

InsideASI

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Rekindling your flame

*"For it is the God who
commanded light to shine
out of darkness, who has
shone in our hearts to give
the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God in the
face of Jesus Christ."*

— 2 Cor. 4:6






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Inside ASI

Editor's Note:

There are moments in our lives when the fervor we once had to share Christ has waned. Perhaps we attend the ASI Convention and hear of all kinds of ways to share Christ in the marketplace and we are motivated to incorporate those methods in our business or ministry. But sometimes under the pressures and stresses of life our flame of passion for sharing Christ and developing meaningful relationships needs to be rekindled.

It is my prayer that in this issue of *Inside ASI* you will find articles that will help rekindle your flame. My desire is that you will find the fervor you once had for sharing Christ. I want to thank each person who has contributed in a variety of ways to this issue. May God bless you as you read, and may He rekindle your flame.



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FOR WE **CANNOT BUT S P E A K ...**

BY ANDI HUNSAKER

After Peter and John's arrest for preaching about Jesus and the resurrection from the dead, they boldly declared, "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20, KJV). What is it that caused this holy boldness, this unquenchable need to share Jesus Christ? They had an upper room experience with Jesus and "were all with one accord in one place" (Acts 2:1). "Truths that had passed from their memory were again brought to their minds...like a procession, scene after scene of Christ's wonderful life passed before them. As they meditated upon His pure, holy life, they felt that no toil would be too hard, no sacrifice too great, if only they could bear witness to the loveliness of His character" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, 36).

They were released but not before being severely threatened that they must not speak to anyone in the name of Jesus! But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:19,20). What a testimony to the grace of God in their lives. Ellen White writes, "One interest prevailed; one subject of emulation swallowed up all others. The ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ's character and to labor for the enlargement of His kingdom" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, 48).

Do we grasp the meaning of the cross personally? If so, we, like Peter and John, would declare, "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." As I think of rekindling the flame and sharing Christ, Proverbs 27:11 comes to mind. It is an urgent plea from the Lord Himself. He says to us, "My Son,

be wise and make my heart glad, that I may answer Him who reproaches me." We have a part to play in the great controversy. Our Father has asked us for help, to make His heart glad by being witnesses to His goodness and faithful loving-kindness. Grasping this, Paul proclaimed that God had made them a "spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men."

The apostle Paul gives us insight into sharing Christ. He demonstrated a spirit of humility and appreciation, saying in 1 Corinthians 15:9 that he was the least of the apostles. "But," he says in verse 10, "by the grace of God, I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain." On his way to Jerusalem and certain death, the faithful apostle exclaimed with a heart full of gratitude to God, rejecting all pleas to attend to his safety: "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

I pray that as we approach sharing Christ in our spheres of influence, our motivation will not be that we have to share but rather will be the result of having hearts full of gratitude for the lengths to which Christ went for us; that we will have a burning desire to make His heart glad; that we "cannot but speak" and be able to say with Paul, "and His grace toward me was not in vain."



Andi Hunsaker, MD and her husband, Bob, are both physicians and graduates of Loma Linda University School of Medicine. They make their home in Sudbury, Massachusetts. Andi practices medicine full-time at a major teaching hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. She is a regular Sabbath school teacher in her home church in Stoneham, Massachusetts, and has a passion for the Word of God. She is currently general vice president of ASI.

A FINE LINE

INTEGRATING FAITH IN BUSINESS WITHOUT BEING SUED¹

BY ALAN J. REINACH

The good news: I don't know of any ASI members who incorporate their faith in their businesses who have been sued for religious discrimination or harassment. The bad news: Nearly any amount of religious speech or activity in the workplace can expose a business owner or professional to such claims, whether or not they are valid. Defending against unfounded claims can be quite expensive. While eliminating the risks of being sued is impossible, one can integrate faith and business without inordinate risk. Here's what you need to know:²

Hiring: Employment discrimination is governed by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, broadly prohibiting discrimination—hiring, promotion, termination, etcetera. A business cannot refuse to hire someone on account of their faith. Only religious non-profits are entitled to consider an applicant's religious affiliation in employment decisions. It is unlawful even to inquire as to an applicant's faith.

On the job: Can you invite employees to gather for prayer at the start of the day? Yes. But if you do, you must make it clear that it is purely voluntary. If someone is made uncomfortable by the practice, you may wish to discontinue it. You need to also make sure the non-participant has no cause to complain about their treatment.

Can you share your faith in the workplace? Yes, but as an employer there is an inherent imbalance of power. Employees may not feel they can tell you if they don't want to hear it. So they may feel harassed, even if they don't signal their discomfort. Best practice: Don't talk about your faith unless you are asked. It is always permissible to answer questions.

Can you conduct a lunch-time Bible study? Yes. But you should have written policies making it clear that attendance is purely voluntary. A better practice is

to conduct Bible studies outside of the workday, after everyone has left.

What is the best witness in the workplace? It is not faith talk, but modeling the spirit of Christ in the way you relate to others. Provide pay and benefits as generous as business conditions will permit, and treat employees as valued members of the business. Conduct periodic performance evaluations. Written discipline policies are best and should be applied consistently. If you need to terminate someone's employment, be sure that person knows there is a good reason. Conduct an exit interview with a trusted third person present, and solicit the employee's perspective. Do not give negative employment references, but simply give a "neutral reference," i.e., dates of employment, job title, and rate of pay.

In twenty years of ministry, very few business owners have ever contacted the Church State Council for assistance with these issues. Reported decisions of religious harassment are very few. Go forward in faith, walk in the Spirit, and fulfill your mission to live the life of Christ in your business.

*Go forward
in faith, walk
in the Spirit,
and fulfill your
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live the life of
Christ in your
business.*



and editor of *Politics and Prophecy: The Battle for Religious Liberty and the Authentic Gospel*, and a frequent contributor to *Liberty* magazine.

Alan J. Reinach, Esq., is executive director for the Church State Council, the religious liberty educational and advocacy arm of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Reinach is also a Seventh-day Adventist minister who speaks regularly on religious freedom topics, and is the host of a nationally syndicated weekly radio broadcast, "Freedom's Ring." He is the principal author

¹ This article does not constitute legal advice. If you have specific legal questions, you should consult a competent employment attorney.

² This article will focus on federal law. State laws differ and may be more protective of employee rights.



ARE YOU A GRAZER?

BY DR. FRANK & ROSALIE HURD

A patient (we'll call her Mary) who suffered from headaches, acid reflux, and weakness came into our office looking for help—a quick fix. She was familiar with several over-the-counter remedies offered at the local pharmacy, which in the past had given her some relief. Now, however, the pills no longer helped.

She explained her desire to seek relief without the use of prescription drugs and was willing to discuss her problem to find a solution. After reviewing her lab results and lifestyle habits, we suggested she keep a journal of her food intake for one week, recording what she ate at every meal.

“Oh no,” she replied. “I can’t do that. I don’t eat regular meals. I’m a grazer! I nibble on food all day long!”

“That’s very interesting,” I replied. “All the grazers I know have four feet, but you have only two.”

She started laughing and said, “That’s funny! You’re so right, and that is so very true!”

During her visit we talked about lifestyle habits and the benefits of caring for our “body temple.”

“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” (1 Cor. 6:19); and “Ye are the temple of the living God” (2 Cor. 6:16). A sim-

ple dietary plan, a copy of the *Ten Talents* cookbook, and two herbal formulas were sent home with her.

Two weeks later at her next appointment, she remarked that she was feeling *so much better*.

“I’ve had a few frustrating moments when conscience would prick me every time I wanted to eat something between the meals,” she said. “Then I would remember the ‘four feet’ and drink a glass of water instead. Now I’m eating with my family at mealtime. I’m not a *grazer* anymore!”

