INSIA The official publication of Adventist-laymen's Se dustries. Summer/Fall 2012 bstacle in Ministry & Mission

The Cost of One Soul

Identifying God's Vision

Into the Silence

Just A Coincidence?



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- **Practice What You** 23 Preach—At Home by Hannah Kuntz
- Just a Coincidence? 24 by Anneliese Wahlman



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Editor's Note:

Yes, we had the Olympics in mind when we chose the cover photo. But we also thought of Hebrews 12:1,2: "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the jou that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

As Christians, we're more trail racers than track racers. Trails aren't perfectly smooth, nor are they measured in increments. They rise and fall, making it harder to hit your stride or run with rhythm. There are branches to be ducked and bushes to be dodged. Movement is both lateral and linear, which is exhausting. But the point is to keep moving, learning how to carefully place your steps and how to keep from falling—racing to finish, not to win.



Officer's Outlook

The Cost of One Soul

BY SCOTT MAYER

first met emergency room physician Tim Riesenberger in Seattle where I was conducting a "Battlefield Hollywood" presentation. He was my ride to the airport after the presentation was finished. I discovered along the way that Dr. Riesenberger has a passion for others, whenever and wherever he is. I remember thinking it odd that he wanted to leave for the airport a few hours before my plane left, but he insisted on leaving room for any possible delays. Little did I know.

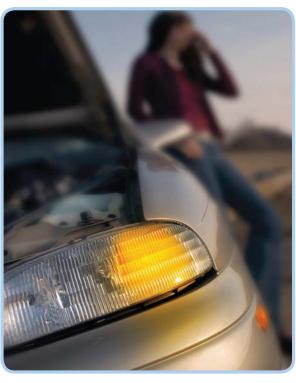
On our way to the airport, we saw a motorist stopped by the highway with his head under his car hood. Despite the rain, Dr. Riesen-

berger quickly pulled over, jumped out of the car, and asked how he could help, chatting with the stranded motorist like they were old friends. After making sure that help was on the way, he handed the stranger a GLOW tract, shook his hand, and got back in the car.

We discussed this act of kindness as we continued our journey to the airport. He told me he never passes a stranger in need, no matter how late it will make him. "It's the perfect opportunity to share Christ at a time when people are in need and most receptive," he said.

Soon we came upon another stranded car, this time in the center divider beneath an entangled freeway interchange. Dr. Riesenberger took the next available exit and doubled back, getting lost on the way and zigzagging back and forth in his efforts to reach the point of need.

If there's anything that ruffles my feathers, it's getting lost. I nervously glanced at my watch, wondering if I was indeed going to catch my plane. By the time we got back to where we'd seen the broken-down car-about



15 minutes later—it was gone. This didn't faze Dr. Riesenberger in the least. He simply sighed at the lost opportunity to share Christ.

As I pondered this experience, we came upon a homeless person soliciting money next to a stop sign. Dr. Riesenberger rolled down his window and handed the man a granola bar and a copy of *Steps to* Christ. "What better way to meet his basic need for food, both temporally and spiritually?" he mused.

Here was someone who spends hours ministering to people in an emergency room, yet gives so generously of his time and

resources outside of his responsibilities as a physician. How often I've seen people on the side of the road and passed by because I was in a time crunch! It occurred to me that the cost of compassion might result in a missed plane or an extra hour at work, but the payoff might be another soul won for Christ. In the end, the greatest obstacle to ministry might simply be my hurry to accomplish bigger things.



Scott Mayer grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist home in Paradise, California. Pursuing a career in film, he made his way to Hollywood with aspirations of making his mark in the entertainment industry. After 10 years of working behind the scenes on some of the biggest Hollywood productions, he had a prodigal son

experience and the Holy Spirit began to prompt him into service for God. Since starting Little Light Studios, a media ministry focused on creative youth-driven content, Scott has traveled around the world speaking in universities and churches about the proper use of media to reach souls for the kingdom. He is ASI's vice president for communication.

The Bottom Line

Where the Money Goes

BY HAROLD LANCE

uring the past 30 years, ASI has provided encouragement and financial assistance to hundreds of Seventh-day Adventist schools, hospitals, outposts, publications, lay ministries, colleges, orphanages, training centers, and health care facilities. It has sponsored thousands of new One-Day Churches and schools, church roofs, picture rolls, evangelism training for thousands visà-vis the ASI New Beginnings DVD evangelism training series, and much more. An estimated \$1 million has been generated from the annual special projects offering at each



ASI convention, as well as from its ripple effect.

The 1980 ASI Convention held in upstate New York resulted in the first \$100,000 offering, with ASI leadership quickly catching the vision for matching the giving potential of ASI members and supporters. Since the early 1980s, the ASI special projects offering has gradually increased in both amount and number of ministries and entities assisted. Typically, the offering goal is between \$1 million and \$2 million, and the number of selected recipients is between 30 and 40.

Each applicant completes a thorough written application process that includes verification of nonprofit and corporate status, review of recent financial statements along with a list of officers and board members, and confirmation that the ministry is committed to the mission and message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The application process also requires a carefully projected budget plan and proposal concerning the project to be funded. Project leaders are required to be Adventist

church members in regular standing. ASI Missions Inc. board members prayerfully review each application.

Selected recipients typically receive half of the designated funds in December following the annual ASI convention. The other half is remitted the following spring after the project ministry has provided an initial project report that describes progress made. A final report is also required, showing how the monies were spent and providing pictures and verification that the project was completed as originally proposed.

The criteria followed in selecting projects include

the strong likelihood that the project will significantly advance the mission and message of the Adventist Church. Local church projects and regular budget needs generally are not approved.

This year, ASI has selected 37 projects to receive grants from the funds gathered at the 2012 ASI International Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. An offering goal of \$1,263,000 has been set. Each project will receive a designated amount, and two will additionally each receive half of the offering overflow. ASI is thankful for the generosity of those who give every year to support these worthy projects and to advance the kingdom of heaven.

See page 28 for the story behind ASI's special offering projects.



Harold Lance is the CEO of ASI Missions Inc. He worked as a trial lawyer for 32 years. He is also a former ASI president. After retiring from law, Harold served as president of Outpost Centers International for nine years. He lives in Spokane, Washington.

MARKET PLACE

The Meaning of a Word

BY MONICA LLOYD

I AM

PECULIAR

've often wondered about the meaning of the word "peculiar" in the verse, "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14). What exactly makes God's remnant "peculiar"?

That question motivated me to do some research on the biblical and contextual meaning of the word "peculiar." In the process, I made some interesting discoveries about what it might have originally meant in Titus 2:14-and what it should mean to us today.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary lists numerous definitions of "peculiar" in today's vernacular. It can mean "1: characteristic of only one person, group, or thing: DISTINCTIVE; 2: different from the usual or normal: a: SPECIAL, PARTICU-LAR b: ODD, CURIOUS c: ECCENTRIC, QUEER."

I wondered, however, about the original meaning of "peculiar." Did it originally mean "odd" or "eccentric," or was it something closer to "distinctive" or "special"? I searched a little deeper and found that the word "peculiar" was commonly used by the 1500s. Its original root word in ancient times meant "of one's own" or "private property." Specifically, it referred to cattle or flocks, then considered the most important forms of personal property. In other words, it referred to a person's most guarded and valued possessions.

Peculiar didn't come to mean "strange" or "odd" until sometime in the early 1600s—around the same time the Bible was put back into the hands of the common people following the centuries-long Dark Ages. The modern meaning was carried into subsequent centuries, with the original meaning lost on future generations, including our own.

Was that by accident or by design? Personally, I believe the enemy works to destroy human understanding of God and His Word in any way possible. If

that means changing or obscuring the meaning of a word, he'll do it. The word "peculiar" describes the special relationship God desires to have with His children. And that's the kind of knowledge the devil doesn't want us

to have.

