

SUMMER/FALL 2024

INSIDE *ASI*

The Official Publication of Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries

A glowing digital hand, composed of a mesh of particles and lines, hovers over an open book. The scene is illuminated with vibrant blue and orange light, creating a futuristic, particle-based aesthetic. The background is dark with scattered light points and bokeh effects. The overall composition suggests a connection between technology and traditional knowledge.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader,

In today's rapidly evolving world, AI (artificial intelligence) is becoming an integral part of our daily lives. From personalized recommendations on our favorite streaming services to voice-activated assistants that help manage our schedules, AI is revolutionizing the way we interact with technology. It enhances our experiences, offering convenience and efficiency in countless ways. From self-driving cars to predictive text on our phones to advanced medical diagnostics, it's clear that AI is quickly being woven into the fabric of our everyday lives.

Yet, beyond these practical applications, AI is also making significant strides in the realm of ministry.

From AI-powered translation tools to improved user experiences with ministry content, AI is beginning to make a difference in the world of evangelism and outreach.

As we explore these innovations, we invite you to consider how new technology can enhance spiritual growth and kingdom building, but to be mindful that there is no replacement for "SI" (Spiritual Intelligence). This is the insight that comes from a deep understanding of God's Word, and a daily connection with the Author and Creator of our wisdom and intelligence.

Warm regards,
Mark Bond
ASI Editor



Mark Bond lives in Kalispell, Montana, where he owns a communication and design firm.

WHAT'S INSIDE?



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GIVE HOPE TO A YOUNG REFUGEE LIKE KABERA

KABERA WAS 12 YEARS OLD WHEN THE REBELS CAME DURING THE NIGHT.

As a result, his mother and father were tragically killed. After five years of moving around the Democratic Republic of Congo looking for safety, Kabera and his siblings made the tough decision to flee to Rwanda for refuge.

They were sad and confused when they reached the Nyabiheke refugee camp. They had no family or friends to help them at the camp. Finding small jobs to earn money for food was a challenge. Nonetheless, the family prayed together daily and thanked God for His love.

Kabera and his younger siblings never had enough food and they were always hungry. Then, Kabera was selected as an Impact Hope student and his life drastically changed for the better!

“Impact Hope changed my life! I was able to go to a good school with

teachers who cared about us. We had beds to sleep on, good food at each meal, textbooks, and we worshipped God together each day.”

After Kabera graduated high school, Impact Hope sent him to a vocational training school where he learned tailoring. He now has his own tailoring business and teaches other refugee's the trade so they can be successful! Kabera and his team (pictured below) make aprons and totes for Impact Hope.



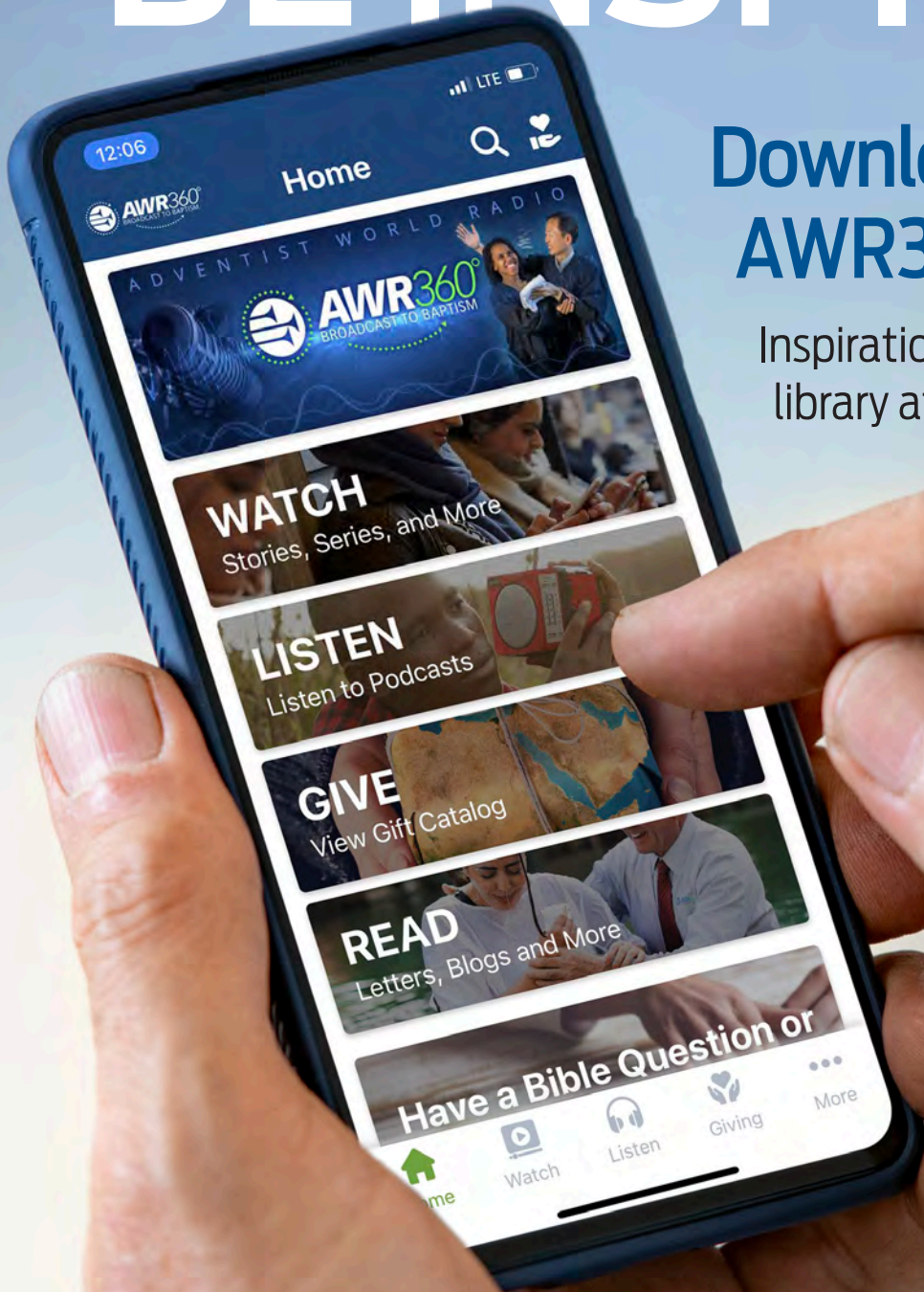
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Faith in the Future: Unleashing AI's Potential for Ministry Impact

by **DANNY HOUGHTON**

“WHAT ALL OF US HAVE TO DO IS TO MAKE SURE WE ARE USING AI IN A WAY THAT IS FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY, NOT TO THE DETRIMENT OF HUMANITY.”

