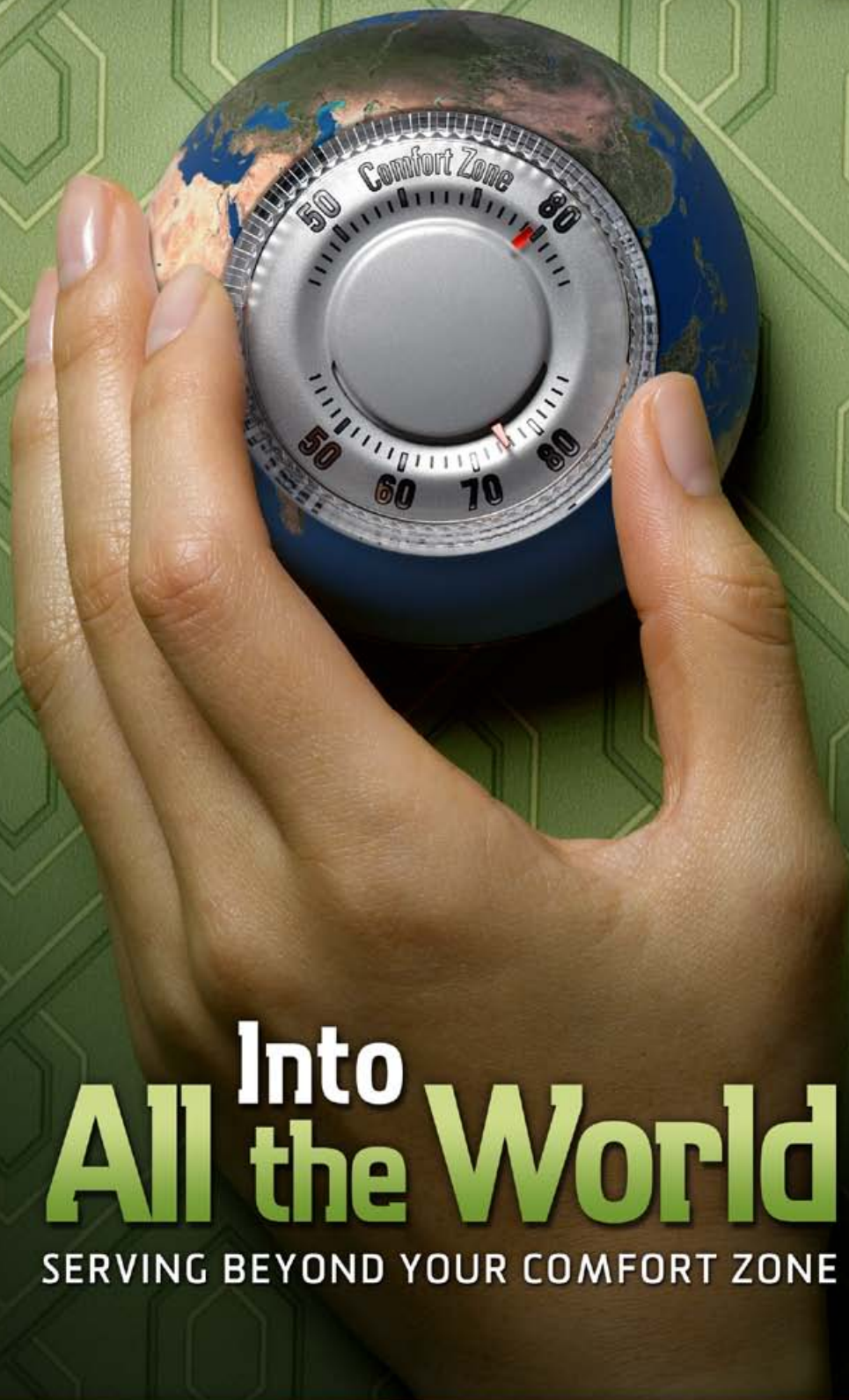


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Summer 2010



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Editor's Note:

This year I kissed my husband and four precious children goodbye and boarded a plane with several hundred strangers to fly far beyond my comfort zone—across the Atlantic Ocean to beautiful Africa. There I traveled thousands of miles over bumpy, muddy roads with people I'd previously met only by phone or e-mail. Nothing was as I expected, yet everything seemed strangely familiar. I found myself among friends who shared my longing to step across the barrier of time and into eternity to meet the same loving Father face-to-face.

Best of all, I met fascinating people and heard wonderful stories that broadened my perspective and changed who I am. You will find a few of those stories in these pages. —Conna Bond



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There Will Be Troubles...

BY TERRY ANDERSON

Look around you and you'll realize that nothing is easy anymore. In today's business world, you may work twice as hard for the same benefit you received a decade ago—and that's just the beginning of your troubles. They're not only present at work but in the more important aspects of our lives.

Local churches are having problems like never before. Once stable churches are disagreeing over issues of every magnitude and even talking about splitting. Saddest of all is the havoc the devil is wreaking on our families. Today it seems that everyone is facing significant challenges.

"Is anyone else experiencing the kind of troubles I'm experiencing?"

Personally, I've experienced more troubles in the past year than I remember experiencing in my lifetime before that. But I'm not complaining—at least not anymore. Because I've come to realize that Jesus has to get us to a place in our lives where we acknowledge that "we" can't do it anymore. When we reach that point, we have a choice: to continue fighting by ourselves or to call for help from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior and the greatest Problem Solver in the universe.

Last February, I experienced what I then considered the worst day of my life. Quite simply, my life was out of control. I was trying to face all the challenges by myself, occasionally asking God for help because I was a "Seventh-day Adventist Christian." Because of the economy and other circumstances, my business wasn't doing well, our local church was in the middle of a "cordial" split, and my spiritual life was not what it should have been. I did not have the relationship with Jesus that I needed—and that He offered.



Friends, if you're like me, you sometimes look around and wonder, "Is anyone else experiencing the kind of troubles I'm experiencing?" The short answer is, "Yes." In these last days, Satan has more power to cause trouble than ever before in earth's history. Our "adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion,

seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8, NKJV). But verse 9 offers hope: "Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

I'm thankful to share that the huge tests the Lord gave me this year have strengthened my faith, and my relationship with God is better than ever. As other tests keep rolling my way, I continually learn that "I can't... but He can." This is significant because, as our problems increase so do our prayers. And the more we pray, the more we perceive how God is working in our lives to answer those prayers, which increases our faith and our witness of hope and encouragement to others!

Millions of people on this earth are experiencing problems every day. They don't know what we know, and they don't know *Jesus*. Our purpose for existing at this stage of history is to tell them! There has never been a better time to tell people about Jesus than today. He wants to give us the victory and greater power to finish this work so we can get off this planet.

Problems of all sorts will continue to come, and things will get worse on this earth. But, praise God, those experiences will only increase our faith as we continue to look to Him for our answers and protection.



Terry Anderson is ASI's vice president for evangelism and president of Wealth By Design and Management, LLC in Denver, Colorado. He lives in Franktown, Colo., with his wife, Colleen, and children, Michael and Emily.

Join the Chain Reaction

BY RUBEN DIAS

Like many, I was born in the Adventist Church. Being a son and grandson of pastors, Adventist lifestyle and beliefs were part of a normal path I followed from the start. I knew I was part of a movement, but I didn't really feel like it was moving my heart. My sense of mission was vague and undefined.

In 2006, a friend and ASI member invited me to the ASI Convention in Dallas. My wife and I attended the convention with curious hearts. That single invitation changed my family's goals and understanding of our mission.

ASI excitement is contagious—like a motivational chain reaction—and I quickly caught the vision. It is now my job to motivate Adventist entrepreneurs and professionals in Europe to join ASI and begin “Sharing Christ in the Marketplace” in their own countries. I have seen this vision catch fire in many hearts like never before. It's an experience I'm always excited to share.

