

Inside ASI

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Winter 2009

The Harvest Truly Is Great!

A Focus on Worldwide Missions

Motivation from Mongolia

All About Healing

Labor That Satisfies

Tools and Willing Hearts

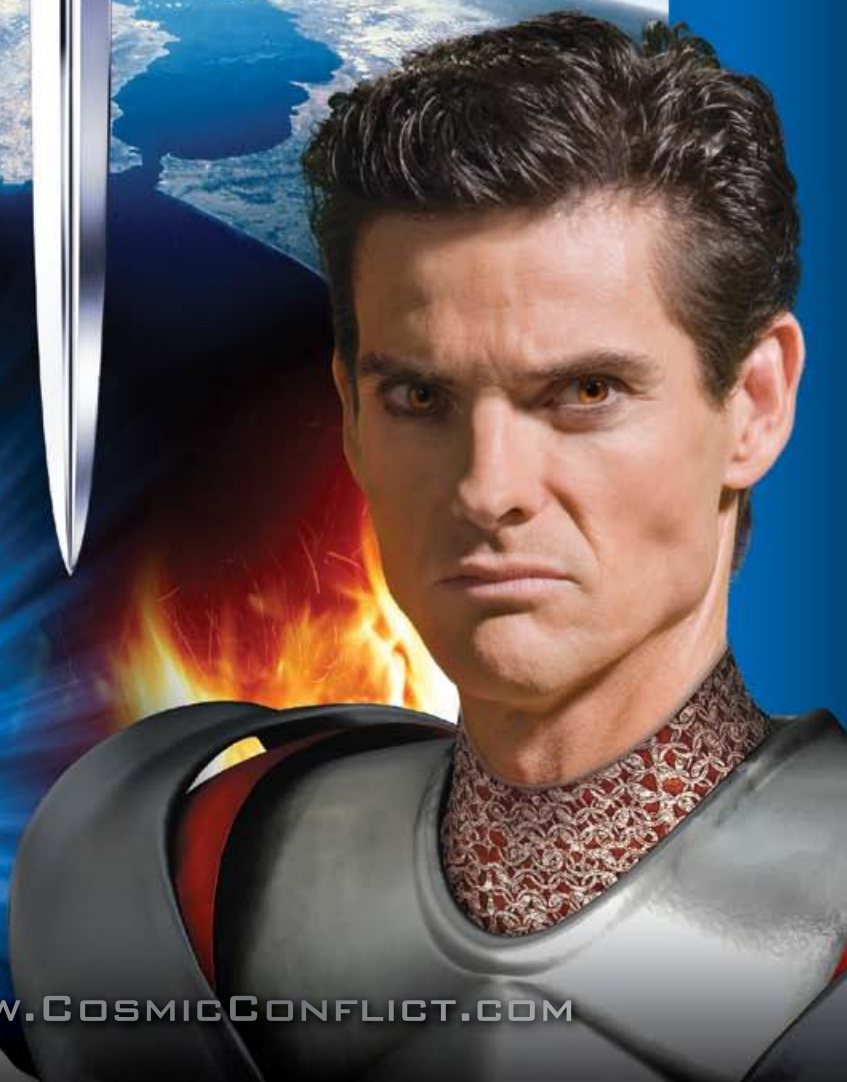
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Inside ASI



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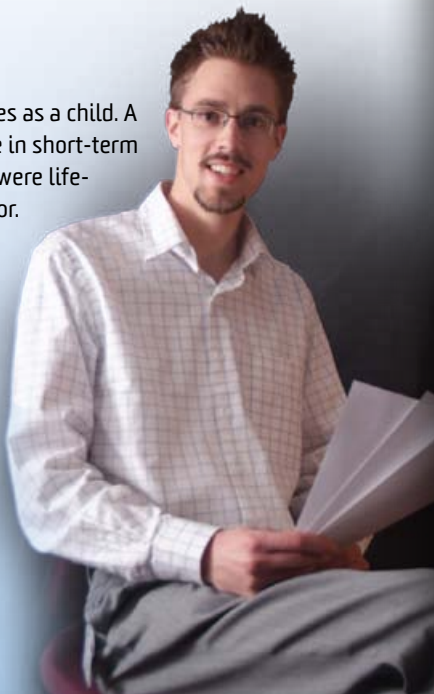
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Editor's Note:

I remember being fascinated by overseas missionaries as a child. A number of years later I was privileged to participate in short-term missions and also to be a student missionary. These were life-changing experiences, bringing me closer to my Savior.

When reading this issue, in which we highlight overseas missions, bear in mind God's infinite ability to work through us when we wholeheartedly seek to know and serve Him. As Jesus said, "The one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown" (Matthew 13:23).

SH *RA*
—Steve Hamstro



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Officer's Outlook

Impressions, a Map, and Dead End Sidewalks

BY RAMON CHOW

During the first week of November I had the privilege of visiting a number of ASI ministries, mainly in the state of Tennessee. Dwight Hilderbrandt was my tour guide, arranging the itinerary and enlightening me with historical perspectives throughout the trip.

We began Sunday morning outside Nashville, spending a couple of hours with Edwin and Mary Belle Martin. They happily recounted stories and experiences from their many years as ASI members. Edwin's dad took him to his first ASI convention, and he's been attending ever since.

I heard the Martin name mentioned several times that week as we visited the various institutions. Edwin and Mary Belle have provided buildings and programs that continue to shape lives and prepare young people for service.

The scenery was breathtaking as we traveled Tennessee's back roads and highways, visiting members, friends and ASI historic sites. Our tour included five academies: Highland, Harbert Hills, Laurelbroom, Heritage, and Madison. We also visited Wildwood Health and Education Center, its Country Life vegetarian restaurant in downtown Chattanooga, Southern Adventist University's Archeological Museum, Little Creek Sanitarium, Advent Home Learning Center, Outpost Centers International (OCI) headquarters, Benton Lifestyle Center, and The Layman Foundation.

Hearing the stories behind these institutions—sometimes directly from the founders—left a deep impression. And learning about their witnessing activities, challenges and dreams left me with the conviction that God has, is, and will continue to lead those who seek to do His will.

Of all the places we visited, walking the old Madison College grounds left the biggest impression. I had



heard and read about Madison, but nothing compares to actually standing on the land Ellen White saw in vision as the location for that special school. Madison was known in its day for a commitment to a rather unique system of education—students were involved in an efficient work-study program. As someone put it, they “traded work for education.”

After visiting the Madison Heritage Center, tour guides Al Dittes and Jim Culpeper invited us to walk the grounds where Madison College once stood—the school closed in 1964. Except for birds singing and the sound of

the occasional jet roaring overhead, our walk was quiet and somber. The sidewalks were marked with small metal signposts describing bygone structures—dormitories, offices, classrooms, the chapel, laundry, cannery, and maintenance buildings. What once connected the places where students lived, worked, worshiped and trained guides you only to grass today.

The Madison campus is silent. Its buildings are no more. Its sidewalks are dead ends. But the people who came, lived, worked, learned and left to serve keep the spirit of Madison alive. Inside the Heritage Center a map gives humble testimony to Madison's far-reaching influence. Golden cords lead from Madison to sites across the globe where its graduates ministered and testified. In so doing, they did more than any building on any campus ever could. The impact of Madison College on the work of the church will be known only in eternity.

Almost 50 years ago two of its best graduates journeyed to my homeland, Colombia, where today church growth is among the fastest in the world. I can only say, “Thank you, Madison.”



Ramon Chow is ASI secretary-treasurer.



Motivation from Mongolia

BY CHERYL DOSS

Mongolia. Just the name conjures up images of distant lands and exotic places, and awakens in me the impulse to get on an airplane. So you can imagine my pleasure when an invitation to do missionary training in Mongolia recently came my way.



As part of a trip to train Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) couples for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, we would go to Mongolia to meet with the four PMM families serving there.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in this largely Buddhist country is quite young. In the early 1990s Americans Brad and Kathy Jolly—missionaries from Adventist Frontier Missions—restarted the Adventist work in Mongolia that had languished during the Communist era.

The General Conference followed with the establishment of a mission office currently directed by Australian missionary Paul Kotenko. Recently, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division sent four Korean pastors, Park No-Young, Lee Yong-Ho, Park Sang-Bum, and Shin Hyun-Chul, to plant churches in Mongolia.

Visiting a ger (yurt homes common in Mongolia) and tasting mare's milk was certainly exciting. But the high point of the visit came on Sabbath as we worshiped at the storefront church begun by Pastor and Mrs. Shin in a middle-class section of the capital, Ulaanbaatar.

The Shins live in a nearby Soviet-style apartment block, and the church group originally met in their home. When the group outgrew their apartment, they rented a room under a cybercafé. Of the nearly forty people in attendance that Sabbath, most had been baptized within the last six months. All were new believers from a Buddhist background.