—Tim Cook, CEO of Apple

My kids's eyes danced with excitement, and then widened with disbelief as I played a video on my iPhone of their beloved uncle Jamey on the set of his YouTube channel, 8thirty2. It began simply enough with him stating “numbers in Revelation have significance.” Then it got interesting. The phrase was repeated, but this time in Arabic, with a subtitle noting the language. But it was Uncle Jamey speaking, with his lips forming the words in Arabic, and his gestures perfectly matching the strangely formed words! He was speaking Arabic!

My son Andrew began noting the languages as they rolled by; French, German, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Japanese,

Korean, Mandarin... fourteen languages in all that were generated with the use of artificial intelligence (AI). As the demo reel finished, Andrew gave me a suspicious look and asked “does he really know how to speak all those languages?”

After a short phone call to uncle Jamey, and some teasing, my kids had a new understanding on the power and capability of AI (no, he doesn't speak all those languages, the computer did it for him).

Like my kids, the concept of AI is beginning to move into our frame of familiarity, though it is still a bit unclear exactly how it will impact everyday life. If you're like me, you can sense that it is already creating a powerful technological leap forward, and will unlock and enable many new forms of communication,

analysis, and business functions at high degrees of efficiency, perhaps not unlike the impact of mass internet adoption.

More importantly, AI needs to be viewed and analyzed through the prism of outreach and mission. In this issue of InsideASI, we explore how several ministries are strategically deploying artificial intelligence within their respective ministry contexts to more effectively share the gospel.

Lineage is exploring the medium of multiple language capabilities for their videos, while AudioVerse is leveraging AI to create a high-quality, cost-effective dramatized reading of Scripture. The Ellen White Estate is creating more powerful and effective methods to explore and interact with the writings of Ellen White.

As time progresses and AI continues to mature, new and groundbreaking use cases will become evident for the deployment of artificial intelligence to further the gospel.

To that end, ASI Missions Inc. is allocating a portion of our 2024 offering overflow to establish a fund for future projects incorporating AI. Given the rapid development of AI technology, this foresight is to be applauded, and is sure to help promote a more efficient and effective use of our organizational funds to finish the work we have been charged with here on earth.

Since the creation of my brother Jamey's demo reel in 14 languages, he learned that HeyGen (www.heygen.com), the AI platform used to generate the reel, also offers a more efficient way to create videos in multiple languages—the use of an avatar. By sending in a professionally produced video, HeyGen will take that video and create a virtual version of Jamey that will look and talk just like he does. To animate his avatar, one simply needs to input a Bible study in English

Scan to see AI help Jamey speak in many languages.




on the state of the dead, and the avatar will perform the script in up to forty different languages. Talk about efficient!

While Tim Cook's aspirational view of AI is encouraging, and I'm sure well-intentioned, we can be sure that AI will be leveraged both for the benefit of humanity, and also to its detriment, given the sinful world in which we live. Just as Gutenberg's presses were used to print both the Holy Scriptures and Tetzels indulgences, AI will be used to great effect on both sides of the great controversy. May God grant us wisdom and discernment as we contemplate how to best deploy this powerful new medium to advance His cause.



Danny Houghton, ASI VP for Communication, serves as Chief Customer Officer for the family of health food brands known as Vibrant Health Products. He lives in Granbury, Texas with his wife Sondra and three young children, Andrew, Olivia and Layla.



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Lineage Journey

EXPLORING THE PAST, IMPACTING THE FUTURE

Lineage Journey, a ministry dedicated to exploring and illuminating the stories of the Reformation and other pivotal moments in Christian history, was birthed from a passion to educate and inspire individuals about their spiritual heritage.

Founded by Adam Ramdin, Lineage Journey combines historical documentary filmmaking with engaging storytelling, presenting well-researched narratives that transport viewers back in time. The core content of Lineage Journey consists of short, high-quality videos that chronicle significant events and figures from

the Reformation, and church history. Their content aims to both educate and encourage a deeper understanding of the roots of the Adventist faith.

Adam shares, “Lineage was born out of a desire to connect young people with their spiritual roots, to understand where we come from as a faith community, and to inspire a sense of continuity and purpose. We want people to see that the stories of the past are not just relics, but living testimonies that still speak to us today.”

ENTER AI TECHNOLOGY: EXPANDING HORIZONS

In the ever-evolving digital landscape, Lineage Journey is embracing

AI technology to broaden its reach and make its compelling content accessible to a wider, more diverse audience. Leveraging advancements in artificial intelligence, the ministry is now able to translate its videos into multiple languages, breaking down linguistic barriers and reaching viewers around the globe.

Adam explained, “AI technology has been a game-changer for us. By using advanced translation tools, we can now offer our content in languages that we never thought possible before. This has allowed us to connect with audiences in regions where English is not the primary language, and it’s truly exciting to see the impact.”

One of the most significant advantages of using AI for translation is the efficiency and accuracy it provides. Traditional translation methods are often time-consuming and costly, but AI-driven solutions streamline the process, ensuring that high-quality translations are produced quickly and at a fraction of the cost. This technological shift has enabled Lineage Journey to expand its library of translated videos significantly, with plans to continue adding more languages in the future.

BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

To illustrate the transformative power of AI in their ministry, Adam highlighted a recent project where they translated some popular episodes from English into Portuguese. “We selected a few videos that resonate well with our English-speaking audience and used AI tools to translate and dub them into Portuguese. They created a dedicated YouTube channel in Portuguese. Remarkably, without any formal marketing efforts, the channel has garnered more than 35,000 views. This organic growth demonstrates the strong demand and appreciation for Lineage Journey’s content in the Portuguese-speaking community, further validating the ministry’s efforts to expand its reach through language translation.