God is acting everywhere. Acts 2:1-4 reports, “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house.... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit” (NIV).

Jesus said, “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you” (John 15:7, NIV). Daily, I ask God to pour His Holy Spirit into His church such as in the days of Pentecost. God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and He never fails His promises. God urges us to ask because He wants to give us more of His power. As we participate in His mission, we come to understand His plan—and life-changing miracles start happening in our lives.



We are living in earth's last days, and we know God will be faithful to the promise in Acts 2:17: “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.” Our Savior wants to do this today.

If we fail, it is because of our limited perspective of what our mission is all about. We've taken the church's mission upon ourselves, and have come to regard it as being “all about me.” We've become dangerously self-focused and exclusive.

Yes, the Lord wants to bless us, but He also wants us to be personally changed. When we allow God to shape our lives and priorities, our

desire to share His blessings with others sets off a motivational chain reaction.

God could call angels or any creature to proclaim His message, but He reserves that blessing for each of us. God doesn't need our money, special talents or resources. He requests from us what cannot be bought: our time. The Lord is ready to act and to pour out His power today.

Our testimony plays a crucial role in these end times. In Revelation 12:11, we read, “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony” (NIV). *The word of their testimony!*

As ASI members, may the word of our testimony set off a chain reaction in others, just as my friend's did when he invited my family to the ASI convention four years ago. The fire he kindled is still burning in my heart.



Ruben Dias is vice president of marketing and growth for ASI Europe. He and his family live near Lisbon, Portugal. He is the founder and president of Leading Capital SGPS, a holding of seven companies in the IT and edutainment business.



Streams of Salvation

BY FLOYD COURTNEY

The people of Israel, with all their animals, were threatened with imminent death in the desert due to lack of water. God's solution: strike the rock. The rock was a symbol of Christ. Literally "streams of salvation" (*Desire of Ages* 454) in the form of water flowed from the rock, physically saving the people and their animals.

The world around us is threatened with imminent eternal death. Many don't know that Christ is offering the same

water of life that He offered the Samaritan woman about 2000 years ago. It's the same water of life represented by the literal water that flowed from the smitten rock in the desert, which saved Israel and their animals.

Spiritually, salvation flows from the smitten Rock to all. That stream of salvation, represented by the water in the desert, is the Word of God (see *Desire of Ages* 454). There is creative power in His Word (see Psalm 33:6, 9) when driven home by the power of the Holy Spirit (see

Ephesians 6:17). It produces a new heart in the person, preparing them for Christ's return.

This is where the work of the church and ASI members comes in. ASI members are in a unique position to share this "water of life" with people that pastors and other church members might not meet. "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38, KJV).

My wife and I have the opportunity to give Bible studies to both our employees and to the patients who come to our rehab centers. We often have luncheons with physicians and other business owners, where we



ask God's blessing upon the food and upon the person(s) with whom we are meeting, as well as upon their businesses. At our staff meetings and Thanksgiving and Christmas employee gatherings, I pray with and for our staff members and share inspirational thoughts. In response to these prayers of thanksgiving and prayers for general blessings, employees ask us to pray for them when special problems arise in their personal lives.

"Streams of salvation" can be shared in ways other than prayer, as well. Books and pamphlets can be shared, and religious pictures, texts and quotes can tastefully be placed on office walls. I've often watched people standing in our reception area while waiting for a family member to receive treatment, and reading the quote by Ellen White that is posted on our wall in an attractive frame:

"The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall" (*Education* 57).

Only in heaven will we know the impact that words of truth have had on others—simply because we shared them. Christ's words truly are "streams of salvation."



Floyd Courtney is president of the Southwestern Union Conference chapter of ASI and owner of Health Success Rehab Centers, LP, in Harlingen, Tex. Previously, he was a missionary to Honduras and a physical therapy partner in a sports medicine clinic that served the San Antonio Spurs.

Many don't know
that Christ is
offering them the
same water of life
that He offered the
Samaritan woman
about 2000
years ago.



God's Transformational Gift

BY WES YOUNGBERG

Between 1994 and 2006, the already alarming worldwide diabetes epidemic skyrocketed an additional 25 percent. As of 2006, more than 40 percent of individuals 20 or older had diabetes or pre-diabetes. Based on these numbers, it is safe to assume that most of us have diabetes or pre-diabetes by the time we turn 40.

Undoubtedly, diabetes is one of the biggest threats to our health. The key question is, which group are you in? Are you satisfied with being in the majority—in the group that has significant blood sugar problems—or are you paying attention to early risk factors and reversing them with lifestyle strategies given to our church over a hundred years ago through “the pen of inspiration”?

As Christians who are passionate about serving others, we sometimes forget to personalize the messages we promote. We fail to recognize our own health risks. Because the health message was specifically designed to amplify the good news of the gospel, failure to apply it to our own lives leads to spiritual impotency over time.

Each of us has inherent weaknesses—“chinks in our armor,” so to speak. Day by day, we subconsciously choose how to respond to these “chinks.” When we’re younger—in our teens and 20s—it’s easy to deny the weaknesses that are germinating within us. As we age into our 30s and beyond, it becomes harder to ignore chronic health problems. We become fatalistic and assume that declining health is an inevitable result of getting older.

It’s true that our health can be expected to decline profoundly during middle age. But that isn’t the path God wants for us. He has gifted us with an amazing health message that has the power to cause genetic transformation. As with all of God’s gifts, the gift of health and healing can



only be accessed through faith, defined by C.S. Lewis as “the art of holding onto things we once knew to be true, in spite of changing circumstance and moods” (my paraphrase).

To find out whether you have a tendency toward diabetes or pre-diabetes, talk to your health provider. Ask to undergo a two-hour glucose tolerance test that includes glucose (fasting, one-hour, and two-hour), insulin (fasting and two-hour) and hemoglobin A1c.

Testing your blood is to your physical health what studying the Bible is to your spiritual health. It awakens you to potential risk and

reveals any crisis you may already be in, ultimately motivating you to seek healing from Jesus.

“He saw his people deceived, self-satisfied, and asleep in their sins. He longed to rouse them to a holier life. The message that God had given him to bear was designed to startle them from their lethargy, and cause them to tremble because of their great wickedness. Before the seed of the Gospel could find lodgment, the soil of the heart must be broken up. Before they would seek healing from Jesus, they must be awakened to their danger from the wounds of sin” (*Desire of Ages* 103-104).

This awakening allows Him to transform your life.



Wes Youngberg, DrPH, MPH, CNS, is director of the Lifestyle Medicine Clinic & Wellness Center for the Rancho Family Medical Group. He co-authored the WIN Wellness health evangelism materials, writes the “Healthy Choices” column for the *Adventist Review*, and guest hosts Hope Channel’s *Naturally Gourmet* with Karen Houghton.

He and his wife, Betsy, have three children and live in Temecula, Calif. He will co-present a seminar on the transforming power of the health message at the 2010 ASI Convention in Orlando.

Ministry

At the Touch of a Button

BY BRIAN BERGHERM

My wife, Debbie, and I own a company in Atlanta called Georgia Home Theater. It's our business to make large homes comfortable and easy to live in by automating the lighting, HVAC, security and audio/video systems with touch control LCD panels. We install systems that allow you to turn off the lights, TV, radio and air conditioning, and set the home security alarm when you leave in the morning—all with the touch of a button. When you return in the evening, simply enter a security code and your alarm will turn off, lights will return to a pre-set level, air conditioning and hot tub will resume functioning at designated temperatures, your favorite background music will start playing, and the TV will automatically turn to your favorite news channel.

What does all of this have to do with ministry? *Everything, I've found.*

I'm an ASI member, and have been since 2001. I grew up going to ASI meetings with my parents, and was so inspired by the testimonies of other members that I determined to have the same sorts of experiences someday.



