

Inside ASI

The official publication of Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries

Winter/Spring 2017



Deeper Commitment
**PASSION OF THE
PIONEERS**

Altruism and Health

The Shoemaker

Wearing Our Witness

Ellen G. White

ASI 70th Anniversary

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

AUGUST 2-5, 2017

HOUSTON, TEXAS



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SHARING CHRIST IN THE MARKETPLACE

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Editor's Note:

I have been touched time and time again by the spirit of self-sacrifice and commitment that our pioneers had at the beginning of this Advent movement. I remember that in those early days James White brought back chairs to furnish their house and not one of them matched! James and Ellen White preferred to invest every penny into spreading the gospel through the printed page. I remember growing up in a pioneering family as well. My parents started a supporting ministry in New Hampshire and were committed to living on \$50 per month for the whole family for a period of time! I'm inspired by this kind of commitment. I have also found it easier to make sacrifices because of the examples of those who have gone before.

In this issue of *Inside ASI* you will surely be inspired by the commitment of both pioneers of our church as well as modern day pioneers. I'm deeply convicted that each of us will be called to deeper commitment and further self-sacrifice before Christ returns. May these articles ignite in your heart the passion of our pioneers.



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Inside ASI is published twice yearly by Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries. Address and subscription correspondence may be sent to:

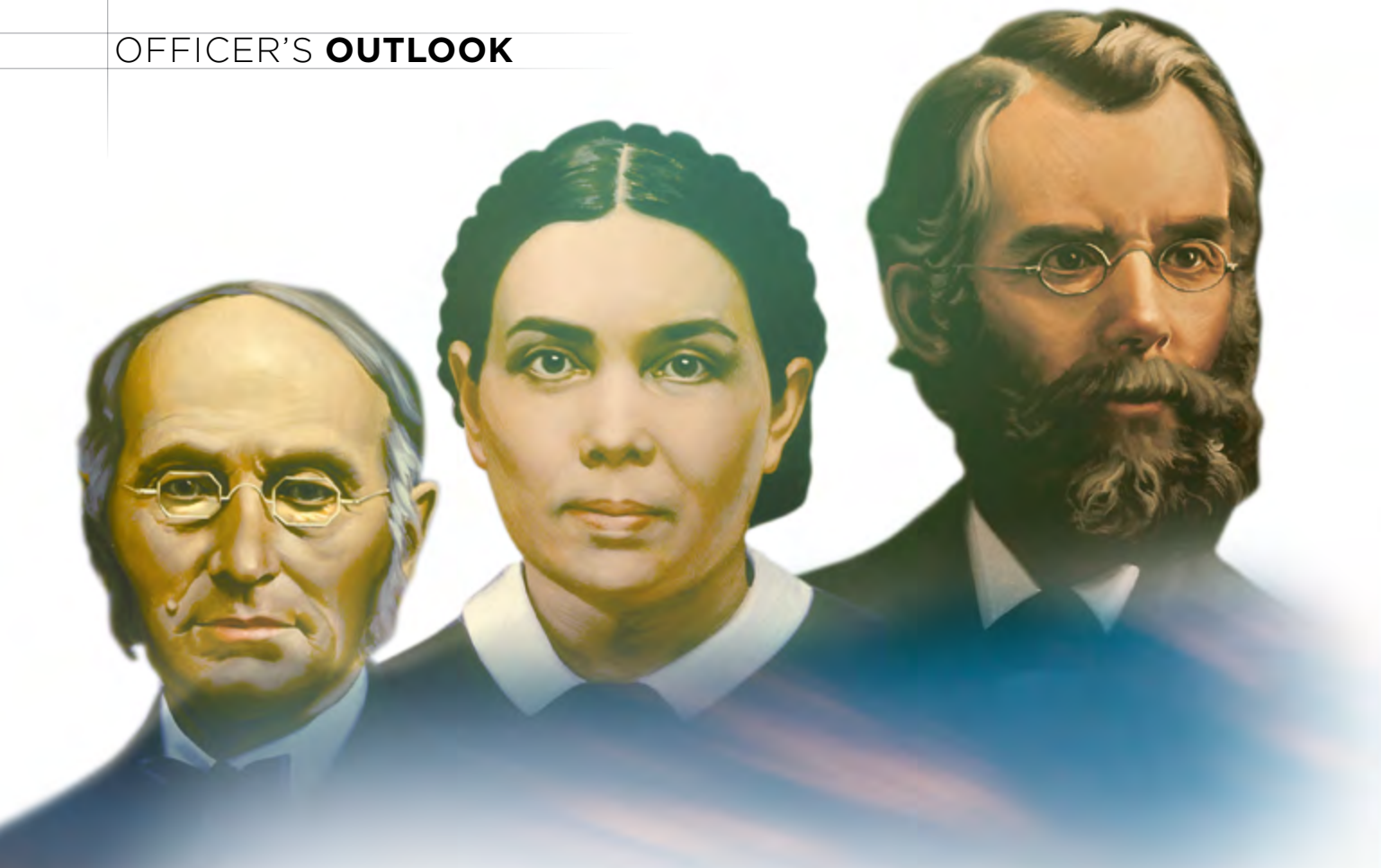
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IMMINENCE

BY NORMAN REITZ

**“THE PRINCIPLE OF
IMMINENCE KEEPS OUR
FOCUS ON THE
IMPORTANCE OF THE
SPIRITUAL LIFE.”**

Norman Reitz is a California attorney, lay evangelist, former president of ASI, and presently vice president for evangelism.



Our Adventist pioneers believed Jesus would soon come to end earth's history and to reclaim His people. If not in 1844, then soon! They continually believed in the imminent return of their Savior. They directed their time, energy, and finances towards “finishing the work” so Jesus would come; some did so to the exclusion of attaining worldly accomplishments or achieving personal betterment. They accepted the adage that only what's done for Christ will last.

The principle of imminence keeps our focus on the importance of the spiritual life. In Solomon's early reign he showed his dependence on God by asking for wisdom to govern the people. Later on he was caught up with managing his 300 wives and 700 concubines and with building up the glory of his kingdom. Only as an old man did he lament in the Book of Ecclesiastes the loss of his relationship with God. If the return of Jesus is imminent in our consciousness, then we will be spared Solomon's fate.

As vice president for evangelism for ASI, I am privileged to be involved with our plans and programs for preparing the world for the return of our Lord. ASI members are all about evangelism in its many facets. Some come to our convention thinking that they can network for profit. Some come hoping that ASI is an

ATM machine for their projects. The convention is really about becoming inspired to be active and effective for evangelism. The perfect example is when Merlin and Bruce Fjarli heard the report of Garwin McNeilus on a huge evangelistic campaign in India. They said to themselves that if Garwin can do it, so can we. And they have done so—building over 800 churches and many schools. ASI has had a formative role in expanding the Adventist Church in India as a “broker of inspiration.”

Under the leadership of Ted Wilson, GC president, there has been a renewed emphasis on evangelism in the world field. Elder Wilson has committed to personally hold an evangelistic meeting in a target country each year: Zimbabwe in 2015, Rwanda in 2016, Eastern Europe in 2017, and Japan in 2018. ASI has been instrumental in supporting these programs. New Beginnings sermons have been provided in electronic and printed formats in the local languages. This has been funded by a share of the overflow offerings taken at the convention.

In Rwanda, where there were over 100,000 baptisms in the spring of 2016, about 20 percent of the sites did not have electricity. Yet decisions were made because

the speakers could present the subjects from the printed sermon manuals provided by ASI in the Rwandan language. As a result, church leaders realized a need for materials for such venues. At the convention in 2016 in Arizona, a number of the division presidents requested that an evangelism picture roll be prepared that could be used to present both doctrinal subjects and health subjects. The ASI board and Missions, Inc., are now deeply involved in crafting a prototype picture roll for use around the world. The division presidents have said they could put 250,000 such rolls to use, and it is hoped that this major project will be implemented in 2017.