EMPOWERED BY ASI

The implementation of AI technology is just the beginning for Lineage Journey. Adam envisions even more innovative uses of AI in the future, such as enhancing video production quality and automating subtitling in real-time. This pioneering work is being supported by a funding grant



Making the Reformation come alive: Adam Ramdin, executive producer for Lineage Journey, is shown here sharing the story of Martin Luther. Their short-form documentary presentations, popular with young adults, are now being translated using Artificial Intelligence. Ramdin’s own voice and inflections are presented in the new languages.

from ASI. As one of the recipients of these funds, Lineage Journey has been able to offset the costs associated with utilizing AI in new and innovative ways. This support has been instrumental in allowing the ministry to explore and implement these cutting-edge technologies.

By harnessing the power of AI, Lineage Journey is not only preserving the rich legacy of church history but also ensuring that these powerful stories continue to inspire and educate future generations. The fusion of historical storytelling and cutting-edge technology exemplifies how ministries can adapt and thrive in the digital age, bringing timeless truths to a global audience.

For a glimpse of how AI technology is transforming Lineage Journey’s content, scan the QR codes below to watch an episode about the Waldenses

in English and then see its translated version by AI in Portuguese:



Lineage Journey’s commitment to leveraging AI technology not only amplifies their mission but also sets a new standard for how ministries can utilize innovation to spread their message far and wide. As they continue to explore and implement these advancements, the future looks bright for reaching hearts and minds across the globe.

INSIDE ASI editorial team.



A Vision for Innovation

HOW THE WHITE ESTATE IS USING TECHNOLOGY TO EXPAND ACCESSIBILITY

The Ellen G. White Estate, custodians of the writings of one of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's founding figures, has long been a vanguard in leveraging technology to enhance accessibility and engagement. Their latest frontier—artificial intelligence (AI)—promises to bring Ellen White's extensive body of work to an even broader audience. Spearheading these efforts is Darryl Thompson, the associate director of Media Ministries for the Ellen G. White Estate, based in Silver Spring, Maryland.

A LEGACY OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADOPTION

From the outset, the Ellen G. White Estate has demonstrated a proactive stance towards adopting new technologies to preserve and disseminate White's writings. The Estate embraced various media forms, including print and audio recordings. A significant milestone was reached in 1995 with the release of Ellen White's writings on CD-ROM. "It was a monumental task," Thompson recalls. "We had thousands of pages to digitize, but it opened up incredible

opportunities for searchability and global access." This CD-ROM release preceded the eventual availability of her writings online, marking the Estate's first major step into the digital realm.

THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

The transition from print to digital was transformative. The creation of the Ellen G. White Estate website provided a centralized platform where users could access her works, search for specific topics, and cross-reference related writings. The digitization project also included the development of mobile

applications, which made her works readily accessible on mobile devices.

“The move to digital wasn’t just about convenience,” Thompson explains. “It was about making sure that anyone, anywhere in the world, could access Ellen White’s writings. We have users from all over the globe, and the feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive.”

These digital initiatives significantly increased readership and engagement, particularly among younger audiences more accustomed to consuming information online. The digitization also facilitated the translation of White’s works into multiple languages, further broadening their reach.

ENTER ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The latest chapter in the Ellen G. White Estate’s journey is the integration of AI technologies. AI’s potential to analyze, categorize, and enhance large datasets makes it an ideal tool for managing the extensive collection of White’s writings. One of the most notable implementations has been the development of advanced search algorithms that can understand natural language queries, making it easier for users to find relevant passages.

“Artificial intelligence allows us to go beyond simple keyword searches,” Thompson says. “With AI, we can understand the context of a query, which means users can ask questions in plain language and get meaningful answers.”

AI-POWERED ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

The Ellen G. White Estate is harnessing AI to improve accessibility. AI-driven text-to-speech technology will enable users to listen to White’s

writings in their own languages, and machine learning algorithms will help create more accurate and nuanced translations of her works into different languages. These tools are particularly crucial in making her writings accessible to a global audience.

Moreover, AI can help to personalize user experiences by analyzing reading patterns and suggesting relevant texts, making the vast corpus of White’s writings more navigable. This personalization is akin to having a digital guide that understands individual interests and needs, thereby enhancing user engagement and comprehension.

FUTURE VISION: EXPANDING THE REACH

Looking ahead, the Ellen G. White Estate plans to deepen its commitment to using AI and other emerging technologies. One ambitious project involves the creation of an AI-driven chatbot that can engage users in real-time conversations about White’s writings, answering questions and providing contextual insights. This tool aims to simulate the experience of a knowledgeable guide, making the exploration of White’s works more interactive and engaging.

THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Central to the Ellen G. White Estate’s innovative approach is its responsiveness to community feedback. Thompson emphasizes the importance of listening to users and incorporating their suggestions into technological developments. “Our community is our greatest asset,” he asserts. “Their insights guide us in making improvements and ensuring that our tools meet their needs.”

This community-centric approach has been instrumental in the

WHITE ESTATE BY THE NUMBERS: (2023 Totals)

Total Visitors to WhiteEstate.org : 117,980,000

Total Searches: 7,886,180,000

Total Page Views: 228,440,000

App Queries: 2,412,420,000

Data Served: 360.53 Terabytes

successful rollout of new technologies. User feedback has led to the refinement of search algorithms, the enhancement of accessibility features, and the expansion of language options. By keeping the lines of communication open, the Estate ensures that its technological advancements remain aligned with the needs and preferences of its diverse user base.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT FROM ASI

The innovations undertaken by the Ellen G. White Estate have been significantly bolstered by funding from Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries (ASI). This financial support has been crucial in enabling the Estate to invest in cutting-edge technologies and develop new tools to enhance accessibility. “ASI’s contributions have been instrumental,” Thompson acknowledges. “Their support has allowed us to explore and implement advanced technologies that we might not have been able to pursue otherwise.”

ASI's funding has facilitated projects like the development of AI-driven search tools, the creation of mobile applications, and the ongoing translation efforts. This partnership underscores the collaborative effort within the Adventist community to preserve and disseminate Ellen White's writings in innovative and impactful ways.