Debbie and Brian Bergherm

At age 43, I've been an Adventist all of my life. I grew up going to Adventist schools in the Atlanta area and attended Southern Adventist University. Today, I'm honored to be part of ASI and to share my own testimony with others.

One of the things I appreciate most about ASI is that, even though it is a laypersons' organization, it works closely with the corporate Seventh-day Adventist Church, partnering in ministry and missions to achieve common goals. ASI members work within

their own spheres of influence to "Share Christ in the Marketplace," right where they are.

Being an ASI member has changed my perspective on what it means to be a business owner. In fact, now I know why I'm in business at all. My wife and I have dedicated our business completely to the Lord. Our company now exists for only one reason, and that is to further the Lord's work, whether by funding mission projects or being a witness in our day-to-day operations with customers, vendors and even competitors.

Of course, we are closed on Sabbath, which is unheard of in the retail industry. Each of our staff signs

an agreement to follow a strict list of ethical business practices, and each one clearly understands that our company exists only for the purpose of witnessing to others about Christ. At the entrance of our showroom and design center, we offer our customers free books about the gospel and Adventist beliefs. On our website where we list our business hours, we explain why we're closed on Sabbath and offer free books to anyone seeking information about the Sabbath or about the Adventist Church. We send out at least a dozen or more free books requested each month.

From time to time, I've had Bible studies with some of our employees with great success and the Lord's blessing. For the past year, I've been hosting a mid-week early morning Bible study at Georgia Home Theater that is geared specifically for Adventist businessmen. It is designed to recharge our faith each week as we face business challenges in a fast-paced, big-city environment.

Early in 2009, I joined with four other Adventist businessmen in Atlanta to rent retail space in the plaza adjoining Georgia Home Theater. We opened a "Center of Evangelism" and began holding meetings. Members of over eighteen churches came out for our revival series,

which then led to health fairs and seminars, Bible studies, cooking classes and even e-mail studies with community members.

Most recently, we've opened a thrift store to provide funds for more evangelism and additional opportunities to connect with those around us. We call this new ministry network "The Beehive." As a result of God's blessing, similar evangelism centers are now being established in Phoenix, Los Angeles, and Orlando. All along, our goal has been to do a layman's part in spreading the gospel.

Personally, I believe it is my duty as a Seventh-day Adventist businessman to use my time and resources to bring the message of hope and salvation to our city. My desire is that similar groups of businessmen will begin working together in every large city across America to organize centers of evangelism and reach the very real needs of people in their own communities.



Brian Bergherm is vice president of evangelism for ASI's Southern Union chapter. Visit www.GeorgiaHomeTheater.com. Brian and his ministry partners are establishing The Beehive as a distinct nonprofit ministry. Visit www.thebeehives.org.

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Jesus—The Hope of Survivors



BY CONNA BOND

One of the most poignant and disturbing stories in the Bible is found in the eighth chapter of John. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery to Jesus, confronting him in the temple where He was teaching a crowd of people. It was a deliberate act to embarrass her and corner Him.

Dragging the woman to the center of the crowd, they declared, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of adultery! According to the Law of Moses, she should be stoned! But what *you* say?”

Jesus stooped and wrote something on the ground with His finger. Then He stood and said to the woman’s accusers, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw the first stone.”

One by one, “being convicted by their conscience,” the woman’s accusers drifted away, leaving the woman to face only Jesus.

He asked, “Where are your accusers? Does no one condemn you?”



“No one, Lord,” she replied.

And then Jesus made a remarkable statement: “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”*

The distinction between victim and abuser is often blurred and hard to discern. In this account, Jesus made it clear that no one is untouched by sin. It is a universal disease. Yet a group of guilty men stood condemned by their own consciences, and a single guilty woman stood without condemnation before the Creator of the universe.

It has been asserted that her accusers may also have been her abusers. One simple encounter with Jesus, however, gave her healing and hope—not only for a lifetime, but for eternity.

It is this ministry of hope and healing that Steve and Samantha Nelson sought to continue when they established The Hope of Survivors, which reaches out to victims of abuse committed by individuals claiming to represent Christ. This kind of abuse has a name. It's called "clergy abuse," and it is more prevalent than many would like to admit. In fact, it's not a subject most people want to think about, much less talk about.

In 2002, the Nelsons began The Hope of Survivors as a simple website designed to reach out to victims of sexual abuse by clergy. They expected to do little more than check the website every so often and respond to inquiries. They quickly realized, however, that the problem of clergy abuse is more widespread than they'd ever imagined.

Today, The Hope of Survivors is a full-time ministry reaching out to victims from nearly every denomination around the globe, including 72 different faiths in more than 47 states and 24 countries (so far). The Nelsons have traveled to Australia, Denmark, Norway and Romania to present programs and provide support. In addition to their main office in Illinois, the ministry now has a Latino Division (La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes), as well as representatives in Australia, Norway and Romania.

The Hope of Survivors is a nonprofit organizational member of both ASI and Outpost Centers International.

The Hope of Survivors ministry has two key components: helping victims become survivors and promoting prevention of abuse. They teach prevention strategies to victims, pastors and church leaders at conferences around the world. Although local Adventist

churches generally organize the conferences, leaders from every denomination flock to the meetings. This allows the Nelsons to receive feedback from a wide

variety of sources, which in turn informs their ministry approaches.

An abuse victim's need for hope is no small thing. The Hope of Survivors receives numerous e-mails from people who have decided not to commit suicide because they discovered the ministry website and rediscovered hope. That is what Jesus offered the woman in

the temple as her abusers and accusers faded from the scene. To her, stoning might otherwise have seemed like deliverance from a life of utter hopelessness.

That seems to be the case with many victims who believe that death is a viable escape from a deep sense of guilt or emotional pain. They are surprised when The Hope of Survivors raises the curtain on reality and

reveals that they stand guiltless before the only One who has ever had the right to condemn anyone.

One website visitor wrote, "I was able to realize that I am not alone, and just maybe I am not so bad. I had the hope to keep moving forward even though the pain is overwhelming. But if God gave strength to others, just maybe He will give strength to me. The Hope of Survivors gave me

hope, and I finally felt understood. There is nothing like having a light shine down on you when all hope is gone. Thank you—you saved my life!"

The Nelsons have seen the Lord work through their ministry in ways that reveal not only His perfect healing but also His perfect timing. They recently conducted conferences in Australia that were attended by victims,



Samantha and Steve Nelson founded The Hope of Survivors.



Abuse prevention seminars make up a key component of The Hope of Survivors ministry.

pastors and church leaders alike. Australian representatives Coralie Roll and Arlagene Groves worked hard to organize the conference, little realizing that the Lord had been in the details all along.

During the meetings, several victims from one church shared their stories of abuse with the conference presenters. The instances of abuse had only recently been reported, and the abuse victims were trying to heal from the devastation within the context of the church organization. The encouragement and information they received at the meetings came at just the right time, giving them the hope they needed to heal and remain as vital church members.

One attendee wrote, “Words cannot express how much it meant to me to see you and to be able to feel safe during worship again. I often have thanked God for His presence through your selfless dedication towards my healing, and [on behalf of] so many, many more like me.”

The Nelsons view their biblical commission as that of protecting and healing sheep that have been wounded and preyed upon by wolves in sheep’s clothing. Education is the key to prevention, which means they must address topics that take listeners far beyond their comfort zones. Discussion sheds light on the strategies that repeat abusers employ to lure victims into compromising situations. Conference attendees are often surprised to find out that others have had identical experiences, and that abusers use well-thought-out but predictable schemes, often quoting and twisting Scripture passages to achieve their goals.