How is it with you? Can you relate to Mary? Can you say, “My frustration has turned to joy, and defeat into victory, for now I know I’m not a grazer; I’m a child of God, made in His image, with two feet”?

When we realize we are sons and daughters of God, made in His image, we can safely put our trust in Him, first and foremost, to accomplish the impossible, for we read, “I can do *all* things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phil. 4:13).

As time marches on, we are constantly reminded of the statement in *Testimonies*, volume 5, page 443: “There are many ways of practicing the healing art, but there is only one way that heaven approves.” What is that one way? God’s true remedies are the simple agencies of nature that will not tax or debilitate the

system. His remedies—pure air, sunlight, temperance, rest, exercise, proper diet, use of water, trust in divine power—are basically free gifts for us that contain tremendous blessings, if we will only put them into practice. But of ourselves it is impossible.

Jesus said, “For without me...ye can do nothing” (John 15:5). Nothing means *nothing!*

“With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible” (Mark 10:27).

It is interesting to note that the vision given to Ellen White in 1863 concerning our health message included six of the natural remedies. However, trust in God as a divine remedy for healing was of necessity given 22 years later in 1885. Apparently, without trust in divine power, the people were not doing very well at following the natural remedies by themselves.

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases” (Psalm 103:2,3).

The lessons of our divine teacher are always appropriate. He called the attention of the people by using

parables and object lessons in nature—the birds, the flowers, the animals, and their dependence upon God, the Creator of all things. This would bring the people into harmony with nature and nature’s God, revealing his character and love for humankind and pointing them heavenward.

The work of the physician does not end with healing a patient’s maladies of the body; his efforts should extend to healing the diseases of the mind and the saving of souls.

“The religion of the Bible is not detrimental to the health of the body or of the mind. The influence of the Spirit of God is the very best medicine that can be received by a sick man or woman” (*Medical Ministry*, 12).

Often when praying with our patients, we observe them develop hope, trust, and confidence, and we can point them to the true Physician and real Healer of their disease.

“Prayer will give the sick an abiding confidence, and many times if their cases are borne to the Great Physician in humble trust, prayer will do more for them than all the drugs that can be administered” (*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 443).

As medical missionaries, we are called today to follow Jesus’ example and to do the work that He did while on this earth. Throughout 50 years of practice, we have seen the wisdom and benefit of following the counsel given in *The Ministry of Healing*, page 143: “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them ‘Follow Me.’”

The influence of the Spirit of God is the very best medicine that can be received by a sick man or woman.

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Frank Hurd, D.C., M.D., has spent more than 50 years in the study and practice of alternative health and wellness. He has earned degrees in chiropractic, naturopathy, and medicine, and still prefers preventive methods and natural remedies for promoting health. He is currently engaged in active practice. He and his wife, Rosalie Hurd, B.S. (author of the *Ten Talents* cookbook) have been married for 58 years. Together they are dedicated to sharing the benefits of a vegetarian lifestyle and God’s wonderful

“Eden diet” that has brought renewed strength and health to so many people around the globe.

WITNESSING: SCARY, BUT **WORTH THE RISK**

BY JENNIFER SCHWIRZER

My friend Sally rang the doorbell while trembling. Door-to-door witnessing completely psyched her out, and she felt it in the depths of her pumping adrenal glands. Waiting pensively, she heard a stirring inside that propelled her into prayer mode. “Dear heavenly Father,” she pleaded. Just then, the door swung open to reveal the man of the house. Sally said the first thing that popped into her head:

“Dear heavenly Father . . .”

We’ve all had awkward witnessing moments. Many of them result from the fact that in witnessing we break accepted privacy boundaries. The phenomenon of ignoring people in a public setting has been labeled “civil inattention” and constitutes an important part of our social code. You ignore me; I ignore you—that way we can carry on the business of life without distracting one another. Social researcher Joanne Finkelstein says that social inattention is “a means of making privacy possible within a crowd through culturally accepted forms of self-distancing.”¹

When we witness, we close that distance. Sometimes people don’t like it. And we don’t like how they don’t like it. And this makes witnessing scary.

A little fear can actually improve performance, but too much can send us over the edge into realms of panic that make swimming with crocodiles look safe by comparison. Fortunately, a few simple adjustments in our thinking can alleviate most of the fear, leaving us with just enough adrenaline to sharpen our delivery. These adjustments involve routing out some common myths.

MYTH #1 - I HAVE TO BE THE SMARTEST GUY IN THE ROOM.

Not true. Mary Magdalene’s theology was all confused when she anointed Jesus after hearing He’d be crowned king. God used her anyway, as He used the



Little Flock in 1844 who had the sanctuary doctrine all wrong. There is no shame in simply saying, “I don’t know the answer to that, but I’ll be glad to research it and get back to you.”

MYTH #2 - NOBODY WANTS WHAT I HAVE.

Wrong again! “All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, 109).

MYTH #3 - I HAVE TO BE PUSHY AND I DON’T LIKE BEING PUSHY.

No, no, no! Having something to share doesn’t automatically turn people into blustering blowhards. “Satan is constantly seeking to produce effects by rude and violent thrusts; but Jesus found access to minds by the pathway of their most familiar associations. He disturbed their accustomed train of thought as little as possible by abrupt actions or prescribed rules. He honored man with His confidence and thus placed him on his honor” (*Evangelism*, 140).

MYTH #4 - EVERYONE WILL HATE ME.

Nope. Some people will truly appreciate you. “Civil inattention” can lead to feelings of loneliness and invisibility. A moment of friendly, meaningful talk can set the initiator apart as a beacon of warmth and light in an otherwise cold, dark world. “Let him that hears say, ‘Come,’ and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17). Never forget that, in witnessing, you’re offering thirsty people a drink.

MYTH #5 - I HAVE TO BE MARK FINLEY.

Not so! While eloquence and carefully crafted arguments have their place, nothing beats a simple testimony of what Jesus has done for you personally. And no one can argue with a testimony! The man born blind certainly couldn’t argue religion well when he said of his Healer, Jesus, “Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know.” But he followed with his personal story: “One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see” (John 9:25). Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

The first people to tell me about Jesus did so at a wild party involving all kinds of hedonistic madness. They’d come to visit old friends bearing the news of their newly-found Savior and Friend. Fastened to their shirts were pins proudly displaying such expressions as “Jesus Saves” and “Praise the Lord.” They seemed to repel the revelling crowd with a kind of spiritual force field, finally finding themselves sitting alone. No one wanted to fraternize with “Jesus freaks.” But then a lone soul sauntered up to speak to them, and for the first time heard of a loving, forgiving, saving Jesus. That soul was me. I’m so glad they realized that witnessing was worth the risk.



Jennifer Schwirzer is a long-time ASI member. In 1999, she graduated *summa cum laude* from Atlantic Union College. She is the manager of Expressly Vegetarian Cafe in Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, and is the founder of Michael Ministries, a music/speaking/writing ministry. She has produced six CDs of her own music and has given concerts in the United States, Canada, Africa, South America, and Europe. She has authored a number of books including *13 Weeks to Peace*, *Testimony of a Seeker*, *A Most Precious Message*, and *I Want It All*. Jennifer and her husband, Michael, have been married for more than 20 years and have two children, Alison and Kimberly.


