## The official publication of Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries Summer/Fall 2016

## GALLEI CHOSEN COMMITTEI

Lord, Send Me

Paper Gets Smarter

Thinking Out of the Box

GYC Ambassador

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## **Editor's Note:**

n preparation for the 2016 ASI International Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, we are focusing on this year's theme: Called. Chosen. Committed. Peter says: "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). May we be more committed in sharing that light with others in our marketplace.

In this issue of *Inside ASI* you'll be inspired by how ASI members are demonstrating their commitment to sharing Christ. One thing I love about the ASI family is how each member finds creative ways to reach out. It's my privilege to share some of these exciting ideas with you so that you can be better equipped for your calling. I invite you to join us from August 3-6 in Phoenix, Arizona, for our 2016 ASI International Convention.



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BY CRAIG HARDING

rowing up in Alaska I had the privilege of knowing and working with an extraordinary young man whose impact on my life only eternity will tell. Monte gave me my first job, offered me my first business management position at age 17, and stood with me as a groomsman in my wedding. He also introduced me to ASI for the very first time. I want to tell you his story.

Monte grew up as a missionary kid and pilot. After graduating from Fairhaven Academy and then college, he returned home to Alaska. By his early 20s Monte was already a successful entrepreneur running a building supply company in the booming 1990s economy of rural Alaska. He had three literature racks in his store entrance, was involved in his local church, and enjoyed his lovely family. Everyone who knew him liked him and thought of him as the perfect ASI member. But as Monte's business developed, he became more and more unsatisfied with the results of his evangelistic efforts. Yes, he was successful. Yes, he distributed hundreds of pieces of literature. Yes, he attended ASI regularly. But the response from his employees and the community simply was not of the quality or quantity he desired. He began to ask himself and others how to make a bigger difference—all while developing a stronger family and personal faith amidst the demands of growing a business.

As the years passed, the economy changed, larger competitors came into the market, and Monte faced the greatest pressure on his life and business. At this point he did what many thought was giving up entirely on ministry in his business. He searched and questioned everything he had done over the years, took down the three literature racks, changed his hiring practices, and restructured his business completely. After years of hiring based on job skills and history alone, he began to consider quality character of even greater importance in the hiring process. Monte instilled in his employees the concept that treating everyone as children of God-whether seemingly deserving or not-was the first priority. Each customer would receive unreserved care and respect, and be treated with the highest integrity. The business responded remarkably, not only with financial turnarounds, but with an amazing improvement in employee and customer loyalty. Doing the right things for the right reasons works!

Two year later, while visiting in my home, Monte beamed as he shared about replacing his literature racks at the front entrance with a small rack in the back of the store. He had concluded that his religion needed to be manifested in every fiber of how he did his business, not just through the magazines in the front. In those two years he gave away more literature to people begging to understand what made his business different and why the employees treated them so well, even when they dealt unkindly with the workers.

People today are dying for a true, authentic, morethan-skin-deep experience with Christ in the marketplace. The question is, Will we as business people be satisfied with just the trappings, or will we give the world the real Christ they are longing for? After all, "Religion and business are not two separate things; they are one" (Christ's Object Lessons, p. 349).

Monte passed away a few months later in his early 40s, but he left a legacy to be proud of! Many miss him. I miss the man who so greatly influenced my life. And in my book, ASI is missing one of its finest sons.

Craig Harding is passionate about innovation, industry, strategic planning, and interfacing these concepts into ministry in harmony with the gospel. Raised in Alaska, Craig attended ARISE Institute's evangelism

training program in Michigan. He married his lovely wife, Alicia, in 2008, and they have three children, ages 6, 3, and 11/2. Craig has served as vice president of business and development at OCI since 2011. He is currently vice president of logistics for ASI. He enjoys traveling, canoeing, camping, woodworking, and gardening.



## Lord, Send Me

BY HUGH WESLEY CARRINGTON

Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me" (Isaiah 6:8, NLT). If we take a closer look at this narrative, we'll see that it was not until after Isaiah was cleansed (see v. 7) that the call came: "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" Oswald Chambers notes, "The call is the expression of the nature of the One who calls, and we can only recognize the call if that same nature is in us." In other words, the Lord is holy and those associated with Him must similarly strive for holiness. This holiness (guilt removed and sins forgiven) can never be reached in our own strength. Like Isaiah, we must acknowledge our need and pray for cleansing.

Furthermore, being holy facilitates our response to His call. Being called by God, hearing the call, and responding, as we should, has everything to do with our relationship with God-having His nature (holiness). Allow me to go one step further and say, it's not just a relationship, but the *right* relationship. Think about it... if you're ever in a relationship with God and you're getting your own way, it is not the right relationship. So, if we're having the right relationship with God, we will recognize Him, hear His voice, and will respond accordingly, saying, "Send me."

Many of us are praying to be sent as a messenger to the people. God cannot send us, however, until we're cleansedholy. The path to holiness is found by having that right connection with God. And we can only develop that connection through prayer. The prayer, "Send me," cannot be our very first prayer. How can we speak to others for God if we've not first spoken to Him? We

cannot be strangers with God and direct others to be His friend. It was Isaiah's connection with God that allowed him to respond, "Send me." We need to develop that right connection with God that will allow us to recognize Him, hear His voice, and respond, "Send me."

As I close, allow me to address those of us who already responded "Send me" but are now waning from that call. We were cleansed, called, chosen, and sent... but now we're looking back. We're questioning ourselves, God, and the process, and we're not fully committed. The main reason we look back is because we're wavering in our relationship with God. I don't have the time or space to deal

with every aspect of Elisha's call, but you can read the details in 1 Kings 19:19-21. When Elisha was called, he butchered his oxen, made a fire with the plow, and boiled the meat; it was a true farewell meal with the family. He burned and ate the tools of his trade. He had no intentions of going or looking back. If God has called you and has chosen you, don't be afraid to commit fully.

As a result of our prayerlessness we squander our connection with God and we become useless to Him as a messenger. We will never be able to pray, "Send me," and similarly, we will never be able to maintain our commitment to that prayer unless we develop and maintain the right connection with God through prayer. "Send me" is a serious prayer that should not be taken lightly. We had a choice and we accepted His call. We're often told not to burn bridges. And in many instances, it is very good counsel. Nevertheless, if you're traveling with God through prayer, I encourage you to burn the bridges behind you. Don't look back! Don't go back!

### My Prayer:

Father, help us to burn those bridges that will lead us backward and away from our calling. We acknowledge the fact that we are called, chosen, and committed. Amen.

**Hugh Wesley Carrington** serves as lead consultant at Bridge Ministries Consulting, Inc. (BMCI) and also

as adjunct professor at Long Island University in the School of Business, the Department of Social Work, and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Hugh serves as vice president of membership and recruiting for ASI Atlantic Union.



## H.E.A.L.T.H. N.E.W.S<sub>-4</sub>.

SHEILA P. DAVIS

ydrotherapy. The family should study and apply the simple water remedies for the relief of common conditions, such as headaches, sinusitis, muscle aches and pains, and numerous other conditions. These treatments are simple, without side effects, and very economical.

xercise. Family exercise is a wonderful bonding experience for all family members. Gather the family together and do a fun-filled "digestive walk" of 10-15 minutes after each meal. Thereafter, plan for a longer walk of about 30-45 minutes. Each family member who is able, should aim for an outdoor walk every day.

ir. Breathing deeply of fresh air invigorates all cells of the body. When we breathe deeply of fresh air, we greatly lower the risk for upper respiratory infections.

ove. Love one another as you love yourself. Resolve conflicts quickly. Forgive others as you would want to be forgiven. Use those special family days such as birth-days, anniversaries, births, celebrations, losses, etc., as occasions to shower added love.