One woman thanked The Hope of Survivors for their website. “You have no idea what a great help it was for me,” she shared. “It really explains everything so well. I was in an abusive relationship with my pastor for a year and a half. I am so thankful you wrote about the confusion, because I felt very confused throughout. He kept saying this was from God... and

that I was to become his next wife, the one God ordained for him. He used Scripture continually through the whole ordeal. Scripture is hard for me to read now.... But thanks to you and your ministry and website... everything finally makes sense.”

How is it possible for victims to be so thoroughly deceived? In exactly the same way that Satan twisted God’s own words to deceive and tempt Eve into taking an “innocent” bite of fruit. Just a little bit of evil mixed with good can cause a great amount of emotional, spiritual and physical damage. We all suffer the results of that kind of deception in some way, shape or form. Clergy abuse is just one of those results.

For all who suffer under the burden of sin that Satan first introduced in heaven long ago, Jesus is still “the Way, the Truth and the Life.”

This is a message of hope for the hopeless, and it’s the message The Hope of Survivors—and every other ASI member—shares around the world every day.



Samantha and Steve Nelson with Australian ministry representatives Coralie Roll and Arlagene Groves.



Baptism is also part of The Hope of Survivors ministry.



**Paraphrased from the New King James Version.*

Conna Bond is communication director for ASI. She lives with her husband, Mark, and their four children in Cleburne, Tex.



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RIVERSIDE FARM

Last March, I stood and gazed down the peaceful lane that leads past brick and thatch huts, beneath a canopy of trees, and alongside a large banana field to Riverside Farm Institute in Zambia. It was my first visit to Africa, and I pray it will not be my last. While there, I heard stories like the ones I read as a child on Sabbath afternoons. This month, two of our authors write from Riverside. —*The Editor*



Pioneer Stories From Riverside Farm

BY MEIRING PRETORIUS

You can expect just about anything when you work as a missionary in Africa. It is challenging at times, but God's presence is always here in the midst of witchcraft, superstition and even "madness." The darkness that pervades much of Africa is being lighted by God's glory—sometimes in very unusual ways. Many people in Africa are hungry for God's Word. We just have to feed them.

Riverside Farm, a self-supporting ministry and member of ASI and Outpost Centers international (OCI), is ideally situated on the beautiful Kafue River within the Republic of Zambia. It "mothers" many smaller projects in the surrounding regions of Africa. One way is through our Bible Pioneer program, supported by individuals and institutions from all over the

world. It costs \$80 (US) per month to support the work of one Pioneer as he or she takes the gospel to one of Africa's dark areas. Pioneers are trained at Riverside to be simple "fishermen" for the Lord.

Friday Sinjela, one of our Bible Pioneers, shared the following story:

A madman came to my office one day and demanded a small amount of money. I gave him the money just to get rid of him, but he refused to leave, so I asked him what else he wanted. He

pointed to a set of Bible Discover Guides on my table. I gave him the guides, and he left.

On his way through town, he met a nurse he knew. He handed her the Bible study guides saying, "Someone told me to give you these papers. You must read them."



A student at Riverside Farm tends to the vegetable garden.

She took them home and decided to look them over before throwing them away. She ended up faithfully reading all 26 guides and answering the questions at the back of each one. Guide number 26 had my phone number on it, so she called to find out how she could have her papers graded.

I visited her at the clinic where she worked and discovered she had gotten the guides from a madman. As I looked over the guides she'd completed, I saw that she had indicated her acceptance of Christ as her personal Savior and that she desired to find a Sabbath-keeping church. I was amazed! God can use anyone to spread His Word!

Riverside trains its Pioneers to use the "right arm" of the gospel—the health message—as an entering wedge into people's hearts. Witchcraft is pervasive in Africa, enslaving many people. Today, as in the days of Elijah, God's power still works on behalf of His people.

Roy Habasimbi, another Pioneer, shared this experience:

A well-known local witch doctor was diagnosed with hypertension and given medication by a local hospital. Desperately she used the medication for one year to no avail. Meanwhile, she continued to "treat" other people for their ailments. It was thought that she had "spirits" who helped her to see the future and to

diagnose diseases.

Eventually she was unable to attend to any more patients because her blood pressure was so high. She became pale and could hardly eat or drink. A woman I had helped find healing in Jesus told the witch doctor about me, and she requested my help. I feared that, because she was demon possessed, she might cause trouble for me. Finally, I went to her and found her desperately ill in bed. Her blood pressure was extremely high, and she said she was "just waiting for the day that I die."

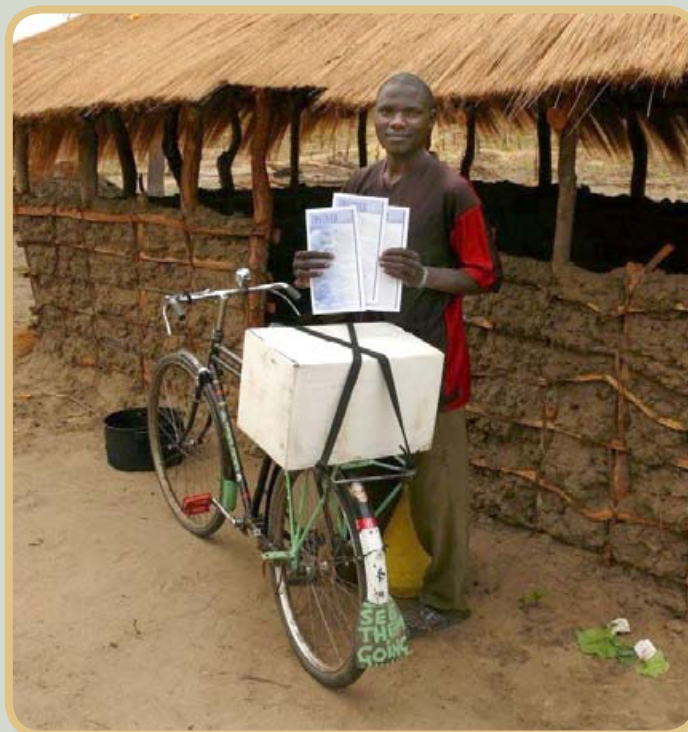
I gave her some simple treatments, and the next morning I found her sitting upright. Two days later, she declared, "The God you worship is a God of love. He cares for those who hate Him." She and her daughter are now receiving Bible studies, and many people who used to be her "patients" have also turned their eyes to the God we worship.

Daily we see God's hand working in Africa. It is God's will for all to

accept His Son's sacrifice. The team at Riverside Farm desires to work with our Bible Pioneers to reach every precious soul in Africa, believing in the soon return of our Savior Jesus Christ.



Meiring Pretorius is director of evangelism training at Riverside Farm Institute, located on the beautiful Kafue River in Zambia, Africa.



This Bible Pioneer delivers Bible lessons on his bicycle to interested villagers in his designated area.



A Bible Pioneer shares a set of Bible lessons with a local shopkeeper, who shares them with her customers.

A photograph of a man with short brown hair, smiling, wearing a grey patterned button-down shirt. He is standing in a lush green field with trees and hills in the background under a cloudy sky. The title 'RIVERSIDE FARM' is written in large, white, distressed, all-caps letters across the middle of the image.

RIVERSIDE FARM

From Jet-setter to Jesus

BY DEAN LUYT

Every now and then I do a reality check. Usually, this finds me in the kneeling position, counting my blessings and looking back in awe at how God guided me out of the depths of despair into life in Christ.

Today I'm a missionary at Riverside Farm Institute in Zambia, Africa. How I came to be here is one of those blessings I count when I'm on my knees.

I was raised in South Africa in a Christian home, where my mother instilled in me basic spiritual principles early on. My father was more interested in sports, and joined us in church only on Christmas and Easter Sundays. I grew up without want or violence, but by the time I was 16, the world was more alluring than the church.

In retrospect, I attribute my wandering to the hard rock music I was introduced to by my sister's boyfriend. It fueled my spirit of teenage rebellion.