¹ Joanne Finkelstein, *The Art of Self-Invention* (2007) p. 109

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THE WATER OF LIFE

TO THE UNREACHED SAMBURU AND TURKANA TRIBES

BY JASMINE JACOB

*"I was
thirsty, and
you gave
me drink."*

*—Matthew
25:35*

The Samburu, a pastoral tribe living in the Northern Territories' semi-arid deserts of Kenya, had no access to clean water. Until three years ago, they also had no knowledge of Jesus Christ. The local Isiolo Seventh-

day Adventist Church encouraged and aided Justus, a former REACH worker, to take the gospel to the Samburu tribe. Justus lived among them to learn their language and customs and to win their trust. As an outsider, however, it was almost impossible. While trying to learn the language, he met a 70-year-old man who spoke Swahili, the national language of Kenya. Justus became friends with him and studied the Bible with him. The old man accepted the gospel and was baptized. The local people began to think, *If such an elder man trusts this stranger, then we can too.* This friendship allowed Justus to gain their trust.

Justus started giving free language classes for the adults under the shade of an acacia tree. He taught them to read and write in Swahili, using the Bible as their textbook. In the beginning, a few older men and women came to his classes. He told them they could learn to write their names instead of using thumb prints, as well as to read words and headlines on buses and in newspapers. The classes started to fill up as word got around about the students' increasing ability to read and write. As the people also gained interest in Bible stories, Justus started a branch Sabbath school with each group. The local church that was supporting Justus in his outreach efforts also provided a midday meal of corn and beans on Sabbath. This made a big difference in motivating attendance. Food and water are the people's biggest needs, so they flocked to the Bible classes and to church.

As the adults grew more interested in learning,



they also wanted their children to go to school. REACH built two primary schools with three classrooms each. The schools were constructed out of cement blocks and covered with metal roofs. Forty children enrolled in the first school. The classrooms were also used for adult education classes, as well as for church on Sabbath.

REACH leaders soon realized that the students were mostly boys with a few very small girls. Most of the girls had to go for water and did not have time to attend school. In the dry season, they walked up to 10 kilometers to bring back a little muddy water for their families. If the girls were to be educated, the ministry needed to get them water.

In May 2014, the ministry took a group of three doctors and a pharmacist to hold three clinics in three of the villages. Many of the people's ailments were due to lack of clean water, and many people had high blood pressure from drinking salty water. In the dry season, the people even drink cow's urine and cow's blood and eat the gum from acacia trees. REACH was desperate to find a way to get them clean water. Ministry sponsors donated enough money to drill one well. Another well was promised by "A Better World," a Canadian NGO. One of the wells has already been drilled; thank God the water is not salty. REACH is waiting for the second well to be drilled and is praying that it, too, will have sweet water.

To have clean water would make a world of difference for the schools and for the more than forty families that live near each school. Because of the wells and the schools, many more families will move to the area. What an opportunity to share the water of life with them!



Jasmine E. Jacob is founder and president of REACH International Inc., a children's charity in operation since 1973, with projects in 27 developing countries of the world.

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NATURALLY GOURMET COOKING CLASSES: PLANTING SEEDS

BY KAREN HOUGHTON



Karen's six-year-old granddaughter, Callie, assists in cooking class.

Plans had long been made for a Naturally Gourmet cooking class at the Franktown Seventh-day Adventist Church in Franktown, Colorado. The pastor of the church just happens to be my son, Jamey Houghton. I was delighted to be a part of the church's outreach ministry. All preparations were complete, and the pre-registrations promised a good crowd.

I make it a point to visit with people during and after my classes and to get acquainted with them. I especially noticed two ladies who sat on the front row. They seemed so interested that I decided to spend extra time with them.

The second of two classes was on Tuesday night. Afterwards, I again visited with the two ladies and discovered that they were mother and daughter. The daughter was asking lots of questions. Finally she said, "What do Seventh Day Adventists believe?" Right there on the spot I gave them a brief Bible study. They were very intrigued. Then I asked them about their religious background, and they shared it with me. They told me they were new in the community and had not yet found a church family. I invited them to church on Sabbath, and they said they would like to come.

I flew home the next day and prayed for them. I continued praying every day, and then on Sabbath afternoon I sent a text message to my son, Jamey, asking, "Did they come?"

"Yes," was his reply. I was thrilled! I continue to pray for them.

It is my responsibility to plant seeds and to allow the Holy Spirit to bring them to fruition in His time. I am reminded of my new friend, Ann, who lives near us in Southern California. She attended a cooking class at a Seventh-day Adventist church in Green Bay, Wisconsin, 20 years ago. After moving to California, she saw an ad in the paper for "End-time Mondays," an

evangelistic outreach at our home church in Fallbrook, California. When Ann saw the ad, she remembered the very positive impression she had of the cooking class in Green Bay. She and her husband, Don, came to our meetings. We had the privilege of studying the Bible together and becoming good friends. We rejoiced with them at their recent baptism.

"Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings, how to conduct and teach Sabbath school classes, how best to help the poor and to care for the sick, how to work for the unconverted. There should be schools of health, cooking schools, and classes in various lines of Christian help work" (*The Ministry of Healing*, 149).

"God's blessing will rest upon every effort made to awaken an interest in health reform; for it is needed everywhere.... Lectures on health topics should be given. These lectures will open the blinded understanding and truths never before thought of will be fastened on the mind" (*Medical Ministry*, 259, 260).

So many people are battling heart disease, cancer, autoimmune diseases, depression, and the list goes on. Our communities have many needs. God has given us a health message to share. Plant the seeds wherever you go. Be ready to give an answer for your beliefs at any time and to pray for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide. He comes through every time. You can count on it!



Karen Houghton, RN, BSN, is the author of the colorful vegan cookbook *Naturally Gourmet*. She is also host and producer of the *Naturally Gourmet* cooking show, which appears on Hope Channel. Her six-year-old granddaughter, Callie Houghton, assisted her with the classes.

TRUE HEALTH TV

LAUNCHES IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

CONTACT True Health TV:

www.truehealth.tv

Email: info@truehealth.tv

Tel. 678 878 2511

BY ZAIDIE CROWE

For the first time in the history of the Southern Union, a television station with a 100 percent health message has been launched.

The station is based in Atlanta, Georgia. Broadcasting over the airwaves as well as streaming programs online, “True Health TV” is focused on sharing the health message with the nearly 4 million people living in the Metro Atlanta area. The station will even reach beyond its locality as its affiliate stations will also broadcast True Health produced programs as far as Arizona, Oregon, Washington, and California.

The CEO of True Health TV, Dr. Debbie Wallace, director of the Health Institute, is humbled at the privilege to expand the reach of the health message to which she has dedicated her life’s work.

She explains passionately, “*Medical Ministry*, page 259, says, ‘The gospel of health is to be firmly linked with the ministry of the word. It is the Lord’s design that the restoring influence of health reform shall be a part of the last great effort to proclaim the gospel message.’ The major diseases and illnesses that are taking a great toll on today’s populations testify to the need to spread the message of health of the body, mind, and spirit as a means to finish the work of evangelism!”

This all started a year ago when Dr. Wallace and her family attended the ASI Convention in Orlando, Florida. She recalls, “As I entered a packed dining room, I specifically asked God to let me find a seat next to someone who he wanted me to work with. As it turned out, I found a seat next to Mr. Luke Shelton. He shared information about the Good News TV ministry that he runs in the

Arizona Conference. I listened with deep interest. I felt an immediate response in my spirit to this new direction for expanding the preventive work of the Health Institute. I protested mildly to God; “A TV station God, really!”

“Now one year later, without any great effort on my part to get air time, God has made it possible to launch True Health TV!” True Health TV is privileged to show programs from other stations such as Good News TV, Better Life TV, Better Health TV, 3ABN, LLBN, Smart Lifestyle, and others.

Programming will include children’s programs; talk shows with health professionals, nutrition experts, and exercise specialists; practical life skills such as gardening and cooking; religious themed movies; music for the soul; and a call-in prayer line available for advice from Certified Lifestyle Coaches and prayer teams from local churches.