A visitor could easily sense the joy of the group. During Sabbath School, a man stood up and said, "The best thing I ever did was get baptized. That was the best day of my life!" A woman agreed, "Yes, the best thing I ever did was come to this church. Here I

have found Jesus and a family."

Less than two years ago, both of these people had little or no idea who Jesus is. Most likely they didn't even know any Christians. But their hearts were receptive, and when someone moved to their community, learned their language, became their friend and

introduced them to Jesus, they were ready.

Two-thirds of the earth's population adheres to non-Christian religions. Few of them have a witnessing Christian presence in their community. In fact, a recent Barna study found that even in North America, hardly any Hindus, Buddhists, or Muslims have a Christian friend.

Almost always, non-Christians around the world meet Jesus through someone who seeks them out, speaks to them in their own language and makes an effort to be their friend. Today there are billions of people who have not yet met Jesus.

No one part of the Adventist church has the resources to meet this challenge. In fact, the task is too big for all of us. But, as evidenced in Mongolia, by working together—church organizations and supporting ministries, laypeople and clergy—lives can be changed through the power of the Holy Spirit.

What if we as a church were to focus two-thirds of our energy and resources on reaching adherents of non-Christian religions? What if we doubled or tripled the number of missionaries who live and witness in those communities? What if we could forge new relationships among all those engaged in the church's mission to optimize our effectiveness?

And, what if I make friends with the Buddhists who run the Chinese restaurant downtown?



Cheryl Doss, Ph.D., is an associate director of the Institute of World Mission at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Her areas of focus are missionary family transition and intercultural education.



Wherever God Opens a Door

BY DARYL & MARY JO OFT

“God changes lives” may sound like a slogan, but to us it’s become a theme that permeates our personal, professional and spiritual lives. In essence, it’s now our way of life.

For years our focus was on growing our business, Diversified Solutions, which provides occupational health services. Then in 2004, we suffered a near-collapse financially. It was then that God brought a paradigm shift.

Through an unlikely encounter with Duane McKey, then president of the Arizona Conference,

we were invited to participate in a ShareHim evangelistic trip to Kenya.

What a life-changing experience it was! And it brought a shift in focus for us, from our business to ministry.

Rusinga Island is located on Lake Victoria in Kenya. When visiting Rusinga during our trip to Kenya, we saw tremendous poverty, and an opportunity for service. A local village had been without a fresh water source for more than three years. All the water technicians had died of AIDS. In fact, nearly half of the island’s residents had AIDS,

and 80 percent of the children were orphans.

We felt God was opening a door. And what He has done over the past four years is nothing short of amazing.



Living Waters International is a small non-profit organization we founded to give humanitarian and spiritual relief to the people of Rusinga. Our first priority was providing pure drinking water.

We began by refurbishing a dilapidated windmill and water infra-

structure system. That system now provides abundant water to the village center as well as the Living Waters boarding school, medical clinic, church, and our newly-built feeding center.

We’re so excited about the feeding center, which provides a daily meal to 68 children. Those meals are essential to the kids’ productivity in school. Imagine attending school on an empty stomach! We plan to eventually feed more than 200 children every day, along with elderly widows who cannot provide for themselves.

Living Waters has five full-time local staff members with responsibilities that include tending our half-acre garden, night watch, case management and project management.

Five evangelistic campaigns have also been held, with more than 300 people committing their lives to God through baptism.

Our focus on ministry has also manifested itself back home in the United States. We’ve committed ourselves to witnessing in the Payson, Arizona community. Partnering with our local Seventh-day Adventist church, we’re working to provide spiritual and

**“We encourage
anyone reading
this to just step
out in faith.
God will direct
your path.”**

physical restoration through a variety of programs.

Christ-centered seminars and community outreach programs are offered at The Meeting Place, which is operated cooperatively by our business and the Payson Adventist Church.

We've also used our business to be actively involved in Sharing Christ in the Marketplace, a perspective we learned after being introduced to ASI three years ago.

Our two occupational health clinics are staffed by dedicated Seventh-day Adventists, and we're excited to join with them in sharing the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ with those who come to our offices. In fact, we've had problems keeping enough free literature on the shelves.

This year Diversified Solutions and the Payson Adventist Church will conduct a Year of Evangelism. We're hosting a New Beginnings evangelistic campaign and a Lifestyle Matters program. Community vegetarian potlucks will be offered each month, along with cooking classes.

We encourage anyone reading this to just step out in faith. God will direct your path. Go boldly to proclaim Jesus, and He will exceed your greatest expectations. Never doubt or question what God is willing to do in and through you. We guarantee you will not be disappointed.

Expect your life to be radically transformed, as ours was. Peace and contentment, as well as excitement and adventure, await all who say, "I am willing."

Not long ago, we were about our business. Today, we're all about our Father's business. Our motto is "We will go wherever God opens a door."

God is opening doors for you too. Go boldly, full of faith, and experience a life unlike any other.



Daryl and Mary Jo Oft are ASI members and business owners from Payson, a town nestled in the beautiful mountains of Arizona. Living Waters is online at www.LivingWatersIntl.org

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Organizational Members

A.B. Roa, MD Family Care Center

Dorie Roa

Spouse: Antonio

Lake Placid, FL 33852

A.B. Roa, MD Family Care Center is a general medicine practice. They also offer free health lectures and seminars. Dorie volunteers as director for the local Better Living Center and as a CHIP Program Director.

Aviles Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

Jose Aviles

Southfield, MI 48076

Aviles Family & Cosmetic Dentistry provides professional oral and dental health services. They also provide pro bono dental work through the Tricounty Dental Health Council and also Donated Dental Services.

Carlos Irizarry, MD

Carlos Irizarry

Spouse: Kathryn

Minden, LA 71055

Carlos operates a family medical practice. He is active in ministry to his patients and provides outreach literature at his office. Carlos has also participated in medical and evangelistic missions.

Chief Cornerstone Ministries

Claudette Frazier

Birmingham, AL 35215

Chief Cornerstone is a provider of holistic physical, mental and spiritual ministry. They especially minister to offenders, ex-offenders and their families through counseling, food provision, and more.

Focus on Natural Health Education Service

Deborah Gant

Fort Myers, FL 33916

Focus on Natural Health provides health education to the public through a variety of presentations and materials. They are currently developing plans for 30-minute television and radio programs, and also newspaper columns.

Happy Family Bible Seminars Int'l

Gordon Martinborough

Spouse: Waveney

Apopka, FL 32712

Happy Family conducts seminars and workshops on a number of family life topics, including education, evangelism and leadership. They also offer specially designed workshops for pastors and their spouses.



Innovative Software Design, Inc

Dan Knoch

Hixon, TN 37343

Innovative Software Design makes software for the medical, dental, legal, government and business sectors. They specialize in the broad integration of software and specialized hardware. They are looking for ideas on how to share Jesus through their business.

Raja Tooma, MD

Raja Tooma

Loma Linda, CA 92354

Raja Tooma, MD is a family practice medical group. Raja has personally been involved with organizing and coordinating local evangelistic events.

Relevant Life Solutions

Craig Wagener

West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Relevant Life extends care and support to hurting people through relevant resources, personal nurturing, 24-hour helpline and a website.

SIMTECH

Dr. Kalapala Moses

Vijayawada 520002, A.P. India

SIMTECH offers training courses for various medical certifications, including Medical Laboratory Technology, Medical Radiography Technology and ECG Technology. They are heavily focused on outreach, and undertake numerous witnessing programs in addition to their training courses.

The Nathans Heritage Group For Orphans

Dr. Francis Deku

Dallas, TX 75356

The Nathans Heritage Group is made up of Seventh-day Adventist professionals who have a passion for assisting orphans around the world. They have responded to AIDS epidemics in Liberia, Nicaragua, El Salvador and other countries. They have also sent medical volunteers and supplies to numerous countries.

Traveling Mercies Int'l
Kay Brock

Estes Park, CO 80517

Traveling Mercies International is a group of medical and other professionals dedicated to bringing the gospel and good health to people worldwide, especially in impoverished areas.



Associate Members

Bob Hart

Spouse: Lastenia

Naperville, IL 60563

Bob owns Hart 2 Hart, which provides architecture and construction services.

Caleb Buisson

Spouse: Joyce

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

Since 1992 Caleb has been involved in educational, social and evangelistic projects in Haiti.

Eric Umali

Spouse: Traci

Alto, MI 49302

Eric is an anesthesiologist and belongs to a group of 75 physicians and 25 CRNAs. He provides services to the two main hospitals in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as well as to smaller area hospitals and care centers.

Todd Barber

Hendersonville, TN 37075

Todd operates Straight Street Missions, which offers a discipleship website.