I eventually spent two years of compulsory service in the South African defense force, where I consumed tobacco and alcohol, experimented with narcotic drugs, and chased the life my musical heroes were living. I served during the height of Apartheid conflict, when many young men received both physical wounds and lifelong mental scars. Thankfully, I never took another human life, although I did have some close calls.

I happily returned to civilian life and set out to study marketing in the coastal city of Durban, which was a playground for the wild and reckless. Cheap alcohol,

narcotics and parties abounded, and for the next three years I lived a double life—good son to my parents and party animal. Despite my bad associations, I managed to maintain good grades, although on more than one occasion I slept behind bars.

After receiving my diploma, I got a job running three holiday lodges in the tiny landlocked kingdom of Lesotho. It took me away from the city and all its influences. However, my unconverted soul soon developed all its old habits, despite my idyllic surroundings. Even though I hadn't been in a church in years, deep down I felt a longing for something—but the time was not yet.

After two years in beautiful Lesotho, I returned to Durban to work as a sales representative. I progressed quickly and soon was handling major accounts throughout the region. This meant more money and more worldly trappings. Fortunately, my mother had taught me to be frugal, so I managed to save a substantial amount of cash, which I now recognize as God's providence.

My business success soon took me to Johannesburg and new responsibilities in international marketing and new business development. I continued securing lucrative deals and traveling the world, feeling I had really "made it." But my worldly success just filled my life with distractions. I got into extreme sports, always looking for that next high, and eventually moved to Cape Town where I continued partying and making money.

One night I lay awake in bed, haunted by my own



"My reflections on Riverside during the time the Lord allowed me to be there are very simple: Riverside is a place where one can walk with God on a daily basis and witness the beauty of Christian deeds and services. It offered me calmness and serenity during a tumultuous time in my life. Riverside is a living testament to God's love and to His desire to use this special place to incubate scriptural knowledge and acceptance of Christ throughout Africa." —**Jim Burnett**, visitor to Riverside Farm
Visit www.asiministries.org/intothelight to read Jim's story.

demons. I thought of my brother, who had recently passed away from cancer. He was only four years older than I. That loss added to my sense of meaninglessness. I felt helpless, and nothing gave me satisfaction anymore. I decided to leave the city for the suburbs, where I took up the sport of cycling.

Things came to a head during a scuba diving holiday on Zanzibar Island in Tanzania. It was the perfect setting—azure blue ocean, white beaches, good friends and unlimited partying—yet I had never been so unhappy in my life. I lay on the beach thinking life was an utter waste and there was no reason to go on.

That was the point where the Lord could really start working on me. When I returned to South Africa, my cousin listened to my woes and gave me a book that claimed life had no meaning without God. The book wasn't perfect, but the Lord used it as a stepping stone in my life. I dropped to my knees and committed my life to Jesus. Then I resigned from my job and began immersing myself in the Bible, competitive cycling, healthy eating, exercise and good sleep. All that healthy living cleared my mind to perceive the deeper truths of God's Word.

One of my Christian cycling friends invited me to join his Baptist church. Soon I was going on mission trips to Mozambique. Upon returning from a mission trip, a friend shared with me a set of DVDs that first introduced me to the Adventist message of Biblical truth. What I heard shook me to my core. The Lord had just brought me out of the world and into a lovely Baptist church where I'd gained new friends and a new home. Now I was being told I was in the wrong church and observing the wrong day as Sabbath. It seemed ludicrous, but I could not ignore my convictions as I studied further.

Eventually, I called the pastor at the nearest Seventh-day Adventist Church and told him I was thinking of joining. There was stunned silence on the other end of the line for a few moments. Soon he paid me a visit and started studying the Bible with me. I continued attending the Baptist church, but started challenging

my Baptist pastor with the information I was learning. When he could not answer me from the Bible, the welcoming spirit at that church began to cool. Something clearly was amiss.

When I finally visited the local Adventist church for the first time, I experienced culture shock. I was used to charismatic services at a 1,000-member church, complete with four services each Sunday, a live band and many young people. When I entered the Adventist church foyer and loudly greeted the pastor, who had become my friend, the deacon on duty shushed me and pointed to a sign that said, "Enter With Reverence." I was off to a bad start.

The church was filled with gloomy people much older than I, and a dear old lady whom I now know and love was filling in on the organ that Sabbath—and not very well, I might add. Nothing about the sermon struck me as profound, but I recall praying to the Lord and thinking there was nothing in this church to draw me other than my firm belief that this was God's end-time movement and that the Sabbath was the day He had set aside for worship. I eventually resigned my membership from the Baptist church and was baptized as a member of my new family.

The Lord continued to place teachers and mentors in my path. I soon became involved in health ministry, attending Wildwood Institute and meeting committed workers from Outpost Centers International. Those connections eventually led me to Riverside Farm Institute, where I'm able to lend my knowledge and experience in a variety of areas, including marketing and communications.

More than ever, I'm aware of my unworthiness to be called a son of the Most High God. I praise Him for loving me and dying for me, even though I am a sinner.

I'm so thankful He is still working out His beautiful plan in my life.



Dean Luyt is treasurer for Riverside Farm Institute in Zambia, Africa. He joyfully lends his expertise in many other areas, as well.



Equipping Cuba

ASI Teamwork Energizes Cuban Laity

In the spring of 2009, two ASI teams headed to Cuba to train and equip more than 1,000 people in six different cities to do lay evangelism using the New Beginnings DVD series. The teams' mission was simple: to convince people that all are called to share Jesus with others, and to train them to use the New Beginnings materials while responding to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Ray Hamblin, Harold Lance, Dwight Hilderbrandt and Ruben Dias went to Havana, Santiago de Cuba and Camaguey. Denzil McNeilus and Ramon Chow covered Pinar del Rio, Bayamo and Santa Clara. The biggest challenge was finding enough DVD players for all the trainees, since only one unit could be purchased at a time in the government-run stores—and then only when units were in stock.



Two Pinar del Rio trainees receive DVD players for lay evangelism.

Theirs was not a ground-breaking effort. They built on groundwork previously laid in Cuba by other teams who'd gone before them. In March 2007, Ray Hamblin and Harold Lance had conducted a 24-meeting ShareHim series in the Fomento Church in Santiago. They arrived on the heels of ten Bible workers who had already worked the area for six months. Approximately 125 new members were baptized as a result of that effort. Hamblin and Lance introduced church leaders and members to the New Beginnings DVD series using players they'd brought with them. DVD players could not be purchased in Cuba at that time.

Harvey Miller and Lester Burks had conducted concurrent ShareHim meetings at the Central Church in the Santiago de Cuba area. The efforts of these ASI

lay evangelism teams prepared the way for Pastors Mark Finley and Alejandro Bullon to hold a larger scale evangelistic series in 2008, which was very well received.

Mark Finley urged ASI leaders to continue the work in Cuba, which led to the two-team, six-city effort in 2009.

Local churches and conferences selected the laypersons who attended the 2009 training events. The attendees set aside their work to spend a day learning how to use the New Beginnings DVD program in small-group settings. Many more people attended the training than were selected, and interest ran high. It was evident that Cuban church leaders and members had a hunger to share the gospel with their neighbors and friends. Each trainee promised to conduct three series of meetings each year and not to use the DVD players for any secular purpose.

This spring, a new team returned to Cuba to do follow-up training and to hear live reports of what has happened over the past year. They discovered that approximately 7,000 people have been studying in small groups across Cuba since 2009, and more than 1,000 people have been baptized. They trained an additional 800 layworkers to use both the New Beginnings and Abundant Life DVD series.

The 2010 team once again included Ray Hamblin, Harold Lance, Ramon Chow, Dwight Hilderbrandt and Ruben Diaz. They were joined by Randy Bivens, Carlos Antunes, ASI president Norman Reitz and his wife, Gail. The team went armed with hundreds of DVD players and copies of New Beginnings and Abundant Life DVDs to leave with the trainees.