A COMMITMENT TO PRESERVATION

While embracing cutting-edge technology, the Ellen G. White Estate remains steadfast in its commitment to preserving the integrity of White's writings. All technological implementations are guided by a respect for the original texts and a dedication to accurate representation. "Our goal is to

enhance accessibility without altering the essence of Ellen White's messages," Thompson affirms. "Technology should be a conduit, not a filter."

This balance between innovation and preservation is a cornerstone of the Estate's strategy. By leveraging technology responsibly, they aim to honor White's legacy while making her works relevant and accessible to contemporary audiences.

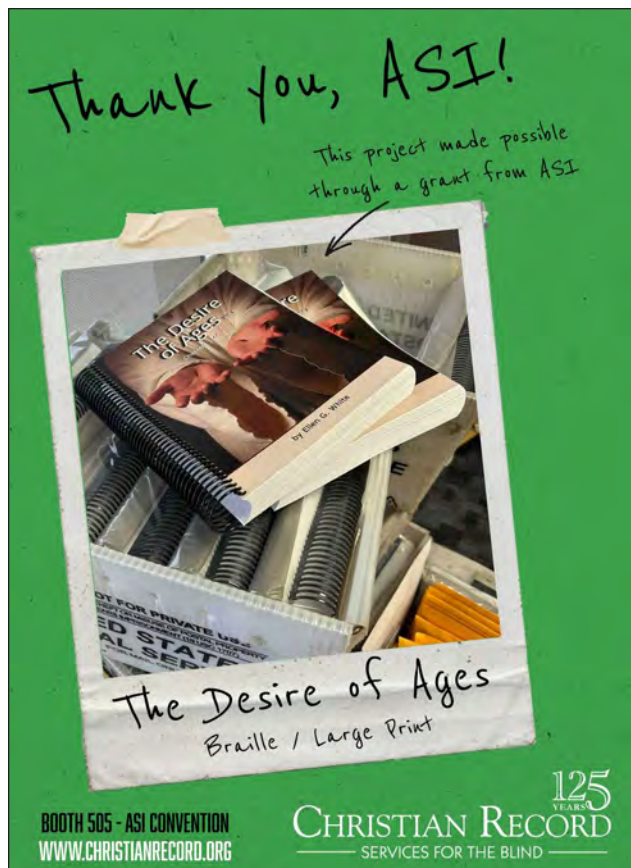
THE BEST IS YET TO COME

The Ellen G. White Estate's journey from print to AI exemplifies a remarkable evolution in the dissemination of spiritual literature. Under the visionary leadership of individuals like Darryl Thompson, the Estate has harnessed the power of technology

to broaden the reach of Ellen White's writings, making them accessible to a global audience in unprecedented ways. When asked what to expect, Thompson says with a grin, "You ain't seen nothin' yet!"

From digitization to implementation of AI and through continuous technological innovation, the Estate remains committed to ensuring that Ellen White's timeless messages resonate with people across different cultures and generations. As they look to the future, their commitment to leveraging technology for accessibility and engagement remains unwavering, guided by a respect for the past and a vision for the future.

INSIDE ASI editorial team.



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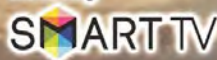


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AudioVerse

BLENDING MINISTRY WITH INNOVATION

Since its inception in 2005, AudioVerse has been focused on innovation, reshaping the way people access sermons and spiritual content. Created by two visionary medical students, Tim Arakawa and Curtis Farnham, AudioVerse was born at the merger of technology and ministry, envisioning a platform that would transcend conventional boundaries and reach audiences worldwide.

Nearly two decades later, AudioVerse stands as a testament to their pioneering spirit, with a relentless commitment to harnessing emerging technologies for the greater good. Alistair Huong, Executive Director of AudioVerse, encapsulates their ethos, stating, “Our mission has always been to make sound doctrine accessible to all, regardless of geographical location

or language barriers.”

AudioVerse’s ongoing commitment to technological breakthroughs continues with the integration of artificial intelligence (AI), which is opening new doors and improving access and accessibility to their broad library of content. Through new AI-driven innovations, AudioVerse is breaking down barriers to spiritual enlightenment on a global scale.

“One of our most exciting ventures is a new AudioVerse audio Bible,” shares Huong. “Our AI-powered audio Bible will revolutionize the way people engage with scripture.”

To that end, AudioVerse is using AI voice technology to craft an audio Bible that will be fully owned by AudioVerse. This means they won’t have to worry about expensive and restrictive copyrights and usage fees. They also plan to use AI to connect Bible

passages with sermon content. This will allow them to annotate their Bible so that it acts like a living concordance with links to relevant sermon snippets from speakers like Mark Finley or John Bradshaw.

Another project they are exploring will use AI to translate sermon content from their library into other languages. Not only will listeners hear the sermons in their native tongues, but also in the original speaker’s “voice” with the same tone, and inflections as the original sermon.

The impact of AI brings other innovations as well. With sophisticated data analysis and machine learning, AudioVerse is working to deliver a personalized spiritual experience tailored to the individual needs of users.

“AI is allowing us to curate content that resonates with each user’s unique

spiritual journey,” Huong elaborates. “Whether it’s through personalized sermon recommendations or AI-driven summarization tools, we’re working to empower individuals to deepen their connection with faith in meaningful ways.”

As AudioVerse continues its technological pilgrimage, Huong emphasizes their unwavering commitment to innovation and inspiration. “We’re constantly exploring new frontiers in AI and beyond, seeking to enhance accessibility and personalization in spiritual enrichment.”

To learn how you can support this cutting-edge ministry as well as access the free AudioVerse library of sermons and materials to benefit your spiritual journey, visit audioverse.org.



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"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"... Mark 16:15

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I would like to take a minute and show my appreciation for the Christmas bag. Thank you all for what you are doing for all the inmates. I for one am thankful not only for the gift of the bag, but also for all the smiles and laughter we have had in our cells today. Seeing the smiles of the other inmates was probably the best thing I have seen and I thank you all for that. **What you are all doing is a blessing and if it wasn't for God, it wouldn't be possible. Thank you Jesus, and once again thank all of you that made this possible!**

Tom, Inmate at the Hopkins County Jail, Madisonville, Kentucky



Christmas Behind Bars is looking at purchasing some property. Lord willing, we will be able to build our own warehouse for the ministry. We have many volunteers who have said that they would be more than willing to help us build. The cost savings for the donated labor will be very significant!