We may live in an age of increased knowledge, yet somehow increased knowledge has resulted in increased obscurity. Not only has it led to knowing things that are not in our best interest to know, but it has also led to ignorance of things we need to know. Such tactics are as old as the Garden of Eden. We read in Genesis 3:5, "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be

as gods, knowing good and evil." If we look around, we see the malignant results of this mixed knowledge. We do not need to know evil to know or to be good.

What does that have to do with the meaning of a word? Changing how we look at a word in Scripture affects how we view ourselves—either through the world's eyes as odd and eccentric, or through God's eyes as His own special property. Another verse removes the mystery: "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special [peculiar] treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine" (Exodus 19:5). It all comes down to recognizing and embracing God's ownership.



Monica Lloyd is a certified wellness coach and herbalist living in Hot Springs, Montana. She is active in her community, sharing the good news of Jesus through Bible study, health and cooking seminars, and door-to-door work distributing 200 copies of Signs of the Times each month. She and her husband, Steve, along with their two children,

Chelsi and Seth, have also served on mission trips to the Dominican Republic and Guyana, South America.

Shortwave is savings lives.

In many places, a tiny shortwave radio is people's only link to the world.





The Power of Gratitude

BY LAURAL BATES

ach one of us experiences circumstances beyond our control. It seems especially true when you've committed your life to ministry. There's a unique kind of frustration that comes when you're living your life for others, and still things aren't going quite like you'd planned. In the middle of such frustration, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine" (Proverbs 17:22) may come across more as rebuke than encour-

agement. But it's really a promise with benefits.

Recently, I typed "physical effects of depression" into my web browser, and it returned over 53 million links. An abundance of scientific research shows the contributing effects of depression, stress, and anxiety to physical illnesses. Of course, there's no guarantee that choosing a positive outlook will keep you from getting sick, but there's plenty of evidence that people who are cheerful and positive tend to be healthier. And the secret to remaining cheerful and positive—and to emotional and physical health—is gratitude.

"Nothing tends more to promote health of body and of soul than does a spirit of gratitude and praise" (The Ministry of Healing, p. 251). And further, "The relation that exists between the mind and the body is very intimate. When one is affected the other sympathizes. The condition of the mind affects the health to a far greater degree than many realize. Many of the diseases from which men suffer are the result of mental depression. Grief, anxiety, discontent, remorse, guilt, distrust, all tend to break down the life forces and to invite decay and death.... Courage, hope, faith, sympathy, love, promote health and prolong life. A contented mind, a cheerful spirit, is health to the body and strength to the soul. Gratitude, rejoicing, benevolence, trust in God's love and care—these are health's greatest safeguard....



We should encourage a cheerful, hopeful, peaceful frame of mind; for our health depends upon our so doing" (My Life *Today*, p. 151).

Gratitude does not come naturally to most of us. We're weary and worn, often as the result of pouring out our lives for others. We feel as if our cups are empty, and we wait impatiently to be filled, failing to realize that gratitude—and being filled-is a choice, regardless of circumstances.

The fact that gratitude is a choice is good news, because it means we're free to make that choice. There are several ways to cultivate gratitude. Here are five suggestions for getting started.

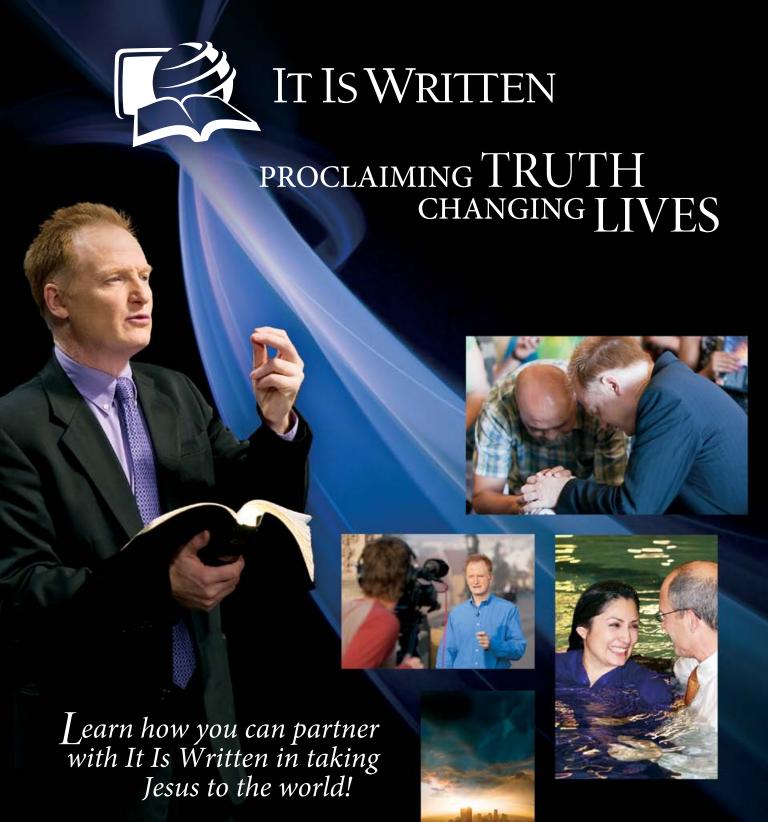
- 1. Ask God to open your heart to being grateful.
- 2. Record your blessings in a journal.
- 3. Post your blessings everywhere. Sticky notes are very useful for this.
- 4. Find a friend with whom you can share your blessings.
- 5. Purpose not to say anything negative for two weeks. If you say something negative, start the two weeks over.
- 6. Replace negative self-talk with positive thoughts. This will take effort, but it will become easier.

Take courage! You are on the way to a happier, healthier you.



Laural Bates is the copy editor for Eden Valley Institute's Faith Ventures magazine. She also works with Colorado's Larimer County officials on Eden Valley's master development plan. A 1983 graduate of Castle Valley Academy (now DayStar Adventist Academy), she spent more than four

years teaching English, running a bakery, and tutoring elementary students in Taiwan before joining the Eden Valley Institute family.



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DAYTONA BEACH

November 2-4

MONTEREY

November 9-11

PALM SPRINGS

November 16-18

GATLINBURG #2

Nov. 30-Dec. 2

2012 Partnership Locations

PORTLAND

September 21-23

GATLINBURG #1

September 14-16

GETTYSBURG

September 7-9



THIS WILL GHANGE YOUR LIFE FOREVER

his is what you need to do," Mary Paulsen told me back in 1984. It was my first invitation to become involved in ASI. Mary was the chapter president of ASI Northwest and had been active in ASI for quite a while. My wife, Lucille, and I attended our first ASI chapter meeting, and I was hooked. I owned an insurance agency in Boise, Idaho, so I joined as an organizational member and have been an ASI member ever since.

In 1985, we attended the ASI National Convention in Big Sky, Montana. By that time, they'd made me president of ASI Northwest. I had a heart attack in 1986. but we never missed an ASI meeting after that, national or local, until October of 2001 when Lucille

had kidney failure and had to be put on dialysis.

In March of 2002, Lucille had two strokes, four days apart. She was paralyzed on her left side and was



in a nursing home for four years from that point on. I went to the nursing home twice a day to take care of her dialysis.

When she passed away on May 24, 2006, I was rather lost. We'd been together since we were teenagers. We'd attended Gem State Academy together and gotten married soon after I returned from military service after being drafted during my senior year.

I decided to go to the ASI International Convention that August in Dallas, Texas. I got there, checked in, and headed over to look at the exhibits. The first one I came to was ShareHim. Harold Kehney, who had worked with me in the ASI Northwest chapter, grabbed me by the arm and said,

"Irwin, this is just for you!"

"Harold, I don't do that," I replied. "I'll pay for someone else to go who can't afford to, but I don't do that."