Temperance. Too much of a good thing makes it a bad thing. The family should let temperance be an abiding principle in all of its decisions and actions. There should be a balanced schedule for the family with regular times for bedtime, worship time, recreation, family talk and discussions, vacations, etc.

umor. Learn to laugh at yourself and at your mistakes.

Plan family nights just to engage in fun-filled activities

utrition. Cultivate health-forming nutritional family habits. Good nutrition at home informs good nutritional habits away from home. What is the best diet for restoration of health and maintenance? The answer is:

- Practice consistency in eating breakfast. This meal should be our largest. Lunch should be moderate and eat only a *very light* supper, if needed.
- Eat a large variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, cereals, and beans and peas. Eating means chewing well. Don't just swish and swallow; you must chew.
- Avoid animal products and limit saturated fats. This
  also includes trans fats and partially hydrogenated
  fats. Yes, eat primarily a plant-based diet.
- Limit refined sugar intake. Try using more natural sweeteners such as honey, stevia, agave, etc.
- Avoid artificially sweetened products. <u>Let's keep it</u> real, not artificial.

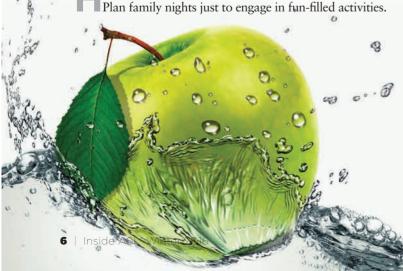
ssential vitamins, minerals, and select herbal supplements. Because of environmental pollutants, many will have to supplement even the best diets. Those who are on a totally plant-based diet need to monitor their Vitamin B12 level. Also, monitor your Vitamin D level. Vitamin C and Zinc are helpful to ward off upper respiratory infections. Learn how to properly use herbal supplements for select health conditions.

ater intake. Water is to the body as air is to the body. Just as we cannot function without air, we cannot function without water. Remember that thirst is a late indicator that you need to drink water. A very simple rule for water intake is to drink half your body weight in ounces. Rules for water drinking are:

• Drink one glass or a 20-ounce bottle when you first get up in the morning.

M. Ton

- Drink one hour after meals.
- Drink between meals and not during meals.
- Don't drink very hot or very cold beverages.



Know that too little water intake can cause one to experience extreme fatigue, headaches, body aches, and a host of other health problems.

unlight, Sabbath, Sleep, and Stress Relief. These 4 elements will help keep you and your family healthy.

- Sunlight In modest proportions, sunlight elevates the mood, calms the nerves, boosts the immune system, and aids in the production of Vitamin D. The best time to get out in the sun is before 10 a.m. and after 3:00 p.m. These are also ideal times for the outdoor family walk.
- Sabbath God *knew* that we would all *need* a Sabbath rest, so He commanded us to take one every week. Exodus 20: 8 -11. The Sabbath is a wonderful time for the family to reconnect in praise and worship of God, and in special family time.
- Sleep The family needs to rest. There should be a nightly quiet time for the family to wind down in preparation for sleep. This is an excellent time to have your evening family worship and retire for the night in a spirit of peace and quietness. We really do need that 7 to 8 hours of sleep every night.
- Stress Relief Remember that the ultimate stress relief

is a vibrant, saving relationship with Christ. He says, "Cast *all your cares upon Me, for I care for you*" (1 Peter 5:7). He further tells us that if we would but acknowledge Him, He will direct our paths (Proverbs 3:6). Admit it, you *cannot* handle all that comes at you each day. God is our burden-bearer. Lastly, think often about the home He is preparing for us. There will be no more pain, nor tears, nor sorrow (Revelation 21:4).

### Sheila P. Davis. PhD. RN. FAAN. FNP-c

Dr. Davis is a Professor of Nursing at The University of Southern Mississippi. She completed a summer medical fellowship at Wildwood Lifestyle Center and Hospital under the direction of Drs. Neeta Hillman and Roby Sherman where she learned how to incorporate lifestyle and natural approaches in health care. At Wildwood, she witnessed the power of prayer in patient treatment and outcomes. Additionally, she hosts a TV program: A Natural Way: Health and Healing Rxs by Dr. Sheila on Mississippi PEG Public Access station. Dr. Davis is married to Dr. Melvin Davis and they have two adult married daughters and four grandchildren.





## PAPER GETS A LOT SMARTER

BY NANCY LAMOREUX







SI member Andrew DePaula attended the 2008 Consumer Electronics Show to find an answer to this question: Can you buy a USB drive for less than a \$1? The answer turned out to be no.

On the same day, God gave Andrew a miraculous answer to his inquiry that spawned a new industry and a new world of evangelism opportunities.

As the associate director of the Bibleinfo.com ministry at Upper Columbia Conference in Spokane, Washington, at the time, Andrew co-pioneered the creation and distribution of square miniCDs that contained the entire Bibleinfo.com Web site and many other useful Bible study tools, including the Bible in six languages. During that time, these miniCDs were widely successful for ministry, available at only a dollar each for church members to buy in quantity and give away. And then, suddenly, square miniCDs were no longer available anywhere, the victim of a patent dispute.

Andrew thought the solution might be a USB drive, but it had to cost less than \$1 to produce, as the mini-CDs did. But the lowest cost anywhere in the world at that time was \$3—too high for an effective giveaway. He felt discouraged.

Back in his hotel room, Andrew was fiddling with his CES name badge and noticed a small lump.

He took the badge apart and found an RFID tag inside. CES had tracked his every move all week long! "In that moment it hit me," Andrew said. "If they can

do that with a name badge, why can't I make a USB drive out of paper? That was the God moment." Suddenly he knew what to do for ministry.

From that God-given realization, Andrew obtained two patents and spent three years developing a prototype. As strange as it sounds, he found that an ordinary paper card makes a perfect foldable USB drive (see photo 1; scan with Print2Life app to see it in action). The first working prototypes of the paper drive were demonstrated at the 2011 ASI convention in Sacramento. Andrew brought them to the convention booth after successfully making a few working cards by hand only days prior. Not having any idea what the crowd reaction might be, he was greatly encouraged by the overwhelmingly positive response.

Sacramento was also the ASI convention where General Conference president Ted Wilson introduced The Great Hope distribution project to the ASI audience. Everything came together as Andrew realized the potential of what would become a very effective evangelistic tool.

Today *The Great Hope* and other titles are available as inexpensive intelliPaper cards, and are an incredibly effective way of placing our message in the hands of people who might not otherwise be interested.

After eight years of developing what became the intelliPaper company, Andrew now has 15 patents. The paper USB card contains a tiny silicon chip on which

data can be stored, including links, Web sites, Bible studies, and books. The newest iteration of the technology is the swivelCard with a chip, QR code, and optional wireless technology built in, allowing it to not only be inserted into a USB port but also to communicate with a nearby device, such as a smartphone.

"As an MK [missionary kid], outreach is in my blood," Andrew says. "It's been a long journey, but incredibly rewarding. What God has done with us to date is nothing short of amazing."

Andrew sees a wide variety of ministry applications for the cards. His own experience shows why. On a recent flight to St. Louis, Missouri, he sat next to a very secular young man who didn't seem to want to talk. After Andrew showed him a paper USB card, the man got very excited and reverently put the card in his wallet, saying, "I've got to show this to my friends."