True Health TV is engaging as many local church members as possible. They are the ministry’s base supporters, and their help and consistent support is needed to make the station’s ministry efforts work. True Health TV presents the unprecedented opportunity to “Go forward and finish this great commission!” The station intends to increase the number of programs produced as quickly as it can raise the funds to do so. It will also work to expand its coverage to additional areas, as well as to increase accessibility to the station. There will be opportunities for support of this great work through sponsorship, donations, and volunteering. This is God’s work! All are called to serve and do all they can to save souls for Jesus Christ.



Zaidie Crowe is the producer/station manager at True Health TV in Atlanta, Georgia. She was trained at the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in London and worked there as an executive producer/director before immigrating to the United States. She had prayed for God to give her an opportunity to use her training to His glory when one day Dr. Wallace, unaware of her training or prayers, proceeded to tell her the good news of being offered a TV station!



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REKINDLING YOUR FLAME

BY DAVID GUERRERO

Relationships are the key to living life fully. However, relationships are going to be challenged because we are people. Our natural tendency is to be self-focused and to seek to have our own desires met. Rekindle the Flame Ministries exists to help others think beyond themselves and to consider the needs of others. We seek to encourage others to do as Paul instructed in Philippians 2:3: “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” How do we do that?

Each year we host a mission trip to the Appalachian Mountains. This offers people of every age the opportunity to serve others and to do something big

for Jesus; this is done in concert with Ellen White’s counsel to solicit the efforts of missionaries right here in North America. The second thing RTFM offers is seminars and conferences for churches to help members apply Biblical principals that revive home, church, and work relationships. Over the years, it has been a joy to see God’s people follow His Word and counsel and revive broken relationships. The third opportunity that RTFM offers is Bible worker and medical missionary training/seminars. Each month we host training online and in churches, equipping people with effectiveness in soul winning that sparks revival in their churches. Lastly, many people and pastors in our community and churches have been benefited by our personal counsel-



ing as well as our health coaching departments that have led them to lean on the well spring of life— Jesus!

The principles of RTFM are simple, yet profound. Here is a brief overview based on solid principles that RTFM uses to help others. We pray that it may help you as you seek to Rekindle Your Flame for Jesus:

ACCEPT JESUS' DESIRE TO FILL YOU WITH HIS SPIRIT

Jesus said, "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish that it were already kindled" (Luke 12:49). Jesus desires to fill you with His Spirit! This being the case, we encourage you to take the needed and necessary time to pray each morning for the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5) and to be filled with the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:19). Adjust your life as needed to pray, spend time with God, and ask Him to direct your life by the Spirit.

**God is on our side, and
longs to pour out His
Spirit into our lives.**

MAKE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS

We live in a very busy age. Technology appears to be robbing us of the necessary time to build our relationships with each other and with God. This being true, make appointments in your schedule to spend time with your family, friends, and most importantly with God. Doing so is seeking His kingdom first. As we do this, all things will be added in our lives that He sees will best fit us for the kingdom and bless our lives (Matthew 6:33).

FIND TIME FOR MINISTRY

We are told that "not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, 327). God has a special place of ministry just for you! The key is to work with God and/or to find someone you can confidently work with who can prayerfully help you discover God's calling on your life and the place where He calls you to serve Him. Serving God in the place and ministry He has called us to is one of the most rewarding and freeing experiences we can have.

FIND TIME FOR FAMILY

Our family is our first priority and our very first church. While I could cite many quotes to emphasize this, here is one that should be considered: "Every family is a church, over which the parents preside. The first consideration of the parents should be to work for the salvation of their children. When the father and mother as priest and teacher of the family take their position fully on the side of Christ, a good influence will be exerted in the home" (*Child Guidance*, 549).

The first and best influence we can exert is in our homes. When all is well with our homes, all will be well in general. Also, "one well-ordered, well-disciplined family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached" (*Adventist Home*, 32). Think of it! We can have better impact though our families and homes than can the preacher or evangelist in the pulpit. Hence, the importance of taking the time to make family first.

YOU CAN DO IT!

While these principles may seem challenging, they can be done. We can do all things through Christ who give us the strength (Philippians 4:13), and God can work in us both to will and to do His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13). God is on our side, and He longs to pour out His Spirit into our lives. If we take the time to seek His face, make the necessary changes in our lives with His help, engage in the ministry He calls us to, while we place our first emphasis and calling on our family relationships, we can experience the blessing of God in our lives, families, and churches in unprecedented ways! May God bless you as you move forward today to experience true revival.



David Guerrero, speaker/director for Rekindle the Flame Ministries, lives in Central Wisconsin with his wife, Jacquelyn, and their four children, Joshua, Hannah, Joel, and Micah. David enjoys helping others discover how to have a vibrant walk with Jesus Christ. In his work with RTFM, David also trains and equips others to be Bible workers and medical missionaries. He travels throughout North America presenting life-changing seminars.

Country Living

BY GAIL BOSARGE

“The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. . . . Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it” (Genesis 2:8,15, NKJV).

Weighty topics such as creation by design, the Creator God, the seventh-day Sabbath, the origin of sin, or the plan of salvation are usually our focus when discussing the first two chapters of Genesis. These beliefs are fundamental to Seventh-day Adventists. But in those same chapters, could God also be introducing another vital pillar of faith that should be unique to us as a people?

The entire newly-created earth was Eden. In the center of this paradise, God “planted a garden” for Adam and Eve’s first home. Even though the climate was temperate, with no rain or storms as we know them (Genesis 2:2, NKJV), He could have created a lovely walled home which would have allowed them to observe the full panoply of creation. It could have had plenty of windows and skylights and been single story—not ostentatious, but a humble Christian home. Calling such a dwelling into existence would have been as easy for Him as speaking trees, birds, animals, and waterfalls into reality. It could forever serve as a pattern of God’s ideal.

Instead, our first parents’ home “was to be a pattern for other homes as their children should go forth to occupy the earth. That home, beautified by the hand of God Himself, was not a gorgeous palace. . . . God placed Adam in a garden. This was his dwelling. The blue heavens were its dome; the earth, with its delicate flowers and carpet of living green, was its floor; and the leafy branches of the goodly trees were its canopy. Its walls were hung with the most magnificent adorn-

ings—the handiwork of the great Master Artist. In the surroundings of the holy pair was a lesson for all time—that true happiness is found . . . in communion with God through His created works” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 49).

The pattern home God created for Adam and Eve maximized their moment-by-moment connection with Him. As they worked the soil and cared for plants and animals, their knowledge of the Creator and life’s natural laws grew. As they walked in the cool of the evening with angels or with the Creator/Son of God, their minds were in tune with heavenly thoughts because of their daily, constant communion with the divine. Our first parents were also the first students.

But sin broke man’s unveiled connection with his Creator. The earth was no longer Eden. Only God’s first pattern home, now seen behind cherubim-guarded gates, testified of a perfect creation. Outside the garden, sin took its toll. Weather temperatures varied, animals and humans presented dangers, nighttime sleep became necessary, and a desire for privacy necessitated human shelters constructed with protective walls and doors.

It was symbolic. Where before the first couple, clad in divine light, had been “visited by angels, and were granted communion with their Maker, with no obscuring veil between” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 50), they were now separated by walls and homemade clothing.

What became of God’s “pattern” home? Was it forever lost within an unattainable Eden? Or, as the precious foundations of our faith as outlined in Genesis continue in their power and validity, is not His home pattern also in effect and attainable?

“The system of education instituted at the beginning of the world was to be a model for man throughout all time. As an illustration of its principles, a model

school was established in Eden, the home of our first parents. The Garden of Eden was the schoolroom, nature was the lesson book, the Creator Himself was the instructor" (*Education*, 20).