In addition to traditional preaching evangelism, which is supported by offering free downloads in 35 languages, on our website at www.asiministries.org/newbeginnings a Play It version of the New Beginnings series has been placed, which allows a person to play through a complete sermon with a professional voice on an audio track. An interactive online Bible study based on the New Beginnings sermons is in preparation for release early in 2017.

ASI has been privileged to be a source of evangelism ideas and materials for the world church.



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Reaching Bangkok Through Business

BY THADDEUS J LOZENSKY

Bangkok, Thailand, has a population of 14.5 million people. Less than one percent profess to be Christian, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church has a membership of only 1,500, most of whom are foreigners working in Bangkok as teachers for English-speaking students! Millions have never heard the name of Jesus!

Brian and Jessica Atwell have dedicated their lives to reaching the unreached in Bangkok. How did they come to be in Bangkok? Well, in 2012, they attended FaithCamp, a camp meeting devoted entirely to missions, organized by Jesus for Asia, a Seventh-day Adventist supporting ministry and ASI member, and were shocked by what they heard!

As Bible workers, Brian and Jessica had been taught and were teaching others that the work was almost finished, but in Bangkok the work had just barely begun! They knew immediately God was asking them to be a part of the solution and in 2013, with their baby boy Asher, they made the move to Thailand.

God directed Brian and Jessica to start a business that would enable them to build relationships with the souls in Bangkok. The Thai people are very relational and it takes much time invested in building relationships before it is appropriate to share the gospel. They found great encouragement in these statements from Ellen White:

“From India, China, Korea, Japan, South America, and Africa comes the testimony that the future successful missionary must himself be self-supporting and must teach his converts to earn their living” (PH012 12.3).

“The old method of supporting missionaries by a salary from America is being superseded by the saner method of self-support. God is instructing Seventh-day Adventists to adopt this plan. We ought not to cling to the old method and let other denominations outrun us in this matter of reform” (PH012 12.4).

Stepping out in faith, Brian and Jessica registered a company called “New Start Foods,” which will be operated as a health and fitness center with the goal of reaching the Thai people with the health message. As the Thai people have adopted a western lifestyle, their health has

degenerated greatly and because it is hot, they don’t like to exercise. As a result, issues such as depression, addiction, cancer, diabetes, and heart disease are destroying millions of lives.

The vision is to create a working model that can be reproduced by indigenous believers so the work can go forward in different parts of the city and country. They will have Thai young people serve alongside them during the start-up of New Start Foods, so they will understand how the business works and be disciplined to carry it to other areas of Thailand and beyond.

This vision is materializing as you read this article!

They have found a 14,000-square foot property very near Ramkhamhaeng University in Bangkok, and by God’s grace, the owner has agreed to rent the property for only \$865/month on a five-year lease! Their plan is to renovate

the four-story building to include a juice/smoothie shop, a fitness center with a rock-climbing wall, classrooms to teach English, and a house church.

Soon the paperwork will be finalized and work can begin on renovations. The project requires around \$3,000/month in financial support to pay the staff and overhead costs. As revenue increases, the need for financial support will decrease and these funds can be used to open new locations.

“Our heart’s desire,” says Brian, “is to show the Thai people a working model of how their businesses can be the starting point for sharing the love of Jesus with their community and the people they interact with every day.” God is taking them forward toward this goal one step at a time.

“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4).

Thaddeus J Lozensky is Missions Awareness Coordinator for Jesus for Asia, Inc. He has an MBA in Business Management from Southern Adventist University and lives in Ooltewah, Tennessee, with his lovely wife, Stephanie. Thaddeus has a strong desire to use his business skills to further the spread of the gospel in lands where the name of Jesus is yet to be known.



IF I DIDN'T HAVE THIS JOB

BY ALESSANDRA SORACE

Sometimes we get caught up in the goals, strategies, and duties of our jobs and forget our real purpose. There are some who are called to quit their jobs and go into full-time ministry, but what about those of us who feel the burdens of both work and ministry? We find ourselves stuck between a rock and a hard place: “Let him labor...that he may have to give to him that needeth” (Ephesians 4:28) and “They ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ” (Acts 5:42).

For certain types of witnessing, we may think, “I could do that with time on my hands—if I didn’t have this job.”

I, too, have caught myself thinking this. But what if God has a special job that those of us in the secular work fields are called to do? It’s a hard and at times an awkward one. One that, I think, is our duty as Christians. But what do I know? I’m 17. All I know is what I’ve found.

Aquila and Priscilla were tentmakers; Lydia sold fine linen, and me? I’m a music artist. My job requires a lot of travel. I’ve found planes to be one of the best places to share about Christ (mainly because we’re all stuck there). I’ve had many interesting spiritual conversations with atheists, different types of Christians, and people who point-blank ask me what I believe and why I believe it. I’ve realized the need to be available for such opportunities, however inconvenient.

One of those instances was on a flight to Orlando. It had been a long day—especially for one of the stewards, by the look on his face. We made mental notes to stay out of his way. During the flight, a thunderstorm broke, so my mother and I went to sit in the empty back seats where it was most bumpy. (Why miss out on a roller-coaster ride, right?) The steward, now on break, started a conversation with me. After some small talk, I found he was definitely not “religious” nor particularly interested in spiritual things—he didn’t even seem to have the patience for it.

But he asked what I did for a living. “What kind of music?” Like any good mother, mine piped up, “Oh, I have some here on my phone. Would you like to listen?” As he reached for his earbuds, we quietly discussed, “This might be our only chance to witness to him. What song do we play?”

Immediately the impression came. He plugged in his earbuds. Who knows what type of music he was expecting

to hear, because when the words, “What a Friend we have in Jesus, / All our sins and griefs to bear...” rang through his ears, his face became sullen; perturbed, as if memories and feelings once buried were all rushing back again. I shifted tensely in my seat, keenly aware of his unsettled presence behind me. Taken aback as he was, he kept listening. “Oh what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.” When the song was over, he removed his earbuds gently; his countenance, peaceful. “That was beautiful,” he murmured almost reverently. The plane landed and we had to part. I still think of him and wonder. What must he have experienced to darken at the mention of God’s name? What compelled him to listen on? He seemed at peace when it was over. I wonder what the struggle was that went on inside his head. Will that simple song have made an impact on his eternal destiny? I may never know. I just know that God used me in my line of work to do His work, reaching people that I otherwise may not have even come in contact with if I didn’t have this job.

I’m realizing the importance of seeing ministry and work-life as two entities working hand in hand. Our places of employment are our mission fields; our hard work and accomplishments are tools, used according to the ability of our character, shaped through our communion with God to influence the hearts and minds of those around us.

We all have a unique role to play in our different situations. Though we may feel we have little influence with our colleagues, customers, or superiors, God has placed us in the very spot He needs to shine. He promises that all things work together for good to those that love God and are called according to His purpose, for He has chosen us in our current sphere of influence to “be an example of the believers,” “a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.”

Alessandra Sorace, a 17-year-old recording artist, uses the industry as a platform for sharing her faith; one that has taken her 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. 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.”



ALTRUISM & HEALTH

BY ROBERT HUNSAKER, M.D.

DO GOOD THINGS HAPPEN TO “GOOD” PEOPLE?

Dr. Hunsaker, a graduate of Loma Linda University, specializes in cardiac anesthesiology. He is currently living in the Boston area with his lovely wife, Andi. Dr. Hunsaker is a member of ASI.



