disaster relief projects and presented ICS (Incidence Command System) workshops during her three years at the school.

When a recent hurricane dropped 30 inches of rain in one day on Melbourne, Florida, the Heritage Academy group became an answer to prayer for one woman. She had just moved to Florida, and found herself alone after the floodwaters receded. She needed to sort through all the wet moving boxes to take photos for her insurance.



**Volunteering after Hurricane Ike was only the latest in a string of disaster relief projects undertaken by Heritage Academy students.**

"She could not do it all by herself, and that morning she had pleaded with God for help," says Unruh. The HA team spent an entire day assisting her and finding belongings that could be salvaged. "Before we left, we had a prayer with her and reminded her to

keep God first," says Unruh. "She thanked us profusely and gave us hugs."

God has opened doors for Heritage Academy students not only to do disaster relief work, but also to train others to get involved. Recently, several students joined David Canther from ACTS to conduct ICS training at the Southern Union Leadership Conference at Nosoca Pines Ranch in South Carolina. Attendees learned about basic disaster relief concepts and even participated in a mock disaster drill. "The response was overwhelming!" says Baker. "People were sold on it. They committed to providing disaster relief materials, and contributed money towards doing more disaster relief—with young people at the helm."

Providing disaster relief training has been an effective way for HA to make connections in the local community as well. Students and faculty have formed relationships with leaders of various organizations. Recently, the local crisis response agencies contacted HA to help search for a missing citizen.

An HA student has even helped enhance disaster relief materials. "One of our students helped update the curriculum for CERT training two years ago," says Baker. "He asked about disaster relief response to a terrorist attack." The course has since been updated to include specific guidelines and a mock disaster drill for responding to a disaster where explosives are present.

Disaster relief involvement is making young people strong citizens, developing their leadership skills, and increasing their desire to serve. "We need God to show us what is right to prepare youth for the ministry He has for them—not as we see fit, but as He leads," says Baker.

Nathan Traxler, an HA senior, explains his experience this way: "People think that you must speak to somebody in order to teach them of Christ. I have learned that it is completely different. A life is more readily changed through example than through words."

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

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As caseworkers for the Georgia Department of Family and Children's Services, most people would probably believe they were doing enough to help out. Not Shawn Wray. Every day he saw people not getting all the help they needed, and he grew frustrated. "Shouldn't I be doing something that really makes a difference in people's lives?" he asked himself.

Soon enough his question was answered. "God impressed me to stop just going through the motions and to do something more proactive," he says. So on April 1, 2005, with the last \$150 in his pocket, Shawn founded Think on These Things Ministries (3TM).

3TM provides food and other necessities to needy individuals and families. It is comprised of Shawn, two staff members, a four-member board and some 50 volunteers. They partner with more than 20 businesses and organizations—including Trader Joe's, the Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta, Panera Bread and ACTS World Relief—to meet community needs.

Shawn's enthusiasm is contagious as he describes 3TM's ministry, which serves 15 different churches, a domestic violence shelter and an assisted living facility, in addition to individual requests. Shawn and his volunteers pick up food from local grocery stores up to four times a day. On Saturdays they provide food for as many as 125 people. During the week, United Way brings 3TM both food and clothing to distribute; sometimes there is even furniture to give away.

"When I first started I wanted to be all things to all people, but I quickly realized that was not the most effective way to run the ministry," Shawn says. "I don't think men were designed to multi-task!" he laughs. So Shawn is focusing on basic services for now, though he dreams of one day adding a thrift store, prison outreach and a child sponsorship program.

For its first three years 3TM was often viewed as just another social service organization. "People didn't really take us seriously," Shawn says. But when the economy started going south, "all of a sudden we became relevant and viable." It seems providential to Shawn that God nudged him to start 3TM in 2005 so that the ministry had three years to get established and prepared for what was just ahead. Since last year, Shawn says, "My needs have shot through the roof while donations have gone through the ground."

Many people feel embarrassed about asking for help, especially those who until recently have never needed help. 3TM staff and volunteers are very sensitive to this reality, and a high priority for Shawn is ensuring that people seeking assistance don't lose their sense of dignity.

Since the economic downturn, a surge of people Shawn calls "middle-class poor" are turning up at charity organizations around the country. These are middle-class individuals and families who find themselves in dire and unfamiliar straits after losing jobs and homes





**3TM's Shawn Wray picks up food from a local grocery store for distribution.**



**3TM youth volunteers sort through donated food.**

due to the downturn. Even some past 3TM donors have had to ask for help.

One couple 3TM assisted, a realtor and a nurse practitioner, has several rental and real estate properties and used to enjoy a large income. Now, however, the husband is searching for any work he can find and the wife recently got laid off. She came to Shawn, they prayed together, and she left with a supply of food.

Another gentleman owns a lawn care business but hasn't had work since August. Though his wife is a nurse, he's had to divide their bills into "relevant" (mortgage and food) and "irrelevant" (car insurance, gas, new clothes). Getting food from 3TM stretches their now-meager income that much further.