When you preach in a foreign country, you generally are assisted by a translator, allowing you time to think about what you're going to say next.

"No!" he insisted. "That's not what I said. This will change your life forever!"

"I may need my life changed forever," I said, "but I don't do that." And then I walked away.

That was on Wednesday. I never went near that booth again until ASI was over and I was headed home.

Then in November, as I was shaving one morning, I looked at myself in the mirror and said, "Irwin, you coward! If God can use fishermen, He can surely use an insurance salesman!"

So I promised myself I'd call Harold when I got to the office, but I didn't reach him because he was out of the country. Two days later, he called me back.

"Irwin," he said, "you called?"

"Yeah, Harold, tell me more about ShareHim."

Before I got off the phone I was headed to Romania to preach my first ShareHim series.

Right after I got back from Romania, I got a call from Kenneth Mittleider, a vice president at the General Conference. We'd been in the first and second grades together.

"Irwin, how was Romania?"

"It was good!" I said.

"I'm so glad to hear that," he replied," because I'm going to Madagascar, and I need another speaker. Check with your kids and call me back today."

By that time I was semi-retired. My son, Gary, and daughter, Jana, were working with me full-time in my insurance agency. They held down the fort whenever

I needed to be gone. I talked to them, called Kenneth back, and soon was on my way to Madagascar.

When I left the Boise airport, they didn't weigh my suitcase. They just pushed it right on through. But when I got to Atlanta, they weighed it because I was going overseas. It was 59 pounds—9 pounds overweight. So when I

The ticket agent said, "I have to charge you \$90 for those extra 9 pounds."

"But I'm going on a mission trip," I pleaded.

She looked at me, looked at my suitcase, and said, "They didn't charge you in Boise, and I won't charge you here." Then she gave it a kick and sent it down the line.

When I got to Johannesburg, I had to fly an African airline. Their maximum weight for luggage was 44 pounds. Now I was 15 pounds overweight, and they weren't tolerant. When they said 44 pounds, they meant 44 pounds!

morning, I put on three t-shirts, three polo shirts, three dress shirts, three pairs of pants, and two coats.

got up in the

I think the Lord woke me up in the middle of the night and said, "But they don't weigh you!"

So when I got up in the morning, I put on three t-shirts, three polo shirts, three dress shirts, three pairs of pants, and two coats. Then I stuffed some of my electrical gear in my pockets. When I got to the ticket counter, my suitcase weighted 44-1/2 pounds, and the ticket agent said, "Close enough!" He gave my suitcase



Irwin (far left) listens to a morning briefing with his ShareHim group.



Irwin (second from right) waits with his fellow ShareHim evangelists for their drivers to take them to their churches.

a kick and sent it on its way. It was 90 degrees outside, but I made it to the airplane and took off the coats and some of the extra clothing after I boarded. That was April of 2008, and I was 80 years old.

After that trip, Duane McKey visited our local ASI conference as a speaker. He had coordinated ShareHim trips all over the world, so he listened intently as I gave a report about my travels. When I left the stage, Duane grabbed my arm and said, "Irwin! I need another speaker!"

"I've only been in the office for one day, so I don't know..."

"Get right back to me," he said, undeterred.

Since 2006, I've been on a total of nine ShareHim mission trips. I've been to Romania, Madagascar, Tanzania, Zambia, the Dominican Republic, Cuba (twice), Zimbabwe, and I just returned from Peru.

I knew the missionary there. His name is Paul Opp, and he's originally from my home town in Idaho. He operates the People of Peru Project, providing crisis foster care to kids in and around the city of Iquitos.

Every time I'd see him at an ASI convention, he'd grab my arm and say, "You go all over the world, but vou never come to see me!"

He showed up at one of our meetings in Peru and saw me sitting in the corner. He looked at me, blinked, and told the group, "That 'young man' sitting over there in the corner—I've been after him for ten years to come over here, and here he comes without even telling me!"

The trips haven't all been easy. But, like Harold



Irwin enjoys a cup of herbal "rooibos" tea during a break on safari in Botswana.

said, it will change your life forever. It has mine. I have a different outlook on life entirely.

The turning point was when I was shaving and I looked in the mirror and the Holy Spirit said, "Irwin, you coward!" Everything was different after that.

I'm 84 now, and my next trip will be to Kenya in January. And I've already registered, got my ticket, and got a place to stay for the ASI International Convention in

Cincinnati. I'm going to do mission trips as long as I'm able.

God can use anybody. Just put yourself in His hands and He'll use you. I'm regenerated every time I go. Sure, it's hard work. It's a steady 16 days of preaching. And that's all you do. But you feel exhilarated on the last Sabbath when they baptize all the people and some of them were in your audience and you talked to them and they made a decision.

I made an appointment with the people at every church I preached at-all nine trips. I told them I would meet them in heaven on the second Sabbath by the Tree of Life. It's going to be quite a group.



Irwin Rogers lives in Boise, Idaho, where he has operated Irwin Rogers Insurance Agency for the past 33 years. He has been an organizational ASI member since 1984. He is beloved by every ShareHim group he has joined, and doesn't plan to stop preaching any time soon. If you ask Irwin how he's doing, he'll say,

"I'm fantastic—but I'm qettinq better!"

New to the Family!

Organizational Members

A Family Dentist Dennis Carlile, DDS

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma General dentistru.

Ad Trends Advertising Inc. Mark Cromwell

Blue Springs, Missouri Advertising and marketing.

Adventist Medical Evangelism Network

Skip Dodson Datil. New Mexico Network of medical evangelists.

Amex Contractors James Herrera

Takoma Park, Maruland Full-service contracting business.

Astoria Physical Therapy Marland Armstrong

Astoria, Oregon

Automated Material Damage **Appraisers** Robert Twomley

Cave Creek, Arizona Damage appraisal service.

Bermuda Direct LTD T/A The Money Shop

Alvin and Lois Wilson Hamilton, Bermuda Complete money service business.

Cabrera Transportation Inc. Elou and Lidia Cabrera

Atlanta, Georgia Trucking transport business.

Calvin Youel, CPA Calvin Youel

Simi Valley, California Tax and accounting services.

CAP Anesthesia, PC Robert Hunsaker, MD

Boston, Massachusetts Anesthesia and pain management service.

Centro de Salud Familiar Eliseo Vallejo

Norcross, Georgia Hispanic health seminars.

Coleman Stewardship Services Inc. Ted Huskins

Chapel Hill, North Carolina Leadership, fundraising, and stewardship consulting.

Community Social Work Solutions Nettie Henderson

Moody, Alabama Social work services.

Davidson Industries Iohn Davidson

Commerce City, Colorado Trucking transport business.

Descendants of Abraham Inc. Shakeela Yasuf-Bennett

Carmel, Indiana Reaching Muslims via media channels.

DS Painting Dennis Skandunas

Colburn, Idaho Painting service; youth job training.

Endtime Message Ministry Albert Hutchinson

Brooklyn, New York Bringing education, food, and the gospel to the less fortunate.

Eye Life Institute Jerome Niswonger

Paradise, California

GAR Bermuda LTD George Ratteray

Sandu, Bermuda Transportation and real estate business.

Genstler Eye Center Arla Barelli, MD

Topeka, Kansas State of the art eye surgery.

Haitihelpers Brenda Cooper

La Fayette, Georgia Evangelism, health care, food, and gardening programs.

Hope for the Future Foundation Inc. Simonne Dupre

Marietta, Georgia Helping the people of Haiti rebuild their lives.

Howard Lee, CPA Youngho Howard Lee

Sunnyvale, California Public accounting, tax consulting, and financial

intelliPaper Andrew DePaula

Spokane, Washington Manufactures "intelligent paper" bridging the gap between traditional print and electronic storage media.

International Caring Hands Mathew Hayden and Randy Meyer

Eugene, Oregon Free mobile dental clinic service.