A gentleman who had attended prior meetings returned this year with his wife. She wanted training and her own DVD player. She had watched her husband hold meetings in their town, resulting in 17 baptisms. She had since resigned her job as a physician to devote herself to full-time evangelism.

“Cubans are experiencing a period of religious tolerance, and the people are anxious to hear and receive

the Word of God,” says ASI secretary-treasurer Ramon Chow, who has visited Cuba three times.

The president of the Cuban Union told Chow, “We

have always encouraged our laypersons to do more outreach. Now we are not only telling them to go, but we are also giving them the tools they need to be successful. This has brought new life to the church in Cuba.”

This is significant, because many Cubans still spend their days figuring out how and where they will get their next meal. Their lives are not easy, and yet they are

happy, friendly and anxious to work with the ASI teams who visit, often mitigating their “hardships” with jokes and good humor, according to Chow.

Physician Randy Bivens was invited by Harold Lance to join the 2010 team because of his health expertise, which would bolster the Abundant Life DVD training. Using his skills as both physician and health communicator, Bivens shared with the Cuban laity the value of using health as an entering wedge to reach people with the gospel, as well as to meet their physical needs by teaching them better health practices.

“I just feel privileged to have worked with this great group of people, most of whom are or have been leaders of ASI,” says Bivens.

Ruben Dias, president of ASI Portugal, arranged this year’s training meetings in cooperation with church, conference and union leadership. ASI Europe provided funding for the equipment and scripts. Each ASI trainer personally paid his or her own travel and personal costs—a sacrifice regretted by none.

Plans are being made to return on behalf of those who did not receive equipment or could not participate in the hands-on practice afforded officially selected trainees. The Cuban churches have been energized, and local pastors are now working to keep up with their growing congregations.



ASI president Norman Reitz and his wife, Gail, distribute a DVD player to a wheelchair-bound church member.

Compiled from reports by Norman Reitz, Harold Lance, Dwight Hilderbrandt, Ramon Chow and Randy Bivens.



LIFE on the EDGE

BY SCOTT MOORE

After speaking for a recent week of prayer at Fountainview Academy, I settled into my seat on the plane. It was time to fly home to Florida.

Next to me, a young man played video games on a PlayStation Portable (affectionately known by gamers as a PSP). Lost in a flashing world of make believe, he jerked and scowled while shooting police and running from the ever-chasing red and blue lights. As his battery slowly drained—on his game and on his life—I sat back and sighed. It was a world in which I had no interest.

I turned and began studying materials I'd been given at Fountainview. When the young man's battery life drained its last dreg, he shoved the PSP into its holster and leaned back, confronted by the dreaded prospect of boredom.

By that time, the little "desk" in front of me was covered with Fountainview's Bible-related materials. Out of the corner of my eye, I caught the young police evader peeking over my shoulders at the scattered papers. With subtle purpose, I turned my study guide so he could read it without straining his neck.

At that moment, I felt impressed to pull out my laptop, so I did. When I opened the lid, my set of *LIFE on the EDGE* videos automatically opened. I'm the director for LIFE (Lay Institute for Evangelism), and we produced the *LIFE on the EDGE* series to equip people to be effective soul winners.

On a whim, I asked the young man if he wanted to watch a Bible study video. To my surprise, he said, "Yes!" His enthusiastic response was not what I'd expected. He pulled out his earphones, plugged them into my laptop, and began watching presentation number three on the Great Controversy.

I glanced at the upper right corner of the screen and noticed that my laptop had only 28 minutes of battery power left. Each *LIFE on the EDGE* presentation is 58 minutes and 30 seconds long. I closed my eyes

and began to pray—hard—that God would extend my laptop's battery life.

When I opened my eyes, I looked at the screen again. This time it said the battery had 1 hour and 28 minutes left. I praised the Lord and began praying for the young man!

He watched the video with the same enthusiasm as when he'd played the PSP. He was engaged. He was intent. He was convicted. It was written all over his face.

I had never expected the *LIFE on the EDGE* series to appeal to a non-Adventist, but how silly was that? When Jesus is the focus, He keeps His promise to draw all men to Himself.

When the study ended, my laptop battery had 28 minutes left. I asked the young man if he wanted to view the next study on my iPod. Again, with enthusiasm he answered, "Yes!" At the end of the second study, he asked, "Where can I get the rest of these videos?"

Later, I reflected on how God's plans are always greater than ours. We originally created *LIFE on the EDGE* as a training tool—not as a witnessing tool. We filmed the series during one of LIFE's two-week Bible study courses, intending it for people lacking the time or money to attend a LIFE training program. The series is patterned after Jesus' method of teaching, which caused his listeners' hearts to burn within them (see Luke 24:32).

Clearly, that young man's heart had burned within him as he listened to the teachings of Jesus and opened his heart to the Holy Spirit. That experience left me with a whole new perspective on what it means to witness.



Scott Moore is president and director of LIFE (Lay Institute for Evangelism), a lay evangelism training school in Lady Lake, Fla. LIFE also administers ASI's Youth for Jesus program, providing young people ages 15-18 with hands-on evangelism training and experience each summer. Visit www.ComeExperienceLife.com.



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Naturally Gourmet

Recipes for Global Ministry

BY PATRICIA HUMPHREY

Karen Houghton never dreamed that her personal interest in health would one day lead to a 224-page, full-color cookbook and a television ministry with a potential audience of millions. Today she co-hosts *Naturally Gourmet*, a cooking program on the Hope Channel, and is the author of a newly published plant-based cookbook by the same title. Karen's ministry began forming when she learned that health has its own recipe. She decided everyone should know about it.

Karen's interest in health began when, at age 16, she went away to academy. "I never really enjoyed eating meat," Karen recalls. "So I decided to quit eating it, since they didn't serve it anyway. I never missed it!"

That was the beginning of her journey toward a healthier life, but there were still more changes ahead. Though she had given up meat, she began to consume more cheese and dairy products in its place.

In college, she learned from one of her professors, Charlotte Hamlin, how to make good bread and other simple foods that help to prevent disease. Those nutrition classes at Andrews University made a lasting impression on her.

After graduating with a degree in nursing, Karen moved back to Wisconsin where she worked as a home health nurse. Around that time, her father developed Type 2 diabetes and attended the NEWSTART® pro-

gram at Weimar Institute in California. The changes Karen saw in her dad were impressive. He lost weight, felt better, and was able to stop taking his medication. That experience further convinced Karen that diet and exercise are part of the recipe for good health.

Karen especially remembers the day she attended an ASI convention seminar by Mark Finley. It was called "Making Friends for God." After the seminar, she felt compelled to share her knowledge with others. Her first step was to make a positive dietary change in her own life—to a plant-based, dairy-free diet. She immediately felt better physically.

Next, she held a health seminar in the fellowship hall at her church—and 90 people showed up, most of them from the community. It was at that point that Karen began stepping out of her comfort zone.

"I really didn't feel I was a public speaker," Karen says, "but I knew that, with God 'all things are possible.'"

Karen vividly remembers one lady in particular who attended the seminar. A week after the first lecture on the importance of exercise and a healthy breakfast, the woman returned to class and asked if she could share her experience. Prior to the class, the woman's family had never eaten breakfast and had formed the habit of sleeping in every day as long as possible. Then



Production for the *Naturally Gourmet* cooking show was a family affair. Karen Houghton (center), joined by family and friends.

they would race off to school and to work. After hearing about the benefits of breakfast and exercise, the entire family began to get up early, take a walk, and then eat a big breakfast. After making these changes, they were amazed at

how much better they felt and how much more energy they all had. She said her family members felt like they were actually living again!