This article was originally published in *The Medical Evangelist* a publication of *Adventist Medical Evangelist Network*.

However much the doyens of Darwinism promote the idea that their model of origins, i.e., random mutation and natural selection, can explain everything about life on earth, one thing that even the most die-hard Darwinists struggle with is the existence of altruism and the selfless giving of oneself to others. Though various attempts have been made (including the study of slime mold, believe it or not) to explain, not just altruism, but the fact that those who do good for others actually help themselves, both mentally and physically, it is hard to fit these acts of self-denial for the benefit of others into the evolutionary paradigm.

On the other hand, these traits fit very well in the biblical model of human origins and life. Scripture teaches that two basic principles are at work in our universe, principles as real as the law of gravity and electromagnetism. One is the law of sin and death, which Paul speaks of in Romans 8:2. “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” The other is the law of righteousness and life, which the wise man Solomon speaks of in Proverbs 21:21. “He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life.”

In Romans 8:6, Paul contrasts these two principles: “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” Carnal mindedness is “anti-altruism,” and this leads to death; in contrast, spiritual-mindedness leads to life. Paul is not describing abstract philosophy or psychology; nor is he describing an arbitrary system of imposed rewards and punishments set up by God to coerce our behaviors. Paul is, instead, describing the most basic biological reality of our lives in this universe. Love or altruism is life-sustaining and life-restoring, while selfishness, sin, self-preservation is life-destroying—which is the reason why altruism is the biblical model.

E.G. White articulates it this way: “the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven” (*The Desire of Ages* p. 21). Speaking in regard to the unjust steward, she says: “In living for self he has rejected that divine love which would have flowed out in mercy to his fellow men. Thus he has rejected life. For God is love, and love is life” (*Christ’s Object Lessons* p. 258). Speaking about the rich young ruler, she wrote that “he wanted eternal life, but would not receive into the soul that unselfish love which alone is life, and with a sorrowful heart he turned away from Christ” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 393).

True self-sacrificing love can never be understood, or, even more importantly, experienced, apart from the direct influence of God. New Age spiritualism would have us believe that love is life. Yes, but that love originates and has existence within ourselves, separate from the life and influence of God. Inspiration though, never presents the relationship between life and altruism in this way. The relationship between life and love, apart from God, is merely sentimentalism and emotionalism.

“In the Savior’s life the principles of God’s law—love to

God and man—were perfectly exemplified. Benevolence, unselfish love, was the life of His soul” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 28). Both the Bible and Ellen White remind us that altruism (love) is woven into the fabric of the way that God designed us to live as beings made in His image. And we can find scientific evidence that supports this premise.

Recently, research in PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences) has begun elucidating the genetic mechanisms whereby social isolation (i.e., individuals not experiencing or giving altruism) probably affect immune cell function and, thus, is linked to more disease via increased inflammation and decreased immunity: “Perceived social isolation (PSI) (loneliness) is linked to increased risk of chronic disease and mortality, and previous research has implicated up-regulated inflammation and down-regulated antiviral gene expression (the conserved transcriptional response to adversity; CTRA) as a potential mechanism for such effects. The present studies used integrative analyses of transcriptome regulation in high-PSI humans and rhesus macaques to define the basis for such effects in neuroendocrine-related alterations in myeloid immune cell population dynamics. CTRA up-regulation also preceded increases in PSI, suggesting a reciprocal mechanism by which CTRA gene expression may both propagate PSI and contribute to its related disease risks.”¹

In short, living in an environment where you perceive yourself to be isolated or lonely—without love or altruism—has been associated with genetic regulatory changes in myeloid (white-cell) cells that relate to various disease states. Not only that, but the genetic changes also tend to promote (propagate) the individual continuing in a socially isolated circumstance. In other words, social isolation (without love and altruism) affects your health and causes genetic changes in white cells. In addition, these genetic changes in your white cells have a reciprocal effect and influence you to continue to live in social isolation.

Several different mechanisms have been proposed for the link between health and altruism (sometimes studied in terms of “volunteerism” in many articles). One mechanism is that volunteers tend to be more physically active, and this physical activity alone would be beneficial to health. While most certainly a contributing factor, the health benefits of volunteerism and altruism are present, even for those volunteering behind a desk!

Another hypothesized mechanism is enhanced social support and positive psychological states (mental health); both have been widely shown to promote physical health. Benefits of social support would include better access to

health information, better access to tangible supports such as childcare, food, money, etc., and being exposed to social pressure for better lifestyle choices.

Improved mental health or psychological states may also translate into better physical health in several ways. Less dependence on maladaptive behaviors, such as substance abuse or other high-risk behaviors, would be one benefit. Also, improved mental health relating to physical health could occur through what is called less “allostatic load,” or less wear and tear on the body through psychoneuroimmunologic mechanisms.²

Though causation is always hard to infer from epidemiologic and survey/questionnaire based research, the multiple associations across many studies over time indicate that volunteerism/altruism is likely a highly causative factor in improved physical health.

A representative study of nearly 2,000 Californians over the age of 55 demonstrated that multiple chronic illnesses improved as the individuals were involved in more organizations and more hours per week of volunteerism. Mortality also decreased with more volunteerism.³

A similar study of over 7,000 Americans over the age of 70 showed a similar benefit to longevity in those who had been involved in volunteerism in the last 12 months.⁴

Both of these studies had participants actively involved in religious organizations and/or religious services. The authors noted: “Causal health benefits from volunteering in general, and from altruistic volunteering in particular, are quite plausible when viewed in light of the large amount of evidence and theory. . . For laypersons who need to decide today how they will lead their lives, such evidence may be sufficient to further confirm them in personal belief systems that have celebrated altruism and love through the ages. . . Longevity enhancements for older adults as large as those observed here merit serious social attention and individual reflection. Adolescents, too, the evidence suggest, may reap large benefits from appropriate volunteering.”⁵

Could it be more clear? God’s design for a life of sharing, giving, distribution, relationship, etc., is the best way to live. After all, who doesn’t just feel better when giving as opposed to just getting? I feel better when I’m giving. We all feel better when giving. And we are all just following in the footsteps of The Great Giver Himself—God and His Son, Jesus. May we renew our energies in light of inspiration and science to continue to represent the goodness of God as we give of our time, money, and energy to tell others about the law of life for the universe and its wonderful author Jesus Christ.

1. www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1514249112

3. Oman, et al, *Journal of Health Psychology*, 1999,

5. Post, S.G. *Altruism and Health*. 2007. pp. 29-30.

2. Post, S.G. *Altruism and Health*. 2007. pp.16-17

4, 301-316. 4. Harris, A.H.S., et al., *Altruism and Health*, 10, 2005, 739752.

Sharing Christ

IN THE MEDIA SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

BY GREG STRIEMER

During my twenty-five years of colporteur ministry, I shared in common with every person who has ever tried their hand at being a literature evangelist—the quick need to discover how to relate to non-Adventists within their sphere of influence. The most common ground was to share the joys of Christ with fellow believers while at the same time finding an avenue to their heart, be it through medical missionary work or deeper spiritual truths. When I embarked upon Christian radio ministry it was with a colporteur mindset. There was no need to duplicate the fine work of 3ABN Radio or Lifetalk Radio. I would create a radio station to reach people within their sphere of influence where their hearts and minds would be interested in our opening wedge of health evangelism and hopefully, the grace-filled message of Christ our Righteousness. This formula helped me place over two million dollars worth of our literature into homes, thus a precedent had been set for success.