Andrew had just given the man a copy of The Great Controversy without even talking about religion.

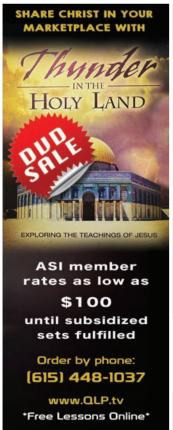
The USB cards from intelliPaper have both ministry and business applications. They bridge the gap between print and digital media in business cards,

direct mail and promotional campaigns, and in many areas of evangelism and ministry development. Several options are explained at the company's Web sites, www.intelliPaper.info, and www.swivelCard.info.

At the 2016 ASI convention, you can meet Andrew DePaula and the intelliPaper crew at Booth 300, between the ASI booth and the Adventist Book Center. Special pricing for Adventist entities is available, thanks to a collaboration between intelliPaper and the General Conference Office of the CIO.

Nancy Lamoreaux is the recently appointed Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The Office of the CIO was created to build relationships in technology with our organizations around the world. She holds a Masters Degree in Organizational Management as well as a degree in Information Systems and several certifications, including Network Engineering. She has been IT director of both the Columbia Union in Maryland and the North American Division.











### SANDRA

eing a 17-year-old entrepreneur is an opportunity for which I am very thankful. I have learned so much through this journey. I guess you could say that it all started when my life started; ever since I was very young, my parents taught me that I was called to a special purpose (just like everyone else), which is "To serve God and fellow man." They wanted to teach me service, so after church they would take me and our certified therapy Golden Retriever, to local nursing homes. We would sing, talk, and listen. I loved hearing the stories of the older folk. They looked forward to the weekend when the skinny kid and over-sized dog would come beaming through the door.

When I was four, I sang my first solo in church. At eight, I started touring California and sang for evangelistic meetings in Central America. I started recording for several international broadcasting networks, such as 3ABN, LLBN, LLBN Arabic, and Hope Channel, to name a few. At 14, I cut my first CD; my second at 15, and my third last fall (at age 16) in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, respectively. I have been touring for the past two years nationwide. What began as a home-school project to learn entrepreneurship is now my full-time work and passion. I have always had a burden to share the love of Jesus with everyone around me. This venture gives me that opportunity to travel extensively and share Him on planes, in hotels, in taxis, and on the stage. I do work for many different denominations and organizations and enjoy the chance to "share Jesus in the marketplace" through my music and presentations. As a singer and speaker, I realize the responsibility to, with God's strength, be an example of a Christian young person who dedicates their life to Christ, and uses their life, talents, and opportunities to share the message of God's love for us and His plan for our lives. I am in awe that He should trust us so much as to be His messengers and representatives. I frequently have parents come up to me and tell me that their children love our music and that they look up to me as a role model. No pressure, right? I've heard that with influence comes great responsibility. And I intend to be responsible with that

influence, by God's grace. I think of how advanced this world would be if everyone used their influence for good. Actually, we would probably be in heaven by now! Being booked almost every weekend, and sometimes during the week, life can get very hectic. Over the past two years, I have further discovered the importance of spending time with God and maintaining a connection with Him, as John 15's Parable of the Vine instructs. If we are not abiding in Christ, it is very easy to get distracted from what God calls us to do, and the people He wants us to be. Isaiah 26:3 says, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee." I love to nurture my relationship with God by praying and reading His Word every morning and night. When we study with the purpose of

knowing His heart, His presence is felt near and His will for our lives is made more evident. We get to foster a friendship with our Leader and Best Friend.

Being an entrepreneur has made me grow so much, both spiritually and personally. I have learned to depend on God for everything. Not only am I learning the technical duties of finances, production, PR, and marketing, but I'm learning to take every opportunity to use my business as a ministry. Apart from what I do, I am interested in

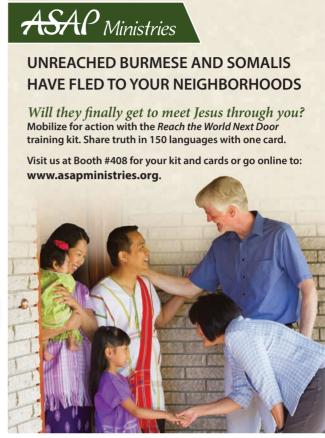


a career of medicine or law. Seventeen is a hard age, as one is still deciding in which direction to go. But I know that wherever God leads, I will always be committed to serving Him, and living up to the meaning of my name: "A helper of all people."

We have a duty as business owners, employees, and above all, Christian men and women to use every tool and skill in our hands to further the work of God, and bring others to Christ. It is an honor to have the chance to be, though desperately imperfect, a beacon of light to all within our circle of influence. From our kindness, work ethic, and willingness to help, to the spoken testimony our lives give, may we take advantage of our privilege to share with others about our God, our Father, and Friend, who longs to make our lives a song of praise.

Alessandra Sorace is a 17- year-old recording artist and speaker who has shared her faith nationwide and abroad. She sings and speaks for diverse events, with audiences ranging from hundreds to thousands, such as the 60th GC Session, with close to 70,000 at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. Her love for serving people shows forth in her presentations as she strives to live according to the meaning of her name, "A helper of all people."









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### **ABOUT HIS**

Holbrook Indian School (HIS) is an accredited 1st through 12th grade Christian boarding school for Native American youth and has been operated by the Seventh-day Adventist church for more than 70 years. HIS also incorporates a 1st through 8th grade day-school in Chinle, Arizona in the Navajo Nation.

### HIS CHALLENGE

Imagine living in a nation within a nation. Imagine the constant dissonance between the identities and value systems of each nation. Imagine living in a world where one in three women are raped or suffer sexual abuse, where almost half of the population never graduate high school, and only seven percent have college degrees. A world where more than half of the population live below the poverty line, and tragically the suicide rate among youth is as much as ten times that of the national average. Then imagine being told "You just have to get used to it." "It's just the way it is." Youth come to HIS with unimaginable challenges. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, substance abuse, trust and abandonment issues seem to be the norm. Now imagine trying to learn and function in an academic setting with these kinds of challenges.

### HIS SOLUTION

Holbrook Indian School provides a safe haven for students to learn, live and grow in Christ by giving them the tools and skills they need to face the challenges that confront them.

## Become a part of HIS solution. Support HIS mission.

# MEMBERS IN ACTION MEMBERS IN AC

or over 43 years PROJECT: Steps to Christ has been doing what it does best: reaching millions of households in communities across the US, ZIP code by ZIP code, with mass mailings of *The Path to Peace (Steps to Christ)* and *On The Edge of Time* (an abridged version of *The Great Controversy*). The demand for our evangelistic services by local Seventh-day Adventist churches and individual members has not diminished over the years. Recently, though, God moved upon us to do something a little different, albeit in the tradition of bulk mail literature evangelism.

You may have seen them in your mailbox. They are called marketing card packs. Inside are two stacks of small 3.5x5 advertiser cards from different vendors. Marketing card packs are used to target a specific market.

A leading marketing card pack company contacted us several years ago to interest us in using their services for evangelistic purposes. While I thought the idea was great, I wasn't anxious to add more work to an already full plate. Finally we decided to try one card pack with an advertisement for a free copy of *The Great Controversy*. Since *The Great Controversy* is for all practical purposes a history book, we decided to advertise it in the Explore History card pack, which would be mailed to 300,000 individuals across the U.S. who purchased something related to history in the past six months.