Delores Smith

St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Delores is the producer of the "Happy Sabbath Bible Game". She uses some of the proceeds from its sales to support a radio ministry in Georgia.

Loida Virbel

Sacramento, CA 95823

Roman Pawlak

Greenville, NC 27858

Roman is an assistant professor of nutrition and dietetics at East Carolina University, teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses. As his job includes three months off each year, Roman is involved with a number of outreach activities, including mission trips and health lectures in the Adventist and public spheres. He became a member after being inspired at the ASI Convention in Tampa, Florida.

Margaret Williams

Tampa, FL 33672

Sarita Johnson

Mangonia Park, FL 33407

Sarita is the founder of Care Joy, Inc, which provides workshops on interpersonal relationships.

Steven Wood

Fair Oaks, CA 95709

Steven is involved with Amazing Change Ministries, and he enjoys helping people in their work for God.



Walter Hutton

Spouse: Phyllis

Hendersonville, NC 28792

Walter is a retired technology industry executive, and currently works as a US and international marketing consultant. He's also involved with local evangelism efforts and has a passion for winning souls for Christ.

Debra Claymore

Loveland, CO 80537

See New Member Spotlight on page 10



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All About Healing

MEET DEBRA CLAYMORE

BY EMILY THOMSEN

As a Seventh-day Adventist Native American—with a history of substance abuse, a graduate-level education and a passion for her people—Debra Claymore is in a unique position of influence. “I believe in planting seeds and allowing the Holy Spirit to nurture and grow those seeds,” she says. Involved in several different projects serving Native Americans around the country, she’s planting seeds wherever she goes.

Debra has worked in elementary education, substance abuse treatment/prevention training,

Native American ministries and evangelism. Today, in addition to serving part-time as Native American Ministries Director for the Dakota Conference, she owns DClaymore & Associates, which assists Native American tribes around the country develop, evaluate and request funding for health services programs.

Debra is a member of the Cheyenne River Lakota (Sioux) tribe, a background that allowed her to earn the trust of other Native Americans and be better situated to help them. Though higher education among Native Americans is



A new believer is baptized following a Native American evangelistic series

now more common, when Debra received her master's in education administration, few Native Americans even had bachelor's degrees.

She also has a testimony to share of deliverance from substance abuse. "Jesus overcame my drug and alcohol abuse," she says. After attending rehab in the 1980s, Debra became interested in working with substance abuse treatment and prevention among Native Americans.

Her first position in that field was as Employee Assistance Director for schools on the Pine Ridge Reservation (Oglala Sioux) in South Dakota. She developed an education assistance program that continues to this day. "I'm proud of that," Debra says. "It's rare for a program to continue after the original director leaves."

Next she worked as a substance abuse prevention coordinator at a tribal community college. In the late 1980s, Debra helped develop the Northern Plains Native American Chemical Dependency Association. The Association received a three-year grant to begin a substance abuse treatment program, for which Debra served as executive director. Along with Debra, the treatment director and all the counselors were Native American. The program had a 75 percent success rate, compared to the national average of only 35 percent.

In each of these positions Debra collected the knowledge and experience necessary to write proposals, develop and evaluate programs, and train program staff. So when she started her own company, Debra began by helping tribes that had already received grants to build infrastructure and conduct training.

One project provided the staff of a substance abuse treatment facility with two credit hours from a local college for taking a class Debra taught on working with HIV and hepatitis C clients, specifically Native Americans. Another program allowed children

to enroll in a local school while their mothers attended a substance abuse treatment facility. "It's really difficult for Native American women to leave their families for a month of substance abuse treatment," Debra says.

The center offered both physical and mental health services, including family counseling. In another project, a tribe set aside a cluster of houses and apartments as a sober community. That allowed tribe members who had received substance abuse treatment to live in a supportive community.

Three of Debra's current projects are in Anchorage, Alaska. One treats children with mental health issues. Another prepares Native Alaskan homeless people—who often have both mental health and substance abuse problems—to move into their own apartments. The third is restructuring an Alaskan Native/American Indian corporation so that its departments better share critical information in providing health services.

Another current project is a diabetes program at the Salish Kootenai College, a school in Montana co-sponsored by the Salish and Kootenai tribes. Additionally, the substance abuse prevention program on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in Fort Yates, North Dakota, received a grant to expand their program to provide additional staff, new treatment methods and training to reach a greater number of people.

Indian Health Services (IHS) publishes a booklet every five years detailing the health statistics of tribal groups. According to IHS, Native Americans have the highest rate in North America of heart disease, diabetes, and substance abuse, which in turn results in higher rates of cirrhosis, shooting and other types of accidents, as well as murder and suicide.

Native American teenagers are particularly vulnerable to suicide. "Native Americans experience a lot of physical, sexual and emotional abuse," Debra says. She attributes this to rampant alcohol abuse and the



fact that Native Americans' natural way of living has been historically interrupted. Consequently, many Native Americans today feel hopeless and angry.

Debra explains the history of today's issues, dating back to when Europeans came to North America. They took the land from native tribes and eventually moved them to reservations. Later the government assigned certain churches and education departments to each reservation, to "take the Indian out of our children."

At age five, Native American children were sent to boarding schools, where their hair was cut (a sign of mourning in some tribes), they wore European clothes, received European names, and were beaten if they spoke their native languages.

Because the Europeans did these things in Christ's name, today many Native Americans reject Christianity. Instead they are returning to their traditional ways, furthering the rejection of Christianity. "Only in the last two years have the people in the Dakota conference begun to trust us," Debra says.

As part of her work in the Dakota Conference, she has provided Adventist church members with cultural sensitivity training, coordinated Christian basketball camps, conducted a Coats for Kids project and organized a Native Campmeeting which includes all Native American Christians. She's also helped develop American Indian Living, a quarterly magazine addressing issues specific to Native American people, such as health or abuse, as well as sharing the gospel.

Debra also helped organize a short evangelistic series specifically tailored to Native Americans. A church planter hired by the Dakota Conference led the series. One night he shared his conversion story. Another night a man who became an Adventist while attending the Holbrook Indian School told his testimony. Debra also shared her testimony one night.

Not surprisingly, some of the testimonies included stories about abuse. After one meeting, a teenage girl confided in Debra about her own sexual abuse. She and her mother had reported it, but after two years the abuser remained unpunished and the girl had dropped out of school.

"When I told her Jesus overcame the pain for me,



Rachel, left, coaches a participant at the summer basketball camp for Native American kids Debra organizes every year.

we prayed together," Debra says. "I talked to her about the importance of school, and that her anger came from the abuse and not seeing justice served." The last two nights of the meeting the pastor talked about simply coming to Christ. The girl, along with several others, requested baptism. She then went on to finish high school and now plans to attend college. She too wants to help Native Americans.

After the evangelistic series, the resulting church plant launched as a small company. An Adventist church had once existed on that reservation,

but had closed because of family infighting—a common occurrence, Debra says. Another Christian group running a mission on the reservation had leased the original church building as housing for incoming groups, so the little Adventist company had no place to meet.

For three years Debra and the conference treasurer negotiated to use the church in the afternoons. Finally last fall, about 50 members, both Native Americans and non-Native Americans, met in their old church building for the first time and were officially recognized as a company. Each week their pastor drives 60 miles to lead the church in worship.

With 550 federally recognized tribes, and even more that are state-recognized, each with a unique culture and language, the Native American mission field is vast. There are also serious challenges. One challenge is that while some Native Americans believe in the same God we do, many don't necessarily believe in Jesus.

But when meeting with Native Americans, Debra will begin by praying to Jesus anyway. "I feel passionate about working with Native Americans because so few of them believe in the love of Christ or belong to any Bible-based church," she says. "Being with my people and sharing Christ's hope with them is very rewarding."

Debra aims to reach Native Americans just as Jesus reached the people of His day—through meeting their needs. "I try to model Jesus' method of ministry," she says. "It was all about healing."

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

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healthy choices for

BY DEENA BARTEL-WAGNER

In the southeast corner of Ireland lies County Kilkenny. The saying “Ground without bog, fire without smoke and land without coast” is an apt description of the place.

Travel there and you would discover the quintessential Ireland of the imagination. Rolling green hills, wandering roads and lanes lined with moss-covered stone walls. One might be tempted to stop and smell the bog orchid or admire the lanceolate spleenwort.

But for ten students from Oklahoma Academy (OA), memories of County Kilkenny involve more than sightseeing tours. For two weeks they learned about Irish culture and interacted in a very special way with the local residents.

“Our academy choral and string ensembles were scheduled to perform in Ireland,” says David Preisner, a math teacher at Oklahoma Academy. “After some discussion, it seemed like a natural choice for the seniors to spend an extra two weeks in Ireland, as part of their senior trip.”