A variety of studies have shown that the way of the future in media is via the Internet. We created www.loudcryradio.com to appeal to conservative Christians. It must be noted there is a gap between a conservative Adventist and a mainstream conservative Christian, which we recognize. Again, we are not preaching to the choir. Our health evangelism is top-shelf compared to natural healing found in the world. Our Adventist counselors are also second to none. When it comes to preaching righteousness by faith we have a wealth of preachers to draw from. What makes our radio station different from traditional Christian radio is that we edit our shows and sermons to range no longer than three or four minutes. For example, Mark Finley preaching “heaven” in the Net series from Orlando, Florida, netted us 10 sermonettes for busy people, each one with a beginning, a middle, and an appeal. Other shows include Pet Training Tips, Dave Ramsey Financial minute, the Christian Mechanic, Grief Share, and a host of others with a practical message

with a spiritual bent. Nonetheless, Loud Cry Radio is a music-driven station featuring all genres of music, with the exception of Christian contemporary rock music.

Loud Cry Radio is a commercial, for-profit radio station accepting advertisers. We create radio ad campaigns to help Adventist businesses geared for dealing with the general public. Advertising messages are heard on computers where people type in the web address or on mobile devices where they download the app. Whereas most Christian radio station website players will show the artist’s name and song title, when you listen to Loud Cry Radio you receive a visual slide show feast of biblical themes, such as the story of Job, Noah, Daniel, Esther, Samson, etc. As well as hundreds of musical artists being played on the station. Loud Cry Radio is available on your major Internet TV stations such as Roku, Google, and Amazon Fire.

We have created three stations:

Native Hope Radio.org, reaching out to the approximately three million Native American population of North America.

People of the Book Radio.com, reaching out to the Muslim population through our various Adventist Muslim ministries.

Loud Cry Radio.com, reaching out to mainstream Christians.

If you have a ministry reaching out to the public, don’t hesitate to contact us to get before them via Internet media. Or if you have a business or health ministry looking for new contacts, allow us to help put your products before a new audience.

Glen Striemer is a journalism graduate who joined self-supporting work and became a career colporteur for 25 years. He currently spends his summers in Ontario, Canada, and winters in Tennessee.





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WEARING OUR WITNESS

BY VECTOR VUONG

When we think of evangelism, many often think of a preacher doing an evangelistic series for several weeks. But not everyone may be able to attend these meetings; therefore, other forms are used for witnessing. The pioneers of our faith have always used a variety of methods to evangelize our unique message. One of the most common ways has been the distribution of literature through books, magazines, tracts, and small pamphlets. In our century, it has grown with the use of the Internet and media to further the advancement of the gospel. So many ways, so many methods to reach people.

What about T-shirts? Yes, that is right, T-shirts are another great way to share our unique Adventist message. Imagine our doctrines, the sanctuary, the prophecy statue found in Daniel chapter 2, Bible prophecy beasts, the Sabbath truth, etc. displayed on a T-shirt! An average T-shirt is seen and read about 3,000 times before it gets worn out. So that means you're witnessing in simple way for anyone to see.

SDAshirts (ASI member) is a self-supporting ministry and small business run by one young man managing it all: designing, printing, packing, answering e-mails, etc. After working at a variety of jobs, he wanted to use his graphic design talent to do more for God's work instead of using it for companies he worked for. So wanting to further the Kingdom of God, he quit the corporate world. By faith, he started a T-shirt printing business to be a

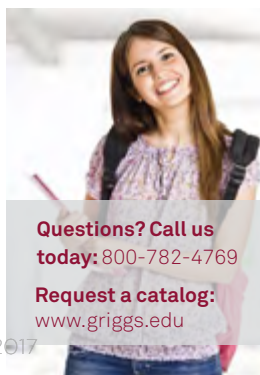
way to win more souls effectively. Currently, SDAshirts are being distributed in a few ABC bookstores and soon to be in our university campus stores. Vuong was also featured on an interview on Urban Report on 3ABN's Dare to Dream Network. Please support his journey!

Vuong came to USA at a young age with his family from Vietnam. After high school, he questioned about life and decided to study all of the world's religions. He was fascinated with the stories in each faith. By divine providence, his best friend shared with him an Amazing Facts Bible-study guide leading to biblical truths that made logical sense. Currently, he is the only Adventist Christian in his Buddhist family. He seeks your prayers for their hearts to find the beautiful truth about God.

He believes our unique Adventist messages displayed on shirts can be used as an effective witnessing tool for evangelism. Many souls have been converted through Christ for the Kingdom with this simple format of witnessing and sharing. We often get testimonies of how SDAshirts were used to start a spiritual conversation with strangers, gained a Bible study contact, teach a Sabbath school lesson, and more. Many of our designs display the unique Adventist doctrines and proclaiming the unique three angels' messages. So when someone reads your shirt, it is another seed planted in their mind for spiritual interest. Display your ministry everywhere you go! Check it out at www.SDAshirts.com



Vector Vuong came to USA at a young age with his family from Vietnam. After high school, he questioned about life and decided to study all of the world's religions. He was fascinated with the stories in each faith. By divine providence, his best friend shared with him an Amazing Facts Bible-study guide leading to biblical-truths that made logical sense. Currently, he is the only Adventist Christian in his Buddhist family. Vector is a member of ASI.



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CALLED OUT OF DARKNESS

KATHY MORISSY

Greg Emelander laid in his bunk, and as the lights turned off, he began to hear sobs throughout the six-story facility. He was 16 days into a seven-year sentence, and that night he fell to his knees and begged God for forgiveness for everything he had done. After hours of confession, he felt the great weight of his sin lifted from him. Although he was sure that he had been forgiven, he wondered what exactly God had planned for him, and how to proceed.

Greg grew up in an Adventist home, and attended Adventist schooling. In his teenage years, a series of choices led him down a path away from God. “I honestly didn’t care anymore. I was homicidal and suicidal,” said Greg of his state of mind during the time of his arrest. He grew closer to God in prison and was rebaptized in 2006. Two years after his release he officially founded Convictions Ministries, Inc., a nationwide prison ministry. His book, *Where Darkness Reigned*, was released in 2015 and has touched the lives of many people, including his sentencing judge who has purchased four copies of the book to date. It has been passed out in correctional facilities, workplaces, and between friends, with the majority of the sharing being done by non-Adventists who see the mercy and love of God in its message.

Last year, Greg was leaving a bookstore in Grand Rapids after giving free copies of his book to the staff. Upon leaving, he had exactly one copy of the book left, and gave it to a woman in the parking lot. Although their interaction was brief, he received a message from her the very next day. She had stayed up all night finishing the book. It had touched her personally, as her granddaughter had been battling a heroin addiction. Two months later he received a second message from the woman explaining how God had been answering their prayers, and that her granddaughter, after having read the book, was doing better than she had been in two years.

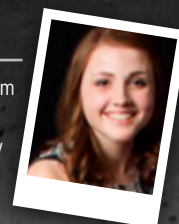
God continues to use Greg, his wife Brenda, and the rest of their team in amazing ways. There are about seven million U.S. citizens incarcerated or under supervision at any given time. As many of these people are at their lowest

point and searching for truth, there is great opportunity to show them that there is a God who cares for them. Among the facilities that they focus on is a juvenile women’s prison in southern Indiana. Greg has been able to show that there is hope for those convicted, something that these 12- to 18-year-old girls are very much in need of.

“While in prison, the lack of material, resources, and dependable information really bothered me,” said Greg of his experience giving Bible studies during his sentence. He wanted to feel that he was getting somewhere with people, and that his efforts were being productive. Seeing the need for studies tailored specifically to people in seemingly hopeless situations, he has begun to develop his own Bible study curriculum. It will highlight the great controversy in innovative and practical ways, allowing students to see the spiritual war they’ve been involved in and how to make changes in their lives. The ultimate goal of their ministry is to reveal God as the only source of the peace that we all seek.