One doesn't have to look far in Genesis to see that not only did the pattern not change, but it became vital to the preservation of man's worship of the true God. The faithful (typified by Seth) remained in rural settings in the hills. Cain and his descendants established cities where intense lawlessness and evil flourished.

"For some time the two classes remained separate. . . . So long as this separation continued, [Seth's descendants] maintained the worship of God in its purity. But in the lapse of time they ventured, little by little, to mingle with the inhabitants of the valleys. This association was productive of the worst results" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 81). Sodom was born.

Prior to the flood, "[Enoch] did not locate in Sodom, thinking to save Sodom. He placed himself and his family where the atmosphere would be as pure as possible" (*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, E. G. White Comments, vol. 1, p. 1087). Enoch followed God's pattern; he pleaded with the inhabitants of Sodom while living outside of its destructive influences.

"The cities are to be worked from outposts. Said the messenger of God, 'Shall not the cities be warned? Yes, not by God's people living in them, but by their visiting them, to warn them of what is coming upon the earth'" (*Evangelism*, 77).

By the time Noah completed the ark, only eight of the earth's inhabitants had hearts sensitive enough to hear God's call and recognize their need of salvation. The others had beheld only evil and become changed into its likeness. After the flood, scripture tells us that "Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom" (Genesis 13:12). Sodom was reborn, with tragic results.

The Bible and after history are filled with examples of obeying God's pattern versus following a more convenient or comfortable path. But truth was kept alive by a faithful few, such as the Waldensians, who ran to the vastness of the mountains rather than relinquish their faith.

"Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one" (*Country Living*, 9,10).

We know that the Bible is clear on a future time of trouble (Daniel 12:1). But the Lord's instructions are in the imperative present tense: "again and again" He has instructed that we "are" to take our families into the country, in preparation for "the future."

If we agree that God's primary purpose for the human race is our salvation, surely buying or selling can't be the only reason He "again and again" instructs His people to move their families to the country. Could the choice of country versus urban/suburban living relate directly to our families' spiritual and physical eternal life?

"There is not one family in a hundred who will be improved physically, mentally, or spiritually by residing in the city. Faith, hope, love, happiness, can far better be gained in retired places, where there are fields and hills and trees. Take your children away from the sights and sounds of the city . . . and their minds will become more healthy. It will be found easier to bring home to their hearts the truth of the word of God" (*The Adventist Home*, 137).

ASI was born in 1947, partly to assist the General Conference in its effort to draw Seventh-day Adventist attention back to the importance of country living. In his "Association of Self-Supporting Institutions" report dated June 6, 1954,² GC Secretary Wesley Amundsen included a section entitled "Counsel to Leave Cities."

To learn more, we recommend the following reading:

- ▶ *Country Living* [pamphlet], by E. G. White
- ▶ *From City to Country Living*, by A. L. White and E. A. Sutherland
- ▶ *Education*, by E. G. White
- ▶ *Studies in Christian Education*, by E. A. Sutherland
- ▶ *You Can Survive!* By Jere Franklin (Available through Adventist Book Centers or see advertisement in this magazine for *You Can Survive!*)

In his message, Elder Amundsen urged ASI members to join with the General Conference in urging our church members and our institutions to consider following the counsel of Ellen White to move to a country location. The booklet, *From City to Country Living*, by Elder Arthur White and Dr. E. A. Sutherland (currently available at Adventist Book Centers), documents the General Conference actions in regard to rural living. ASI and the Commission on Rural Living was jointly led by Dr. E. A. Sutherland; hence, ASI and the General Conference Office of Rural Living have common roots.

“Parents can secure small homes in the country, with land for cultivation, where they can have orchards and where they can raise vegetables and small fruits to take the place of flesh meat, which is so corrupting to the life blood coursing through the veins. On such places the children will not be surrounded with the corrupting influences of city life. God will help His

people to find such homes outside the cities” (*Medical Ministry*, 310).

But how can this be done? Our heavenly Father reminds us: “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with my eye” (Psalm 32:8, NKJV). “I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it” (Isaiah 47:11, NKJV).

ASI renews its appeal to Seventh-day Adventist members to give serious, prayerful study to the implementation of God’s country living pattern.

Gail Bosarge became a believer in country living some 30 years ago after reading Ellen White’s pamphlet, “Country Living.” For most of the following years she was blessed to live in rural settings, primarily in service to ASI or its member organizations. Her retirement in 2013 took her back to her home state of Florida, where she enjoys seeing sandhill cranes, blue herons, palm trees, and alligators from her back porch.



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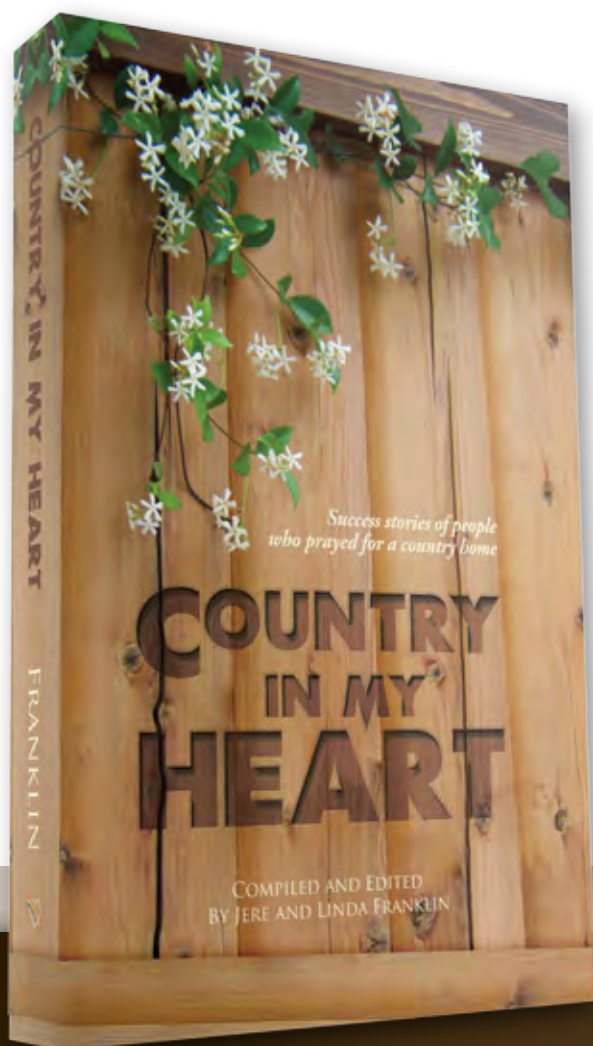
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GOD LEADS TO GUATEMALA

BY DWANE & MARY BROWN

When Duane and his wife, Mary Brown—both certified public accountants and members of the Madison Campus Seventh-day Adventist Church—responded to God’s call to Guatemala, little did they realize the potential impact that decision would have on their lives. Duane had for years already maintained a strong mission outreach focus through involvement with projects such as Helping Hands, a volunteer church building group, having built over 40 churches across the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. He regularly speaks at churches throughout the conference as the need arises. Mary, along with Ervin Brown and Claudetta McMurtry, is co-owner of the firm Brown, Brown and Associates PC, with offices located in Springfield, Clarksville, Goodlettsville, Knoxville, and Sevierville, Tennessee. Brown, Brown and Associates maintains a plentiful supply of free Bible study helps and Christian literature in its office waiting areas for clients to take home and read. In late 2013, new offices were acquired in Knoxville, Tennessee. Duane has personally distributed more than 500 copies of Happiness Digest books to these new clients.