Preisner contacted David Neal, president of the Irish Mission. He connected them with Jeff and Annemarie Freeman, missionaries in Ireland from Adventist Frontier Missions.

Next came deciding what would be the best use of the seniors’ talents and abilities. “On past senior trips, construction of buildings has been one of the activities that the students have done,” says Preisner.

One of the greatest needs in the village of Kilmacow, in County Kilkenny, is practical education regarding healthy living habits. After discussing this need with the Freemans, it was decided that a health expo in Kilmacow would be the seniors’ project.

Before the health expo could take place, the students went through some important training. “We spent time learning about Ireland and the people there,” says OA senior Oliver Bragg. “We also reviewed the materials we would be presenting and how to answer questions that the expo participants might have for us.” At the end of each day the students spent time with Jeff Freeman in a debriefing session. This helped them internalize more of what they had learned throughout the day.

Then the students went into the community of Kilmacow, passing out flyers and inviting residents to the health expo, which was held in the Kilmacow Community Center’s gymnasium. Some of the students



KILMACOW

worried that they might hold a health expo and nobody would come. But they weren't disappointed.

200 people attended—a significant number when you consider that only 2,000 people live in Kilmacow.

"I thought [the expo] would be a challenging opportunity," says senior Bethany Swart. "It took me outside my comfort zone. At first I was a little nervous about finding common ground with the Irish people, but it didn't take long to build friendships."

"The health expo was pretty complete," adds fellow senior Joe Hollifield. "It was based on the eight laws of health. Some of the booths that we had included an exercise booth with a stair stepper and monitoring of resting pulse versus active pulse, an area where people could get a free massage, a body mass index reading, and one where they could learn about the benefits of water."

At the final booth, the attendees received a printed health report detailing the changes they could make to improve their health. They were also offered one-on-one health counseling.

But the expo wasn't the end of the effort. "The Freemans are following up on the work that we did while we were there," says Preisner. "They will continue to work with those people who wanted more counseling in the area of healthy living."



A health expo attendee with two OA seniors at the exercise station.

The expo also opened the door to further health-related outreach. As part of his work in Ireland, Jeff Freeman volunteers at a high-risk youth center in the nearby city of Waterford. The center's director learned of the health expo and asked if the OA students could present it at the center.

At first, the OA seniors struggled with what exactly to say as they reached out to the

center's youth. But as the program progressed, the youth began asking questions and the OA students were able to talk with them about deeper topics rather than just surface conversation.



An OA senior offering simple health advice during the expo in Kilmacow.

"We really enjoyed working with these kids and learning more about them and their culture," says Oliver. "Knowing that my example was making a difference caused me to ask myself, 'What can I do everyday to impact the people I am around?'"

As the time to leave Ireland drew near, some of the young people from the youth center presented an idea. They had been deeply impacted by what they learned at the health expo. Some had decided to change their eating and drinking habits. Others gave up smoking.

"A number of these young people wanted to share what they had learned with other people," says Joe. "They wanted to give a health expo themselves in Waterford."

It was decided that all of the material and equipment would be left with the Freemans, and that Jeff would give the same training to these Irish youth that the OA seniors had received.

Soon after, the Waterford expo was held. And it is hoped is that these young people will continue to share with their countrymen the importance of healthy living and good choices.

"Although this wasn't a typical senior trip, it was a highly successful one," says Preisner. "I believe one of the crucial things to its success was that the Freemans had already laid groundwork in the community and now they are following up on our efforts over the long term. This would really be necessary for this kind of outreach."

The trip also had a powerful impact on the OA seniors, including Bethany, Oliver and Joe. Today, they are seeking ways to share with others that they come in contact with daily.

Oliver wanted more interaction with other cultures and is spending January-June 2009, serving at an orphanage. Joe is now studying massage therapy, and he's stayed in contact with a young man he met in Ireland. Bethany is training to become a dental hygienist and hopes to travel to other countries to participate in health-related outreach.

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



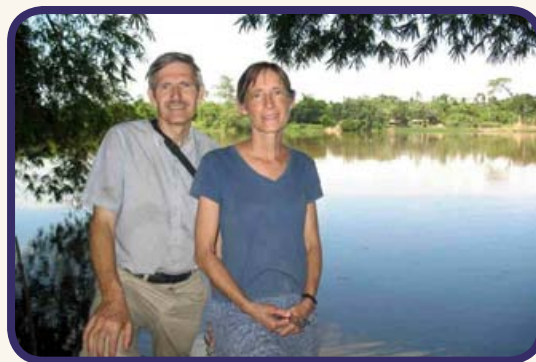
LABOR THAT SATISFIES THE SOUL

BY BARRY MOSIER

Sunshine shimmered on the waters of beautiful Lake Malawi as Ephraim was baptized. As I watched him publicly giving his life to Jesus, my heart leaped for joy. Only weeks before Ephraim was a witch doctor, using his evil instruments to curse people through the power of Satan.

At the end of our evangelistic meetings, he had given up his livelihood, and power and fame with the locals, to serve Jesus. When he later attended our evangelism training school at Kibidula Farm in Tanzania, and became a lay missionary, I felt that I was richly repaid for being a volunteer missionary in Africa.

Let's transition to another memory. Marybeth, my wife, worked feverishly over the limp little body. Four minutes of CPR and the breathing bag had failed to bring breath or a heart beat to this newborn baby. In



Barry & Marybeth Mosier by the Congo River.

desperation she dipped the lifeless form into a pail of hot water, then cold water. Over and over. "Lord, bring this child to life," she prayed.

Time lost all meaning as she fought for the life of this little baby. Finally, the eyes popped open, and the baby gasped in its first breath. Praise God! Satisfaction shone from Marybeth's face the next day as

she watched the mother take home a perfectly healthy baby. That was just one of the 150 babies Marybeth has helped deliver over our years in Africa.

Isaiah 55:2 asks a simple question: "Why do you spend your labor for that which satisfieth not?"

Our family of six led a pretty comfortable life. We lived on a 50-acre farm near Dodge Center, Minnesota. My work as a certified public accountant was enjoyable, although there was often too much of it. Each year I

promised my wife I would try to cut back at work, and each year I found myself working more.

We were actively involved in evangelism, Pathfinders and other church activities. We held a Bible study in our home on Friday nights and did friendship evangelism work with new church members.

However, the vast majority of people had little or no interest in spiritual matters. Time after time our church blanketed the surrounding area with invitations to various meetings, and incredibly few people responded. We wondered, “What about the millions in other countries who are hungry for the truth?”

I’ll always be grateful to our local church family for their involvement in missions worldwide. As they brought missionaries from around the world to give their reports, we were inspired. “Maybe we could do this if God asked us to,” we thought.

In 1993 Kim Busl invited our family to volunteer for three months at Riverside Farm in Zambia and Kibidula Farm in Tanzania. It was our chance to get a more complete understanding of Africa, not just a short two-week “honeymoon” mission field experience. We wanted to see what it was like to get sick there, for example. Also we wanted get to know the people, and we found that the African people really touched our hearts.

I would recommend an overseas mission trip to anyone contemplating long-term service. It’s a way of testing yourself, to discover how adaptable you are to the culture and environment. Unless you find yourself loving the people in spite of their habits, different culture, even their smell, you will struggle to be an effective missionary.

Seven years later, we accepted a call to move to Kibidula Farm—a big step of faith. Marybeth struggled to leave the security of her country home. For me it was leaving the security of my business. Most difficult for both of us was leaving behind our 20-year-old daughter Laura, who was studying at Union College.

Our children had mixed reactions. Laura missed us a lot, and Jared remained homesick for friends until he returned to the United States for college a few years



Barry, Andrew and April Mosier working with two local men shipping books across Tanzania.

later. Keith felt right at home and jumped into evangelism and missionary work with all his heart. He has since founded Congo Frontline Missions.

It may be easier to begin serving abroad if you have younger kids who are less settled into American life. America is a very worldly place to raise a

family, and there are many blessings in raising children overseas if you can home school, as we did, or somehow provide an education.

Over the last eight years we have grown to trust God in ways we could not have imagined in America. We know we live in the palm of God’s hand and are sustained by the prayers of people back home. In times of trial we have grown to expect miracles.

And yes, there have been trials. After only two months in Africa, God miraculously spared our son Jared’s life in a tractor accident. Last year four of our family—Marybeth, April, Andrew and myself—were in a horrific airplane crash in which 47 people were killed.

But God spared our lives and proved once again His ability to turn disaster into a chance to glorify His name. After the crash, we were privileged to praise God across the world through interviews with international news agencies. We have learned that the safest place in the world is wherever God calls you.

Blessings have far outweighed challenges over the years. One of those blessings is our four-year-old adopted African son, Andrew. He has given us a permanent bond to Africa.