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MISSION & MINISTRY

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WHO WE ARE

Christmas Behind Bars started many years ago, visiting one county jail at Christmas with small gift packages, letting the inmates know that they are not forgotten and that God still loves them. We understand the need for an inward transformation that can only come through Christ. We have expanded to a ministry that visits prisons all throughout the year. From the founder's conversion from a life of drugs and incarceration, to a new life found in Christ, full of meaning and a passion for the broken, to hundreds of individuals who have volunteered to hand-assemble thousands of care packages monthly, **Christmas Behind Bars** has been able to grow, reaching people for Christ throughout the country!



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DIGITAL GLOBAL EVANGELISM

And the impact of Artificial Intelligence

by Mark Finley

The figures are staggering. The task seems overwhelming. The mission before us appears to all human thinking—impossible. The world’s population is approximately eight billion and growing. Currently, there are over a billion people in China and India. The continent of Africa has just topped the one billion mark. Of the eight billion plus people on the face of the planet, only approximately 30% or 2.2 billion are Christian, and Seventh-day Adventists are just a small fraction of the total. There are 1.6 billion Muslims, 1.1 billion secular agnostics and atheists, 1 billion Hindus, and 500 million Buddhists, plus thousands of other religious groups.

This leads us to some thought-provoking questions. How will the work of God on earth ever be finished? Is it possible for the gospel in the context of the three angels’ messages to circle the globe in a relatively short time? When will we see the fulfillment of Jesus’s words, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations and then the end shall come” (Matthew 24:14)?

NEW METHODS FOR A NEW GENERATION

Digital technology has made the seemingly impossible much more possible. The internet is accessible in almost every country. Once again God has united the world. Through the internet, the message of Christ knows no boundaries. The gospel spans oceans, leaps across national borders, penetrates unentered countries, and reaches earth’s millions in gigantic apartment complexes as well as primitive villages. “Digital evangelism is the systematic and intentional use of internet platforms to spread the gospel

to the online population. The goal is to introduce people to Christ and then connect them to a church family. You may see the terms digital evangelism and online evangelism being used interchangeably. Both cover various evangelism strategies that require the use of the internet, cell phones, laptops, video cameras, and other

“New methods must be introduced. God’s people must awake to the necessities of the time in which they are living. God has men whom He will call into His service—men who will not carry forward the work in the lifeless way in which it has been carried forward in the past.”

—Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, Sept. 30, 1902

modern technologies” (*Every Thing You Need to Know about Online Evangelism*, sdadata.org).

Recently I realized anew the amazing impact of digital evangelism. I conducted an evangelistic series in Kenya uplinked by Hope Channel to 20,000 sites via satellite. The programs were broadcast on YouTube, Facebook, radio, and television. The

messages were streamed to churches, apartments, private homes, business establishments, bus stops, prisons, and outdoor venues in villages. People watched on large screens, televisions, computers, iPads, and cell phones. We received an interesting message from three shepherds in a very remote area with scattered villages. They viewed the programs on their solar-powered iPhones in the evening while they tended their cattle. These bushmen accepted Christ and desired to become His disciples as the result of the message of the gospel they heard on their cell phones. In contrast to these bushmen, well-educated young professionals, employees of the largest bank in Kenya, watched the Christ-centered biblical messages beamed from one of our Nairobi Adventist churches directly into their bank in the evenings. The East Central African Division reports that there were 197,000 baptisms as a result of this massive evangelistic outreach. They attribute over 100,000 of these baptisms to our digital evangelism satellite series.

On another occasion, I shared messages from the book of Revelation from my office at the Living Hope School of Evangelism in Haymarket, Virginia, via a Chinese translator to Chinese people worldwide. Ten million Chinese-speaking people downloaded our messages. Our prime digital communication platform is YouTube. Our prime digital platform is our YouTube Channel Hope Lives 365. We have 247,000 subscribers and have reached nearly 30 million people in every country where YouTube is not banned. Christ’s end-time message can be rapidly spread around the world in seconds. God has made it possible that through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Savior’s promise “And this

gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world and then the end shall come” will be fulfilled (Matthew 24:14). The “earth will be lightened with God’s glory” (Revelation 18:1) and the gospel will be proclaimed to every “nation, kindred, tongue, and people” (Revelation 14:6).

I am convinced that the Holy Spirit is using digital technology powerfully as one way of making disciples. The possibilities are enormous. “The landscape of evangelism has undergone a significant transformation in recent years, propelled by rapid technological advancements and the widespread adoption of digital platforms. As society becomes increasingly connected and reliant on the digital realm, ministries and pastors must adapt their approach to sharing the gospel” (“Embracing Digital Evangelism,” preaching.com).

If we want to reach a global audience and penetrate previously unreached peoples, global technology provides a powerful platform to accomplish God’s mission. By embracing digital platforms for evangelism we recognize the profound impact they can have on reaching a global audience. “By harnessing the power of technology, we can overcome physical limitations and barriers, amplify the impact of the gospel message, and build online communities that foster genuine relationships and spiritual growth. It is time to embrace digital evangelism and discover new avenues for sharing the timeless message of hope and salvation” (ibid). Digital evangelism beams the message into people’s homes wherever they are, in whatever country they are in, in the context of their own language and culture. It is not limited by a specific time frame. They can access Bible truth twenty-four hours a day seven days a week. Pastors and local congregations can have a local presence with a global reach as they establish an online audience. Let me be clear, digital discipleship

and evangelism do not replace the traditional evangelistic methods that the Christian church has used for two thousand years.

Ellen White encourages us to use every means possible to reach lost people with the gospel. She urges us to “reach the people where they are.” Here is an enlightening statement on creatively developing new methods of reaching people.

“Digital media and AI do not take the place of personal relationships. They are the doorway to more meaningful relationships. They enlarge the circle of your influence from a very few to tens of thousands.”

“New methods must be introduced. God’s people must awaken to the necessities of the time in which they are living. God has men whom He will call into His service—men who will not carry forward the work in the lifeless way in which it has been carried forward in the past” (Review and Herald, Sept. 30, 1902).