Gloria, who volunteers about ten hours a week sorting and distributing food, describes a different couple. The husband had lost his job and his wife wasn't working. "They wouldn't have been able to eat if not for 3TM," she says.

Another volunteer, Ron, says he's watched the lines grow longer since the economic downturn. Whereas 3TM fed about 120 people a week in 2005, around a thousand now depend on the weekly deliveries. And that number is growing.

But God uses little to accomplish much at 3TM. "Shawn has done a very good job with the resources they have," says Uton, an elder and youth leader at Shawn's church, who has been involved with 3TM almost since its inception. "It reminds me of Gideon's 300-man army with which he defeated the Midianites," Shawn adds. "God sends me \$2 instead of \$200, and says, 'See what you can do with this!'"

Since she started volunteering recently, Diane has seen as many as 25 families receive food in one day. "There is such a tremendous need," she says. "Some-

times people don't know where their next meal is coming from."

The economic downturn is hitting senior citizens particularly hard because they have no way of increasing their income. Many rely so heavily on 3TM that they call Shawn if he doesn't bring them food. "He does such a good job," says one senior, Sister Browning, who shares the food Shawn gives her with other people in need as well. Sister Browning is also famous for the rolls she makes to show her gratitude. "[Shawn's] encouragement gives me strength," she says. "It helps me to keep on keepin' on."

At the other end of the age spectrum, Shawn says he regularly watches parents neglect themselves in order to make sure their children are fed and cared for.

As with almost every entity, the downturn has produced a pinch in resources for 3TM. Not only have donations gone down, but fewer people are volunteering as well. "Folks are giving less money and less time," Shawn says. He's had to find new volunteers or bargain with the old ones for 20 or 30 minutes a week instead of an hour.

However, this shortage of funds and manpower doesn't get him down. "I found my purpose in 2005, and it's the greatest thing ever," he says, adding that it's impossible to put a price on the sincere gratitude of the people 3TM helps.

Whenever he and his volunteers give out food, Shawn says, people automatically ask, "Why do you do this?" Their questions open a door through which the 3TM team can introduce people to Jesus and the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Recently, a man called 3TM on a Sunday afternoon asking for help. Within two hours he, his wife and their six children appeared at the door. The man had lost his



A full 3TM refrigerator keeps food fresh until it's ready to be distributed.

job and they were running out of food. One of Shawn's church members had referred them to 3TM. As Shawn gave them some food, the man said, "I can tell you're doing this because you really care about us. I want to come to your church." True to his word, the next Sabbath the man came to church with his family.

"This is the kind of work God really wants us to be involved in. I'm proud of it," Uton says. "I see the gratitude on people's faces." Shawn adds, "We're not about giving a handout, we're about giving a hand up so that people don't have to keep coming back."



3TM's Shawn Wray makes a much needed food delivery.

We often think of people half a world away when picturing those in need. But every day Shawn and the 3TM team see how many people right here in America are in desperate need. Before he started 3TM, Shawn says, "God kept telling me I could be doing more with my life. He's still telling me there are more people to reach. Sure, we're on a shoestring budget, but I think that's so I remember who is in charge. It's not me, it's God!"

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

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# THE PRIVILEGE TO DO

BY CARRIE PURKEYPIL

“I remember in Sabbath school, as a little girl, they would sit us in a little train with seats inside and put hats on each of us, singing, ‘I am a missionary doctor’ or ‘I am a missionary nurse,’” remembers retiree Allene Kidby.

Sporting a bandana to keep dust and debris out of her hair, she’s working in the hollow shell of a building, adding integral pieces to the framework. And she’s doing it for free. “[Back] then we didn’t have the concept of getting paid for anything. It was the concept of getting to do something!”

Allene and her husband, John, ran a small dental clinic in Oregon for many years. After retiring in 2004 their lives didn’t really slow down much. They’ve taken up extra community service activities, adopted three rescued kittens and embraced a part-time “career” as dedicated Maranatha volunteers.

“I’ve wanted to come volunteer for years,” says Allene, standing beside the ladder from which she’s been tightening screws all morning. “I love the concept of volunteering and making a difference. My husband was harder to sell on the idea, until he went on his first project. Then he wanted to go on every one in the area!”

When you talk to John, it doesn’t sound like he was ever reluctant. He was delighted to trade his dental drill for a power drill.

The couple participated in their first Maranatha project in 2005. They helped build a chapel for Proj-

ect Patch, a facility for troubled youth in Idaho. Since then they have been on 10 more projects, occasionally staying for weeks at a time. The volunteers eat together, worship together, work together and bid fond farewells at project’s end.

Many participants in the North American Maranatha bring a little bit of home along with them. Allene and John bring their house trailer and three cats to projects around the country. Other volunteers stay in dormitory-style accommodations when available.

Volunteers Birney and Lois Brown, who have participated in more than 50 projects since 1994, mostly in North America, travel with a motor home. As the couple became more involved in such missions, they decided to sell their house and spend more time on the road. They are now free to stay at a worksite as long as needed.

Lois says she and her husband feel as though they have found a way to do something for God. They both shy away from public speaking, but fixing fences, pounding nails and putting up trusses is a ministry they’ve given their lives to. After so many years as volunteers, Birney and Lois call the Maranatha crew their family.