Although Duane and Mary actively participate and support many local mission outreach programs, they only recently became involved in an international mission project. Through an interesting series of events, God arranged for a local group on a mission trip to Guatemala to be introduced to The Instituto de Capacitacion Adventista del Peten (ICAP). ICAP is an Adventist secondary school that serves 375 to 400 students in rural Northern Guatemala near the Belize border. The land on which the school is located is an asset of the Guatemalan Seventh-day Adventist Union Mission. International Children’s Care has been responsible for the operations and administration of ICAP since 1991. The majority of the 100 to 120 new students admitted each year are not Adventist students. The faculty has a strong spiritual focus, and they are dedicated to sharing the gospel with each student. Twice each year, a week of spiritual emphasis is conducted at the school, and as a result 90 to 100 students are baptized and become members of the Adventist church. The students are

very active in ministry in the area villages. They assist in branch Sabbath schools and small remote churches. Many of the local churches can trace their beginnings to the ICAP outreach programs.



ICAP offers academic education in accounting, teacher training, and home economics, as well as adult education preparation for the GED. ICAP has a number of specialized programs that allow graduates to enroll for an extra fourth or fifth year in technology programs like agriculture and auto or diesel mechanics, among other things. The school has an excellent reputation in the community and with the government.

Duane and Mary responded to that call to participate in the 2012 mission trip. Duane was appointed chair of the Visioning Team. After careful study, one overriding concern emerged: healthcare is essentially nonexistent for the Guatemalan people in remote villages.

The 2012 medical mission team saw more than 1,300 patients, and the critical need for qualified healthcare providers in the rural areas of the country was the recurring theme. Upon further investigation and additional mission trips, it was learned that many families in remote villages had not seen a healthcare provider for three or more years. A child with bloody diarrhea was seen and treated—the child’s family believed that bloody diarrhea was normal for their child because it had occurred over such a long period

of time. One remote government clinic had one technician providing critical healthcare services for the people in 25 villages, and there was one physician who spent one day each month at that clinic. A large number of rural clinic buildings in these areas are currently unstaffed because of a lack of qualified nurses or doctors.

The administrative staff at ICAP had long dreamed of establishing a school of nursing that would educate



nurses to work in the remote villages. As a result of this trip, the reality of a professional nursing school at ICAP began to emerge. When Duane returned home, he contacted Dr. Phil Hunt to discuss the need for a nursing school in Guatemala. Dr. Hunt is the former Dean of Nursing at Southern Adventist University and serves as a consultant for international Adventist nursing school development. He volunteered to help establish this much needed nursing program. After much work and submission of data to the University of San Carlos in Guatemala City, in August of 2013 ICAP was granted authorization from the Guatemalan government to offer a three-year technical nursing program, with a specialty focus on rural nursing. ICAP was also granted permission to offer the fourth and fifth years of professional nursing training, which would allow the nursing students to gain additional education and experience in diagnosing and treating individuals and families while earning their baccalaureate degree in nursing and a certificate in rural health nursing. After much prayer, the unheard of happened. The Guatemalan government approved the rural emphasis school of nursing within six months.

ICAP is the only private institution in Guatemala

to receive governmental permission to offer the rural health nursing program. This approval was granted because of the excellent reputation of the school and its graduates. Prospective students who have been unable to obtain higher education because of Sabbath classes and testing are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to attend a Seventh-day Adventist school of nursing in Guatemala. Graduates from the ICAP School of Nursing will positively impact the health status of many people in rural Guatemala where there are currently no healthcare providers or services.

God is leading in marvelous ways by opening doors for ICAP to receive this approval from the Guatemalan government in such a short period of time, as well as in providing a qualified and experienced Adventist nursing educator to lead out in the development and implementation of the program. The first class of nursing students will begin attending classes in January 2015 in a temporary nursing facility that is a multi-purpose building with dormitory rooms, classroom, and a skills laboratory. A Nashville, Tennessee, architect volunteered his time and expertise to develop plans for the permanent nursing complex structures. The building project consists of three buildings with a total of 15,000 square feet. The projected costs are \$500,000. Labor costs will be kept low through the use of school staff, students, and Mission Guatemala volunteers. Other mission minded church groups and individuals are encouraged to join with the Mission Guatemala teams to help make a significant change for the people of Guatemala.

We are looking forward to meeting many people in heaven who would not be there except for the contacts made through dedicated nursing staff, introducing them to our loving heavenly Father via meeting their individual, family, and community health needs. What would you attempt for God if you knew that you could not fail?

*The first class
of nursing
students will
begin classes
in January
2015.*



Duane L. Brown and his wife, Mary, both CPAs, live in Ridgetop, Tennessee, and work full-time at Brown, Brown and Associates CPA offices. Duane serves as chairman of the Madison Campus SDA Church Board and is involved in various ministry and mission activities. He will be making his third trip to Guatemala this November as a member of the Mission Guatemala leadership team.



ASI/LIFE YOUTH FOR JESUS

BY BRIANNA FORD

“I just couldn’t understand. Why wasn’t I experiencing God for real like the other people around me? I had gone on outreach many times and in a variety of places, but I never really saw God orchestrate divine appointments. I wanted that experience, and I wanted it badly! Then I came to YFJ.”—Jacob

“I discovered the joy of working side by side with God and other young people, experiencing His infinite love, and witnessing people draw closer to God. I never felt this kind of joy before.”—Cheruto

“Because of what I learned at YFJ, I have a burning desire to do God’s mission.”—Naw Ehku

“Maria’s eyes widened in terror. I had experienced this same feeling of dread until I completely understood that God’s grace is sufficient for even me. What higher privilege could be mine than to present the gospel to her? For what more could I ever ask?”—Brianna

Youth For Jesus (YFJ) is a one-month youth evangelism training program sponsored by ASI and LIFE that equips participants with skills and provides practical experience in Bible work, preaching, and a wide variety of service projects. This year’s program was based at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

A typical day at YFJ was a whirlwind of activity, beginning with singing and worship, followed by class time, door-to-door outreach in the afternoon, and then evangelistic meetings in the evenings at our four sites: Grand Rapids Central, Wyoming, Grand Haven, and Maranatha Bible churches.

Here are just a few of the miracles we witnessed this summer:

“One night as people were filling out the decision cards, an older lady whispered to me, ‘Did you grow up in this church?’

“‘Yes!’ I answered.

“‘Well, if the church can train their young people to be so on fire for God by this age, it must be on the right track. I think I might join this church.’

“I was blown away! Before we could finish giving an invitation, God had already convicted her. A couple weeks ago she was baptized.”—Christina

Day after day, God orchestrated appointments. There was the teenager who came to the meetings with *The Great Controversy* book in hand; the “miracle apartments” where fifty-one residents accepted Bible studies; the weed-smoking guys who couldn’t run away from an invitation; and countless other God-ordained connections. One such miracle began quite unexpectedly.

“I was stationed at the corner of the intersection yelling, ‘Go this way for a free health fair, free food, and a free massage! You’ll want to be there!’ Uninterested, many people rolled up their windows. Others nodded but drove on. I’m not sure that anyone turned toward the health fair because of my efforts. Then one night, as we chatted with visitors after a meeting, one of our team members met a lady who she didn’t remember seeing before. Curious, she asked, ‘How did you find out about the meetings?’

“The lady smiled and said, ‘I was stopped at an intersection when this young guy started trying to talk to me. I’m not sure exactly what he was talking about, some health fair thing. I wasn’t going to go, but when I arrived home, I found a flyer for a Keys to Revelation seminar.

When I turned it over, there was a picture of the preacher, and I recognized this guy's face! I just remembered how nice he had been and decided to check this out.'

"My efforts on the side of the road appeared to be worthless, but God put me there to make an eternal difference." — Jonathan

Besides the experiences encountered in conventional outreach, we enjoyed reaching out in some unique ways through community service projects, such as clearing brush, assembling baby layettes, feeding the homeless, and painting at the Pioneer Village. One of the biggest highlights of community service was joining with Christmas Behind Bars.