Online evangelism plays a crucial role in sharing the gospel and connecting with people in the digital age. It is a superhighway of communication. It provides unique opportunities for discipleship and evangelism. Never in human history

could we share the gospel with so many people in so short a time.

THE POSSIBILITIES AND CHALLENGES OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has provided new opportunities for pastoral ministry and evangelistic outreach. Information can be gathered and evaluated quickly. Research on complex topics is at our fingertips. Sermons, books, and articles can be translated into multiple languages almost instantaneously. AI can even write our sermons and preach them via an avatar. Currently, I am preparing a new series on the prophecies of Daniel, and we are preparing some amazing, up-to-date graphics using AI. Our Hope Lives 365 media team also uses AI to illustrate my Sabbath sermons with outstanding results. AI can be a remarkable asset in the church’s ministry, yet there are some significant challenges and dangers.

UNDERSTANDING THE DANGERS AND OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

For some, AI can become a quick fix to sermon preparation rather than the thoughtful, prayerful study of God’s Word. There are also ethical concerns of using AI to produce material and then claiming originality. Transparency here is vital. One of the major challenges that I see with AI and all digital technology is the potential for substituting technology for the moving of the Spirit and personal relationships.

It is possible to spend hours in digital ministry and neglect personal relationships. One can become enamored with the potential viewing audience and focus on programming rather than people. Digital media and AI do not take the place of personal relationships. They are the doorway to more meaningful relationships. They enlarge the circle of your influence

from a very few to tens of thousands. It is also possible to focus on what is trending on social media rather than faithfulness to biblical truth. God has not called us to be trendsetters, He has called us to be proclaimers of the eternal gospel to prepare people for eternity. Digital media is a tool to reach millions, not an end in itself. It is a channel for discipleship. God has not called us to be relevant, He has called us to be effective.

To be effective in a social media ministry it is of paramount importance to begin with the end in mind. The goal is reaching people with the unchangeable, inspired, truths of God's Word. The goal is not contemporary programming, it is effective discipleship and evangelism. The ultimate question is not how many people viewed a program but how many have become disciples of Christ through the digital ministry. Unless the regular viewers who are subscribers to our YouTube channels are transformed by the grace of God and become followers of Christ, we accomplish little. It's not the number of Facebook friends that really counts, it is the number of friends we make for Jesus. Our X social media account (Twitter) may reach thousands, but unless it touches one life for the gospel, it is making little real difference.

A NEW VISION BRINGS NEW POSSIBILITIES

I am intrigued with the following statement by Ellen White: "The truth will be made so prominent that he who runs may read. Means will be devised to reach hearts. Some of the methods used in this work will be different from the methods used in the work in the past; but let no one, because of this, block the way by criticism" (*Review and Herald*, Sept. 30, 1902). Certainly the use of digital technology to "make disciples" and evangelize the world is a "different" method from those used in the past. I am convinced that through a wide variety of online methodologies, the

truth will be made "prominent." Digital technology provides seeking people surfing the internet an opportunity to discover relevant Christ-centered messages of biblical truth that meet their innermost needs. In the privacy of their homes, they can remain anonymous as they search for deeper meaning and purpose in their life. If the church fails to occupy the digital space and provide answers to these seekers, the space will be filled with godless content focused on dialectic materialism and secular values. For many people, the internet is no more than a pond of pleasure and a cesspool of vice. There is no doubt that the uncertainty of our times has produced a seeking generation looking for answers to the basic questions of life.

A SEEKING GENERATION

People everywhere are asking, "What is really going on in our world?" Deep within the fabric of their beings they sense that ours is a world in deep trouble—a world consumed with poverty, famine, and war. A world writhing in sickness, disease, and sorrow. Rising from our troubled planet like an incense of doom are the cries of millions of people, "What does the future hold? Are we a forgotten cinder out on the edge of a forgotten galaxy—a world that doesn't matter?"

Secularism, materialism, and the pursuit of pleasure have let them down. Their hearts are empty. There is a deep longing within for something to satisfy the deepest needs of the soul.

The disciples of Christ had a purpose to live for and something to die for. Their lives were caught up in the all-consuming mission of leading people to become disciples of Christ. The proclamation of the gospel was their passion. They recognized that the deepest need of the human heart is to know Christ. When their passion is our passion, we, too, will be consumed with reaching lost people. Our desire will be to use every method possible to make disciples for Christ.

MISSION POSSIBLE

Mission impossible is now mission possible. God has allowed some of the greatest minds of this generation to develop technology for the communication of His Word locally and globally. Through His divine providence, the "fulness of time has come" to proclaim His last-day message of eternal truth in every means possible. The opportunity is ours to embrace. The moment is ours to seize. The digital door is open for us to enter. By the grace of God let us grasp the significance of the possibilities before us.



Mark Finley is a Seventh-day Adventist evangelist who now serves as assistant to the world church president.

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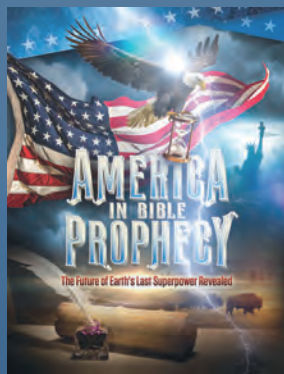
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NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Meet Jason Diehl

Jason Diehl, tech-savvy entrepreneur and owner of TurboWebs, LLC, is affectionately known as the “Internet Medicine Man.” Growing up without access to technology due to financial constraints, Jason built his first computer from scratch, showcasing his early fascination with computers and determination to learn. He pursued studies at DeVry before withdrawing due to financial pressures, but his belief in self-education has never wavered.

With a keen eye for efficiency and a knack for technology, Jason founded his technology company to help streamline his clients’ business processes. He has a unique ability to bridge the gap between technology

and people and effectively implement solutions that enhance productivity and user experience.

Jason is fueled by his passion for using innovation to improve lives. He believes in the power of automation to alleviate repetitive tasks and free up time for more meaningful pursuits, such as building relationships and fostering connections within communities.

His innovative approach to business extends beyond traditional boundaries. Jason explores emerging technologies like responsive design and progressive web applications (PWAs) to create cost-effective solutions that transcend the limitations of traditional apps. His commitment to making technology accessible and user-friendly underscores

his mission to empower individuals and businesses alike.