Birney, who will be 80 in August, is still determined to keep busy. “He told the Lord as long as the Lord gave him strength, he would do this for Him,” Lois says.

Maranatha has organized construction projects in 43 states as well as in Canada and Mexico. Numerous international projects take Maranatha volunteers all over



the world. But the North American projects are a unique experience in their own right and have a loyal following.

Bernie and Vickie Wiedmann own a business in Grant Falls, Washington. But they frequently make time to help with North American Maranatha projects. Bernie remembers the first project he ever participated in, building a church in Quincy, Washington. “That project was where we first got acquainted with many Maranatha people whom we still see at projects now, many years later!”

Indeed many volunteers comment on the camaraderie they feel among fellow participants as time and again they participate in such tangible work for Lord. After so many years as volunteers, Birney and Lois feel like the Maranatha crew is part of their family.

Participating in North American projects offers a lot of advantages for these volunteers. Eugene Augustin has helped on projects both close to home and overseas. “North American projects are less costly and handier for us,” he comments. “We don’t have to make our plans so far in advance.”

While many volunteers on Maranatha projects are veterans with experience in construction, others are brand new to the trade and learn as they go. Volunteers are also needed for cleanup, painting, specialty tasks, even preparing meals.

“Every meal is a production!” exclaims Allene, who has spent many long days with her Maranatha friends



**Andy Peterson (left) is a familiar face at projects in North America. At this site in Nebraska he gave pointers to one of the newer volunteers.**



**Walter and Mercedes McPherson building new classrooms at Bass Memorial Academy after the previous buildings were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.**

cooking big meals for the work crew. Every meal features an abundance of options—certainly not a cold-cereal-and-sandwiches kind of experience!

North American projects take place everywhere from Washington to Arkansas, North Dakota to Virginia. One of Maranatha’s first major building projects was constructing a church in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada, in 1973.

Summertime projects in Alaska and Canada have remained a favorite with volunteers. There are also occasional projects within driving distance in Mexico. Many projects entail building dormitories, classrooms or chapels at academies or youth camps. Bernie has fond memories of his many trips to help with construction at Project

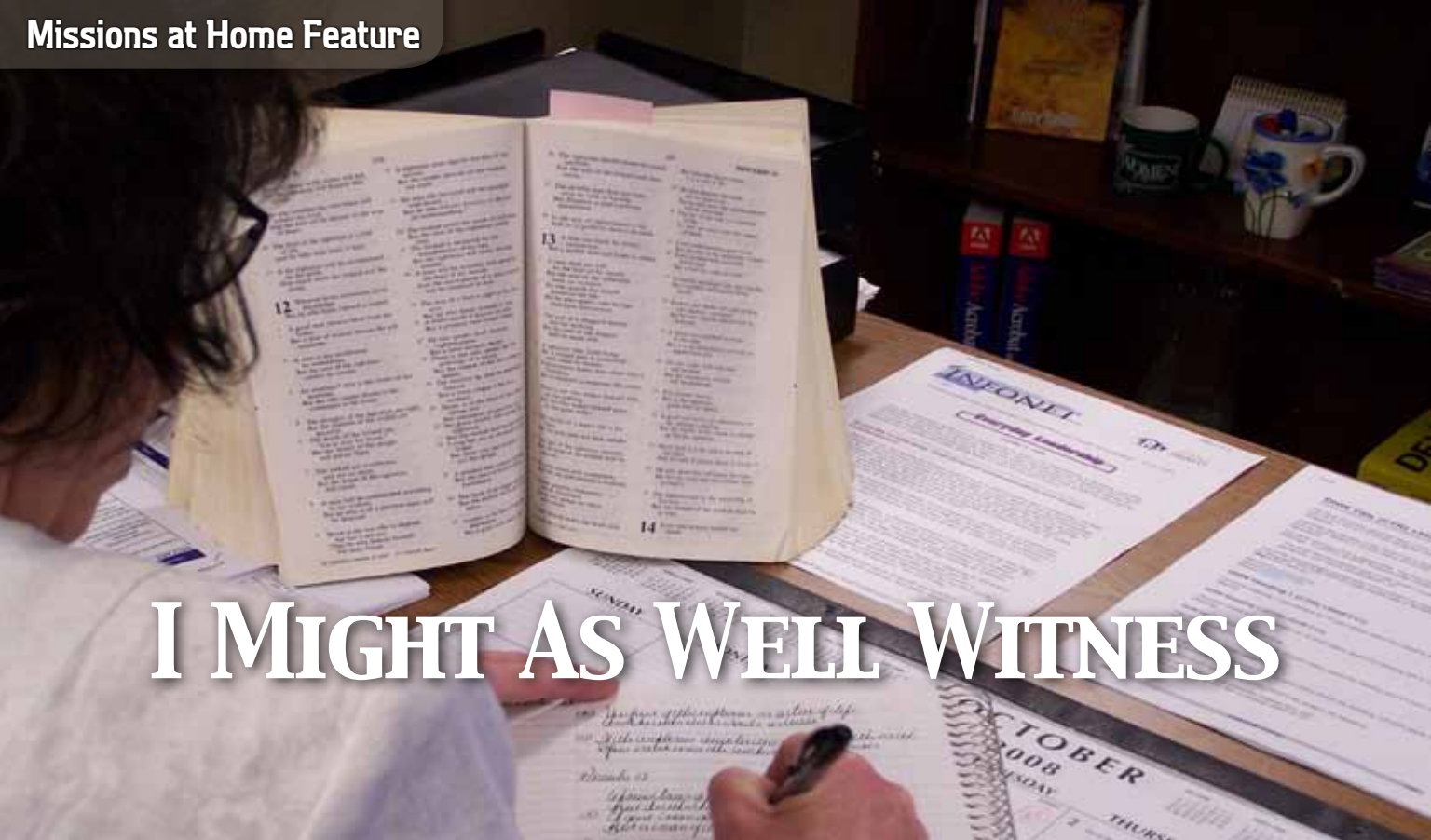
Patch. “Working there on a hill nestled out in the trees along the river—it’s a beautiful place!”