The course is intended to lead students to think critically, so that they may present the message in intelligent ways with those around them. Many other religions and denominations have a large presence in prisons, so they need to be prepared to explain and defend their faith to others. “The quality of the seeds you plant matters. If I want to see the group flourish, I have to make sure they have the materials they need,” said Greg. His team is committed to providing the materials necessary to create knowledgeable convictions, and change the lives of the destitute. Eleven years after his reconversion experience, he is still on fire for Christ and is being used in powerful ways. Conviction Ministries, Inc., is a member of the Lake Union chapter of ASI, and aims to teach lost souls how to experience victory over sin.

Kathy Morissy received a Bachelor’s degree in Finance from the University of Illinois at Chicago in December. She grew up in ASI and is a past Youth for Jesus participant. Currently she is a co-treasurer at the Downers Grove SDA church and the vice president for communications for the Lake Union chapter of ASI.





THE SHOEMAKER

BY BARNABAS HOPE

When we first started raising funds to support our mission endeavor with Adventist Frontier Missions in Turkey, people often asked us, “Have you read the amazing book called *Diamondola*?” After we read it, we started asking other people the same question. It is indeed an amazing book, the true story of a young Adventist girl who spoke six languages and helped establish the Adventist movement in Turkey during a time of violent revolution.

My wife and I badly wanted to meet the book’s author, Mildred Olsen. We finally got our chance on a support-raising journey through the American Northwest. We called Mildred, and to our delight, she not only invited us to visit but also to stay a night at her home. She was likely about 80 at the time but full of vim and vigor, and she kept us in amazement with stories. One unforgettable story was about an Armenian man named Theodore Anthony, the first person to bring the Adventist message to Turkey. Theodore’s story is especially dear to me now because this gospel entrepreneur was a tentmaker—he received no funding from the church for his intrepid frontier mission. To be precise, he was a shoemaker.

“Theodore Anthony was a poor cobbler living in an obscure village at the foot of Mount Ararat,” Mildred begins the story. He badly wanted to move to America, so he applied to the U.S. government for immigration. He had to wait 28 years for the paperwork to return! (How’s that for a bureaucratic delay?) Finally, around 1888, he moved to California. He didn’t speak English, and no one nearby spoke any Turkish. Fortunately he knew some Greek and made a few Greek friends.

One day Theodore saw a large tent going up. Thinking a circus had come to town, he took a seat as the tent filled up with spectators. But there were no elephants, bears, or clowns. Theodore was surprised when a chorister began to lead the crowd in singing hymns—in Turkish! Then a man stood up and began to speak from the Bible in Turkish. Amazed, Theodore returned night after night to hear the Bible messages. After 20 nights, the evangelist made an

appeal for baptism. Theodore stood to his feet and came forward.

But when Theodore got to the front and began to talk to the evangelist, both men received a shock. It immediately became clear that the evangelist didn’t know a word of Turkish! A Greek-speaking person was brought forward to translate, and questions and answers began to fly back and forth. Theodore correctly answered all the evangelist’s questions about the material he had shared. He had truly heard all 20 lectures in Turkish! God had performed a miracle for the salvation of this man and the future of Turkey.

After his baptism, Theodore determined that he should forsake his long-awaited U.S. citizenship, move back to Turkey and become a missionary to his own people. How would he support his mission? He would make and repair shoes, of course. It was the business he knew best. He moved back to Turkey, to Constantinople. Living on his meager cobbler’s income, he began to testify to his fellow Armenians about scriptures. Theodore won his first convert in 1890, a young man who became the first Turkish Adventist to get a seminary education in Switzerland. Years passed, and the church Theodore started in this unreached land grew rapidly. How? Not by salaried church personnel, but by tentmakers. Here is a paragraph directly from Mildred Olsen’s research:

“The national government’s Ministry of Religion granted only two types of missionary permits—one to the Orthodox churches, and the other to Protestants. The Orthodox could not, and the Protestants would not recognize Adventists, so the church in Turkey resorted to the same method for evangelism employed by the apostolic church: Capable craftsmen settled in various territories of Turkey and plied their trade while they witnessed for the truth. Theodore Anthony went to Bursa. Two Armenians, a tailor, and an umbrella maker went to Nicomedia. A Greek artisan went to Samsun; an Armenian carpenter moved to Adana. An Armenian colporteur sold literature on ships at Constantinople.”

I hope that excites you, because what once propelled the Advent movement around the globe must happen again—lay people armed with professional skills and conviction spreading the Good News. Notice that conviction pushed Theodore and these other tradesmen to choose the location of their work for purposes of strategic gospel telling.

If God could use a common shoemaker, umbrella maker and other humble tradesmen, what might He do with you and your profession? Where could you go?

If you would like to increase your purpose by witnessing in the marketplace at home or abroad, I have begun a monthly e-mail that provides succinct training on being salt and light in your work world. Sign up at www.bit.do/gotentia.

Ephesians 6:15 says to have “your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.” Anyone know any good shoemakers?



Barnabas Hope and his wife, Esther, have been career missionaries with Adventist Frontier Missions since 2004. Currently Barnabas is serving as AFM's Tentmaker Ministries coordinator. Previously, they served as missionaries to the people of Turkey.

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ELLEN G. WHITE

BY FLETCHER ACADEMY

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PIONEER IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

More than a century ago, Ellen G. White inspired and guided the foundation of many Adventist educational institutions. Based on the Bible and her teaching, the core Adventist philosophy has become that education should be redemptive, for the purpose of restoring human beings to the image of God. Ellen G. White championed the now widely used “whole person” approach to education that encompasses mental, physical, social, and spiritual health, intellectual growth, and service to humanity.

In 1904 Mrs. White was one of the founding members of the Nashville Agricultural Normal Institute, later named Madison College. It was formed as a self-supporting institution, but closely allied to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It would grow to include a school (grades 1–16), a sanitarium-hospital, and a farm of more than 800 acres. This became the only time when Mrs. White agreed to officially be a member of a board of trustees. The goal was to have a school whose doors would swing open to any young man or woman of worthy character who was willing to work. The large tract of land was needed to provide facilities for this student self-support. The training here would include not just ordinary book studies, but also how to solve practical problems having to do with daily life. Nearly 40 small outpost schools and centers were started from this model.

In 1909, at the age of 81, Mrs. White made the long trip from her home in California to Washington D.C. While her chief purpose was to attend the quadrennial session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists,



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she also made it a point to stop by Nashville and encourage the faculty and staff as well as visit several other Adventist schools and colleges.

Along her journey, Ellen White preached in Asheville, North Carolina, and was able to meet for the first time, Martha Rumbough, the daughter of a successful inventor. Sister Rumbaugh was studying to become an Adventist but had already built and given to the conference a commodious meetinghouse and parsonage. She was also personally supporting the pastor of the Asheville church at a salary of four dollars per week. During the visit Mrs. Rumbough asked Mrs. White, "What more can I do with my share of my family's wealth to further the cause of God locally?" Mrs. White answered in the familiar and oft quoted words, "the Lord would be pleased if you would start a medical and educational work in the vicinity of Asheville." The next year Mrs. Rumbough would provide the money for the initial purchase of the property in 1910 that would later become Fletcher Academy and Park Ridge Health.