Numerous unique opportunities to partner with others in furthering God’s work have been another blessing. Through working with ASI, we had the privi-



Ephraim, a former witch doctor, with one his old instruments.

lege of distributing 1,150 bicycles and 5,000 picture rolls to frontline gospel workers. Together with Light Bearers Ministry, we were able to distribute 12 twenty-foot containers of literature in the Swahili language. The Roofs over Africa program helped us to provide metal roofing sheets for 1,400 churches in three countries. How can I compare the satisfaction from these projects with my prior occupation in America?

God has also fulfilled His promise to sustain us when we put our faith in Him, and we have not suffered. Our daily needs are supplied through renting out our house in America and through a small local stipend. I

can promise you that if the Lord wants you to work overseas, He is well able to care for your needs. I also believe that if He is truly calling you, He can help

you put a good financial plan in place before you leave. Planning ahead is not a lack of faith.

In October we said goodbye to our beloved Kibidula Farm and moved to Democratic Republic of Congo to join Keith at Congo Frontline Missions. On our final Sabbath more than 150 colporteurs gathered to thank us for our eight years of service in Tanzania and to wish us well in Congo.

As they marched into the church singing and bearing gifts for my family, I thought about the 425,000 books we had distributed through them over the past eight years. How many people will be in the Kingdom



Marybeth (right) and April (left) with two local parents and their newborn in Tanzania.

from these books? Tears rolled down my cheeks as I saw the love for us on their faces. How does one compare this kind of joy and satisfaction with worldly wages?

Today, the words of Jesus are still true: "The

harvest is great, but the laborers are few" (Matthew 9:37). Last year, as I investigated Keith's project in northern Congo, I met beer distributors who were arriving to start a business in the recently war-torn Kisangani area. I met an actor who had come to offer a therapy of sorts, helping local people by acting out on stage their emotions from the war. However, when I asked a foreigner to tell me how many missionaries had returned to the area, he replied, "They are all afraid to come back. Until now, not one has returned."

I wondered how it could be that brewers and actors had more courage than missionaries. Are we serious about finishing the work?

I can touch a thousand times as many lives here in Africa as I could in America. As far as whether or not foreign missionaries like me still needed, I can say from experience that the combination of foreign missionaries and local workers is a good one. As foreigners, we bring a broader perspective, as well as credibility and accessibility to those who want to help financially. The locals know the area and how to reach the hearts of their people.

Are you satisfied with the results of your work? Or do you feel the Lord urging you to step out in faith and work overseas? Pray earnestly, and the Lord will surely lead the way. I assure you, working for Jesus satisfies the soul like nothing else can.

"I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'" (Isaiah 6:8)

Barry Mosier is a CPA who for the past eight years has worked in Africa as a volunteer missionary. He currently serves as treasurer for Congo Frontline Missions in Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo.



Keith Mosier preaching in a Congo jungle church.

TOOLS AND WILLING HEARTS

BY JABEL BUSL

A local member helps build a church in Mongolia.

Pastor Julius is a friend of mine. He leads one of the largest congregations in South Sudan. And like pastors everywhere he faces daily challenges. Although these challenges are not unique to his membership, they are different from those in our western churches.

For example, when a member's child is dying of malaria, is it dishonest to use part of the Sabbath School offering to buy that child medicine? Should individuals from the community be welcomed at the church service if they are too poor to own clothing? What is the best way to dis-fellowship a church member who is also a rebel commander and continues to com-



Julius (right) with a newly baptized church member.

mit murder? In South Sudan these are everyday problems Julius must handle with prayer and tact.

If that weren't enough, Julius plants and leads churches in a war-torn and totally undeveloped region—something that requires extraordinary characteristics. He is persistent enough to ride his bike 100 miles to start a new congregation, but also patient enough to study with a family for years before seeing them baptized.

Although he works in such difficult conditions, Julius presents a gospel that is simple and genuine. His own relationship with Jesus Christ is very apparent, and that gives him great influence in the community.

Julius is one of the hundreds of lay pastors and Global Mission Pioneers who bear the bulk of the burden for the Adventist work in Central Africa.

Frontline Builders is a small team of young people who work to provide tools and infrastructure for these faithful workers. Their congregations meet under mango trees or in mud huts. Their schools are attended by hundreds of students but have no chalkboards, books or desks.

It is an unparalleled honor to work with these pioneers and supply them with permanent buildings, training opportunities and other community projects that support and enhance their efforts.

Our work developed out of the Outpost Centers International ministries in Africa, where our parents were missionaries. As refugees told us the needs facing the church in South Sudan, the Lord put a burden on the hearts of myself, my brother Jared and our cousin Caleb Knowles to go help these people. We soon learned, as so many others have, that a willing heart is all the Lord needs.

At the 2000 ASI Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan, a group of ASI members committed to help make our dream a reality. I doubt if there is any other group that would have taken this risk on such a young and inexperienced team. (To me this is such a unique and amazing aspect of ASI, that so many young people have been encouraged and assisted to go and follow their dreams for the Lord).

Because of a long civil war, South Sudan is left woefully underdeveloped. There are no phone lines, fuel stations or shops, and the miles of paved road could be counted on one hand. On our first trip into Sudan it became very apparent that travel would be a major challenge. Land mines, bombed-out buildings and the rebel checkpoints marked each mile.

Now and then we would pass aid trucks that were broken down or stuck in massive mud holes. Some had been waiting for weeks or months for spare parts. One driver, whose truck was both stuck and broken, had built



A typical Sabbath church service in South Sudan.

a small hut to live in while he and his assistant waited. They sounded optimistic that the dry season would arrive soon.

Heavy on our minds, of course, was how we would ever get construction materials to the church and school building sites. Every nail, roofing sheet, and bag

of concrete would have to be dragged through this mess.

It was amazing to see small hand-painted signs reading "SDA Church" in almost every community we passed through. Laypeople or Global Mission Pioneers had started these congregations, and in many locations they had started a primary school for the children as well.

It was thrilling to witness the scope of what these people had accomplished. Despite 20 years of civil war, having no conference administration and only one ordained pastor, thousands of members were faithfully meeting each Sabbath.



Road conditions encountered by the Frontline Builders team in South Sudan.

After we met with community and church leaders, several locations were selected for us to begin building. Once we arrived at a construction site we would set up camp, begin the endless negotiating with local authorities, and set about purchasing supplies.

Many long days were spent collecting raw materials like stone, sand and water.

People came from miles around to watch the buildings go up, most of them having never seen this process. In the evenings a local pioneer would hold meetings for the community. It was always a special reward to see those with whom we had been working give their hearts to the Lord.

Over the following years our work expanded to include a mobile clinic, agriculture training and other community programs. We partnered with church leadership to build a facility where pastors and pioneers can come to spend several months a year getting training in ministry and evangelism. Soon we received requests for building projects in other fields.

Along with construction projects in Chad and Uganda, our team has spent two summers in Mongolia. Adventist Frontier Missions started the work in Mongolia

through the persistence and dedication of the Jolly family. As a result of that initial seed, there are now Global Mission Pioneers in dozens of the small towns across this primarily Buddhist country.

One of the challenges these groups face is having an affordable, warm place to gather for worship. Temperatures through much of the Mongolian winter are below 0°F, often reaching minus 50°. The two churches we built were in remote towns, and we used mostly local materials to build the warmest possible building. There are still groups of Mongolian believers in desperate need of a church building. We plan to return to Mongolia to support the work there.

During our time in these many mission fields, we have been continually amazed and inspired by the work of local missionaries and laypeople. One of the most inspirational to me is Carlo, another pastor in South Sudan.

In the mid 1980s Carlo attended an evangelistic series and gave his heart to the Lord. Shortly thereafter he felt called to begin working as a missionary among his own people. This was during a time of fierce fighting between rebels and government troops. Most people had fled deep into the bush and were literally living day-to-day like animals. Those fortunate enough to escape the fighting were faced with starvation and disease.

Carlo began traveling on foot from one camp to the next, ministering to the people. It was difficult and depressing work, being as he himself had nothing, much less anything tangible to offer. But he did have something to share, the hope and love found in the Bible. Small congregations soon sprang up throughout the region. Carlo would spend each Sabbath with a different group, preaching and offering encouragement.

Several years passed. One day a group of believers asked to be baptized. As he had done many times before, Carlo explained that he was not an ordained pastor and so they would have to wait. But the people became



Local church members, like this man in South Sudan, often assist with Frontline Builders projects.

impatient, saying they had been believers now for five or six years, and with the war raging they could be killed any day. They asked Carlo to find a way to baptize them.

So he decided to walk to Uganda and see if he could make arrangements with a pastor there.

The 200-mile trek took Carlo more than a week. When he arrived in Uganda and found an Adventist pastor, Carlo explained how desperate the situation was. But he could not convince the man to travel back with him.