For the volunteers, watching projects progress is both amazing and cathartic. “When we walked in here it was an empty room,” Allene says of the current project she’s working on in Roseville, California. “I am privileged to see all that has been built here.”

“We are doing this for Jesus; plus we are helping people,” says John. “This is really a gift. Once it is built it keeps on giving, even after we’re gone.”

**Carrie Purkeypile** is a communication specialist for Maranatha Volunteers International.

For a current listing of Maranatha projects both in North America and abroad, visit [maranatha.org](http://maranatha.org). Or call Maranatha at (916) 920-1900. Upcoming North American projects are located in Alaska, Idaho, North Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin.



# I MIGHT AS WELL WITNESS

BY PAT HUMPHREY

If you're at all familiar with ASI, no doubt you've heard ASI's motto: Sharing Christ in the Marketplace. Dene Sue Ross, founder and CEO of Write Way, Inc., is a living example of that motto.

Write Way is a contract technical writing firm based in Boise, Idaho that has been in operation since 1985. As owner and CEO, Dene Sue places contract technical writers, editors, training specialists, curriculum developers and online communication specialists on Write Way contracts. For the past 13 years she managed Write Way's contracts with the State of Idaho, where she currently has 16 contractors onsite with the Department of Health and Welfare at its downtown Boise office.

Every morning at 5 a.m. Dene Sue's workplace witnessing begins when she arrives at the office, sits down at her desk and opens her Bible—right there in the Department of Health and Welfare building.



Dene Sue leading a staff meeting devotional.

"When I became a Seventh-day Adventist I committed not just my income tithe, but a tithe of my time to the Lord," Dene Sue explains. "I came to the Lord late in life and felt that I was far behind in devotions and Bible study, so I decided to commit two and a half hours a day to personal devotions."

It was that decision that launched her workplace ministry. "Co-workers would come in and see my light on at 5:30 in the morning and an open Bible on my desk," Dene Sue says. That simple act has drawn a lot of curious people to her office and opened up wonderful opportunities for witnessing.

One story from Dene Sue's workplace witnessing began twelve years ago. "A young Christian man in my workplace discovered that I was an Adventist," Dene Sue says. "He would come into my office with Bible trivia cards and say, 'I bet you don't know the answer to this one.'" But to his surprise, nine times out of 10 she could



answer correctly, often because she had just studied that part of Scripture.

“He was shocked!” Dene Sue beams. “We would get into discussions on Adventist beliefs. Every morning he would come with more questions. It eventually grew into an ‘official’ Bible trivia game with several people in my office regularly participating. I kept my office loaded with lots of Bible study materials. I would ask people, ‘What are you doing for lunch?’ and invite them to my office and hold a Bible study with them.”

Sometimes a simple question, such as “How was your weekend?” would lead to opportunities for Dene Sue to offer counsel and comfort, in addition to sharing her faith. One time a young woman responded, “We just got back from Florida. My husband’s cousin committed suicide.” Dene Sue was able to minister to that woman’s needs with biblical counsel and also to share some literature with her.

“When I first became an Adventist I thought passing out literature would be a waste of time,” Dene Sue admits. But she doesn’t see it that way anymore. “When someone in my office comes to me with a comment such as, ‘My husband’s mother says that if he doesn’t stop doing this or that he’ll burn in hell forever,’ it’s a perfect opportunity to pray for them. Generally, people are very receptive.” At times like these Dene Sue finds that people are frequently willing to accept the literature she offers.

Not having been a Christian for much of her life, Dene Sue knows and understands the mindset of the people around her. “I work with people from all different age groups and backgrounds—Muslims, Jews, Catholics, crystal-worshippers, homosexuals—you name it. There is a lot of resistance to Christianity in my marketplace. But if you hold up Jesus, people’s hearts soften.”

Health ministry is also an important part of Dene Sue’s workplace outreach. Although, she admits, a rather embarrassing personal experience led to it. Eight years ago, after losing her father to cancer and with a terminally ill mother, Dene Sue and her husband were work-

ing in Boise full time, relocating two businesses, and building a new home as the result of an ASI-motivated church plant in Garden Valley, Idaho.