Over the years, Karen has continued teaching others about healthful living, and has watched with satisfaction as people reap the benefits of their new lifestyles. She often encounters people who want to avoid taking medication to lower cholesterol. She shares with them the benefits of eating just two tablespoonfuls of ground flax seeds daily, enabling them to reduce their cholesterol levels by as much as 60-80 points.

Of course, when you're teaching others about a healthful diet, the "proof is in the pudding." It's one thing to talk about change, but it's another to actually get people to make those changes and stick to them. Karen's philosophy is that food should taste good and be healthy at the same time.

"When you're raising two sons, taste is everything," she says emphatically. Through her cooking classes, Karen has had the opportunity to demonstrate her favorite recipes, many of which she has adapted from not-so-healthy versions of popular foods. It was only natural that she would one day publish a cookbook of her own—something she'd been planning for a long time.

When the Hope Channel invited Karen to create a cooking show, that invitation provided the stimulus

she needed to fast-forward the launch of her *Naturally Gourmet* cookbook. It came off the press in May, and she has been receiving positive responses ever since.

"One man bought the book and

shared it with a co-worker," says Karen. "Her husband made three recipes in one day and they loved them all—and these people are not even vegetarians!" Even kids are making the recipes and enjoying them.

Karen continues to hold local health seminars, generally attracting an audience of anywhere from 90 to 130 people each time. But in April, her ministry coverage expanded worldwide with the launch of *Naturally Gourmet* on the Hope Channel. During the show, Karen demonstrates how to prepare healthy foods, while guest host Dr. Wes Youngberg, director of the Wellness Program at the Rancho Family Medical Group in Temecula, Calif., describes their health benefits.

Although ministry success can't be measured by size or numbers, it's satisfying to know your efforts are impacting many people's lives in positive ways. It all starts with a tablespoon of conviction and a cup of knowledge, mixed thoroughly with God's blessing and clear guidance.

"Over the years I can say that the Lord has never let me down," says Karen. "If you take that step in faith and trust Him, He will come through for you."

Visit www.NaturallyGourmet.com.



Patricia Humphrey is associate director of communication for the Southwestern Union and associate editor for the *Southwestern Union Record*. She is a frequent contributor to Inside ASI.



Two Views From Fountainview

He Called Me to Sing

BY ROBBY FOLKENBERG

At Fountainview Academy, music is a huge part of our lives. We perform all over North America, as well as in other parts of the world. After three years at Fountainview, I've gotten used to giving musical performances in just about every kind of situation. But it hasn't always been easy.

I grew up singing and performing with my siblings, so I've always been fairly comfortable up front. But at Fountainview I've had to sing solos that stretch me beyond my limits. It's uncomfortable to stand in front of a crowd of people and face the possibility that your voice may crack on an exposed note in a song like "No More Night" or "Precious Lord." But I've come to recognize that God puts me in these positions, not only to stretch my limits, but also to expand my capabilities.

As a cellist, it would have been much easier to stay in the cello section and refuse to sing, but that wasn't God's plan. As I've given my voice to Him, He has led me to greater opportunities for service. I've become more expressive and comfortable singing, and am even recording a solo CD this year.

Our most recent concert tour was entitled *God*

Wants to Hear You Sing. Several weeks ago, we had the opportunity to pass out the book *Steps to Christ* at a public concert attended by more than 1,400 people. At a more recent concert in Salmon Arm, British Columbia, more than 500 people attended—most of them non-Adventist. As we shared the gospel through music, many in the audience had tears in their eyes. It's a scenario I've seen repeated many times.

In picking our senior class aim this year—"to be steadfast, dedicated laborers in Christ's harvest"—we considered the importance of being faithful to God wherever we are called, and under any circumstance. As class pastor, I want to encourage my classmates to remain faithful no matter what. Years down the road

when we meet again, I pray that each of us will have grown closer to God than ever before. There's nothing more important.

That relationship only grows when we respond to His calling, even when it takes us into challenging situations. It requires that we trust Him. God knows the equation for human happiness, and He wants us to be happy and to share His happiness with others.



It's been said that 97% of the world has heard of Coca-Cola, 72% has seen a can of Coca-Cola, and 51% has actually tasted Coca-Cola. That's a ton of people! How did it happen? I'll wager that many people were "led" to Coca-Cola by the "witness" of their friends. We have something far better—and healthier—to share.

Church growth happens when members have their own experience with God. When we personally experience the joy of the Lord and realize His radical power, sharing Him with others becomes an exciting opportunity rather than a frightening prospect. It's the only way to fulfill heaven's great marketing plan outlined in Matthew 28.

When I get up front to sing, I'm still uneasy at times. But I know God is using me, and through singing I become even more dedicated to Him. I pray that each of us is willing to be used by God wherever He calls us—even if it takes us outside our comfort zones. Then and only then will we take the gospel "into all the world."

Robby Folkenberg is a senior at Fountainview Academy in Lillooet, British Columbia. He edits the school newsletter and enjoys working in the dorm garden. He also loves traveling, reading biographies, playing cello, singing, biking and backpacking. When not at school, he lives in Spokane, Wash., with his parents and two younger siblings, Randy and Katie. He plans to be a pastor and a missionary.

Listening to the Spirit's Call

BY WILLIAM GUTHRIE

This spring, my senior class at Fountainview Academy conducted a series of ShareHim campaigns in Sabah, Malaysia. During the pre-trip planning process, we were given the choice of preaching with a partner or conducting the series alone.

My initial choice was to preach with a classmate to avoid the preparation that preaching alone would require. I viewed the mission trip as an opportunity to enjoy a slower pace, relax and do some "other" activities that seemed interesting to me. And, to be honest, I felt uncomfortable with the idea of preaching alone.

But the Holy Spirit would not give me rest about the choice I had made. I became impressed that I should preach the entire series. Through studying to understand each message, I would better internalize the full measure of the truths we were presenting, and I would be more fully committed to the true purpose of the trip.

Time passed, and I found myself at a small church deep in the Malaysian jungle, preaching the first message of the evangelistic series. As the nights went by, I realized that following the Holy Spirit's prompting was the best choice I could have made. As I studied each of the sermons and the truths that our church has been given, I saw more clearly the wonderful theme of Christ's love for man interwoven through all of the

messages. I gained a deeper understanding of His love for all the people around the world, and particularly for those attending my meetings.

I learned many lessons while preaching in Malaysia. For one thing, it takes a significant amount of focus and energy to preach a unified and coherent evangelistic series! Probably the most important lesson I learned was

to rely on the Holy Spirit for strength and guidance. During the appeals, I felt Him moving on my own heart, and my deepest joy was found in seeing the audience respond to the Holy Spirit's calling on their hearts as well.

I was able to get to know some of the people who attended my meetings. I also participated in music with them on the trumpet, violin and voice. Although communication apart from a translator was limited to "hi" and "bye," it was inspiring to feel the common bond that automatically forms between Christian believers.

By the end of the meetings, I found it hard to say goodbye to the group of people I had come to know through sharing Christ. I look forward to seeing each one of them in heaven someday where we will need no translator.



William Guthrie is a senior at Fountainview Academy. He is from Mount Shasta, Calif. He has grown up going to ASI conventions along with his parents, Todd and Patti Guthrie. He plans to pursue a career in medicine.

Congo Frontline Missions

We are happy to submit this report of how we've used the first half of the 2009 ASI special offering commitment of \$35,000. We sent 20 new church planters to untouched areas west of Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo. Many were Lingala speaking church planters who recently graduated from our evangelism training program. They came from as far as 400 miles away, moving their families by bicycle over rough roads during the rainy season at great effort and expense. For many of them, the journey took as long as four weeks.



The work was slow at first, as suspicion abounded. But the workers pressed on. One church planter, Abombi, left his weary, pregnant wife with relatives and went on ahead to his station, feeling he could wait no longer to carry the gospel to that dark village. He returned for his wife a month after their new baby had been born.