With the first trial mailing in August 2014, we received over 2,700 requests for *The Great Controversy*. Impressed with the response rate, we decided to continue with ten more card pack mailings for the 2014-15 season and another nine for the 2015-16 season, trying different free book offers with each one. In total we were able to give over 15 million households the opportunity to receive one of our free life-changing books. With requests still coming in, we have processed to date over 43,000 individual requests for our free literature and Bible studies—all of these cards then being distributed to our conferences and then onto thousands of churches across the U.S. for local, personal follow-up.

You may be thinking this must have cost a boat load, but actually it was the cost itself that made this such an attractive evangelism portal. Each free offer card provided only cost us 1.6 cents. Add to that the cost of fulfilling the tens of thousands of requests, and our total cost per lead came to just under \$7.00.

This experience became the springboard for a similar idea of mailing out an advertisement for a free book rather

than the book itself, as we have done for so many years. The value of this is that it's cheaper and affords the sponsoring church or member the ability to reach more homes. Thus was born The Great Controversy Mailer. Much different from the card pack mailing, this standalone card arrives in the mailbox, head and shoulders above everything else in the box (it measures 10.5x5.5 folded). The teaser on the outside of the mailer is gripping. Opening the mailer, our hope is that the reader is challenged by the appeal and invitation to request the free copy of *The Great Controversy* inside. A business reply card is conveniently included for ease of request.

Our first test mailing blew away all of our expectations. Areas that traditionally generated poor response with our book mailings actually did well. The "proof was in the pudding." We went to press with 250,000 and put the new program on the market. Within six months we had to print again, as The Great Controversy Mailer became our new top-selling mailing option.

Why has this become our number-one seller?

1) Adventists love to share The Great Controversy

2) It costs only 42 cents per household

3) Only those interested receive the book

4) Average 1 percent response

It's easy to get excited by response rates, but not so easy to get excited by the promises of God. I wouldn't want to rob anyone of the thrill of getting a 1 percent return on their investment, but I also want to encourage those who sow and see little or no returns, for the promises of God are even more exciting: "More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications" (*Evangelism*, p. 693). We are still banking on that promise with every piece of literature we send out. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy" (Psalm 126:5). Praise the Lord!

**Steve Peden** and his wife, Elwozetti, and two children, Joseph (19) and Martelise (16), have been serving the Lord through the ministry of PROJECT: Steps to Christ for 20 years. Steve currently serves as project director and wears many hats besides. His passion is seed sowing, seeing them take root and produce a harvest both in souls and in the large family garden they raise on the ministry property.



## What's it Mean to You?

"It means so much to us and our family that you are doing this for our kids. We will never forget it."



"I will never forget it in my entire life," says Larell Littlechild, one of the Total Praise members who performed before NAD president Dan Jackson and GC president Ted Wilson. "I felt like we were famous."

Indeed, the six girls who represented Mamawi Atosketan Native School at the Year End Meetings were the face of missions in Canada.

As President Jackson told the assembled presidents and representatives of the North American Division, MANS is the largest Adventist First Nations school in North America. To outside observers, it's a unique success story in First Nations education. The day school inspires parents as well as students with hope.

For the parents, band council members, chiefs, and other members of the Maskwacis community, the school and the invitation to perform in Washington, DC comes down to this: Their children matter to the Adventist church.

"Thank you so much for taking care of our kids," wrote one parent. "They may never get a chance to do something like this again in their life... We will never forget it. It is just like a big family here at this school."

As we show the Father's love in practical ways, walls come down. The family grows closer.

Watch Total Praise's October 30 performance at the General Conference offices for Presidents Jackson and Wilson, and hundreds of NAD delegates at www.mans1.ca (video section).

Pictured: Total Praise member Tashina Green in traditional Plains Cree regalia. Tashina is one of more than 200 students at MANS.



MAMAWI ATOSKETAN NATIVE SCHOOL

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"I'm looking for an herb that helps nausea." As I turned to see who had spoken to me, I saw an attractive, middleaged woman with a worried look. The sales floor at Country Life in Columbus, Georgia, was busy, but not hectic; and I was able to suggest several things that might help, although the only "herb" I could think of at the moment was ginger—not specifically an herb, but certainly natural. As we spoke, she began to explain that she was undergoing chemotherapy and was scheduled for a doctor's appointment later in the week; and that while the initial tumor had been removed, there was some thought that the cancer might have spread. The appointment was to perform other tests. It was easy to see that she was very nervous and quite worried.

By this time, my wife had joined me, and she suggested that a generally healthy lifestyle could help in maintaining her immune system, and would go a long way toward fighting off any additional cancer cells. She also mentioned that, in our Lifestyle Center at Uchee Pines, we see many cancer patients, and part of our protocol is prayer. We ask God, in faith, to help; and He always does! As soon as she mentioned God, the woman's face softened noticeably. She said that she, too, was a Christian, and had been praying, but would love to have someone else to pray with. Right there on the sales floor, we held hands and asked the Lord to give her peace and healing. She began to cry, and said she felt like a load had been taken off her shoulders. After making her purchase, she smiled, thanked us again, and left.

The next week, she returned, saying that the exam and tests had gone well. She believed our prayers had been answered, and said her faith had been strengthened. She also said that she had decided not to continue the chemo, but wanted to pursue a lifestyle and natural treatment approach. Over the next several weeks, she attended all our seminars and outreach at Country Life and Uchee Pines; and later decided to join a lifestyle session at Uchee Pines Lifestyle Center. She is also attending our church and loves to come to Bible studies.

While our health food store and vegetarian restaurant

are busy and offer quality foods for the community, many people are starving for spiritual food, and all it takes is a mention of something spiritual to get the conversation going. Right in the middle of the city, "where sin abounds, grace does much more abound."

One beautiful Sunday afternoon, after having lunch at Country Life Vegetarian Restaurant, a group of young people from Uchee Pines—both students and workers headed to the RiverWalk for an afternoon stroll. It was an ideal day for literature distribution, so they began to hand out tracts to everyone they could. As they entered the RiverWalk park, the group leader saw a man sitting on the concrete flowerbed retainer, with a bottle of alcohol in one hand and a cigarette in the other. Coming to the man, the leader said, "Hi!" and placed a couple of tracts in his hand. "Why would you say 'hi' to me?" the man asked, taking everyone by surprise. "I believe Jesus would say 'hi' to you," our team member responded. "Well, thanks..." the man said, and began to talk about his problems and issues. As the student tried to encourage him, the man began to weep. "No, you don't understand," he said. "I'm a Christian... I'm a Seventh-day Adventist; I know all these things!"

Sometimes our witness is not to the unchurched or to atheists, but to the lost sheep of the "house of Israel." Our health food business in the city is actually a mission outreach facility where the business activity gives us opportunities to be Christ's ambassadors in the marketplace.

At the holiday season, one of our staff members mentioned that we had an opportunity to help in serving others at the Valley Rescue Mission. The idea was to present a vegetarian meal for those who needed a meal during the holidays. While that idea didn't work out, the arrangements provided an opportunity for an ongoing relationship with Valley Rescue, and their home for women, Damascus Way. We were able to provide health education and plant-based cooking schools for the women, and, over the months, have developed a real relationship with all the folks at Damascus Way. Our seminar on Simple Remedies and Preventive



Medicine (held every March and September) was presented this Spring without registration fees, and we invited Damascus Way to attend. About a dozen women came every day, and, while the thought is to teach natural remedies and a healthier lifestyle, our campus was enriched just as much with the presence of our guests. Some of the comments from our Damascus Way ladies were, "What a blessing this is to us and our ministry;" "Thank you for giving me a more clear understanding of Christ's love for me;" "I haven't smoked a cigarette in over a week, and plan on NEVER picking one up again..." The motto of Valley Rescue is "Sharing Christ in the Community," and that's what we want to do, as well, in "Sharing Christ in our Marketplace!"