Totally stressed, in less than a year’s time Dene Sue gained, as she describes it, a “humiliating” amount of weight. “I was eating compulsively, stressed and out of control. In a frenzy of activities, I had veered away from a vegetarian diet. Completely helpless, I turned to God and prayed, ‘If you bless my efforts and give me the strength, I will follow Your plan for health.’”

The very next morning Dene Sue committed to a vegetarian lifestyle and began a serious walking program—3 or 4 miles a day. She began to see results. And soon total strangers began stopping Dene Sue during her walks to ask, “What are you doing?” She told them she had surrendered her life to Christ and then pointed them to the Bible as a source of information on health.

She has also given out more than 100 Ellen White books. “It has been a remarkable opportunity to witness,” she says.

Once people saw firsthand what Dene Sue’s lifestyle changes had done for her health, the next step was to show them how they could make beneficial changes in their own lives. That led to cooking schools and tasty samples in the

workplace. “I would put out an email to my workmates, saying something like, ‘Today, I brought falafel. Want to try it? Come to my office at 1:00.’ And they would come,” Dene Sue explains

Perhaps you’re thinking that Dene Sue’s witnessing opportunities just aren’t available to the average Christian, or that she has talents or training that most people don’t possess. But listen to what she says: “I’m not really good at this. It’s nothing that I do; it’s the Holy Spirit. It’s not necessarily my job to bring in the harvest. I’m just out broadcasting seed. My church is 80 miles away. [I figured] since I’m down here in Boise, I might as well witness.”

**Pat Humphrey** is associate director of communication for the Southwestern Union Conference in Burleson, Texas.



**David (right) with a Bible trivia question for Dene Sue.**

See more of Dene Sue’s story on the ASI Video Magazine television program, airing now on 3ABN and the Hope Channel. More information and show times at [www.ASIministries.org](http://www.ASIministries.org).

# A SECOND CHANCE

BY BARBARA GRAHAM

Visit the 225-acre rural Tennessee campus of Advent Home Learning Center, and you will see teenage boys of all colors, shapes and sizes mowing the grounds, playing a noisy game of basketball, or just talking on the dormitory porch.

They all have similar stories. Most were raised in Seventh-day Adventist families, got into trouble in their early teens and took detours in life that led to Advent Home. Here they experience a life-changing program called Maturation Therapy, which includes residential care in a minimum-distraction environment, lifestyle changes such as eating a vegan diet, remedial and accelerated schooling, counseling, work education, outdoor recreation and spiritual activities.

Maturation Therapy also combines the support of family members, the hard work of Advent Home staff and huge doses of God's grace. Over Advent Home's 23-year history, the majority of young men who've arrived on campus have left changed for the better.

To illustrate the type of teens who arrive at Advent Home and how these young men receive a second chance, let's meet two current students, Trevor and Max.

## Trevor

Happiness for Trevor was playing computer games 14 hours a day and eating junk food. By age nine, he had almost every video or computer game available, plus his own cell phone. If his parents refused to buy a new game, he persistently harassed them until they gave in. "I kept looking on the computer for other games and I became addicted," Trevor says.

He became severely overweight, tipping the scales at 200 pounds. Uninterested in studying, his grades dropped to Cs, Ds, and Fs. "The only way I passed 4th and 5th grades was because the teachers socially promoted me," he says. "I was failing, cursing, fighting and arguing." At home Trevor bullied his sister and disrespected his parents. "When I asked for something and they refused, I got angry, cursed at them and threw a temper tantrum."

One day Trevor's parents said they were sending him to a special boarding academy that would help him. For the first six months at Advent Home, Trevor





was defiant. He was nearly 12, spoiled and used to having his own way. "I went around crying, and I was very angry," he says of those first few months. "I was hitting and cursing people and did not even listen to my group leader. I complained that everyone picked on me."

Performing at only a 4th-grade level, Trevor had poor academic skills and was failing classes. Furthermore, he couldn't complete simple tasks like sweeping, washing dishes, or mopping the floor.

But over time, the program brought about a change in Trevor. Staff closely monitored and disciplined him, ignoring his tantrums and whining. He was given leadership responsibilities as an assistant group leader, which positively affected his attitude.

Another turning point came when Trevor learned that his family was struggling financially in order to keep him at Advent Home. "I knew I needed to get my act together," he admits. "Slowly but surely, I began to take responsibility for myself and have good behavior."

After 30 months at Advent Home, Trevor has lost more than 60 pounds and has much improved emotional control. During a recent week of prayer, he decided to accept Jesus and be ready for His second coming. "My goal is to graduate from Advent Home with a 4.0 GPA," says Trevor. "I want to go to an academy and then to college."

## Max

You can't help but like Max; he's quite the charmer. Max was adopted at birth because his natural parents couldn't care for him. Like Trevor, while growing up Max got almost everything he wanted. "We had a big house, swimming pool and the latest technology," he recalls. "At six years-old I was talking on my parents' cell phone."