With a heavy heart Carlo returned to his people with the sad news. They took the news quite well, and even seemed encouraged that there was indeed a pastor who could baptize them. After the rainy season, Carlo led a large group over to Uganda, where they were baptized.

Carlo, Julius and the other people we work with

are an inspiration for our team. We look at it like this: if Carlo, with his limited opportunities and resources, can find a way to work for the Lord, then surely we can. The Lord has greatly blessed these faithful workers and made them effective witnesses in their communities. He longs to do the same for us.



Students and teachers in front of their newly-constructed school building.

Jabel Busi is director of Frontline Builders and currently lives in Tennessee with his wife, Michelle, and their nine-month-old son, Hudson Taylor. They are looking forward to full-time mission service once Jabel completes his civil engineering studies at the University of Tennessee.

Frontline Builders is a non-profit ASI and OCI member organization. Visit www.FrontlineBuilders.org or call **423-236-5600** to learn more.



See Frontline Builders and other ASI members in action on ASI Video Magazine, now on **3ABN** and the **Hope Channel**.



THIS I WILL NEVER FORGET

Two summer mission trips involve everyday people in ministry

BY CHERYL TORRES

God can use anyone. Old or young, weak or strong, experienced or eager to learn—each person plays a valuable role in God’s vineyard. And mission trips bring these people together.

This past summer, two groups joined the Outpost Centers International (OCI) mission trips to Zambia and Peru. The first group met in June at OCI-member Riverside Farm Institute in Zambia, where they spent more than two weeks preaching the gospel in surrounding villages. The different evangelistic series climaxed on the final Sabbath with the baptisms of many listeners and one of the volunteers.

As the Zambia group returned to their respective homes, another group was converging at Peru Projects. There they held a revival meeting each evening. But their main focus was on construction and health care. In ten days of service, one segment of the team built a new church. The others provided much-needed medical care to a number of villages along a nearby river.

Each person who joined the OCI trips brought a unique set of skills and experiences, and each person came home with his or her own stories to tell.

A Guidance Counselor

At her first ASI Convention, in 2007, Valerie came across the OCI booth. A display with some flags and an OCI “passport” caught her eye. Entries were being taken to win a free mission trip by collecting “passport” stamps from the various OCI ministry booths. She decided to go for it.

The drawing was held, and Valerie won. “I’m so glad I didn’t give up,” Valerie said. “It took perseverance to find all the OCI ministries in the exhibit hall, but it was well worth it!”

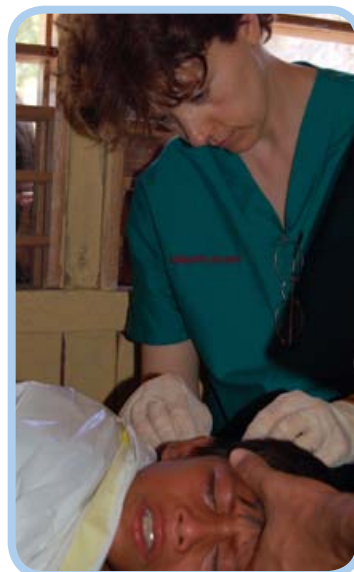
She went on the Zambia trip, and was touched by visiting the villages around her evangelistic site. “It’s something I never thought I’d get to do—going to the remote villages, seeing how the people lived, assessing the needs,” she said. “That made a big impact, and I [saw] how little we really understand.” She also had the opportunity to meet separately with the women at her site and answer their questions about health, family, and relationships with their spouses.

“Go,” she tells anyone thinking about a volunteer mission trip. “There are so many people in the world that need to know and love the Lord. And even if you don’t have much, there are examples, like Riverside, of people who are using what little resources they have and doing a lot!”

A Primary Care Doctor

When Linda found out about the trip to Peru, she and her husband decided to go and to take their whole office team. During the trip, while the rest of the team worked on the church, they used their medical skills to hold clinics in tiny villages along the nearby river.

It was so different from working in their office. “We have never been so hot and sweaty for so long,” Linda said. “But that and all of the inconveniences were nothing to us because of the joy we experienced in being of service!”



Linda providing medical care during OCI’s Peru mission trip.

“We were touched by the gratitude expressed by our patients, who were so happy for our medical care,” Linda continued. “We were overwhelmed by the gratitude of the staff on the mission launch, who had not had a physician on their boat for two years. In the end, we left a part of our hearts in the jungle.”

A Mission-Trip Veteran

Ester and her husband, both close to 80 years old, have been on a number of mission trips, but had never preached an evangelistic series. They signed up for the trip to Zambia thinking it would include construction work. And they wanted to visit Victoria Falls. When they learned there would be preaching instead of building, they decided to give it a try.

Ester had been telling Bible stories to her children and grandchildren for years, so she was ready to give the children’s stories. The children loved hearing about Daniel, Zaccheus, Joseph, and many others. “On our last night, I told the children that the heroes from the Bible would be in heaven with us, and I asked if they wanted to meet together there,” Ester said. “They all raised their hands and came to hug us and say goodbye when we left. The mothers came too, and they were all so grateful. This I will never forget.”

A Former Missionary Kid

Janell, communication director for OCI, grew up in East Africa. But she had never been on a mission trip. So she jumped at the chance to go to Peru, eager to visit South America for the first time and to help people in a tangible way.

“It reminded me a lot of being in Africa, and a lot of what I enjoyed was that it was so like Africa,” Janell said. It was also very unlike Africa—a different culture, different language, and simply staying a few weeks instead of living there year-round. “It was exciting to have the first glimpse



Ester sharing a children’s story during OCI’s mission trip to Zambia.

of another culture, getting to know a people-group for the first time, practicing language skills,” she said.

For Janell, it was a meaningful change from desk job to hands-on job,

where she built something that made such a difference. “To see our labor turn an empty piece of ground into a church building and then be able to worship with the people in their new church was amazing,” she said.

A Reluctant Teenager

At 15, Stephanie was more interested in hanging out with her friends than traveling to Africa to help with evangelism. She’d never been on a mission trip before

and didn’t like the rusty pipes she had to shower under, the cement block dormitory that got so cold at night, or the big spiders that skittered across the walls.

After the first evangelistic meeting, all these things seemed irrelevant. “The kids were so happy to see us!” she exclaimed. She marveled at how little they had and how willing they were to share anything they could. “They

brought us fruits and were always smiling and friendly.”

Stephanie told the children’s story or led the health talk at most of the meetings. After which she would listen to the sermon with the audience. “I don’t have a denomination,” she said after hearing all the presentations. “I’ve always just believed what I understand from the Bible. I never knew Adventists were the same way. They take things straight from the Bible. That opened my eyes.”

A Magazine Reader

Mission opportunities pop up everywhere and in many different forms. One of these is OCI’s upcoming mission trip to South Korea this summer. Find out more at www.outpostcenters.org/missiontrip.

Cheryl Torres is OCI associate communication director.



Stephanie with Zambian children during an OCI mission trip last summer



MY REAL REASON

BY BJORN HARBOLDT

Someone recently asked why I decided to spend a year as a student missionary. I had to laugh, because I knew if I had recognized my real reasons before going, I would have had a hard time even raising the necessary money.

Just imagine me visiting Great Aunt Thelma asking for some funds. “Aunt Thelma,” I would have said, looking at her with big eyes and using the tone of a most worthy great nephew, “Will you give me money so I can go be a hero? I want to go to Africa so that my friends will be impressed with me. Will you give me some money?” I’m not so sure Aunt Thelma would have been so generous.

Looking back, though, it is likely she knew what really motivated me, even though the words I used to describe my goals sounded a lot more pious. Luckily, Aunt Thelma knew that no matter what my reasons were, I needed to go. And she sent me on my way with a check, and a wink.

My problem was that I was more interested in appearing to be a missionary than in being one. But God is pretty clever in dealing with people like me. I’m not the first selfish person God has used. Read about Jacob in the book of Genesis. He was determined to take his brother’s place as the family patriarch. Jacob wasn’t content with the idea of being second to his brother. So Jacob tricked Esau and took his birthright.

God didn’t have to use an individual with such an unseemly past, but He did. God used that very situation to help Jacob become one of the patriarchs in the bloodline of Jesus.

And God knew that if I went to Africa and actually tried to share Jesus, laid bricks, gave immunizations and actually did work in His name, His purpose would be served. His buildings would be built, His sick children would receive medication, and while I was busy doing this work I would realize some things about myself too.

He knew that when I realized what my motives had been, it would disgust me and I would find new motivation to fall at his feet in submission. He knew I would learn to mean what I say when I ask Him to humble my prideful heart.

Thanks to providence, in the form of friends who had already served in Africa, I found myself headed to Riverside Farm Institute in Zambia. Riverside is an evangelistic training center where individuals from Zambia and elsewhere receive instruction in evangelism before being sent out to work among their own people.