Ellen White was a woman of remarkable spiritual gifts. During her lifetime she wrote more than 5,000 periodical articles and 40 books. She is the most translated woman writer in the entire history of literature, and the most translated American author of either gender. Her life-changing masterpiece on successful

Christian living, *Steps to Christ*, has been published in more than 140 languages. Her writings cover a broad range of subjects, including religion, education, social relationships, evangelism, prophecy, publishing, nutrition, and management. Seventh-day Adventists believe that Mrs. White was more than a gifted writer; they believe she was appointed by God as a special messenger to draw the world's attention to the Holy Scriptures and help prepare people for Christ's second advent. Throughout the remaining years of her life, she maintained a deep interest and concern for the church work in the southern States.



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JOIN THE GOLD RUSH

“BE A TENTMAKER”

Gold was discovered in California on January 24, 1848. James Marshall found it at Sutter Mill. Three hundred thousand people flooded those beautiful hills. San Francisco boomed from 200 people to 36,000 in just six years. And California became the 31st state of the United States of America.

A man named Kellogg was watching from the East. Merritt Kellogg. He was the older stepbrother of the famous John Harvey Kellogg. Merritt saw gold in California too—but his gold was people who needed the gospel. If they were saved they would be treasure in heaven for Jesus.

So he headed west on an ox cart with his wife. Merritt wasn't a preacher. No one sent him and he had no salary. But he was a carpenter like his Master, Jesus. He could build some of those houses springing up in San Francisco.

Merritt Kellogg did more than swing a hammer. He shared the gospel with those around him. One day he met B.G. St. John. He was a 49er, no, not a football player, one of the 49ers who had made and lost a fortune in gold mining. When he learned that he was living right at the end of earth's history, he decided to get himself ready for the streets of gold. He was the first to be baptized as a Seventh-day Adventist in California.

So the gold-miner and carpenter teamed up to hold some evangelistic meetings. They got permission to use a room at the courthouse. They preached about the Second Coming and the Sabbath. Fourteen people accepted these truths and the first Seventh-day Adventist church in California was born.

Kellogg and St. John were tentmakers, just like Paul in the Bible. They worked with their hands and didn't receive offerings from anybody. Do you remember what Paul said after he along with Aquila and Priscilla, had made a bunch

of tents? It's in Acts 20:34-35.

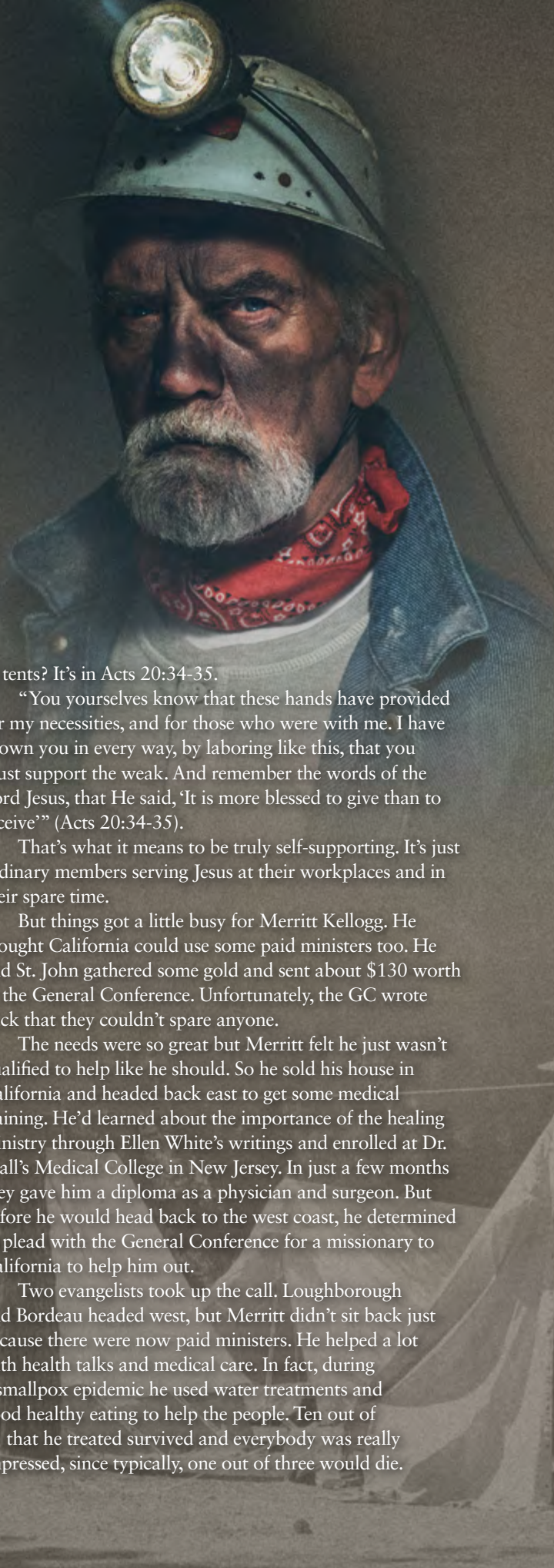
“You yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:34-35).

That's what it means to be truly self-supporting. It's just ordinary members serving Jesus at their workplaces and in their spare time.

But things got a little busy for Merritt Kellogg. He thought California could use some paid ministers too. He and St. John gathered some gold and sent about \$130 worth to the General Conference. Unfortunately, the GC wrote back that they couldn't spare anyone.

The needs were so great but Merritt felt he just wasn't qualified to help like he should. So he sold his house in California and headed back east to get some medical training. He'd learned about the importance of the healing ministry through Ellen White's writings and enrolled at Dr. Trall's Medical College in New Jersey. In just a few months they gave him a diploma as a physician and surgeon. But before he would head back to the west coast, he determined to plead with the General Conference for a missionary to California to help him out.

Two evangelists took up the call. Loughborough and Bordeau headed west, but Merritt didn't sit back just because there were now paid ministers. He helped a lot with health talks and medical care. In fact, during a smallpox epidemic he used water treatments and good healthy eating to help the people. Ten out of 11 that he treated survived and everybody was really impressed, since typically, one out of three would die.



I really think we're all going to see the incredible value of using natural remedies and healthy living as superbugs and other problems come our way at the end of time.

Back to the land of the gold rush. Food was cheap, but renting homes and meeting halls was really expensive in San Francisco, so the work moved northward toward Petaluma, Santa Rosa, and Healdsburg. Soon there were five churches. I grew up near there and I've been to those churches.

In the summer of 1877 Merritt was asked to run the new San Francisco hydrotherapy center. His pay? Room and board. Next step for this tentmaker? He caught the vision to make a health resort in the countryside. Ellen White visited the property Merritt was looking at and greatly encouraged him to go for it. That's how what we know now as the St. Helena Hospital near Pacific Union College got its start.

The carpenter/doctor/administrator had his hands full now. But God wasn't done. In 1893 the church sent him out as a medical missionary to the South Pacific. He rode on the famous Pitcairn to Tahiti, Fiji, and other islands. He settled down in Western Samoa to build a sanitarium just off the beach and later went on to help establish work in Tonga. What a life! Won't it be fun to see the jewels in Merritt's crown that he casts at Jesus' feet in the New Jerusalem along with all those he reached?

So what do you think? Do you want to join the gold rush? Go find some precious metal for Jesus? I don't know what you do to make a living, but I know you can use it for God. You can witness to your coworkers and your customers. You can use your free time to preach or serve soup at a homeless shelter. Those people right around you are your responsibility and privilege.

But would you also prayerfully consider going West, off to some frontier, some country that won't let people in on a missionary visa but would welcome a quality worker in your field?

If the love of Jesus in Merritt Kellogg has stirred your heart enough to seriously consider this, I invite you to study in Ellen White's writings what it means to be a truly self-supporting missionary through your own career. I encourage you to check out two websites where you'll meet people who are ready to train you and empower you for Tentmaker action.