By his teens Max had problems with lying, stealing and manipulation. Outwardly he seemed okay, but behind his parents' back Max was getting himself into trouble—full of anger, not doing schoolwork, behaving poorly with peers. "When I was upset, I took it out on my older sister by picking on her. I was very destructive," he says.

After seeing a psychologist, Max was diagnosed with ADHD and placed on medications. On the recom-



**Max has found working in the Advent Home greenhouse to be therapeutic and enjoyable. He even plans to study horticulture.**

mendation of friends, his parents brought him to Advent Home in July 2006. However, he refused to cooperate with the program. But his parents stood firm, telling Max he would not leave until he was caught up with schoolwork and had earned enough points to graduate.

Eventually, Max decided to change. "At that time I had over 100 missing assignments in my classes," he said, "but in four months I brought it down to about two. When I came I was reading at a 4th grade level; now I'm up to 7th."

As part of the work-based learning program, Max was assigned to work in the greenhouse. "I hated it at first," he says. "But now I've been on the greenhouse crew for a year and a half, and I love it. It gets rid of my anger and stress. And I learn new things."

Max enjoyed the spiritual life at Advent Home and was baptized. But a year after arriving, he relapsed into his old behavior. "I acted immature," he admits. "But I decided this would not affect the rest of my stay at Advent Home. I set goals and did a lot of praying. I told my parents and Dr. [Blondel Senior] that I was sorry."

Today Max continues to make progress and concedes that none of his improvements were possible without God's help. He plans to graduate this summer, enroll in a Seventh-day Adventist academy and, in time, earn a degree in horticulture.

Do you know teenage boys like Trevor or Max, perhaps in your neighborhood, your church, even in your own family? Advent Home can give them a second chance.

---

**Barbara Graham**, a writer/editor at Advent Home Learning Center, contributed to this article along with other Advent Home staff members.

Advent Home Learning Center in Calhoun, Tennessee, provides year-round residential care and schooling for boys ages 12-18 with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) or learning and behavioral challenges. For more information, call 423-336-5052, e-mail [info@adventhome.org](mailto:info@adventhome.org) or visit [www.adventhome.org](http://www.adventhome.org).

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# ASI Abroad

## Inter-American Division

Marston Thomas, a regional vice president for **ASI Jamaica**, reports that the current recession has deeply affected Adventist-run enterprises in the country. Some have experienced a 50-percent downturn in business.

Responding to the situation, ASI Jamaica organized



ASI Hungary's Youth for Jesus participants performing Christian music in a park in the Hungarian city of Balatonlelle.

a symposium featuring local bankers and business people who offered information on surviving the economic downturn. Some 200 Adventist business owners attended. To follow-up the event, Thomas has organized

a group that is researching various economic issues facing church members who are considering launching businesses.

**ASI Inter-America** will hold their 2009 convention in Bridgetown, Barbados, August 22-25. For more information, visit [www.asi-interamerica.org](http://www.asi-interamerica.org).

## Europe

**ASI Europe** continues to grow and expand. A new chapter, ASI Scandinavia, was formed in December 2008 and includes members from Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Claus Nybo is serving as the first president of ASI Scandinavia.

Continuing the evangelistic mission of ASI Europe, **ASI Switzerland** hosted both a revival weekend and a subsequent evangelistic series in the city of St-George. The revival event was themed "Are you ready?" and featured pastor Alden Ho and Dr. Gerhard Padderatz. Sabbath attendance reached 300, and at the conclusion of the event, 35 people responded to the call for commitment to Christ. Another 30 individuals made the decision to become active in lay ministry.

Following the revival weekend, a group of 85 people canvassed the local area, inviting residents to the up-

coming evangelistic series, which also featured pastor Ho and was themed "Are You Ready?" Turnout was strong, with approximately 90 people attending nightly, some driving for up to four hours to hear the message.

As the meetings ended, two young ladies were baptized and another five individuals requested baptism. An additional 40 people made commitments of renewal.

More than 50 young people participated in a week-long Youth for Jesus program conducted by **ASI Hungary** in the town of Balatonlelle. Three meetings were held during the week and were well attended by non-Adventist guests. In addition, ASI Hungary's YFJ participants also distributed more than 10,000 pamphlets, 2,000 books and a number of DVDs.



Participants in the microcredit project conducted by the Southern Asia-Pacific Division ASI in the Philippines.

## Southern Asia-Pacific Division

A unique microcredit project is one of the latest efforts undertaken by the **Southern Asia-Pacific Division ASI**. The project provides minor loans to small, mostly female-owned businesses in the Philippines. Such loans allow the recipients to firmly establish and expand their businesses as well as provide adequate care for their families.

The microcredit project is being conducted in cooperation with local Seventh-day Adventist Church leadership, and outreach efforts through the project have resulted in more than 70 baptisms. Plans are now in the works to expand the microcredit project to more than 10 times its current size over the next three years.

# Into All The World

A REPORT ON ONE OF MANY ASI  
TRAIN THEM NOW TRIPS

Last September, an ASI Train Them Now team arrived in Lagos, Nigeria to begin a series of New Beginnings DVD evangelism training sessions in Nigeria, Cameroon and Liberia. Included in the team were Chester Clark III, ASI general vice president, and Viorel Catarama, ASI vice president for evangelism. Over a whirlwind 10 days they would train more than 1,500 laypeople and pastors at four sites.