When he won two converts in the village, the local chief threw him and his family in jail. It was a blessing in disguise as many of the villagers were so outraged at the unfair treatment that they began attending his meetings—after we bailed him out! During a subsequent set of meetings, 25 people were baptized.

We plan to present 30 evangelistic series this year, and have already baptized 175 new believers during the first four months of 2010. We've purchased land to build churches and houses for the church planters in twelve of the locations, and are also hiring medical personnel and starting a publishing work. Light Bearers has printed and shipped our Bible studies in the Lingala language, and we look forward to receiving them. In short, ASI funds received to date have been used with great success.

Barry Mosier

Mauritius Island

We are writing to inform you of what has been accomplished so far with the ASI special offering funds donated to our project in 2009. Because of political uncertainty in Madagascar, we decided to focus our efforts in the Republic of Mauritius, an island nation located off the coast of Madagascar in the southwest Indian Ocean.



We used \$7,600 to print three books in the Malagasy language. We are using the remaining funds for various health evangelism projects in Mauritius. We are printing health books and planning health expos in several locations. We're also presenting cooking classes and health talks in local churches.

The people here are especially open to receiving information about health and lifestyle, which is what originally attracted us to Mauritius. We would like to establish a permanent work here, and are already developing new ideas for reaching the people here on the island.

The work of our team members at Fanantenana Training Center in Madagascar continues to go forward, with more baptisms occurring in February 2010. I am planning to be in Orlando for the ASI Convention. I look forward to talking with you about new ideas for our work here in Mauritius.

Rafael Font Piquer

ASI

ASI Abroad

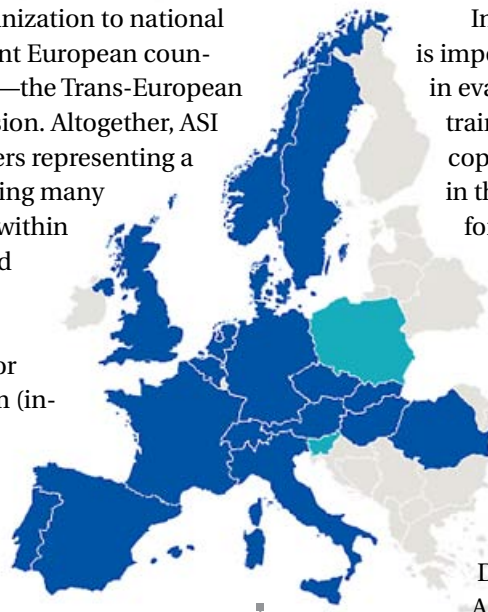
ASI Europe

ASI Europe is an umbrella organization to national ASI chapters in fifteen different European countries across two separate divisions—the Trans-European Division and the Euro-Africa Division. Altogether, ASI Europe has more than 800 members representing a wide variety of cultures and speaking many different languages. The diversity within ASI Europe is both challenging and encouraging.

In recent years, we have concentrated our efforts on three major areas: education, youth evangelism (including Youth for Jesus) and small group lay evangelism using the New Beginnings DVD series as our main tool.

In **education**, we have active training programs in Portugal, Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Spain and the United Kingdom. Some of the schools are run by AFCE, Mission College and OCI. Many are supported both by ASI Europe and local ASI national chapters.

Youth evangelism programs are very successful throughout Europe. We've come to realize that positive synergy develops when we work in conjunction with church youth leaders. Currently, we're sponsoring two programs in the United Kingdom, two in Spain, and one each in France, Hungary, Holland and Slovakia. The national ASI chapters are very active in supporting these programs. For instance, the national chapter in the Czech Republic is supporting 24 projects in conjunction with Maranatha Volunteers International this year. We encourage our members not only to be donors but also to be active participants in such programs. A great blessing is reserved for those who take an active roll in youth evangelism.



Involvement in small group ministries is important for any layperson interested in evangelism. We have concentrated on training leaders and providing them with copies of the New Beginnings DVD series in their own languages. We're thankful for additional support in this area from

It Is Written. Numerous sessions have been carried out in the United Kingdom, Italy, Hungary, Spain, the Czech Republic and Romania. ASI

Portugal has also worked closely with the Portuguese Union to train more than 350 families all over the country. Their goal is to train 1,000 families by the end of 2010. Ruben

Dias, president of ASI Portugal and ASI Europe's vice president for market-

ing and growth, says, "Thank the Lord that we are working hand-in-hand, and the Holy Spirit is shaking our church."

This is the spirit of commitment and eager anticipation that we wish to see burning across the entire "old continent." We want our church members to be conscious of the times in which we are living and of the mission entrusted to us. Evangelism is not only possible, it is happening in Europe. We want to be on the front lines, working hand-in-hand with church leadership, conferences, unions and divisions to do our part as disciples of Christ. I have no doubt that the Lord through the Holy Spirit will exceed our expectations.



Angel Duo is president of ASI Europe. He works as a businessman in the chemical industry and lives with his family in Elche, Spain. Visit www.ASI-Europe.org.



Be There—And Here!

BY DICK KNIPPLE

As my wife, Jeri, and I look forward with anticipation to the upcoming international ASI Convention in Orlando, I think also of the value of our own Pacific Union ASI chapter convention held this year in Irvine, Calif., where Skip Dodson, Dr. Neil Nedley and Bob Folkenberg, Sr. gave powerful presentations. The Holy Spirit worked through these men to step on our toes, kick us in the shins, and slap us upside our heads to get our attention—figuratively speaking, of course!

Jeri and I have been thrilled over and over again by what we've experienced at the international conventions throughout the years. They've meant a great deal to us, and I've said we'll continue to attend them until we are dead broke or just plain dead. It goes without saying that Jesus' return would absolutely be the best—and only—way to terminate our involvement with ASI.

When I was asked to serve on the union ASI board, my first thought was that I'd now be obligated to attend the local chapter conventions. Jeri and I hadn't attended them before. There would be registration fees, along with travel and hotel expenses. I didn't want them. I was happy just to save for the August convention each year.

Then we attended our first local chapter convention. What a pleasant surprise! Local conferences offer a more intimate experience than is possible with a larger group. Familiarity among friends (new and old), conversations over dinner, Members in Action who are also your neighbors, and discussions at exhibit tables about local needs and events—all are conducive to building a network that runs as deep as it is wide.

Friends, I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in Orlando in August. The international convention is a “don't miss” event. But don't forget to check your calendars and mark them with the dates of next year's local ASI conferences as well. You won't regret adjusting your priorities to include a local focus. It will enrich the global vision that excites and inspires you at each year's international convention.

If you've never attended either an international or local ASI convention, I can't begin to tell you what you're missing! I'm sure ASI appreciates receiving your dues, but if that's your only involvement with ASI, you're missing out on ASI in general.

May the Spirit of God continue to use ASI and its enthusiastic members to hasten Jesus' return!

Visit www.ASIministries.org to view “The ASI Convention Experience” video.



Dick Knipple (pictured with his grandson Jack) is the Arizona lay representative to the Pacific Union ASI board of directors. He and his wife, Jeri, live in Phoenix, Ariz., where he works as a software engineer.

ASI Online

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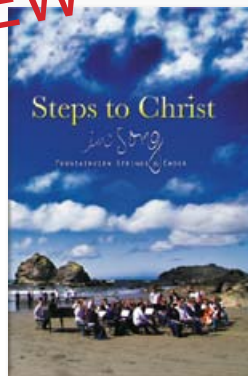
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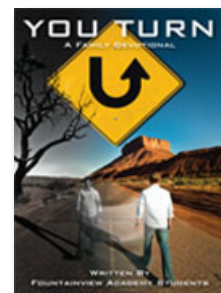
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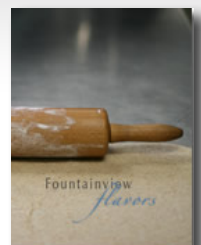
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