Calvin Thrash is the development director at Uchee Pines Institute. He served as the president of Uchee Pines for 16 years, is the immediate past president of ASI Southern Union Chapter, and was a business owner for nearly 20 years. He has had experience in marketing,

radio broadcasting, information technology, and publication layout and design, and has diplomas in business and legal studies and digital marketing. Calvin has made special study in, and taught classes on business, church history, medical ministry, and Christian lifestyle, as well as serving as a health educator. His passion is to see people serve God with the whole heart, and be loving and lovable Christians. Calvin and his wife, Kelly, have two daughters, and live at Uchee Pines, in Seale, Alabama.





John 10:10 "..... I am come that they might have life...

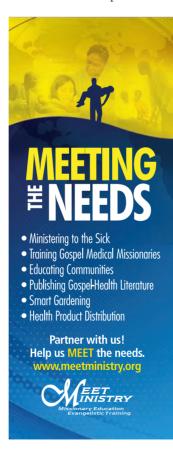
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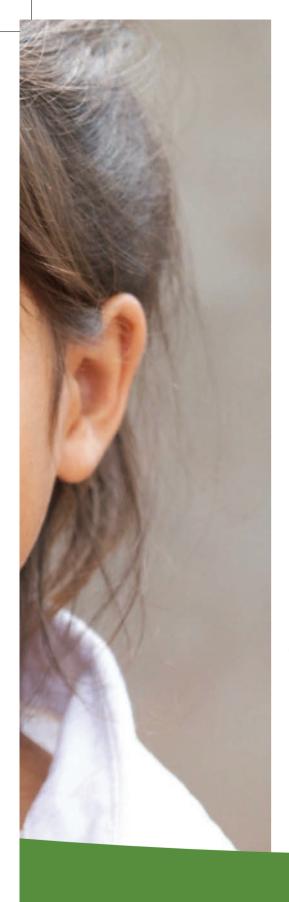








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**FEATURE** 

## DRAMATIC LIFE-SAVING CHANGES

BY WAYNE KABLANOW

ne evening, pointing to the local TV news announcement of a free medical service in town, Lori said, "Honey, I think we should go to this." Lee, who sat at the other side of the living room, looked at her and said, "We really need that!"

At the appointed day, Lee and Lori arrived at daybreak and walked into this auditorium packed with people and many health screening booths. They had no idea what they were walking into and how their lives would be drastically changed after this.

Lee and Lori were married in 2009 and became a blended family. Deeply in love with one another, they hoped for a "happily ever after." Unfortunately, life was packaged with problems.



At that time, Lee was overweight at 465 pounds. He was keenly aware for years that unless something changed, he was on the path of multiple health problems, such as diabetes and heart issues. His feet were having tingling sensations. He barely had any energy level. Walking was a hard thing to do. Then, sleep apnea accompanied him at night. In addition, depression shackled Lee to another level. Watching TV and sleeping a lot were his regular activities. Potato chips became his comfort food. Desperate for solutions, Lee had attempted many different promised remedies that were not necessarily good for any human being.

Lori was not much different. She was also overweight at 299 pounds. Her whole body was crippled with arthritic pain. Her blood pressure skyrocketed to 160/90 at times. Depression was also her lot, though it was mild.

Spiritually, they both were dry. Though professing to be Christian, they were longing for a better spiritual life and seeking for a church family.

They were desperate and knew it. For many years, they prayed for help. Little did they know, the help came in a form of a TV advertisement for a free medical service called "Your best Pathway to Health."

On a nice summer day in August 2015 in Spokane, Washington, Lee and Lori came to the event because they had medical needs that were not covered by their insurance. Lee had a dental exam on his tooth that had been broken for years. Lori had an eye exam. They came back the next day for more medical services and had no idea that they were in for more blessings.

Chris Miles, as a part of the hospitality team, saw Lee standing and waiting for Lori's dental appointment and started talking to him. Interestingly, they had similar backgrounds. They both had worked in the same missile field in the air force. They attended the same non-denominational mega church in the past. To make things even closer, they lived about 2 blocks away from each other! They connected instantly and became good friends. Chris started a Bible study with him and Lori once a week. He also invited them to come to church, and they felt at home at North View Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Over the next few months dramatic, positive changes took place in Lee's and Lori's lives. They attended the follow-up health lectures one after the other. They were learning a lot about the body, how food can affect the body, and how poor food choices can lead to many health problems, such as heart attack, high blood pressure, and diabetes—the exact problems Lee and Lori were facing. They were taken aback by what they learned. It was hard for them to believe that at their age, they had never been taught this life-saving information.

They knew they had to make changes!

They attended the cooking classes they offered. They learned not only how to cook fruits, vegetables, grains, nuts, and beans, but also how to make them taste good. They were very impressed.

As they were implementing these new changes, they met new friends who became a good support system that they had been looking for. A couple of them were their instructors—Fran and Arlan Fletcher. Lee and Lori received answers to the many questions they had.

One of their major needs was also met through a Depression Recovery Program that was held by one of the churches. The program taught them practical tools for relieving depression. After the program, even though it is an ongoing process today, their depression was improved tremendously.

In October 1, 2015, Lee and Lori decided to switch to a plant-based diet and no added oils. Within two weeks of eating like this, Lori did not need her blood pressure medication anymore and had lost 10 pounds. Lee also regained some of his energy back.

Lee and Lori attended "Dinner with a Doctor," a community outreach hosted by North View church. There they met another blessing-Mary Nash, who became their health coach. She was really helpful for them in setting goals and in keeping them on the right path on their health journey. She also suggested they check their vitamin D levels, which, they found out, were so low that they were life-threatening. They soon took actions to correct that.

The blessing did not stop there. Lee and Lori joined the

prophecy studies that Wayne Kablanow, pastor of the North View church, was conducting. They had never heard about prophecy before and became very interested. The group started small and dwindled down to just the two of them, which gave them an opportunity to have one-on-one interactions with the pastor. At the end of the studies, Lee and Lori decided to be baptized. By this time, they were already attending church every Sabbath and wanted to seal their commitment by joining the church.

Lee and Lori were baptized on April 2, 2016, and joined the North View church. As of today, Lee is at 375 pounds and has lost 90 pounds. Lori is at 255 and has lost 44 pounds.

They not only regained their health, but also a new, higher spiritual life. They are very thankful for this eightmonth journey and for the way God providentially put people in their path.



Wayne Kablanow is a pastor and church planter in the Northwest. He is presently planting the West Plains and North View churches in the Spokane, Washington, area, and he is also the church planting coordinator for the Upper Columbia Conference. His passion is to re-connect the Christ-like work for the body with the Christ-like work for the soul, because what the world needs today is a full revelation of the loving character of our God.



## ABOVE THE SHEIKH

"Will we go back home with nothing? Is this God's plan?"

After two months of job searching, Sylvia and I had only a few more days before my visa would run out. We'd agreed that if the Lord didn't open doors for me to find a job, we would return to our home country.

We had arrived in one of the Arab countries in high hopes. But now we were facing the facts: There was nothing I could do to make it all happen, no matter how qualified I was or how much I searched. Almost as if I was saying goodbye to all the possibilities, I told a friend of mine that we'd be on our way headed for home in a week.

"Oh, don't give up yet," my friend chided. "There's an opening as a secretary for a sheikh. You might as well do an interview. It could be a really good job."