Their first session was conducted over two days at Babcock University in Nigeria. An “energetic crowd” of 500 attended. From there the team was off for Aba, also in Nigeria.

As with most Train Them Now trips, this one was not without the unexpected. The trip to Aba was made with a police escort to help the team pass through the dozens of checkpoints without interruption. However, the police car suffered a flat tire. “Not knowing we were no longer escorted, our driver attempted to drive through a road block as usual,” Chester wrote. “Not a good idea.”

Over the course of their trip, the team would encounter customs issues with the DVD players, considerable flight delays and unpredictable training session attendance—all a part of holding Train Them Now meetings in every corner of the world.

Training in Aba went very well, with more than 500 people attending the training sessions. However, due to difficulties with customs forms, the DVD players were not on hand to distribute to trainees. Arrangements were made to deliver the DVDs once they cleared customs.

From Nigeria the team took off for Douala, Cameroon. Upon arriving, the team discovered that once again the DVD players were held up in customs. On top of which, attendance was only half what was expected. The



**Chester Clark III presents part of the training session in Monrovia, Liberia.**

unused materials and DVD players will be kept on-hand by the church in Douala for future use in Cameroon or other French-speaking African countries.

Next the team traveled to Monrovia, Liberia. Attendance there was anticipated to be 250, but it swelled to more than 500 as local church members took interest. “As at the other sites,” Chester wrote, “the delegates were intensely interested and took careful notes on each of the presentations.”

Concluding the Monrovia meetings, the team traveled to Nairobi, Kenya to plan future Train Them Now meetings with leaders of the East Central Africa Division, and to catch a flight home. In spite of the challenges, Chester wrote that overall the training meetings were beneficial and well received.

This report represents just one of the numerous Train Them Now trips undertaken last year by lay volunteers to locations all around world, training thousands of lay people for New Beginnings DVD-based evangelism. Dozens more training trips will take place this year—in Zimbabwe, Vietnam, Lithuania, Papua New Guinea and elsewhere.

The lay volunteers who conduct the Train Them Now programs pay all travel expenses from their own pocket. DVDs, sermon materials and DVD players are all provided for through the ASI Convention offering.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been brought to Christ through the work of lay evangelists trained and equipped through the Train Them Now project. In fact, an evangelistic campaign in Nigeria that followed the training reported in this article resulted in some 10,000 baptisms. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project through the ASI Convention offering.



# A Simple Blessing

MISSIONARY ASSISTANCE PLAN SUPPORTS VOLUNTEER  
MISSIONARIES AROUND THE WORLD

**T**raveling through Africa in the mid 1990s, a group of ASI leaders met a number of volunteer missionaries serving at supporting ministries across the continent. These volunteers came from the United States and other developed countries, and earned a tiny fraction of what they could have made at home. In fact, some could barely afford to buy food, much less things like postage stamps or even toilet paper.

Touched by the missionaries' sacrifice and dedication, ASI created the Missionary Assistance Plan (MAP). Administered by Outpost Centers International (OCI), MAP would provide modest yet important monthly payments to volunteer missionaries around the world.

Currently, MAP payments are \$300 per month for families and \$150 for individuals. A third of each payment is retained for furlough expenses (most missionaries go home on furlough every three years). Altogether, 13 families and nine individuals are supported through MAP.

The bulk of MAP funds are raised through the ASI Convention offering. OCI is tasked with administering the MAP payments throughout the year, a service it provides free of charge.

Modest though they are, MAP payments provide



**Barry & Marybeth Mosier are missionaries and MAP recipients serving with Congo Frontline Missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo.**

volunteer missionaries with the stability needed for long-term service, and also provide for everyday needs. "The monthly MAP funds are a great blessing to my family and me," writes Barry Mosier, who serves with Congo Frontline Missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo. "Our local wage stipend can

barely cover the food we consume," he adds.

Jacob Wayd and his family are missionaries in India, where they work with Living Springs Overseas Missions. "We have been here for two and a half years now," he writes. "There are so many obstacles we face, but this is one less burden on us. We have peace of mind and thus continue full force in our missionary work without wondering how our personal expenses will be met."

Edie Mulvihill of Peru Projects describes how MAP funds allow her to cope with the rising price of various products in Peru. With her personal needs met, she is able to focus solely on sharing the gospel.

The ongoing support of MAP through the ASI Convention offering enables numerous missionaries to serve the Lord around the world. Some would simply be unable to continue in service without MAP payments. Thank you to everyone who has supported MAP through the ASI Convention offering.



## Why ASI?

Since ASI was founded in 1947, it has helped provide valuable support, networking and encouragement to its members—self-supporting institutions in the early years and businesses, individual professionals and supporting ministries today.

Being an active witness, no matter what one's vocation, can be hard work. Having a support structure, a family of fellow workers who can provide ideas, resources and inspiration is why ASI exists. ASI is committed to seeing laypeople take the lead and succeed in ministry.