Into All The World, LLC Elgin Jenkins

Pasadena, California Supporting other ministries in sharing the Three Angels' Messages.

|. Lucio Concrete lesse Lucio

Toledo, Ohio Concrete construction service.

Leotis Richardson III, DDS PC Dr. Leotis Richardson III

Conway, Arkansas Dentures, extractions, and implant surgery.

Life Vantage Corp. Independent Distributor

Nancy Lucas Carson City, Nevada Therapeutic health products, information, and health fairs.

Little Light Ministries Brandon Mascarenas

Paradise, California Video production and media ministry.

Mark Turner, DDS Mark Turner

Taunton, Massachusetts General dentistry.

Medical and Surgical Health and Healing Institute Lela and Chris Lewis, MDs

Surprise, Arizona General and preventive health care.

Mediforce, LLC Danny Acebedo

Harlingen, Texas Medical equipment, supplies, and services.

Modern Manna Ministries Danny Vierra

Victor, California Restoring the whole person, physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Mountain Villa Nursing Center Dionicio Rivera

El Paso, Texas

Multavita Wayne Newton

Superior, Montana Promotion and sales of natural health products.

Multi-Pure Drinking Water Systems Peter Seheult

Loma Linda, California Promotes benefits of clean drinking water.

National Association for Prevention of Starvation (NAPS) Dr. Anthony Paul

Huntsville, Alabama Evangelism, community services, and disaster relief.

netAserve Jesse Johnson

Fredericktown, Missouri Server and website support for the world church.

Notes of Love Richard and Anette Campbell

Palm Coast, Florida Christian book and gift store.

Oasis Lifestyle Center Jewel Smith

Griffin, Georgia Resident lifestyle programs.

Pearsons Herbs, Inc. Henry Pearson

Apopka, Florida

R.D. Hanson Richard Hanson

Insurance sales and services.

Rocky Mountain Aire, The Breath of Life Dean Morford

Silverthorne, Colorado Home oxygen and medical equipment supplier.

Sapphire Throne Media Eric Garloff

Mount Holly, New Jersey Evangelism video production and Philadelphia outreach.

Second Hope Ministries International Ronald Fleck, MD

Walla Walla, Washington

Siding Distributors of New York Ronald and Jacqueline Vincent Sr.

Watervliet, New York

Skyline Greenhouse Jerry Windels

Lavou, Alberta, Canada Healthy greenhouse produce and outreach.

Sunbelt Business Sales. Mergers and Acquisitions

Joe Atchison Lake Elsinore, California Sales of main street businesses.

The Fjarli Foundation Jacki Fjarli

Medford, Oregon

The Oak Is In The Acorn Ioshua Orozco

Berry Creek, California Local missionary and literature evangelist sponsorship.

The Woodlands Retirement Community, LLC Renee Bainum

Fairfax, Virginia Independent retirement living.

Town & Country Tree Care Larry Moore

Milton-Freewater, Oregon Tree planting, maintenance, and removal services.

Triunfo Publicaciones Inc Jose Regus

Kissimmee, Florida Evangelism materials printing service.

True Light Mission Peter Thomas

Colville, Washington Arabic television programs and Bible lessons for Muslims.

Turn To Jesus Ministries lack Stout

Muskogee, Oklahoma

Vegan Culinary Academy, LLC Don Christensen

Angwin, California Distance learning commercial vegan cuisine and vegan apprenticeships.

Wayfare Foods Kelly Coffin

Bozeman, Montana Health food manufacturing

West Gate Corporation George Phillips

Corinth, Mississippi Developing a Christian retreat in Alaska.

West Paris Metal Recycling Ernest Yap

West Paris, Maine Dealer in ferrous and non-ferrous metals.

White Horse Media Gilbert Navarro

Newport, Washington Television, radio, and media production ministry.

Wholesome International Inc. **Alex Lingas**

Redlands, California Vegetarian food manufacturer, importer, and wholesaler.

International Associate Members

Amazon Lifesavers Ministry Bradley Mills

Manaus, Brazil

COXTECH Damian Cox

Albury, Australia

HKEA Evangelistic Alliance Herb Kersten

Carlton, Victoria, Australia Evangelism and outreach.

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Ellicott City, Maryland

Philip Bovell

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Anza, California

Gregory and Pamela Bratcher

Port Allen, Louisiana

Robert and Rosanne Carruthers

Stoneham, Massachusetts

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Raymond and Tricia Dewar

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Maxine Geddis

Gresham, Oregon

Lyn Glover

Arlington, Texas

Meheret Gobezie

Silver Spring, Maryland

Candace Hegedus

Frederick, Maryland

Tim and Lyn Howe

Harpswell, Maine

Ray and Linda Huang

Keenesburg, Colorado

Tom and Shelley Kanomata

Calhoun, Georgia

Mary Scott Kyser

Denver, Colorado

Hugo and Rachel Leon

Forest Ranch, California

Henry Livergood

South Lancaster, Massachusetts

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Identifyir GOC'S VISION For Overcoming Financial Challenge

s you examine the financial challenges your ministry is facing, it's easy to become overwhelmed as you try to decide where to start. How do you overcome financial challenges and effectively fund the ministry to which God has called you?

The members of the Beaufort (S.C.) Seventh-day Adventist Church desperately wanted their own church building. They had been renting a church for seven years and lacked facilities to do outreach. Dreams, hopes, and prayers for a new building had been ascending for at least seven years. Blueprints were eventually drawn and purchased, as well as a piece of property on which to build their new church home. Donations to the church building fund were anything but robust—about \$700 per month. There was enthusiasm about building a new church, but not enough to motivate generous giving.

The church's new pastor, Jason Belyeu, had an idea: "Let's get someone to help us—someone with the experience and innovation to facilitate our success." Our ministry, Coleman Stewardship Services Inc., had successfully worked with Pastor Belyeu's parents' church in Florida, so he contacted us for assistance. We quickly began to design a stewardship campaign that not only would generate needed funds for their new church home, but also lead the Beaufort members into a closer walk with Christ.

As we began to explore the challenges and opportunities facing the Beaufort church, we first realized that the set of blueprints they had purchased was too aggressive. The price tag associated with such a building was far and above what the church could reasonably expect to raise in a three- or even six-year period, and there didn't seem to be a way to effectively phase the building.

I am often faced with this type of situation when working with churches and ministries. Very few ministry leaders are familiar with the complexities of building or the reasonable expectations of a capital campaign. Many are not careful in choosing their partners and start their project upside down. For the Beaufort church, an even bigger problem was the need for a godly vision. This lack of vision was preventing financial growth and positive momentum.



There are a number of recognizable and predictable factors that create or contribute to financial challenges, whether for ministries or individuals. The challenges start where the ministry begins—with vision. Everything rises and falls on vision.

Proverbs 29 says, "Without vision people perish." Vision is essential. But the concept of vision is widely misunderstood. Ministry leaders will say, "We have a mission statement, why do we need a vision statement, too?"

A mission statement directs what missionaries do, giving them an understandable and repeatable mandate of service. In contrast, a vision statement is crafted by people who are in tune with God's will, and who both practically and prophetically see God's journey for their organization. A vision statement guides the mission statement and assures that every ministry initiative supports and facili-

tates the vision. It involves not only understanding and communicating, but hearing.

What does that mean? A common and detrimental mistake is trying to buy into a canned vision, which, in a nutshell, is saying: "Hey, look at what they are doing, it's working for them, so it's bound to work for us, too." Following the good examples of others isn't bad, but it may at times be misguided. True vision is God's unique calling on the hearts and minds of individuals and ministry leaders. God's vision for your ministry is as special and unique as God's will for you as an individual.