A JOURNEY OF FAITH

Jason was raised in the Worldwide Church of God where he was introduced to the Sabbath and other biblical concepts at an early age. But at the age of 18, he stepped away from his childhood faith and religion. He eventually met and married his wife, Ashley, and when they had their first child, they knew they wanted to raise their family within a Bible-based faith community. A work colleague suggested that he should check out the local Seventh-day Adventist church. She even sent him a link to the closest church.

When they visited, they intended to “sneak in and out the back door” but



the pastor snagged them before they could get away. “And he turned out to be a great guy,” says Jason. “In fact, we became best friends!”

They found themselves in Bible studies and were soon active baptized members of the Pauls Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church. Jason and Ashley embraced their new faith wholeheartedly. They found a sense of purpose within the Adventist community, and through outreach programs such as “Celebrating Life in Recovery,” “Diabetes Undone,” and the “Messiah’s Mansion,” they have enjoyed seeing others come to deeper faith and choose baptism.

THE ASI CONNECTION

As Jason’s involvement in the Adventist Church deepened, he became aware of the ASI (Adventist-Laymen’s Services & Industries) organization. ASI resonated with Jason’s entrepreneurial spirit, and he was curious. But by this point, he and Ashley had three young children, and he didn’t want to go to a convention leaving his wife on her own with the kids. And he assumed that since the ASI convention was a business-focused event, it wouldn’t be an ideal family-friendly outing. A friend assured him that ASI conventions were in

fact great for families with amazing children’s programming and activities for all ages.

The upcoming (2023) convention was to be hosted in Kansas City—a short drive from their home in Norman, Oklahoma. He says that attending was a no-brainer. And he and Ashley are so glad they went. They found inspiration and encouragement with like-minded believers who share their passion for entrepreneurial and spiritual growth.

SHARING CHRIST IN THE MARKETPLACE

One of Jason’s significant achievements has been his innovative use of automated print-on-demand technology to share his faith. Leveraging his background in technology and innovation, Jason developed a groundbreaking approach to sharing Bible studies. By harnessing the power of automated printing and distribution systems, he has created a seamless and cost-effective method for producing and mailing personalized Bible study materials to interests he connects with at church evangelistic events and online through social media advertisements.

The great part about it is that he can spend less time producing and mailing

literature, and more time connecting one-on-one with his contacts.

He is currently turning his process into a simple turnkey system that anyone can use. He is praying that it will streamline evangelistic efforts and become a cost-effective outreach solution.

In his spare time, Jason enjoys spending time with his family, honing his technological skills, and seeking new ways to make a positive impact in the world. With his entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to leveraging technology for good, Jason Diehl continues to inspire others to embrace innovation and deepen their faith in God.

INSIDE ASI editorial team.




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A Book, a Tract, and a Snack

by Pat Humphrey

During the height of the COVID pandemic, many families spent more time at home, and for some, outreach opportunities were quite limited. But not so for three eager, bright, and innovative children—Arthur Glasser, age 8, Maxwell Glasser, age 7, and Clara Glasser, age 4—who found a very creative way to share God’s love with others. As various delivery drivers from UPS, Amazon, and FedEx arrived at their home with packages from day to day, the children got a bright idea. “I know what we can do!” they said. “Let’s give the delivery men something too!” And so began Boxman Ministry, which has been blessing the lives of drivers delivering packages at the Glasser home since early 2020.

With help from mom and dad, the children began putting together

packages filled with uplifting literature, tracts, and snacks. Whenever they hear the driveway alarm ringing, Arthur, Maxwell, and Clara run to get dressed, put their shoes on, and grab a pre-made Boxman bag to hand to the person at the door. “Arthur is usually first out the door, then Maxwell, with Clara trailing behind,” says their dad, Aric Glasser. “We offer the Boxmen a warm greeting, a bag of blessings, and ask if they have any prayer requests before requesting to pray with them.”

The Glassers have developed special friendships with some of the drivers who regularly return to their home. They’ve even gifted one of them with a new Bible and a set of Bible study lessons. Their home deliveries have also provided unique opportunities to share health information and natural remedies with their visitors. But that’s not all. Whenever the Glasser family

travels away from home, they carry with them “Boxman” bags for any strangers they meet at gas stations and other stops along the way. Aric says, “We started with delivery drivers that come to our home and have expanded to policemen, firemen, truck drivers at gas stations, and pretty much every new person we come across outside the home!” During the holiday season, the family takes holiday-themed literature to businesses in nearby towns.

While one of the purposes of Boxman Ministry is to plant seeds of truth in the minds and hearts of others, its primary purpose is to plant the seeds of love for doing missionary work in the hearts of children. As Aric and his wife, Lisa, train their children to work for God, their hearts’ desire is to see them actively engaged in touching the lives of others from an early age so that it will become a natural part



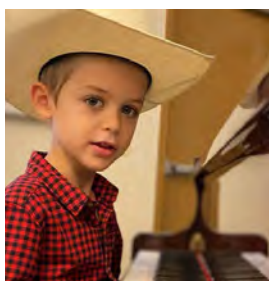
of their lifelong experience. “We want our children to be a blessing in this world and to serve God wherever He leads them,” Aric says.

The three Glasser siblings are a powerful missionary team, each of whom plays their own unique role in making an impact on those who deliver packages to their home.

Eight-year-old **Arthur**, the eldest, loves to help people and form relationships with the delivery drivers. His passion and hope are to bring a Boxman to church one day and to be able to give a Bible study. Arthur is a natural leader who sets an example for his younger siblings.



Maxwell (affectionately called Mac) is the middle child with an inquisitive side. Mac likes to ask the delivery people questions and to pray with them, always keeping track of the prayer requests. Mac oversees the inventory of books and snacks.



Clara, the youngest member of Boxman ministry, always brings a smile to the Boxmen. She helps with the preparation of the bags and has been known to sneak a hand-made craft into the bag for an extra dose of love. Hardly anyone can refuse a Boxman bag from the sweet and smiling Clara who greets them at the door!