None of us really knew what to expect as we made our way through security checkpoints and the layers of locked doors at the Kent County Jail to distribute gift packages that we had put together. At the end of the maze of cement halls, we entered the pods, which opened up into two floors of individual cells. Sauntering out after being released from their cells, the female inmates leaned on the balcony rails or against their cell doors on the bottom floor. Except for their jail scrub uniforms and their bedraggled hair, they seemed so much like us in many ways. They were beautiful people.

We hauled huge black garbage bags full of packages that we had put together, along with Christmas Behind Bars, into each of the pods, but before distributing our gifts, we prayed and sang together. Tears welled up in their eyes as the words of "Seeking the Lost" reverberated off those jail walls. Even the chaplain cried as she watched them soften and open up to the short message we shared, "Neither do I condemn thee. Go and sin no more." We were forbidden to hug them, but we could clasp their hands and hold their eyes in our own. We tried to encourage them, but oh how insufficient our words seemed when trying to convey the magnitude of God's love for them! Yet, in that tangible gift of a small paper bag filled with tracts, snacks, and necessities, I think they understood a bit more of how much God cares for them. As I looked deep into those teary eyes, I also grasped in a deeper way the value God places on every soul. When we finally had to wave goodbye, I felt that I knew my Jesus in a deeper way. I had tasted of His highest joy in serving these women. There's nothing more amazing than watching someone melt in the embrace of God's love when you have shown them a little glimpse of what He's like.

As a participant in Youth For Jesus, I can say that there is nothing in all the world that I would trade for this experience—nothing. Youth For Jesus taught us to pray as never before, as the challenges continually brought us face to face with our insufficiencies. When we felt we had nothing left to give, God gave us something to share. We were challenged, not just to give more but to give everything. It has given us a vision of what God can do through ordinary people. This passion continues in our hearts as we now take the tools we have learned and serve in our own homes, churches, and communities.

If you are a young person with a desire to see God work in and through you, this experience can be yours too. Youth For Jesus will be held in Spokane, Washington, next year, July 6 to August 9, 2015. Youth can apply at: yfj.netasi.org.

There's limited space available!

Come. Be a part of this life-changing experience!

Brianna Ford was privileged to participate in three summers of Youth for Jesus. This past year she served as a speaker and media coordinator.



"I was in prison and ye came unto me,"
Matthew 25:35-40



ASI Youth for Jesus / Christmas Behind Bars

We put together 1500 gift packages for inmates, juveniles and a women's homeless shelter in Grand Rapids Michigan. We shared with them the plan of salvation, letting them know that they have not been forgotten. Last year we visited approximately 50,000 individuals behind bars.....

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THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE SANCTUARY



Since 2002, Oklahoma Academy has been working alongside Messiah's Mansion to give the message of the gospel through the sanctuary. The full-scale model of the sanctuary is packed in a semi-truck and taken to locations around the country for exhibit.

Oklahoma Academy students learn to give the hour-and-fifteen-minute tour as a part of their Bible class curriculum and participate in exhibits during the school year as a part of their outreach program. They also have the option of working with the exhibit through the summer to earn a scholarship for school.

The experience with the sanctuary is life-changing both for those giving the tour and for those who take the tour. Natalie, a senior at Oklahoma Academy, shares her testimony of how the gospel through the sanctuary is so powerful:

NATALIE'S TESTIMONY

For many people, the Mosaic Tabernacle is an interesting part of history that has little or no relevance today. They don't understand the powerful message shown throughout the sanctuary and its services. Through the sanctuary, God reveals his love for people and the plan of salvation through Jesus' sacrifice. In it, there is a clear pathway to lead us to a relationship with Him. There we find freedom from our sins. Working with Messiah's Mansion during the summer, I was privileged to share this wonderful message.

One day I noticed a young man in my tour group who was with an older couple. I later discovered that they were his parents. It was obvious from his attitude and expression that he was apathetic about being there. In dark clothing, covered in tattoos, with multiple facial piercings, he stood out from the rest of the attendees. As I took the group to the first station, I began to pray for this young man. Surprisingly, he took a seat on the front row as I began sharing a brief overview of the Mosaic Sanctuary and the other sanc-

tuaries found throughout history. He was uninterested, so I focused on people who were giving feedback while praying that the Holy Spirit would work on his heart.

During my courtyard presentation, I asked for a volunteer to help demonstrate one of the sacrifices that took place daily. The couple volunteered the young man to help. He participated, but was still indifferent. In the next station, the Holy Place, attendees see inside the tabernacle where only the priests were allowed. Here, Jesus' mediation in the heavenly sanctuary is explained and attendees learn how they can have a relationship with God by studying His word and communicating with Him through prayer. The young man began to be more attentive and started nodding in agreement. I became more excited as he showed more interest in the presentation.

In the Most Holy Place as I described the Day of Atonement and its current significance, the young man became very engaged. I emphasized the importance of being right with God every day and making sure that we completely surrender everything to Him. At that point, the young man began crying. I kept praying for him as he struggled with his conviction.

Later, the book tent staff told me that he purchased several books on the sanctuary and a few of Ellen White's writings. A few days later his parents, members of a local Adventist church, told me the life-transforming story. They had raised their son in a godly home, but he had fallen away. Rebellious, he spurned his parents' invitations to church and had no interest in spiritual things. When they heard about Messiah's Mansion, they invited him to go with them. He reluctantly agreed. His mother told me, with tears in her eyes, that he was very excited about what he learned during the tour. He started asking them questions and showing an interest in studying the Bible. For the first time in nearly eight years their son went to church and stated his intention to regularly attend again.

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ORGANIC STORE IN GERMANY

OFFERS PLENTY OF WITNESSING OPPORTUNITIES

BY SIGRUN SCHUMACHER

“I wanted to be absolutely sure that this was God’s will. So I asked God for an obstacle which only He could help me overcome, and I would happily follow His lead.”

Timo Hoffmann, 29, is a new, single ASI member who lives near Koblenz, Germany, with his parents and older brother. Several years ago, as he and his mother walked leisurely through their hometown of Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, Timo saw a vacant shop with an unusual sign in its window: “The town and its people are waiting for your offer.”

In his mind, Timo heard the words, “Seek the welfare of the city.” Was this what God wanted him to do?

In the spring of 2013, Timo began planning to open an organic health food store. The 88-square meter space (approximately 1,000 square feet) was an excellent location. Negotiations for the property went well. The landlord liked the idea of providing space for a service the town currently didn’t have.

To learn whether he was on the right path, Timo asked God for an obstacle that he could not overcome through his own strength. The challenge came sooner than expected. On the same land where his new store would be located was a big-chain supermarket. The supermarket’s lease with Timo’s landlord stipulated that there could not be another food store on the same premises. Before Timo could sign the lease, this problem needed to be resolved.

Surprisingly, the supermarket had no objections. So Timo signed a lease and moved forward. Help came from his family and church members in the nearby town of Mayen.

On his next birthday in January 2014, Timo opened the doors of the MAN HU organic health food store. He and his team were speechless when 500 customers visited the health food store on opening day; business has been good ever since. The store has received excellent press coverage in local media. And an added blessing is that because the town of Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler is a resort town, the usual German Sunday shop-closing hours do not apply.

Timo is happy. “With this store we want to witness to the community. And the best thing is, we don’t have to search for the people. They come to us and ask us questions.”

Some of those questions include: “What is the meaning of your shop name, MAN HU?” “Why do you promote a vegan lifestyle?” “Why is your store closed on Saturday?”

“Their questions allow us to point them to the Bible,” says Timo. “*Man hu* is the Hebrew word for manna that God gave to the people of Israel for food. God wants to give us good health—and He has provided us with a day of rest.”