But what is being an ASI member actually like? Why does one become a part of ASI? And what experience or benefit can ASI members expect? Here's what **Ron & Pat Goss** of **Project Restore**, an ASI member organization, had to say.

During devotions one morning, we read these words of Jesus: "That they all may be one as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us" (John 17:21). Reflecting on that scripture, we started to think about how Jesus has led our ministry, Project Restore.

The ministry was founded in 1995, and it wasn't long before we realized our limitations in accomplishing God's work. We learned very early the importance of working together with folks of kindred spirit, so we became members of ASI.

At ASI we met other people and ministries with a similar desire for taking the gospel to a dying world. We found that by networking with other ASI member ministries, we didn't have to "reinvent the wheel" to accomplish our goals. Cooperating with



Ron and Pat Goss

other ASI members has enhanced so many of our projects—from evangelistic crusades and literature distribution to assisting overseas ministries.

Not only has Project Restore been assisted by members of ASI, we have been able, by God's grace, to financially assist nearly 50 other ministries over the years. We've found that the more you help other ministries, the more the Lord blesses your own. To date, God has worked through Project Restore to print more than 40,000,000 present-truth-filled magazines that have been distributed all over the world.

Every year we look forward to the ASI Convention and the local chapter meetings. It is a blessing for us to meet other people with a passion for soul winning and to hear and share special testimonies.

We also invite our friends in the professional sphere to join ASI and to get involved in sharing Christ. Because, as the old saying goes, "many hands make light work." When they see other laypeople involved and giving their talents for God's glory, they realize there's a place for them in the Lord's work as well.

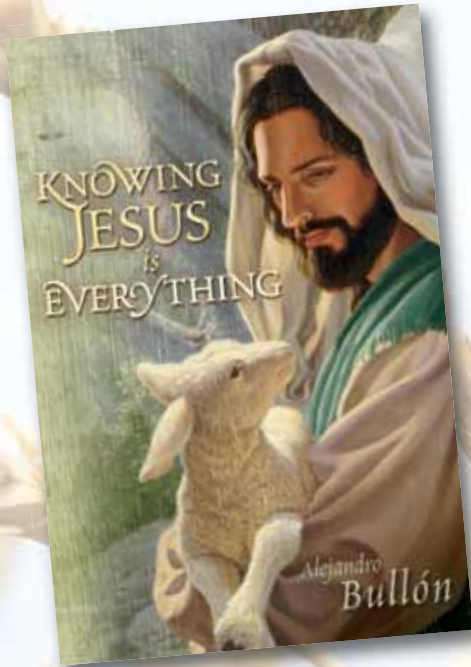
It is past time that we press together in truth and take the gospel to a dying world. We encourage you to join ASI and get active in our Father's business. It's an unparalleled blessing.

Ron & Pat's testimony is just one of many from ASI members who are excited about working together to further the Lord's work. That's why they're part of ASI.

There's a place for you in the ASI family, too. Apply for membership online at [www.ASIministries.org](http://www.ASIministries.org) or call **301-680-6450**.



# Books That Feed Your Mind, Heart, and Soul



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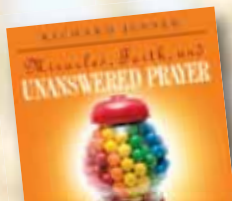
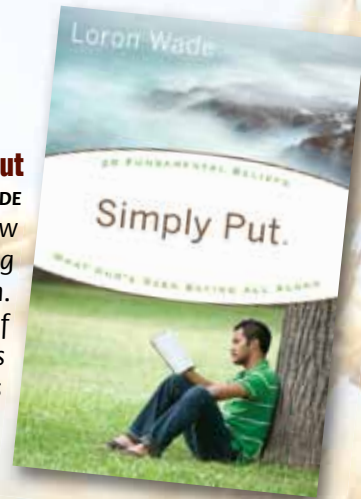
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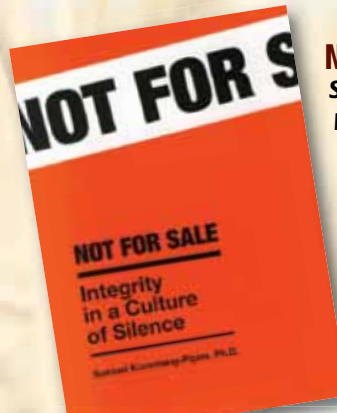
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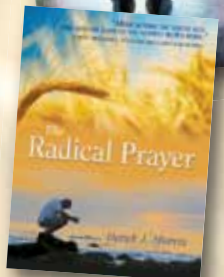
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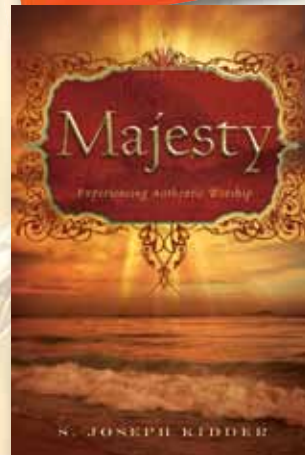
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