The Beaufort church had a real heart for community outreach and for reaching people who would typically not find their way through the doors of an Adventist church. As we began to unpack God's vision for them, it became obvious that God had a special ministry for them—a ministry that would cause them to rethink their plans for a physical structure. Providentially, a shopping center that was for sale came to the church's attention. This shopping center had housed a thrift

store, a health club, a restaurant, and several other vacant store fronts—more than enough space for worship, a school, a day care, and other Christian community outreach ministries. All but the restaurant was for sale. It presented a unique opportunity for service and ministry.

> Some ministries would have ignored this opportunity because of prior plans or investments. However, the shopping center was the very thing the Beaufort Church needed to facilitate the ministries God had for them to do. Unfortunately, the property was already under contract with another group. Pastor Belyeu and the Beaufort church members began to pray. They asked God to thwart the other contract if He wanted them to occupy that space. The other contract fell through, and the Beaufort church made an offer for \$100,000 less than what had previously been offered, and

by God's grace their offer was accepted.

Ninety days later, the church closed on their contract to buy the Salem Village Shopping Center. Today, the Beaufort church has completed the intensive phase of their capital campaign. The church has commitments equal to five times their annual tithe, and they are in the process of renovating the shopping center to be God's strategic mission post for community outreach. The campaign united church members around a vision of giving. They have seen God provide through sacrificial donations by others, which has strengthened their faith. Once they recognized and embraced God's vision for them, understanding and communicating that vision became less complicated.

When God reveals His special calling for your ministry or church and you communicate it compellingly, you will achieve the financial momentum you need, support for your ministry will grow, and more importantly, the spiritual lives of your ministry participants will grow deeper and more genuine. Financial challenges are more often than not the result of failing to hear and

identify God's vision for a particular ministry.

Helping a ministry to identify God's vision for them is where we start when asked for assistance with a capital campaign. We want to make sure the ministry leaders are hearing God's vision for them, that the vision is crystal clear, and that it is being communicated in a compelling fashion with the hopeful result that God's people will also embrace and support that vision.

We worked with another ministry that had been relevant and vibrant for years, but had experienced a drop in donations and support to fund their annual needs. Their facilities were also in great need of restoration. After talking with the ministry leaders, it became evident that they had failed to keep up with escalating changes in the world and were still trying to communicate a badly outdated vision in language that screamed irrelevance.

God's vision and calling on our ministries may change after all, even as Christ's ministry and calling developed over time—from growth and service, to teaching and healing, to ultimate sacrifice. Christ remained effective and relevant by staying in constant connection with the Father, moment by moment. Because of that connection, Christ's ministry never stagnated.

Ministries often make the critical error of attempting to solicit financial support before they have discovered God's true vision. Further, that vision must be rediscovered and adjusted, if necessary, on a regular basis. Finally, God's vision must be coupled with a genuine and lasting concern for the spiritual growth and development, not only of the ministry, but of donors and supporters as well.

People who daily remain connected with God in new and fresh ways can see His hand moving—in their own lives and in the world around them. Their hearts are touched, and they become believers in the truest sense of the word. Martin Luther said, "People need to be converted in their heads, their hearts and their purses." Ministries who care about people and compellingly communicate a vision that has been given to them by God will see challenges turn into opportunities for God to work miracles.



Ted Huskins is the president of Coleman Stewardship Services Inc. and can be reached at ted@colemanssi. com. The Beaufort Seventh-day Adventist Church continues to communicate and act on the vision God has given to its members and to solicit support from others who may share that vision for the city of

Beaufort. It is building and remodeling its new facilities with as little debt as possible and carrying out its community outreach mission with enthusiasm.



The Beaufort (S.C.) Seventh-day Adventist Church has seen many miracles of God's provision. Recently, Pastor Jason Belyeu (left) and two of his church members, Alber Ruth Barnett and Steve Francois (right), had the opportunity to give copies of *The Desire of* Ages and The Great Controversy to nationally syndicated radio host andgNew York Times best-selling author Dave Ramsey (second from left), as thank-you gifts for Ramsey's generosity. Pastor Belyeu had entered and won the \$10,000 grand prize in one of Ramsey's summer contests. When Pastor Belyeu told Ramsey he was donating the winnings to his church's building fund, Ramsey cut a check directly to the church to spare the pastor personal taxes. He invited Belyev, along with two church members, to take his Momentum workshop for churches at no expense.

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REACHING THE HEARTS OF DEAF CHILDREN

BY ESTHER DOSS

ith raised eyebrows, I stared at my computer screen. I had received an e-mail from a distant cousin, informing me that my dad's uncle had married a woman whose immediate family had founded the Arkansas School for the Deaf in 1867. They had used their home as a dormitory and classrooms. I couldn't wait to tell my parents..

Why? Because both of my parents are deaf. My father was a student at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf, while my mother attended the Arkansas School for the Deaf. Three of their children, myself included, worked at the school in Arkansas. Both of the schools and American Sign Language were a big part of my family's world.

I worked in the lower dorm in Arkansas, caring for girls between the ages of 9 and 11. I loved my job immensely and my girls even more. Keeping them disciplined, however, was quite a chore. And then there was a breakthrough.

One evening, I noticed Rita lying on her bed reading a children's Bible story book. I asked her if she would like for me to read a story to her. She was elated and quickly turned to her favorite story, "Baby Moses." As I signed the story, the other girls protested that it was unfair. All children love stories, and Deaf children seem to especially love them. So I made a deal with them. If they were prepared for bed by a certain time, I would tell them a story. Getting them to bed each night was a real challenge. Every step was a struggle. However, that night things went rather smoothly. From that point on, I told

them a Bible story each night.

Rita's mother sent me a thankyou note. A devoted Christian, she had prayed earnestly for her daughter away at school. How could Rita be raised to know

and love Jesus so far away from home and in a public school? Rita's mother expressed her joy and relief that God had answered her prayers. This experience reminded me that Deaf children have unique challenges when it comes to learning about God.

Imagine for a moment that you are a Deaf child. Once a week, you groan inwardly as your parents faithfully drag you to church. In the midst of greetings,

hugging, and chatting, very few church members take notice of you as you arrive. In fact, they generally don't take notice of you at all. That is, until you misbehave or make a strange sound. Then they give you scornful looks. Finally in the family pew, you look ahead and wonder what's being said, by whom, and why everyone is at church in the first place. You follow the cues-kneeling, standing, sitting, and hoping you're doing the right thing. Unaware of why everyone moves in unison to pray or sing, you're grateful for at least a little bit of activity. Otherwise, your parents scold you if you wiggle too much.

In a world of silence, there's little to keep your mind occupied, so you count the gray hairs of the aging lady sitting in front of you. Losing track, you decide to count the stained glass panels behind the pulpit, although the number remains the same from week to week. The minutes seem like an eternity. Is this what eternity in heaven will be like? You wonder if heaven is a place for Deaf children like yourself. After years of



this boredom, you plan to break free as soon as you can, never to return.

Church leaders in every denomination wonder what to do about the drastic drop in membership among young people.

Sadly, Deaf young people are leaving the church at an even more alarming rate, despite being raised in godly homes. Reaching children whose families do not attend church is another ballgame altogether.

My Deaf mother has no patience with today's hearing youth who grumble about church being boring. She would roll her eyes and sign, "What do they have to complain about? At least they are aware of what is

> going on! I'm Deaf and I still go to church!"

"There is a missing generation of Christian Deaf young adults. We stand at the precipice of a completely secularized Deaf culture," writes Bob Ayres, author of Deaf Diaspora. "They have simply decided that God is a 'hearing God' who doesn't make sense to them." It's common for Deaf children to grow up attending church, living in godly homes, and yet knowing little about spiritual things even simple Bible stories.

One day I met Jackie, a woman in her 70s, at a local

Deaf school event. She thanked me profusely for The Deaf Messenger, an evangelistic magazine printed by Three Angels Deaf Ministries. She was especially thankful for the latest issue on the book of Daniel.