Future plans at the store include cooking classes, as well as health and Bible seminars. An 85-year-old man has offered Timo a free garden plot nearby where he can grow organic vegetables and fruit for his store. Timo and his team are working hand in hand with God, and God is blessing their efforts.



Sigrun Schumacher is editor of the ASI Germany newsletter, ASI NEWS, and one of the editors of INFO VERO, the first Adventist outreach magazine to be sold at German-language public newsstands in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. She has co-authored books and written magazine articles. As a young woman, Sigrun was elected Miss Universe Vegetum, a title given to the most beautiful vegetarian in the world. She was one of the very first female marathon runners, and pioneered women’s long-distance running. At a 1981 track and field event in New Zealand, she became the 25 kilometer world champion for the 35 to 40 age group.



International Caring Hands

International Caring Hands (ICH) has actively provided free dental care to people in the remote southern regions of Zambia since 2013. Dental clinics on the Riverside Farm Institute campus have served the 300-plus people living in villages surrounding Riverside Farm. Another clinic has supplied care for 500-plus people in remote villages outside Livingstone, Zambia, where ICH paid for and built two One Day school buildings and two One Day churches. In addition, ICH provides as-needed dental care at Oz Orphanage, operated by an Adventist family from Australia.

In October 2013, ICH coordinated with Riverside Farm's Pioneer Bible Workers program on the lower Zambezi River. Along with dentists Matthew Hayden and Paul Yoo from the Lusaka Seventh-day Adventist Dental Clinic, ICH served more than 100 people. Evening temperatures reached over 100 degrees, but some people walked more than 25 kilometers (nearly 12 miles) to receive dental care at the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Several people with potentially fatal mouth infections were treated. Some abscesses were so bad they were draining on the outside of the person's cheek. After seeing the dentists, patients attended the Bible workers' evangelistic meeting.

After providing dental care in Kafue, Zambia, at the Adventist Church, ICH paid for and built two One Day schools for the Kafue community in coordination with Alan Knowles of Riverside Farm Institute. More

than 500 people were treated at the Kafue site. Each day as patients waited, they enjoyed Vacation Bible Schools and health education programs.

In total, ICH has seen more than 1,400 people in Zambia, with an estimated delivery of \$150,000 of free dental care. The initial \$5,000 grant from ASI was used to purchase dental supplies, including extraction instruments, sutures, sterilization supplies, and anesthesia for direct dental care to the people of Zambia. Funding for personnel (travel, room and board) and other operating costs were covered by ICH reserves.

In its dental projects, ICH utilizes volunteers from numerous Adventist colleges and universities who are interested in the possibility of attending dental school. This helps to plant the importance of missions in the hearts of our next generation.

In North America, ICH has also provided services at Diné Outreach Project on the Navajo Reservation near Page, Arizona. Drs. Paul Conner and Matthew Hayden provided free dental care to more than 200 people at a value of more than \$20,000. This project was a coordinated effort with Laurelwood Academy students, who provided patients with health education, free Navajo language Steps to Christ volumes, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Native Americans came from as far away as Flagstaff (more than 120 miles) to obtain these free dental services.



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Amazon Lifesavers Ministry

What does the future hold? I think every ministry has pondered this question at one time or another, perhaps continually! When will Jesus come back? How much should we invest in planning and expansion?

Small, simple, and soon—these words describe how our ministry started in Brazil. But after several years of continual growth, we were becoming a little cramped! As more and more students arrived to take our Missionary Training Course, we began knocking on our neighbors' doors, asking if they would be willing to house some missionaries-in-training for three months. Also, the verandah where we initially started teaching, though large enough to seat the students, provided insufficient protection from the rain. So every time a storm came we would huddle in the kitchen or in a bedroom in order to continue classes. Eventually we emptied a bedroom and made it the permanent classroom.

We began to dream of building a school. We could add a few offices for the teachers and staff (who currently all work in our house), a pharmacy to store all our donated meds (which were stuffed in a corner of the classroom/bedroom), and a storage room for all our donated



clothes, toys, mattresses, etc., that we distribute in the interior during mission trips.

"How about a room to store all of our hydrotherapy supplies?" someone added.

"And our massage tables!" suggested another. And so the design was pieced together. In addition, God sent us the aid of a dedicated architect who drew up the plans for free.

"What about the money?" some asked.

"Let's move forward one step at a time!" was our reply. Sure enough, God did his part. After applying for a project grant, we received a large donation from ASI—not enough for the whole project, but a generous amount to get started. ASI Brazil (FE) was not far behind, offering another generous sum. Private donors began to contribute as well.

Although it has taken several months of paperwork and red tape to get full government approval, we now have the green light to build. We are so excited! We can hardly wait for the day when we will be able to settle into our new building. Larger quarters will enable us to accept more students, each committed to spending at least a year in the Amazon after their training, thus directly impacting the amount of missionaries in the field.

In the meantime, we have been doing what we can—upgrading the electrical system of our base in order to accommodate higher energy usage, building a larger water tower, and extending water lines out to the building site. God has led step by step.

So, back to the initial question, what does the future hold? We don't know exactly. All we know is that today God has led us thus far and we have followed in obedience and gratefulness. Tomorrow we will continue to follow his lead.



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Lina Mills is a registered nurse and a dental hygienist. She and her husband, Brad, along with their two children, Levi (8) and Lucas (6), have been serving as missionaries in the Amazon since the birth of Amazon Lifesavers Ministry in 2007. She keeps herself busy homeschooling, training other missionaries, and assisting in the communication department. When possible, she participates in the mission trips, cleaning teeth, translating, or cooking as needed.



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SPRING CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

ASI is divided into local chapters based in the various unions of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. While ASI membership is held at the national level, local chapters hold their own regional conferences each spring, along with numerous meetings and rallies throughout the year. For more information about chapter events in the North American Division as well as around the world, visit www.ASIministries.org.

ASI Southwestern Union: March 20-21

ASI Mid-America Union: March 26-29

ASI Columbia Union: April 9-11

ASI Southern Union: April 9-11

ASI Lake Union: April 17-19

ASI Pacific Union: April 23-25

ASI Atlantic Union: April 24-26

ASI North Pacific Union: May 1-3



"I was in prison and ye came unto me,"
Matthew 25:35-40

Free Indeed

Christmas Behind Bars Outreach Ministries has been actively involved in taking gift packages to those who are incarcerated - most seemingly forgotten by society - but certainly not a one of them have been forgotten by God. Would you be willing to help us in sharing of the path to true freedom for all people?

We are in need of a semi-truck and a refrigerated trailer as we cross the highways and byways of this country. There are certainly mountains and valleys we pass through, carrying the message of hope through Christ to those who are perhaps in the valley of decision. Our prayer and desire is that they will make a commitment to Christ. We believe that you will see many more in the kingdom. Through your sponsorship - you make it possible that we may go. Please give as the Lord impresses you to do so today. Jesus will one day say, "I was in prison and you came unto me..." Your willingness to give towards this special project will certainly lighten the load. We need your help in getting these Bibles, books and gift packages to those who are now receptive to the gospel message. May God bless you for your willingness to help sponsor the **Christmas Behind Bars Outreach Ministries**. Your donations are tax-deductible. We thank you so very, very much!



Sincerely,

Lemuel & Donna Vega
CHRISTMAS BEHIND BARS
PO Box 474
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To register, go to www.southwesternadventist.org/evangelism and follow the link for Mission Africa, or call Suzanna Facundo at the Southwestern Union, **817.295.0476**.

For more details, call Duane McKey at 817.475.0809.

Pray for Harare. "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, Says the Lord of hosts," (Zechariah 4:6).