An interview? Even with the hundreds of resumes I'd sent out, not one had even secured an interview. A secretary? In the region, that could mean anything. Menial labor, boredom. Or high-end events and intriguing circles. A sheikh? They were all wealthy, but they were not all of the same character or quality. But I had told God many times that I would do whatever He provided.

As a last hope, I did the interview. Then I was asked to meet the sheikh himself. He was a man of few words, but I could tell he was well-educated, well-traveled. He offered me the job. My mind whirled around from the discouragement of closed doors to the instant opportunity. I promised I would think about it overnight and give him an answer in the morning.

That evening, suddenly, there was

so much to talk about. So much to think through. Especially the big challenge. Every job seeker in the region knows the work schedule, the expectations, the untouchables. Saturday is a work day. No work, no job. What sheikh is going to let his personal secretary off on Saturday?

Sylvia was sure that if God wanted me to have the job, I could trust Him to provide Sabbaths off. I held back any excitement I was tempted to feel, knowing that sheikhs don't generally schedule their lives around others. I decided to trust the Lord.

"Sir, I would like to accept your offer, but Saturday is a holy day I observe and I cannot work." I wasn't nervous, only disappointed at the prospect that the opportunity was in reach but maybe impossible. I explained my faith and my church as simply as I knew how.

The sheikh, quiet as he was, did not even seem to be listening.

"And if I can't give you Saturdays off?"

> "I have to turn the job down." "And return to your home?" "Yes."

The silence was long.

"You can take Saturdays off."

It took me a moment to register his off-handed response. The job search was over. At home, Sylvia and I cried together. This really was where God wanted us! He had opened a door! What would God do through my presence here?

We didn't wait long to know. Within a couple of weeks the sheikh sent out an e-mail announcing that the entire staff would have Saturdays off.

The discussion drifted quickly through the offices. I became a curiosity.

"Who is this guy, anyway?" "Why did he get Saturdays off?" "What kind of influential person is behind him?"

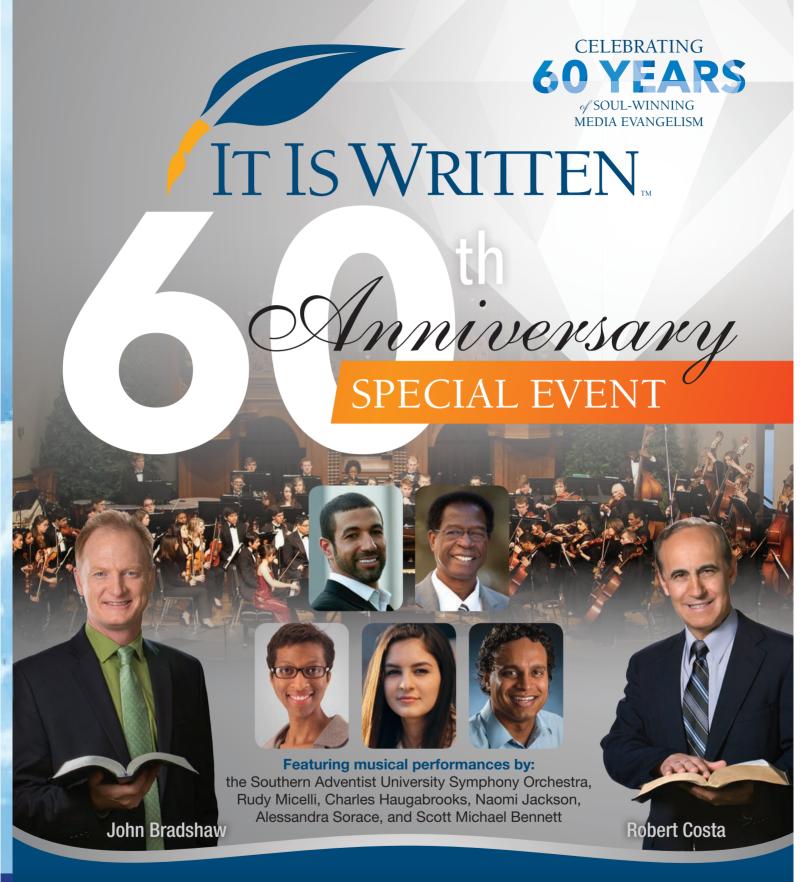
It was an opportunity only God could create. The questions came quickly—about my worship day and my faith. Who is behind me? I told my colleagues that God was over the sheikh!

The Sheikh never once asked me to work during Sabbath hours. In fact, he was the one who dismissed my colleagues' requests for my services on Sabbath and who defended my convictions all the time. I often wondered why he did that for me, although we talked so little. One thing I noticed was that the well-read Sheikh understood and honored my faith.

I quickly realized my conversations, my attitudes, and even my decisions were watched carefully, though. My personal lifestyle and charactereverything I stood for-was under inspection. And the questions came! So did the quiet requests for Bibles.

As I look back, the whole experience clarified what God wanted for the rest of my life. Occasionally I wonder what my experience would've been if I'd never asked for the Sabbath off and if I'd never come to work in this place. I'm looking forward to eternity where I will see more clearly what impact God was able to have on the Sheikh and his spiritual journey because of my decision. Certainly I know the impact God has had on me through it all, and I am ready to serve Him with everything I have, wherever He leads. Even when I have to plead my case to the One "above the sheikh."

Editor's note: MENA Total Employment is a Tentmaking initiative. A Tentmaker is a born-again disciple of Christ who is supported by their



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## ARCHAEOLOGY TRIPS YIELD

## SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

ome experts say American interest in biblical archaeology climaxed between 1950 and 1970. But a local university with a commitment to the science remains at the front of the pack in the modern exploration of an ancient heritage.

In its latest archaeological forays, Southern Adventist University sponsored a pair of Israeli excavation sites that yielded two of *Christianity Today*'s Top 10 biblical archaeology discoveries of 2015.

Crews at the sites found a ceramic piece with writing on it dating to 1130 B.C. and a jar inscribed with a name from the era of King Saul. Both indicate writers were skilled enough to have penned scriptural texts at an earlier time than previously believed.

"A lot of people will say the Bible was written later," said Chris Rollston, an archaeological expert and associate professor of ancient history at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. "What [the two discoveries] show, and this is what is crucial, it shows that 3,000 years ago people were writing in Hebrew and writing in a sophisticated way."

The discoveries are also a reminder of Southern Adventist University's archaeological commitment that makes the 3,200-student university one of the nation's leaders in a narrow field that continues to dig up valuable insights from the past. There are just a handful of American universities still engaged in Middle Eastern archaeological research, Southern's Institute of Archaeology director Michael Hasel said. It's good company to be in, too: Harvard, UCLA and other schools with bigger brands and budgets than Southern.

Adventists have a strong record of archaeological

exploration led by Siegfried Horn, a famous Adventist archaeologist and professor who died in 1993.

Southern is continuing that legacy by offering an archaeology major—10 students are now enrolled—and sponsoring digs in the Middle East, like the projects that yielded the discoveries cited by *Christianity Today*.

"We have been really intentional about that," Hasel said. "It's been a really amazing thing to be a part of."

The school's Institute of Archaeology also maintains a museum on campus where locals can glimpse into the past.

"I think it's impressive," Rollston said of Southern's commitment to archaeology. "It's most impressive that these Adventist universities are continuing to work in this tradition. It's widely known in our field that Adventist excavations are famous for being of the highest caliber."