"Finally I understand!" she exclaimed. "When I was a little girl, we went over to my aunt's house after church each Sunday. While everyone was talking, I studied the furnishings and decorations in the living room. There was a particular picture that always puzzled me. I

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relationships and investing

one's life into another person.

Providing interpreted worship

services is important but is

no substitute for authentic

Deaf worship and consistent

relational ministry.

remember wondering, Why is the man wearing a dress? And why is he surrounded by lions and an angel? Now I know!" While I delighted in her discovery, I was sad that her mystery went unsolved for so many years, while the story of Daniel and the lions' den is one of the most common children's stories.

One young Adventist lady told me that she had never even heard of the Ten Commandments until she was nearly grown. It had been difficult for her Godfearing family to convey spiritual concepts to her.

In my experience, Deaf people who have turned their backs on God have done so primarily due to their experiences as children. Not only was church a torture chamber for them, but many were put through confusing religious rituals to restore their hearing.

My own grandparents took my mother to a faith healer and gave him a generous donation. When healing didn't come, my grandfather was told that he did not have enough faith. This news devastated him. He was known as one of the godliest men in his community.

Lalafay, a Deaf friend of mine, was taken to a faith healer. He spoke privately with her ahead of time and asked if she could read lips. She nodded yes. Then he asked her what color his tie was. She spoke her answer, "Red." When she was called to the front during the meeting, the faith healer prayed and laid hands on her, then asked her the same question, to which she correctly replied, "Red." The crowd erupted in praise to God for her healing, and she was sent back to her seat, still deaf. She decided then and there that anyone who believed in God was nuts.

As a hearing child, I witnessed firsthand the frustrations my parents experienced in attending church services. Despite the fact that they were Deaf, they took me to a small Adventist church each Sabbath where there were no other Deaf members and no interpreter. I was stricken with guilt that, unlike my parents, at least I could hear the humble plinking on the upright piano and the quavering voices of the elderly women as they raised their voices in praise. I could hear the children's story and the Scripture reading and the sermon.

One Sabbath, I could stand it no longer, so I stood up at the end of our family pew to interpret the service for my parents. I was only seven years old and very shy. Big words such as "righteousness" and "sanctification"

overwhelmed me, but I did my best.

What can you do if a Deaf child is attending your church? The answer is challenging, yet simple. In short, be loving, be creative, be patient, use visual aids, and do vour best.

The entire church has a responsibility to reach out to a Deaf child. The parents have enough of a burden in raising the child and need other church members to assist. They shouldn't be expected to teach and interpret each week. Others need to step in and help. Relation-

> ships need to be formed, demonstrating to the child that the church is a family—a body of believers.

Invite families with Deaf children to your home. Spend time playing with them and letting them pet the family dog. Show the child how to do things or how things work. Don't know how to sign? That's okay! Most people know how to gesture. Learn ASL and have your Pathfinders earn ASL honors.

Use visual aids in Sabbath school. Get out the flannel board and felts. Use

pictures, stuffed animals, fruit, toy boats, anything that relates to the lesson. Consider acting out some of the Bible scenes. Use subtitled children's Bible videos, such as Gracelink's kindergarten animations, available on YouTube. And don't be afraid to make mistakes.

"There is a huge difference between ministry and providing interpreted services," says Ayers. "Ministry involves relationships and investing one's life into another person. Providing interpreted worship services is important but is no substitute for authentic Deaf worship and consistent relational ministry."

I urge you not to miss the opportunity to let a Deaf child know that he or she is a precious treasure to the church, as well as to God. You may be surprised to discover that loving a Deaf child helps you to love God even more.



She decided

then and there

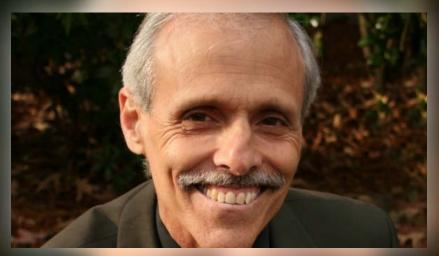
that anyone who

believed in God

was nuts.

Esther Doss is in charge of public relations and development for Three Angels Deaf Ministries. Contact 3ADM at www.3angelsdeafministries.org for solutions and ideas for working with Deaf church members, including children. 3ADM, with sponsorship from the North American Division, has just completed

the editing of a children's program in American Sign Language that is now available on DVD. The eight-part series features young "stars," including some of the children Esther worked with at the Arkansas School for the Deaf. This tool lets Deaf children know that God is real, that He is our Creator, and that He is earnestly seeking a relationship with them.



Practice What You Preach

BY HANNAH KUNTZ

teven Grabiner was originally drawn to the gospel by a healthy spread of vegetarian food. He accepted Christ through the outreach of a small restaurant in New York. Eventually, he became a pastor, serving in Boston, Massachusetts, for 11 years, then moving with his family to Zambia, Africa, where he served as director of Riverside Farm Institute. Today he is president of Outpost Centers International (OCI), a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with more than 90 member ministries around the world, many of them ASI members as well.

Despite the heavy responsibility of networking and nurturing such a large number of international projects, Steven is also involved in missionary work on a local level. In 2008, he and his wife, Vivian, along with members of the Sabbath school they attended, began seriously considering the idea of starting a church plant at home.

"It's easy to come to church and sit on a pew and think, 'Well, I'm doing ministry in my work with OCI, and that should be enough," Steven says. "But I felt a lack of personal involvement. I thought we should take our talents and put them to work at home."

With prayer and consideration for God's leading, a core group formed to discuss the new church plant. They settled on East Ridge, Tennessee, and held their first meeting in a rented church in December 2008. In the fall of 2010, the group purchased a church building that was in foreclosure. Eight months later, they paid off the mortgage and became a full-fledged church.

Although East Ridge is no longer a church plant, it

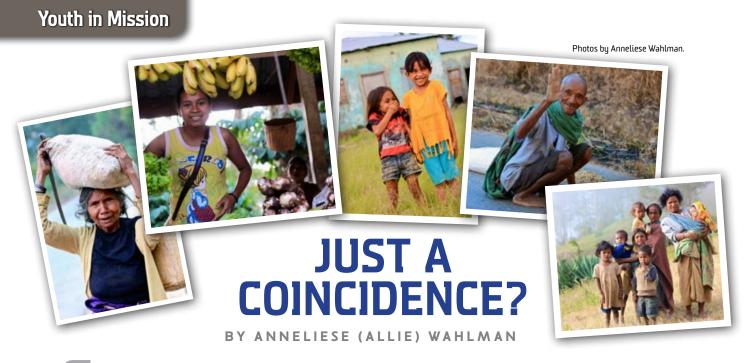
is still led by lay people. Church members are encouraged to be active and to make evangelism a part of their lifestyle. As part of the original group, Steven continues to be involved through preaching and leading out in services and programs.

Steven's previous experience as a pastor gives him a unique understanding of the work and commitment involved in beginning a new project. This understanding has been useful in his work at both East Ridge and with OCI members. Steven says one of the obstacles faced when a new project begins is that of moving from the idealistic honeymoon stage into the long-term grunt work stage. Another challenge is maintaining the heart of the original vision, yet being flexible enough to change. One way or another, the vision must remain Christ-centered.

"Human nature is the same everywhere," Steven says. "People want to be encouraged, to feel like they're making a difference, and to feel like they're being heard." This knowledge is valuable to him as he works to foster a desire among fellow church members to become involved in evangelism, and also as he helps OCI ministries to evaluate the obstacles they face. He raises questions and encourages discussion of ideas, but ultimately he reminds them to remember that it is God's work.