The first is Total Employment by Adventist Mission at the General Conference. You can learn all about it at te.adventistmission.org

The second is Adventist Frontier Mission's Gotential.org.

They will help you find that job overseas in a country that desperately needs committed followers of Jesus doing their regular career to the best of their ability and quietly shining for Jesus.

What do you say? If we all sew some tents, serve Jesus with whatever's in our hands, we'll surely find heaps of gold.

Scott Griswold is the associate director for ASAP Ministries. He previously worked as the director for Adventist Mission's Center for East Asian Religions in Thailand and as a church planter in Cambodia with Adventist Frontier Missions. He recently wrote *Reach the World Next Door*, a cross-cultural missions training program for reaching immigrants, refugees, and international students in North America. He is married to Julie and is a father of four, all born in Southeast Asia.



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BUTLER CREEK HEALTH CENTER

In April 2014 we held our first Butler Creek Medical Missionary Convention. Our conference ministerial director, David Hartman, was our keynote speaker. I warned him that our meeting room would be like a “sardine can.” Our lifestyle center lecture room normally accommodates about 25; on this occasion we crowded in 150 folks—a “cozy” experience for all who attended. Meanwhile, our one-year Health Evangelism School was expanding; it became a challenge to teach sewing class in a small classroom with 12 students and their 12 sewing machines. These and other “pressing” (no pun intended) needs led us to apply for a funding grant from ASI. We hoped to construct a building that would serve as a convention center, industrial classroom, and media production workshop. The generous response on the part of ASI has enabled us to complete most of the interior of our newest building, which appropriately bears the name of Grace Hall.

As 2016 comes to a close, we can look back over the past two years and praise the Lord for His mercies toward

us. Butler Creek has hosted six Medical Missionary Conventions attended by earnest, receptive audiences. When we moved from our health center to Grace Hall it was just a shell of a building, something akin to an empty barn with three rented Porta Potties. The environment was rustic and seemed to blend with the message of simple country living. Harold Lance, one of our first speakers, told me that he had attended many meetings in “barns,” and had enjoyed those experiences. With the money donated by ASI we have added four bathrooms and transformed our “barn” into a nice meeting hall. We’re in the final stage of construction on the upstairs, which will serve as the industrial classroom and media room.

ASI has helped us to “upgrade” our facilities, but we realize it’s not “spit and polish” that gives success to a ministry—it’s the Spirit of God at work in the human heart. Unless, “the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain that build it.” (Psalm 127:1).

GYC EVANGELISM



GYC, a youth-initiated and led movement of Seventh-day Adventists from diverse backgrounds, united in a common commitment to serious Bible study, intense prayer, uncompromising lifestyle, and boldness in sharing Christ with others. ASI funds supported an evangelism effort during GYC’s annual convention, which was held in Louisville, Kentucky December 30, 2015 – January 3, 2016.

On the Friday of the convention, close to 1,800 young people went out into the city of Louisville for an afternoon of door-to-door evangelism. The purpose of the event was to generate interest in the city-wide Revelation Seminars

taking place a couple weeks subsequent to the GYC event, sign individuals up for personal or mail-in Bible studies, distribute spiritual literature, and pray for and with people encountered. In just four hours in the city, 33,000 doors were knocked on, 2,374 people were prayed with, 40,000 pieces of literature were passed out, and interest was developed for 1,344 Bible studies. In addition, 267 contacts expressed interest in attending the Revelation Seminars offered.

We want to thank ASI for the part that you have played in making this outreach possible!



LIGHT BEARERS MINISTRY

Light Bearers is a full-throttle gospel ministry, spurred by an urgent desire to hasten the second coming of Christ, by spreading the good news of His saving grace in the context of the three angels' messages, as fast and as far as possible with the talents and resources God gives us. We live to see people enlightened with the love of Christ and equipped to bear that light to others as effective disciple-making disciples. Without question, literature distribution is the most direct and cost-effective means of placing the gospel in the hands of the masses of humanity, especially in the developing nations of the world. This being the case, Light Bearers operates a publishing ministry devoted to the mass production and distribution of gospel literature. Each year we put into circulation multiplied millions of truth-filled publications in numerous languages, all absolutely free of charge.

Because of the funds we received from ASI, we were able to send an additional container of gospel literature in 2015. We had many requests for literature from Kenya. Therefore, the ASI funding was used to send to Kenya a 20-foot container holding over 2 million pieces of literature. Here are a few of the stories of how that literature has impacted lives.

Kenya – Prison ministry

What message does one give to a prison full of inmates who committed capital offences? Most were sentenced to 20 years and more and others were on death row. As we approached the high-walled Naivasha maximum security prison, my eye caught the sign: “This is a crime-free area.” I was not sure if that was supposed to give me comfort, since I have never been in such a prison. I started my sermon with this ice breaker: “Seeing the high walls and all the security guards, I can assure you that I feel very safe in this prison. What the guards don’t know is that you are innocent... because you are forgiven. You are just experiencing the consequences of your actions.” While the smiles were still visible on the inmates’ faces I turned to Isaiah 61:1 and read the following words on Jesus’ mission: “The Lord has anointed me...to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the

opening of the prison to those who are bound.” I wanted them to know that God’s love alone can change hearts.

Before the sermon, we graduated about 210 inmates who studied the Bible lessons sent by Light Bearers. Shaking the hand of each inmate, looking at their joy and listening to their testimonies made me realize the impact of these studies on the lives of these prisoners. I knew there was joy in heaven. The container of literature was all worth it; souls are changed for eternity!

Ndegwa was on death row. He had no hope of ever being released. The team who does the prison ministry had introduced the Bible lessons to him. He eagerly studied the set of lessons, and his life had changed completely. The power of God’s grace had touched his heart. If God has forgiven him by His infinite mercy, why could he not appeal to the president of Kenya who has the so-called “power of mercy” to release anyone? He decided to send his Bible lesson certificate to the president as proof of his decision to serve God and his change of heart. Shortly afterwards the message came back to him in the maximum security prison that his case had been reviewed and that he was set free. Ndegwa was baptized and now serves as an elder in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The 110 prisons in Kenya are literally flooded by Lightbearers literature. Since the commissioner general of Kenya prisons had directed that an Adventist chaplain be assigned to each prison, the doors have flung open for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to evangelize inmates.

The chaplaincy positions have created a channel for the church to reach the inmates using literature from Light Bearers. Since the container to Kenya in 2010, and earlier this year a second container, literally thousands of inmates have read and studied the Bible lessons and received literature. Hundreds of baptisms have resulted. Not only prisoners but also the prison staff are given the opportunity to study God’s Word through the lessons.

Thank you ASI, for making this possible for the people of Kenya!

LIGHT EXPOSING DARKNESS



Little Light Studios has developed a new series that focuses on short, quick, relevant content, entitled LED (Light Exposing Darkness). There are 11 videos in the series that have had over 130,000 views! Here is a testimony that shows how God is using this series to convict hearts.

Testimony:

I was on YouTube looking for sermons to listen to because I want to learn more about God's Word. I found a sermon from a pastor that opened my eyes to a different side of Disney that I had never seen before. In the past, I had watched all different kinds of TV shows. I was so addicted to TV but God delivered me from that. I thought, "Disney's not that bad so I can still watch that." But after watching the sermon I asked God to show me if Disney was harmful. The next day I was on YouTube and I searched "Is Disney bad for Christians" and BOOM your video popped up. It was so easy to understand and so straightforward, it was definitely an answer to my prayers. It really opened my to how deceived I had been about certain shows and movies. God is certainly blessing you guys. Thank you for being the answer to my prayers. Please continue your LED series. It's Amazing!