Hasel said it's uncertain whether either of the artifacts mentioned in the *Christianity Today* article will ever make it to the Southern museum. But the museum includes other relics, including an ancient Babylonian brick stamped with Nebuchadnezzar's name, a rare Syrian clay model of a chariot, and other artifacts with biblical significance.

And work continues. With the help of modern technology, Rollston said he believes the most significant biblical archaeology discoveries will come in the future.

"I think the heyday of biblical archaeology is yet to come," he said. "There are great days in the past. But there are great days ahead."

When Hasel goes to dig sites in the Middle East with SAU staff and students during the summer, the teams use cyberarchaeology techniques, including drones to reconstruct things in 3-D form and using geographic information systems to gain insight.





"It's a field where you have to employ many experts from many different areas," Hasel said.

Students have come from all over the country—and even the world—to study archaeology at Southern since it became a major in 2000, Hasel said. They go on to a range of professions or graduate programs in archaeology.

Southern's work at the Khirbet Qeiyafa site where the jar was discovered has concluded. But they are continuing to sponsor work at Lachish, where the ceramic piece was found, and where they believe more meaningful discoveries may await.

"As an archaeologist, it's humbling," Hasel said. "You can never predict what you're going to find. You can predict that what you're doing may have some results, but you can't predict the significance of what it may be. But it's rewarding when you invest the energy, finances, and work on a broad-level project like this."

This article was written by and originally published in the *Chattanooga Times Free* Press (February 3, 2016). Author: David Cobb.



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Danielle Harrison











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## GYC AMBASSADOR FROM EVENT TO Lifestyle

BY ERIC LOUW

ourteen years ago, a group of young college students came together and began praying for God's guidance as they planned the first GYC conference. Today it has become one of the largest youth movements in Adventism, and has inspired thousands to reclaim their Adventist identity and become involved in ministry and mission around the world.

For the current GYC executive committee, the questions that weigh heavily on us are: How can we share our burning passion to see the gospel encircle the globe? How do we connect the annual conference experience with everyday living? How do we empower young people to work with and become active in their local churches, schools, and mission fields? We don't have all the answers, but we want to give it our best effort!

One such effort is a new pilot program we announced this year called GYC Ambassador. Through partnerships with other mission-minded organizations, including *It Is Written, Amazing Facts, GLOW, Disciples, ASI*, and others, we are able to provide resources that offer information and tools to enable them to become successful in reaching others for Christ. Seventy-five GYC Ambassadors, who now serve in nine different countries, signed up at GYC



Louisville to commit to doing ministry in their local area this year. Through monthly training webinars, mentoring calls, and peer-based support, we are already seeing God work in powerful ways!

Kamali, who is participating from Georgia, shares her experience:

I became an Ambassador with the intention of sharing the wonderful experience I had and the wisdom I gained from GYC, with the youth of my church. Before beginning my mission as an Ambassador, there were a few things I was apprehensive about. I wondered how I would be able to start a successful Bible study small group. Would anyone even be interested in attending? How would I be able to keep the momentum of the group going?

The first step I took was prayer, as I knew God had led me to take this opportunity to further His work and win souls for Him. I didn't feel experienced or "good enough" to take on such a feat, but I have allowed God to show His strength through my weaknesses and lack of experience. For the first week of hosting my small group, I didn't expect more than one or two people to come, if any, but seven people showed up! I even heard later that they really enjoyed it! When the second week of the small group came, I had allowed some fear to creep back in again and didn't expect anyone to return. I thought they probably had better things to do. However, the same seven people showed up again and they brought four more friends! Some of their friends were not even affiliated with a Christian church!

It's been nearly three months since the first meeting and there is a consistent group of 7-12 who look forward to participating in Bible studies each week. Each week, the attendance, participation, enjoyment, and satisfaction of the group surpass my expectations. Outside observers, along with the pastors, elders, parents, and members of my church, have taken notice of how the group is growing and how the youth of the church are consistently going out of their way to participate. We will even need to move to a bigger room soon! Many people want to give me credit for what I am doing with the youth of my church, but I give all

the praise to my Lord who has equipped me and granted me favor to do His good work. Praise God!

Rianna and Auner are participating in the Philippines. Rianna recently shared how God is already working:

*In* 2015, we felt God was calling us to serve His people in the Philippines. When we reached my homeland, the life of ministry I envisioned didn't really turn out to be the way I expected it would be. The first few months were rough. Doubts started creeping in. We wondered if God had really called us. But we decided to live by faith and not by sight. Just as He paved the way through the Jordan River after a step of faith, I was certain He would do the same as we took a step of faith on this island.

It has now been six months since we took that step. In this time, God has opened doors for us to do Vacation Bible School programs in three different areas, youth development sessions in two locations, soccer clinics, feeding programs in an orphanage and an elderly home, AFCOE evangelism training workshops in local churches, and an evangelistic meeting. For the months of April and May, the Lord led us to run three more VBS programs and another evangelistic meeting. Oh, what a joy it is to serve the Lord!

The GYC Ambassador program has been God's instrument in guiding our ministry. God calls all of us to finish the work with Him. We don't need to be worried of the uncertainties because He leads those whom He calls. He has also given us the faith of Jesus to take that big step. We just need to hear the call, follow His leading, and serve wholeheartedly.

Please pray for this year's GYC Ambassadors as they seek to reach their communities for Christ through prayer, small groups, various outreach efforts, and Bible study. Please also pray for wisdom and vision as we seek to refine this pilot program into something that can make the greatest impact possible to enable young people to get involved in year-round ministry.

**Eric Louw** volunteers as the vice president of communications for GYC. A graduate of theology from Southern Adventist University. He serves as associate pastor at the Richardson SDA church near Dallas. Texas. He has a love for seeing voung people passionately mobilized for service and mission to reach the world for Christ in this generation. He also enjoys nature and the outdoors, as well as reading, technology, and graphic design.





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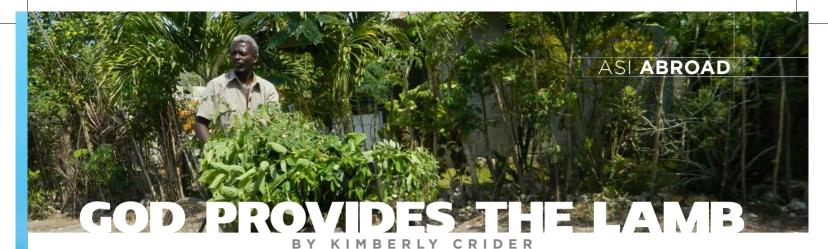
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t was the last day of our three-day visit to the Dominican Republic finalizing details for an upcoming Maranatha trip, and specifically the Vacation Bible School (VBS) program. My sister and I had been praying that God would provide two miraculous signs to confirm His will for us. You see, God had laid on our hearts the need to develop a VBStype program to introduce children to the sanctuary message and the plan of salvation. The first sign we prayed for was locating a building large enough to hold the number of VBS children we prayed that the Lord would send. The second sign was for us to find a real, live lamb to use during VBS.

Two days passed and we had no VBS site and no lamb. Finally, on the third day, a few hours before we were to leave, we received a call from church members to come back to the church-building site. There we were introduced to leaders from a local Pentecostal<sup>1</sup> church, who said that they would lend us their entire facility to hold our VBS program and to teach the children about the sanctuary. We were ecstatic and rejoiced in God's provision. One prayer had been answered.