Hannah Kuntz studied print journalism at Southern Adventist University. After graduating, she spent nine months as a volunteer in Honduras where she perfected her Spanish and developed a love for mission work. She also has worked as a communication specialist for OCI.



lick. I opened my inbox and silently read an e-mail from a friend, inviting me to follow the blog of a young man I'd never met. I'd just gotten up from a nap that was supposed to kill my dejected attitude. Unfortunately, it was still alive and kicking when I awoke.

It had been a difficult week for me in Southeast Asia, where I was working as a teacher. I didn't feel like being cheerful, even though I knew I should be, and little things seemed to be getting on my nerves more than usual. I'd been homesick and was especially tired of hearing people speak in a foreign language. I found myself crying and not knowing why, and it seemed the whole week had been a battle to keep my emotions from dictating my behavior.

As I sat on my couch in a cloud of depression, staring at the email, I decided to click on the link. A blog appeared and I began to scan the posts.

One post in particular caught my eye. The blogger described how he'd been listening to an audio book during his daily run. As he ran, he felt exhausted, "about to die," as he put it. However, at that moment the reader spoke these words, "Those who decline the struggle lose the strength and joy of the victory" (Help in Daily Living, pg. 28). Those well-timed words, he wrote, provided the encouragement he needed to keep running, despite the pain.

As I continued reading the blog, I saw something strange. The blogger's final words were, "Thanks Allie," and there was a link that led to my own blog.

About a year earlier, in a small recording studio in Canada, I had sat in front of a microphone and recorded an audio version of the paperback Help in Daily Living by Ellen White. That was the recording the author was listening to-and now those words I had spoken a

year earlier had come back to empower me, just when I needed them!

Encouraged by the quote, I decided to pull out my own copy of the audio book. As I listened, I could feel myself being refreshed once again. Through the next week, whenever I was tempted to get discouraged, I would remember: Those who decline the struggle lose the strength and joy of the victory, and I was able to keep struggling to win that strength and joy-to keep on running, just as the blogger did.

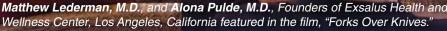
Although I didn't always win the victory, God faithfully gave me the strength to get up and run again. Through the failures and the triumphs, He used my experience in Asia to strengthen my character. Somewhere down the road, I may meet a trial more difficult than the homesickness and frustrations I faced there. However, because of what I have already passed through, I will have the strength to keep on running, though I feel I may die-to keep on struggling, to push through the pain and reach for the prize: the strength and joy of the victory.



Anneliese Wahlman recently returned from East Timor, in Southeast Asia, where she worked for a year as a tutor. She is a graduate of Fountainview Academy, where she narrated audio book versions of Steps to Christ and Help in Daily Living. After graduating, she spent the summer working with Youth For Jesus in

Sacramento. She will be begin attending ARISE in September of 2012, and aspires to use her writing and photography to impact others for Christ. She blogs at anneliesewahlman.blogspot.com.





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ast year, Sunnydale Industries Inc. was awarded an ASI project grant of \$20,000 to purchase and construct 60 One-Day structures to be used as greenhouses. Sunnydale Industries is a nonprofit manufacturing business. It is located on the campus

of Sunnydale Adventist Academy in Centralia, Missouri, and is owned and operated by the Iowa-Missouri Conference to generate income to support conference schools and churches. The business employs students from the academy, helping them to pay tuition, gain knowledge and experience, and learn responsibility.

Larry Overton, general manager for Sunnydale Industries, reports that 28 of the 20' x 30' greenhouses have been installed and roofed. "We actually built them end-toend, which gave us seven greenhouses that are each 120' long," he says. "This now expands our operation to ten greenhouses that are each 3,000 square feet."

The greenhouses are full of tomato plants, and one is currently being filled with soybean plants for use as edamame (soybeans harvested at the peak of ripening, right before hardening). Sunnydale plans to rotate tomatoes, winter greens, and strawberries. Two greenhouses

were used for cold weather crops last year, with a very good outcome. The business was contacted by Root Cellar, a grocery chain in Columbia, Missouri, to grow kale, arugula, spinach, Asian greens, and a variety of other cold tolerant crops. There are plans to expand this winter

to supply the Sunnydale Academy cafeteria and other grocery store customers with greens. Approximately 500 asparagus roots have been planted, and the Sunnydale growers anticipate a bountiful harvest.

Perhaps the best harvest is reaped in the lives of the students who work in the greenhouses. Seven are currently working full-time, and in the month of June alone, Sunnydale paid students \$18,370 for their labor, including work in other areas of the industry. Most of their pay goes directly to the academy for tuition, allowing them to pay their own way through school.

Produce sales over 60 days yielded more than \$8,850. Sunnydale is currently selling in seven different grocery stories in Columbia. Customers include Root Cellar, Gerbes, Hy-Vee, and Clover's grocery stores and markets. They continue to add other stores and restaurants to their customer list, including a local farmer's market in Centralia.



Future plans include planting more asparagus and field strawberries, as well as adding rhubarb, red and black raspberries, blueberries, melons, pumpkins, and possibly even fruit trees.

"We also have a vision of seeing more greenhouses on our campus," says Overton. "This would allow us to employ even more students in the

summer and during the school year. Sunnydale Academy enrollment is trending upward, due in part to the solid industry we have on campus."

Additional greenhouses would also allow Sunnydale to grow larger varieties of tomatoes, strawberries, and winter crops, providing more choices to current customers and attracting new ones as well.

"We also have thoughts of someday operating a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, where customers sign up and pay in advance to receive a box of produce on a weekly basis, direct from our gardens," Overton says.

Sunnydale currently farms 500+ acres, so there is plenty of room for expansion. Ten more greenhouses will soon be built. Other entities in the Iowa-Missouri Conference have expressed interest in setting up greenhouses to raise money for their constituent students' education.

"We have had inquires from Adventist schools and churches in Lee's Summit, Rolla, Gentry, Columbia, St.

Louis, Springfield, Kansas City, Ames, and Iowa City, to name a few in the Iowa-Missouri Conference," says Overton.

The Sunnydale model is spreading not only across the Iowa-Missouri Conference, but also across the North American Division. "We have schools. churches, and wellness centers across

the United States contacting us to inquire about getting greenhouses of their own," Overton says. "Our goal is not only to have one at every church and school in our conference that wants one, but at every home, church, school, and wellness center that wants one as well." Sunnydale is also planning to partner with the North American Division's "Adventists InStep for Life" program to battle childhood obesity across the division by inspiring healthy eating and physical activity.

"What a huge blessing the additional greenhouses have been for Sunnydale Academy," says Overton. And what a blessing the project is to the entire North American Division. Overton expresses thanks to everyone who has supported the project by contributing to the ASI special projects offering.

Subscribe to the ASI Connections e-newsletter to receive bimonthly ASI news and project reports. Visit the ASI website at www.ASIministries.org to subscribe.



The Story Behind the Projects

BY HAROLD LANCE

he roots of ASI's special project offering program go back as far as ASI itself-back almost a hundred years to the beginning of what eventually became Madison College. E.A. Sutherland and Percy Magan, close friends of Ellen White, were early leaders in the development of Seventh-day Adventist higher education. They served the church at Battle Creek College, Walla Walla College, and in the relocation of Battle Creek College to Berrien Springs, Michigan, where Andrews University now thrives.

Around the turn of the 20th century, Seventh-day Adventists were struggling to define Adventist education: Should it be an adaptation of the classical education that was in vogue at the time? Or should it include a balanced, practical program involving students, teachers, and staff and focusing on practical skills such as agriculture? Should it be a practical program that would lead to equipping lay members as gospel missionaries who would use their skills to serve their communities while acquainting them with the Three Angels' Messages? The resulting tension over the direction for Adventist education led Sutherland and Magan to resign their positions of leadership and start Madison on a rundown farm near Nashville, Tennessee.