On behalf of Little Light Ministries, thank you for your generous donation to make this program a reality. It has given us the ability to produce content and offer to the many who need it at no cost to them.

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传福音



TRAINING CHINESE WALDENSIAANS

BY CHRISTIE LEE

When I first went to visit this place in the fall of 2012, this missionary training program had been operating for about 12 years, but only recently had moved to its current location in Beijing. I was really impressed to see a handful of committed young people (mostly in their early 20s) working to train the youth. They were mainly Chinese, but there were some Koreans, and in 2014 we started sending some Americans. In 2013 their trained youth were selected to go to the Middle East as Waldensian students to reach out to the Muslims.

The most interesting and amazing fact about this location was that it had been first appropriated by the General Conference leaders and then later by the ASI leaders who wanted to develop a lay training program. But they were

“THE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE TO REACH OUT TO THESE PEOPLE IN DARKNESS SO JESUS CAN RETURN SOON!”

booted out by the local government and I am sure at that time they thought their efforts were lost or wasted.

What I found different and right about this school was that it was first started with

prayers. If any difficulties or issues arise, such as police coming to the school or arresting them, the first thing they do is to leave aside everything they are doing and pray. The prayer chain is formed quickly throughout the different countries, now even reaching the States. I was so impressed to see them act that way.

I had the privilege of meeting some of the pioneers of the missionary work over there at the last ASI annual convention. Their passion and love for the mission overseas was still alive in their hearts and when they heard about the school, I could see sparkles in their eyes.

I am sure they must have offered up countless prayers to God of the universe. He has surely responded and the mission work still goes on strong. Many local youth have been trained and now they are sent out to the remotest areas carrying the love that our Savior brought in person to each one of us.

Their training is also very unique. The first semester the students learn Jesus, not just about Him but Himself engraved in their hearts. The textbooks are *The Desire of Ages* (DA) and the four Gospels. They learn one chapter a day of the DA and the related Bible texts. They memorize most of the chapter and they are tested every single day.

After learning about Jesus as the personal Savior who is with them every moment of their lives they do three things:

The Eighty-seven March (the marching is called 87 because of the 87 chapters of *The Desire of Ages*) during which they walk and meditate on Jesus for four days and three nights. They also camp out during this march. When they return, they write by memory the 87 chapter summaries over a period of 3-4 days.

Then they go to the leper colony to serve the least of these brethren, as Jesus did, with His Spirit in their hearts. They spend 30-45 days there.



The second semester is about Evangelism methods and they learn by memorizing Bible verses and practice doing campus ministry each weekend. It is called university penetration tactics. All vocabularies are in military terms because we are in a war, the great controversy.

At the end of the first year they also have extreme survival training. They go to the remote mountain area where there is no electricity or water. It is cold in winter time and they build tents with the materials they can find and live there and serve the villagers nearby. That is to prepare them to go just anywhere the gospel is needed.

Due to security issues they were not advertising the program, and that is still the case. But I wanted to share their story in the U.S. and to help them through prayers and funds.

I started visiting some churches here that invited me (it is amazing how God leads when you are at His disposal) and sharing the work that God is doing over there. Many wanted to hear more specifics about the North Korea mission work.

In 2012 I also visited the place where this work first started, which borders North Korea. God is working

mightily there and I am so thankful that I am part of this mission.

The training course is being expanded to four years and the first group of high-school-age kids have been selected among many applicants who could not go to school because of their commitment to keeping the Sabbath. But unfortunately many had to be turned away due to limited resources. Those who are enrolled will be taught the basic high school education plus missionary training.

Please pray for these young people. They need help. The work needs to be done to reach out to people in darkness so Jesus can return soon! May God bless you as you participate.



Christie Lee, a nurse/business leader with more than 30 years of management and clinical/business experience, started the Go! Mission Movement, Inc., a non-profit organization, in 2013 to reach out to the people in dark places by training the youth. Her vision is that within the next ten years the dark places of the world will be lighted up by young men and women of God trained for this special mission.

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A MISSION UPDATE FROM MADAGASCAR

BY ANNELIESE WAHLMAN

The United Nations Development Programme's most recent data ranked Madagascar 154 out of 188 countries on the Human Development Index.¹ That's basically a sterile way of saying that, as a country, Madagascar doesn't seem to have much going for it. Rich in biodiversity and culture, but seemingly poor in just about every other area, Madagascar is a land of extremes—extreme natural beauty juxtaposed with extreme poverty.² In a population of nearly 23 million people, a staggering 75 percent live below the international poverty line.³ Children with haunting eyes and distended bellies wander the streets. Young girls hang around the local night clubs looking for a way to make some money in exchange for their innocence.⁴ It all seems rather bleak.

But through the horrifying misery the Malagasy people endure, they are open to the gospel. While the Western world has been anesthetized through materialism and excess, Madagascar is open to its true need—Jesus Christ.

After visiting the country, Light Bearers publishing correspondent Meiring Pretorius described this time of religious receptivity as “a golden opportunity to flood the Island with our message” and believes that “the printed page will do extremely well here.”

Since 2012, Light Bearers has sent two containers of literature to the church in Madagascar, and in the last four years the fruit has begun to show. Meiring writes about the church, “They are baptizing an average of 13,000 people per year. They feel that this number is largely the result of the literature from Light Bearers.”

Some Malagasy pastors have been using the Bible studies in small groups, and are experiencing a very positive outcome. One pastor, Meiring wrote, “has started dividing his churches into four groups. He has a total of 58 groups in his district. This has resulted in 122 baptisms since they started. This also helps to strengthen the new members in the church. He uses the 24 Bible lessons printed by Light Bearers.”

As the literature has been diffused throughout the island, God’s love is making an impact. Meiring also shared how the church is using the tracts in a non-traditional way to influence their community:

“The church in general is encouraging church members to start centers of influence. One such center was started by the conference to teach people to speak English. During the classes they use the Bible lessons as a tool for study. This method has reached many hearts for Christ.”

Another pastor shared a testimony with Meiring about a Malagasy traditional healer “who came to his [the pastor’s] meetings and studied the Bible lessons. God’s Spirit convicted him and he wanted to get rid of the idols he was worshiping. They helped him in his faith and he abandoned all his practices.” Please pray for this Malagasy man as he is considering baptism.

It is undeniable that God is working in Madagascar. In a land so impoverished, His word is enriching even those living in the darkest pockets of this country.

A layman named Mamy is proof of this. After spending time in prison and being converted, Mamy felt a strong call to take the gospel behind bars. He began his prison ministry in 2004 and now has access to all detention centers. He is seeing the Spirit move as he works with those who are in the same position he used to be, men who are held captive, not merely by walls of cement and barbed wire, but by walls of selfishness and pride.

“Now he is using the Light Bearers Bible lessons in the prisons with great success,” Meiring reports.

“Recently 150 prisoners were baptized and 45 more are awaiting baptism.” Liberty is being proclaimed and captives are being set free.

For those prisoners who have recently been released, a church has been built outside one of the main prisons. Now the newly-freed inmates can be part of a safe community as they transition back into normal life.

Martin Luther once said, “If you want to change the world, pick up your pen and write.” As witnessed in Madagascar, it’s absolutely stunning to see what God can do with just 26 letters written on small pieces of paper, each carrying the weight of God’s glory. May we always be willing instruments in God’s hands, ready to write, speak, print and share the wealth of God’s love in even the poorest of places.

Anneliese Wahlman is a student and editorial intern at Light Bearers Ministry. She attended ASI member organization, Fountainview Academy. She’s from Greeley, Colorado.



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