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As I stepped outside the church building and began taking pictures, a gentleman—a complete stranger—approached me and asked what we were doing. I shared with him our Maranatha mission and plans for VBS. As we were speaking I noticed that the man had a bike with a huge cart attached to the front—a cart piled high with leaves and foliage. For some strange reason I took the liberty of asking him what the leaves were for. He responded that they were

for his sheep. I could not believe what I was hearing. God had answered our second prayer and had sent us sheep in the exact neighborhood where we needed them! As we walked to the sheep, this gentleman, Winston, began telling us that he never comes that route, and that it was the exact opposite of where he needed to go. He also told us that he was a former Seventh-day Adventist, who had become discouraged and had left the church. We encouraged him on the way, reassuring him that our Heavenly Father had directed his path that day.

As we finally boarded the plane to come back home, I was thinking about all the things awaiting me there: unpaid bills, unfinished projects, and now plans that I didn't quite know how to carry out. How would we go about developing this sanctuary program? I prayed silently to God and asked Him how He planned for us to accomplish all of this. His Holy Spirit answered and His response put all my worries to rest. He said to me, "Fret not, my child. I've already provided the lamb."

Yes, God has and continues to provide the lamb. No matter what you may be experiencing in your workplace, ministry, or home, fret not, because God has already provided the Lamb to help you.

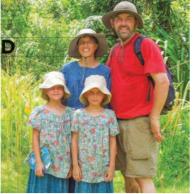
God's confirmation that day in the Dominican Republic led us to work with a team of talented Seventh-day Adventists to design, develop, and publish a five-day program kit that introduces children, ages 4 – 12, to the sanctuary message. It is entitled: "Radical Rescue: The Sanctuary & God's Awesome Plan to Save Us from Sin" and it can be used in VBS, Week of Prayer, Sabbath School, evangelistic campaigns, homeschool, etc. More information is available at radicalrescue.us.

Kimberly Crider grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. She has both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Social Work from Andrews University and specializes in non-profit administration and program development. She is fluent in Spanish, having spent several years living in Spain and Costa Rica. Kimberly is amazed at the tremendous opportunities God has provided her family to spread the gospel to children and adults in Central and South America and beyond. She and her family reside in rural eastern Tennessee



'At the conclusion of the VBS program in the Dominican Republic, the Pentecostal church leaders asked us to leave the sanctuary materials with them, saying that they had never heard about the sanctuary and wanted to keep teaching children at their church about it.









☑ John Lello canoeing

□ Lello's arrival in Ama

☑ The Lello family with group from local village

## HE IS Faithful

PAM LELLO, DAVID HICKS, AND JOHN BAXTER

heavy rain had begun to fall, yet over the pounding of the drops Pam could hear faint sounds of wailing far down the river. Although not unusual, the mournful dirge seemed different that night. As she tucked the children into bed, someone banged loudly on the door, Recognizing the distressed voice of their friend from church, Pam opened the door and peered into the darkness.

"John is dead!" Colin moaned.

"No!" Pam uttered in disbelief. "No. No... John is not dead!"

"Yes," repeated Colin, "Your John is dead."

John and Pam Lello and their two daughters, Abigail and Alyssa, had been serving with Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM) in the jungles of Papua New Guinea (PNG). They were about 270 river miles from the nearest "city." The Ama people had been waiting and praying for many years for a missionary to come and teach them of Jesus, and they were thrilled when the warm-hearted Lello family arrived.

John had gone several days back into the jungle with friends to fell trees to build a home for his family. Tragically, on November 26, 2012, a large branch intertwined high in the boughs above the tree they were cutting down snapped, came crashing down, and struck John in the head. He was killed instantly.

It made no sense. The Lello family had entered the field not quite a year earlier. They were making an impact in the entire May River area through plans they developed to build schools, operate clinics, and plant churches. Now John was dead. Pam and the girls returned to the U.S. to start life anew-without their beloved husband and fatheryet still carrying a burden for the Ama people.

David and Edie Hicks read the article Pam wrote in

AFM's Frontiers magazine announcing John's death, and her passionate plea for someone to go and carry the work forward among the Ama. David had served as a student missionary in PNG while in college, and had always wanted to return, but life had trolled on without a plan for renewed mission service. Now the Spirit of God called him and his wife to again take up his cross and follow Iesus back into the jungles.

AFM accepted David and Edie as frontier missionaries and the couple began the faith experience of building a support team, coordinating logistics, training for church planting, and working through customs and immigration. Through it all, God proved Himself faithful.

However, the greatest evidence of the faithfulness of God was what He was doing - unbeknownst to anyone in the U.S.-among the Ama and other peoples along the May River in Papua New Guinea.

In response to the death of John Lello, a pastor from PNG, Pastor Gerry, also heard the call of God. He resigned his pastorate and came to May River as an unpaid volunteer. When he began his work, only two churches in the May River area survived and no church buildings were standing.

Pastor Gerry started visiting the villages on the May River and holding evangelistic meetings. He reinstituted a training course which AFM had pioneered, training a dozen men to be lay evangelists. As a result, May River experienced baptisms of 116 souls in 2014, and the local camp meeting had a daily attendance of about 900. In a matter of months this group established five churches in places where AFM student missionaries had served in the 1990s, including the two villages where David Hicks labored as a student missionary.







 □ David and Maika. John Lello's boat driver. visited the site where John had passed away



☑ David talking with a brother from church



The following year AFM career missionaries David and Edie Hicks arrived to help advance the work up and down the May River, traveling back into some of the numerous remote villages, including those of the Ama people. Today 23 trained national volunteer lay missionaries work alongside Pastor Gerry and the Hicks family, and together they have raised up 12 churches among the villages.

Sabbath morning, August 1, 2015 dawns with black clouds and heavy rain. Because there are still no church buildings at May River, the church holds camp meeting on a grassy hilltop. As the rain finally subsides, someone joyfully rings the bell for church, and the people unite together. Hundreds of people stream in to join the 308 baptismal candidates crowding near the grandstand.

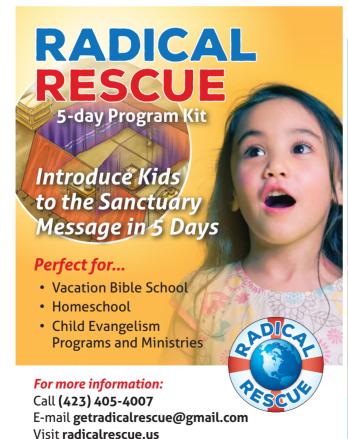
On a rainy night almost three years earlier, the sound of wailing and mourning could be heard piercing the darkness. Now, on the day of this camp meeting, the rain has cleared, the darkness has lifted, and sounds of joy echo across the May River.

Once again, through the tragedy of the death of one of His beloved sons, God has proven that He is faithful.

Pam Lello and her daughters, Abigail and Alyssa, returned from Papua New Guinea in 2012 after John Lello's death in a tree-felling accident.

**David and Edie Hicks** now serve the May River area, taking up the banner of AFM's church-planting work among the Ama people in PNG.

**John Baxter** is the recruiting director for Adventist Frontier Missions.







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What NETS has done for me, I haven't seen in my 50 years as a Seventh-day Adventist. Adriano

I LOVED NETS. It was practical, informative, purposeful, prayerful, familial, and Christ centered. This is the place for anyone you who is interested in fortifying their faith and sharing that faith with others. I am proud to call it my Alma

Mater. Raisa

















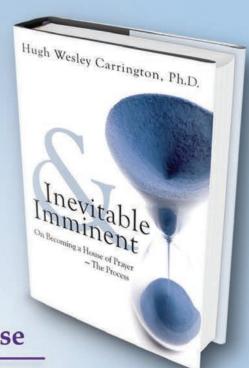








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