The school supports itself financially through farming. Riverside is on the Kafue River, which allows for consistent irrigation. The farm produces wheat, maize, and bananas. Student missionaries work at Riverside in three main areas: evangelism, medical work, and construction.

Most of my time was spent working on construction projects. Our team built additions on some of the houses at Riverside, and kept busy with all manner of maintenance jobs in between construction projects. But our construction work wasn't limited just to Riverside, or even to Zambia.

Alan Knowles, Riverside's student missionary director, stays in contact with congregations in Zambia and surrounding countries. Many of these congregations lack even a simple church building. Often these groups can combine their resources and build the walls of a church, but putting on a roof is more than they can afford.

That's where Roofs Over Africa comes in. The program, sponsored by ASI, enables Alan to bring student missionaries and local church members together to form a multi-cultural construction team. There are major language complications, but certainly more than enough laughter and trust to get the job done.

One of the tricky things about cost-effective church construction in Southern Africa is that mud bricks don't perform well when they get wet. Local church members



A church roof completed by Bjorn's team from Riverside Farm in Zambia.

can make the bricks and then build strong walls. But if they can't get a proper overlapping roof before the rainy season begins, the walls will crumble and the members are right back where they started.

This cycle was all too familiar for the congregation in Nkhata Bay, Malawi.

Three times the church walls had gone up. And three times the rains had washed them away before funds for a roof could be found.

With the rainy season impending we learned that the church members had completed the walls for a fourth time. We rushed to Malawi, knowing the rain could begin any time, but hoping to save the church.

On Friday the long-awaited roof was finally finished. Sabbath morning, during the very first service ever held in the new building, the rains began. In fact it rained so hard on the metal roof, we had to shout to be heard. Before long the preacher gave up, and we just laughed together and sang praises.

It really was incredible to see God's timing with this project. I had never before witnessed such a joyful

Sabbath worship service. Some were so happy they were weeping. They had fought for so long to build a place to worship.

I often struggle over whether or not to participate in certain missions or projects. It's obvious to me now that my motives for service in the past were pretty selfish. But in my experience, choosing to act, regardless of my motives, has been a good thing. People have benefitted

from my help even if I helped for the wrong reason.

What I get really excited about, however, is the genuine change I can see in myself. When I go and help people and see the real needs they have, somehow my reasons get rearranged. I find myself doing things out of an actual goodwill toward others, and loving it.

Maybe that's why He said, "Go".



Bjorn's team lifts a roofing truss.

Bjorn Harboldt is a student at Southern Adventist University.



OVERSEAS SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

There are numerous opportunities for service with ASI member organizations around the world.

Below you'll find a sampling of these availabilities. For more information, contact the listed organization.

Adventist Frontier Missions

Service opportunities abound at AFM. There are availabilities for student, short-term and long-term missionaries at numerous locations worldwide. Find out more at www.afmonline.org/service

Kibidula Farm

Student and long-term missionaries are both needed at Kibidula Farm in Tanzania. Student missionaries are involved in a variety of tasks, tailored to their strengths and abilities. Long-term missionaries are need for the following positions:

- Medical doctor
- Farmer / agricultural teacher
- Experienced builder
- Communication (web design, radio and TV programming)
- Student missionary coordinator
- Primary school teacher

Those interested will find more information at www.Kibidula.org

Laymen Ministries

A variety of overseas openings are currently available at Laymen Ministries. In most cases, no degree is necessary. There are two service categories: Youth In Mission (for those 17 or older who are still in school), and Missionaries (for those out of school, over 18 and seeking longer-term mission service).

Call 208-245-5388 or visit www.lmn.org for further information.

Maranatha Volunteer International

There are always opportunities for service through Maranatha. Upcoming Maranatha short-term missions include projects in Chile, India and Mexico. See their website, www.Maranatha.org, for more information.

Outpost Centers International

OCI lists numerous opportunities with ministries worldwide on their website, www.OutpostCenters.org. Here are just a few:

- Vegan Cook: The Heartgood Foundation, Norway
- Business Manager: Eastward Missionary College, Australia
- Maintenance Person: Centro Misionero de Salud (CMS), Mexico
- Teacher/Evangelism Assistant: Congo Frontline Missions, Congo
- Farm Manager: Riverside Farm Institute, Zambia

Peru Projects

There are a number of service opportunities at Peru Projects. Availabilities include the following:

Missionaries to spread the gospel to villages: pastors, theology students and chaplains

Medical care: physicians, nurses and medical students

Dental care: dentists, dental students

Health professionals: nutritionists, public health, and physical therapy

Administrative support: accountants, administrative assistants, and legal assistance

Computer support: website assistance, graphics and technological support

Translators: Spanish to English, Spanish to native languages (Shipibo, Bora)

Air support: pilots and mechanics

Construction teams: to build churches, wells and latrines

More information can be found at www.PeruProjects.org or by emailing peruprojects@terra.com.pe

The Quiet Hour

A number of Quiet Hour evangelism trips are planned for 2009. Countries include Honduras, Nicaragua, Vietnam, Peru, Fiji and Jamaica. Visit www.TheQuietHour.org for more information.

ASI Abroad

Inter-American Division

ASI Inter-America held its annual convention August 20-23 at the Coral Costa Caribe resort in Juan Dolio, Dominican Republic. More than 400 people attended, and over the four-day convention heard inspiring testimonies and speeches.



Barbara Taylor, ASI vice president for recruitment (second from left), with attendees at the 2008 ASI Inter-America Convention in the Dominican Republic.

Featured speakers included Stephen Bohr, pastor of the Fresno Central Seventh-day Adventist church and director of *Secrets Unsealed*, and Barbara Taylor, ASI vice president for recruitment.

A special presentation on the One-Day Church was made at the convention. Leon

Wellington, ASI Inter-America secretary, told attendees that ASI Inter-America had accepted a request to lead the One-Day Church project within the division.

In a business session, members voted to re-elect Juan Rosa as ASI Inter-America president. Nelson Cabrera was elected as communication coordinator.

The 2009 ASI Inter-America Convention will be held in Bridgetown, Barbados, August 22-25. More information is online at www.asi-interamerica.org.

Europe

ASI Portugal, founded not even a year ago, has experienced tremendous blessings. Approximately 100 Adventist businesspeople attended the second ASI Portugal meeting last year, which was aimed at forming the organization's charter membership.

After some powerful testimonies of witnessing in the workplace, membership applications were distributed, and 57 people requested charter memberships. Ruben Dias, ASI Portugal president, was delighted both with the result and with the knowledge that influential Portuguese laypeople committed themselves to the ASI mission.

Ruben has defined three main objectives for his term: membership growth, launching Youth for Jesus in Portugal and starting a New Beginnings DVD evangelism project.

ASI Portugal is online at www.asiportugal.org.

Africa

ASI South Africa has officially launched, and held its inaugural meeting October 23-25, 2008, in the city of Bloemfontein. Themba Sirayi was elected as the organization's first president.

The meeting was attended by 175 people, and representatives from other ASI entities. Donna and Denzil McNeilus, current and former ASI president respectively, were present. Officers from ASI Zimbabwe and ASI Zambia were on hand as well.

Asia

The **Northern and Southern Asia-Pacific Division ASI** held their 9th bi-division convention December 4-7 at the Grand Seasons Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Themed "Chosen to Serve", the convention included testimonies, uplifting sermons and musical performances.

It was the largest ever bi-division convention, with nearly 600 people attending.

Featured speakers included Denzil McNeilus, a former ASI president, and Chester Clark III, ASI general vice president.

A first-time attendee wrote that she was surprised at how interesting the convention was, and that she was "overwhelmed" by the testimonies and the featured speakers. She also committed to attending the next convention.



Sabbath morning attendees at the bi-division ASI Convention in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Youth on Fire

ADVENTIST SOUTHEAST ASIA PROJECTS EMPOWERS
YOUNG EVANGELISTS IN VIETNAM

With support from the 2007 ASI Convention offering, Adventist Southeast Asia Projects (ASAP) launched a program to equip thirty young people for ministry. They received materials—Bibles, New Beginnings DVDs and pamphlets—and training on subjects such as prayer, outreach, and how to deal with the police.

The government in Vietnam remains Communist, and while liberalizing in some ways, local authorities do not allow active evangelism. They continue to make every attempt to hinder the growth of Christianity.

Pastor Isaiah Duong, leader of the Vietnam Adventist underground movement, comments, “I have seen God use the ASAP youth evangelists in a special way. They often go undetected by the police. For instance, on the way to a Bible study with backpacks full of religious materials, they look like students headed to a study group.”

But there have been cases where the youth evangelists have lost their privilege of attending university in Vietnam when the government discovered they were Seventh-day Adventist Christians. However, this does not sway their faith. More than 150 new house-church groups have started in the past two years because of the leadership of these youth evangelists. The impact of their active outreach efforts is immeasurable.