Over the past few years the Glasser children have had the opportunity to share truth-filled literature with countless people whose lives they’ve impacted in ways they may never know. At their local post office the kids gave a *Steps to Christ*

to the postmaster, who read the book and then placed it out in the lobby for people to take, read, and return. One person who did so remarked when bringing it back, “This is the only way to heaven!”

One “Boxman” who had experienced the loss of his father was encouraged by the opportunity to share his prayer requests with the Glassers via e-mail, and was grateful for the prayers sent up on his behalf. Another young “Boxman” told the family about some of his struggles when he made a delivery for the first time to the Glasser home. On a subsequent visit, he recounted that his day had been brightened by his conversation with the kids on his first visit. Later, he

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shared about the experience on social media and also with his family.

But the reach of Boxman Ministry and the lives it touches isn't just confined to the Glasser home and its surrounding community. Other kids are catching the vision too! One day their Glassers' hearts were warmed as a surprise e-mail came from two newly-baptized kids in the Middle East who wanted to start a Boxman Ministry in Kuwait. Although they aren't allowed to pass out Christian literature in that country, they were inspired by the Glasser kids to make some homemade cards telling people about the love of Jesus. And the idea is catching on in many other places as kids around the U.S. are getting inspired to

start Boxman Ministries in their own homes and communities.

If you've ever been tempted to think that a 4-year-old, a 7-year-old, and an 8-year-old are too young to start a thriving ministry, just talk to Aric, Lisa, Arthur, Maxwell, and Clara, or any of the people who've been the happy recipients of "a book, a tract, and a snack!" If you do, you're bound to be convinced that there's no age limit on blessing others! And perhaps you'll even be inspired to start a Boxman Ministry of your own. This ministry has certainly inspired me to keep a box of literature handy by our front door!

The Glasser family lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma. They are active members of

ASI, and Aric serves the ASI Southwest Chapter as VP for Projects.

See the endearing Boxman Ministry video clip here...



Scan the above link with your smart phone to watch a video of Arthur, Maxwell, and Clara sharing about Boxman Ministry.



Pat Humphrey is the president of ASI Southwest. Pat serves as VP of Operations for Streams of Light International. She and her husband, Art, live in Rio Vista, Texas.



OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Two Prisoners Encourage Two Officers Against Suicide

The value that you put on somebody's life today may help save someone's life tomorrow...

...A staff member at the Correctional Industrial Facility was going through a really hard time in his life. His wife was filing for divorce, and everything seemed hopeless. As he came into work one day, he shared with one of the inmates how dark and empty his life was, and that he was going to commit suicide. This Inmate had committed his life to Christ in prison, and he began to tell the officer to not give up, but to trust God, and he would give him the strength to go through whatever would come. The prisoner explained how the Lord had helped him, and this gave the officer hope... and he did not commit suicide. Christmas Behind Bars was back at that prison, having a service and baptisms, and the officer said how he was reminded of the day he was ready to give up on life. He was encouraged through this inmate's testimony, and was glad that we were offering inmates hope through Christ.

Another inmate, who had killed Christians, was now in prison for the cause of Christ. The prisoner's name was Paul. The jailer was ready to commit suicide, thinking the prisoners had escaped. Paul said, "Stop, no one has escaped!" The jailer asked, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul said, "Repent, and be baptized, and believe on the name of Jesus Christ." So not only was Paul converted, and now in prison for Christ, but the jailer and his whole family were also saved.

Your sponsorship is making a difference in the lives of the prisoners. As lasting positive changes take place in their lives, they are able to bring hope to new prisoners, their own families, and even the correctional officers. Your sponsorship dollars do not stop when one person gives their life to Christ, but the ripple effect continues on. We believe that you will see many people in the kingdom of heaven through your investments, bringing hope to the prisoners. Christmas Behind Bars gift packages and Bibles are helping to meet their physical needs, letting them know the love of Jesus Christ, and that our Heavenly Father has not given up on them...



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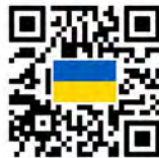
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TO SEEK & SAVE THE LOST



In Luke chapter 19, we read the account of Zaccheus, who was a Publican (a rich tax collector). Zaccheus was known among his fellow Jewish countrymen as a sinner, and was hated because of his allegiance with the Romans. As a tax collector, he imposed Roman taxes on the Jews. Publicans were known to overcharge their countrymen of taxes, then keep the excess for themselves.

When Jesus came to his hometown of Jericho, Zaccheus went to see him, but he was short and had to climb a tree to see over the crowd. When Jesus came by, he called Zaccheus by name, and came into his home that day. Even though the people grumbled about Jesus spending time with a sinner, **that simple act of love by Jesus caused Zaccheus to have a change of heart.** Zaccheus repented of his sin, and promised to give half of his possessions to the poor, and restore

four times as much to anyone he had defrauded. Jesus recognized his change of heart, and spoke of his salvation to those who were present.

Jesus came to 'SEEK AND SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST.'" (Luke 19:10)

The Christmas Behind Bars Outreach Ministries believes it is our responsibility to reach out to those who are like Zaccheus. Prisoners are the outcasts of society, often forgotten by their own families. Like Zaccheus, they have made grievous mistakes and often some enemies. **But Jesus sought after the outcasts, and has challenged us to love the "LEAST OF THESE" the way he does (see Matthew 25:31-45).**

Will you help us to reach out to them today?

We thank you for your continued sponsorship of this ministry, helping us seek and save the lost. We know that without Christ, there is no hope of salvation or everlasting life...



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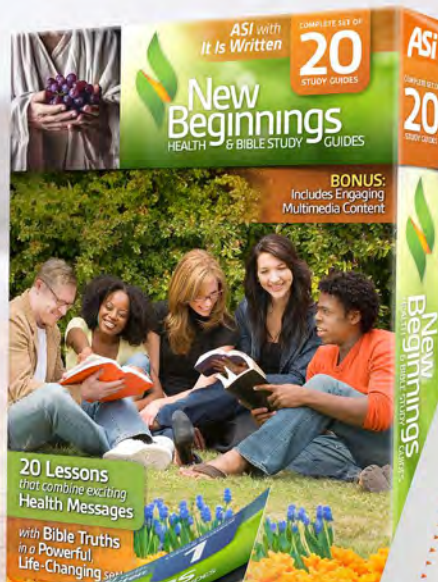
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