A small group, encouraged by Ellen White, joined Sutherland and Magan in launching the new school. It offered a practical, short-term program that equipped students as self-supporting missionaries to serve in the southern states and beyond. With great difficulty and sacrifice, the new school began to prosper, turning out lay missionaries who established self-supporting health centers, restaurants, schools, farms, and treatment rooms, all designed to provide practical services to their communities while at the same time spreading the gospel.

Soon Magan and Sutherland both enrolled in medical school in nearby Nashville in order to broaden Madison's health and public service education program. On the other side of the country, Ellen White and other church leaders were launching the College of Medical Evangelists (CME, now known as Loma Linda

University) in Loma Linda, California. Starting the new school in California wasn't easy. In fact, the problems of finance and administration were immense. Church leaders remembered the capable leadership abilities of Percy Magan, noting that he was now a capable physician. Magan reluctantly left Madison and accepted the denomination's call to serve as a leader at the new medical school in Loma Linda, remaining at the helm for many years and insuring its stability. Few are aware Dr. Percy Maga of the connection between Madison College, which closed its doors in 1965, and Loma Linda University, which continues to thrive. That connection represents the ties that continue to bind church and lay workers together with a shared sense of vision and purpose.

The rest of the story...

Madison gave one of its best leaders to the new medical school in California, but it gave much more than that. Word reached Madison that CME was in danger of closing due to overwhelming financial burdens. Without being asked, some of the leading women at Madison rallied together and gathered \$30,000 (the probable equivalent of almost half a million dollars today). They took the train to Loma Linda and delivered the funds to the struggling leaders of CME, who were then in a board meeting discussing plans to close the related nursing program. This unsolicited generous gift that helped the Seventh-day Adventist Church succeed in establishing what is now a world class health care and training program in Loma Linda illustrates the spirit that is behind the urge of ASI to find worthy projects that broaden the outreach and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Harold Lance is the CEO of ASI Missions Inc. He worked as a trial lawyer for 32 years. He is also a past ASI president. After retiring from law, Harold served as president of Outpost Centers International for nine years. He lives in Spokane, Washington.



60,000 view creation film in Europe

More than 60,000 people, at least 80 percent of them non-Adventists, have crowded theaters and lecture halls to see ASI Germany member Henry Stober's documentary film, The Creation. No one in secular Europe expected such a response. Showings were organized in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, and Luxembourg by Stober and the German branch of Amazing Discoveries, also a member of ASI Germany.



Last spring, the film tour also went to the Netherlands. Adventist church leaders have tried everything to reach the Netherlands' 17 million people and were convinced that the days of public evangelism were over. It was assumed that the number of people who believed in creation was too small to warrant public presentations about the First Angel's Message. But a small group from a 6,000-member Dutch church persisted and organized four showings of Stober's film in mid-sized towns.

The response was overwhelming. Approximately 4,640 people came to see the film, and 95 percent of them were non-Adventists. In the town of Emmen, the film had to be shown twice to accommodate the interested crowds, and still 150 people had to be sent home for lack of space.

Henry Stober's creation film tour demonstrates what ASI is all about—proclaiming the Three Angels' Messages in close cooperation with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Of the 60,000 people who viewed the film, 7,000 filled out and returned feedback cards, which were turned over to local churches for follow-up. Of special interest is the fact that the number-one item of interest marked on the feedback cards was prophecy. In May 2012, the General Conference arranged with Stober to make his creation film available to the rest of the world.

Gerhard Padderatz President, ASI Germany

ASI Austria elects officers

ASI Austria recently met to elect new officers and make plans for future projects. Frank Schleipfenbaur, CEO of Optimo, was named as the new president. Evangelist and communication trainer Karl Lenart was elected vice president. Milan Sikora, CEO of a software company, was elected treasurer, and Robert Ponta, owner of a web design company, was elected secretary.

The group chose Isaiah 40:3 as their guiding motto: "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make

smooth in the desert a highway for our God." From this verse, the team extracted three specific aims:

- 1. To become more active in supporting ministries.
- 2. To further ASI Europe's promotion of a local ASI youth branch.
- 3. To create an ASI academy to train business people how to share the gospel in their marketplaces and to give them Bible-based education in sales and leadership skills.

Karl Lenart Vice President, ASI Austria

ASI Trinidad holds "ASI Day"

Members of ASI Trinidad gathered on Sabbath, June 16, 2012, for a special "ASI Day" celebration at the Pioneer Seventh-day Adventist Church in Couva, Trinidad. Elder Selwyn Hewit was the main speaker for the event. Calvin Adams, vice president for ASI Trinidad, shared pictures from the gathering.







BY ANDI HUNSAKER

hile attending the 2010 ASI International Convention in Orlando, I was asked to lead the ASI Atlantic Union chapter.

"Of course!" I responded. "I love ASI, its mission, and its purpose. How difficult can it be?"

Upon returning home, I contacted other chapter presidents for tips, asking how they funded their regional spring conferences. "With chapter dues and registration fees," they said.

Next, I asked how much money our chapter had in its account. "\$545.55," I was told. Suddenly my excitement turned to fear and doubt. After two weeks of inner turmoil, I finally went to the Lord in earnest prayer, daily asking for wisdom and direction. I shared my concerns with my husband, Bob. We decided to pledge our own resources to help fund the conference, which gave me great peace.

I learned a valuable lesson: God is anxious to help us and bless our efforts. One of my favorite texts is 2 Corinthians 8:9: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."

My husband and I began visiting churches throughout the Atlantic Union, sharing the mission of ASI and church members to attend the upcoming spring conference. We even flew to Bermuda (where we saw the beach for only 20 minutes). We were always graciously received and given time to speak. The effectiveness of that approach was not evident until the conference itself. Attendees came from every church we'd visited!

Two months prior, only about 23 people had signed up and I had planned for 150. Frantically, I

prayed. The hotel graciously offered to move our event to a smaller room to ease the financial risk my husband and I had assumed in making larger plans. All the while I had been witnessing to the sales and event managers at the hotel. When I saw the "smaller" room, I literally cried.

"Lord!" I said. "This is a disgrace to your name!" The hotel managers said they would try to book another meeting in our original space, but if they couldn't, we could have the ballroom back. I prayed, "Lord please intercede." All of a sudden, registration began to increase—but by then the ballroom was gone. One week before the conference, we had 143 registrants and a room that held 60 people. But God intervened again. Two days before the conference, we got the ballroom back. Our 153 attendees were truly blessed by the spiritual presentations and music.

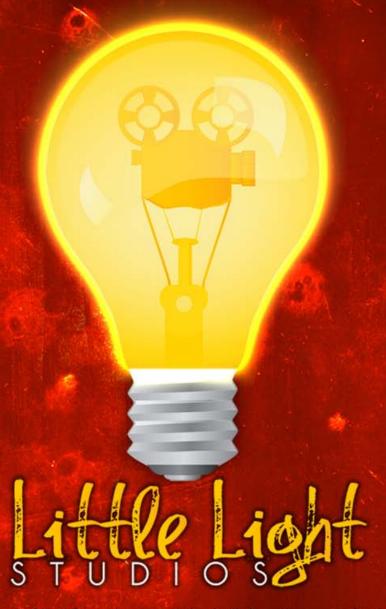
I had set an offering goal of \$40,000. Many thought it was unattainable, so I was nervous Sabbath morning as the offering was counted. How happy I was to find out that we had exceeded our goal!

We now have a superb board with great officers and a corporate view toward missions. "It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear" (Isaiah 65:24). When we yield our resources to Him, holding nothing back, the windows of Heaven open and there are no obstacles.



Andi Hunsaker is a full-time physician practicing in Boston, Massachusetts. Her husband, Bob, is also a physician. She is the president of ASI Atlantic Union, and has stood in awe of God's leading in that chapter. Her passion and focus is on being a co-laborer with Christ in winning souls to Him.

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