“I am not afraid because I believe in God’s promises that say if I walk through the fire He will be there,” one of the youth evangelists said in a recent interview. “Before my brother and I go out distributing DVDs and evan-



A group of ASAP youth evangelists in Vietnam.

gelistic tracts, we always pray. We know the content of these materials well, and have separated them into categories for people of different backgrounds. We know which ones will touch the heart of the Buddhists, the Animists, Catholics and Protestants. This helps us be successful,

but the main reason for our success is prayer.”

A few months ago, during a massive DVD distribution campaign, an ASAP youth evangelist handed an 18-year-old a DVD. He took it home, watched it, and got so excited about its message that he burned 1,000 copies of it and shared it with family, friends and people at his church.

The church’s priest soon discovered the DVDs, and told the congregation not to watch them. But many already had, and asked the priest why, if the DVDs were about God’s Word, they should stop watching them.

The young man’s father was personally moved by both the DVD and his son’s newfound passion. So he contacted an ASAP lay pastor, who began studying the Bible with people from the church. Please pray for this group and the many others like them secretly meeting throughout Vietnam.

Last year, God provided a way for ASAP to offer quarterly training sessions for youth evangelist leaders, who in turn train other young people to serve. ASAP plans to train ten such leaders in 2009.

Visit www.ASAPministries.org or call 866-365-3541 for more information, or to obtain a free copy of *Standing for God*, a video depicting the ASAP youth evangelists in action.

Forward By His Grace

NEW VOCATIONAL BUILDING COMPLETED
AT LIVING SPRINGS



The new vocational building at Living Springs in India.

In 2004, Living Springs Overseas Missions began construction of a 6,000-square-foot vocational building at their orphanage in India. It would house the necessary facilities for a fully functional vocation training program.

Soon the footers were poured and some village laborers were hired to finish the ground floor. The project also received a boost by being included in the 2006 ASI Convention offering. Then everything came to a sudden halt.

The village secretary came to the site, angrily ordered construction to stop at once, and threatened legal action. Living Springs later discovered that the problem had arisen from their laborers. Apparently they had hired workers who were members of a different political party than that of the current village government. Many meetings with officials of the village and district ensued.

A building permit was delayed for several months as the opposing political parties argued amongst each other. During this delay Living Springs received the first half of the \$30,000 allotted to them from the ASI offering. And after some time, the building permit was reinstated.

Construction resumed, and so too the conflicts. In the spring of 2006, an order was placed for steel at a sig-

nificant discount. The steel would provide support for the second floor roof. Months and months went by and no steel arrived, only the vain promise, "Next week the order should be finalized."

The first ASI project report would soon be due, and construction was significantly behind schedule.

Living Springs' Jacob Wayd felt impressed to go forward in faith and told the workers to begin putting up the scaffolding for pouring the roof.

No prospect of steel was in sight, and the workers continually asked when it would be delivered. But just when the scaffolding was finished, the delivery came. A full year had gone by before the steel finally arrived, but God provided when it was needed most.

Vocational training actually began before the building was finished. Some of the older boys at Living Springs assisted with brick laying, plumbing, wiring and painting. They also helped weld the windows and doors, an experience they had been wanting for some time. They were so interested in their work that many continued after the day's scheduled stopping time.

This past autumn the building was finally completed. All of the rooms are in use, and only some landscaping remains.

Joining the Family...



Thanks for coming. Bring a friend!

Your Local ASI

Attending your local chapter meeting is one the best ways to discover what ASI is all about. ASI chapters are based in eight of the nine unions of the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. And almost every chapter has a meeting on the near horizon.

Union chapter meetings are similar to ASI Conventions, with main meetings, breakout sessions, project reports, member testimonies, music, fellowship and more.

What sets the union chapter meetings apart, however, is the connection with active lay people and ministries in your own area—and the opportunity to discover new ways to witness in your local community.

And if you apply for ASI membership at a union chapter meeting, you'll receive 50 percent off your first year's member dues. So make plans now to attend the ASI chapter meeting in your union. You won't regret it.



Local ASI chapter meetings are a great way to connect with others who are sharing Christ in your area.

Upcoming ASI union chapter meetings:

Columbia Union – March 13-15, 2009, Liberty Seventh-day Adventist Church, Baltimore, Maryland

Lake Union – April 17-19, 2009, Glendale Seventh-day Adventist Church, Indianapolis, Indiana

Mid-America Union – April 16-18, 2009, Mid-America Union headquarters, Lincoln, Nebraska

North Pacific Union – April 30-May 4, 2009, Eagle Creek Resort, Redmond, Oregon

Pacific Union – April 23-26, 2009, Doubletree Hotel, San Jose, California

Southern Union – April 2-4, 2009, Northwest Georgia Convention Center, Dalton, Georgia.

Southwestern Union – February 19-21, 2009, Cleburne English Seventh-day Adventist Church, Cleburne, Texas.

Visit www.ASIministries.org or call 301-680-6450 for more information.

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.

Remember when mission work was the most important thing we did as a church?

It still is.

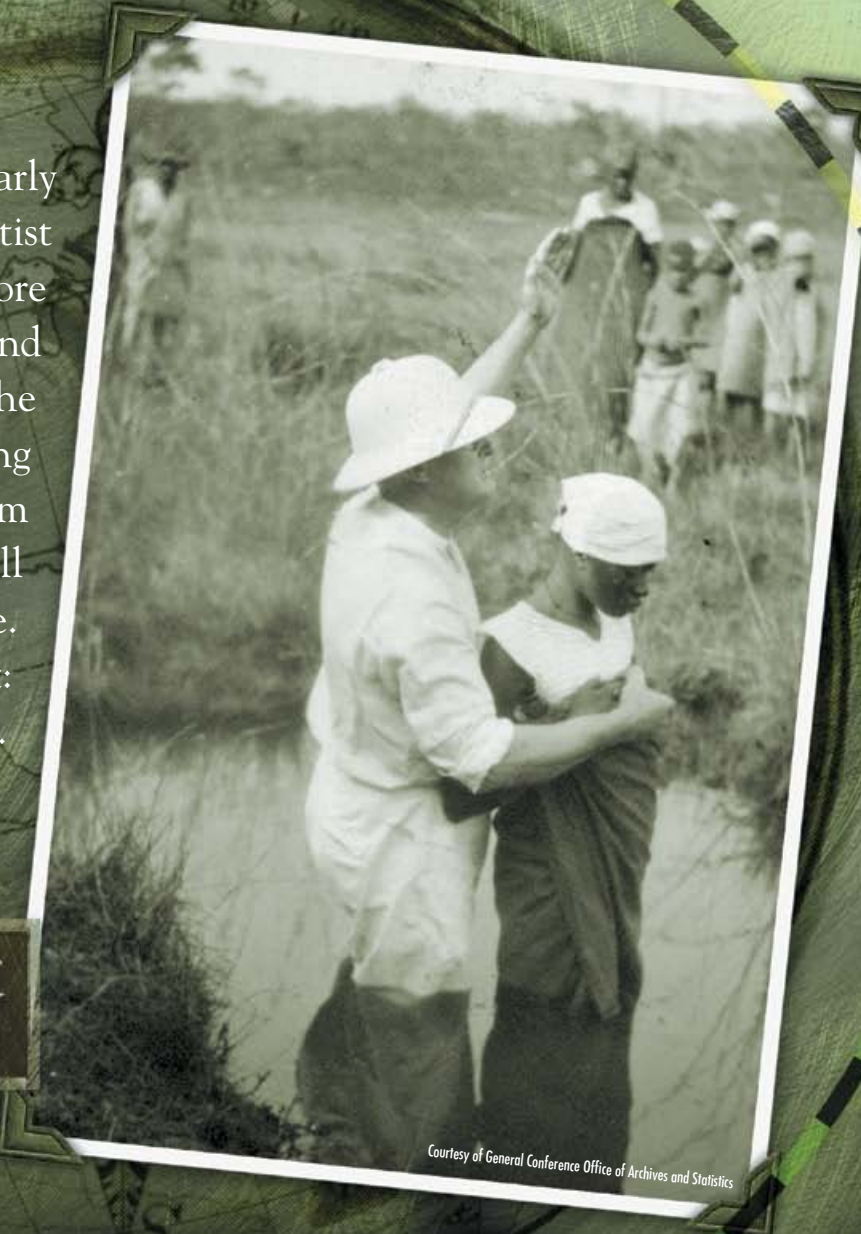
Every day nearly 1,000 Adventist missionaries serve in more than 200 countries around the world. Your support of the Spring Mission Appeal offering on **May 30** will help give them the resources they need to tell the world about Christ's love.

For more information visit:
www.AdventistMission.org

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