

Inside ASI[®]

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

Summer/Fall 2017

"ASI and Church leaders unite to finish the work..."



almost home



Heaven is Near
BY NAOMI JACKSON



The Power of Humility
BY DANIQUE TERSMETTE



Finding Peace
BY VIRIATO FERREIRA

What's inside?

Features

- 25 **New You Health Initiative** by Holbrook Indian School
- 28 **Avoiding Ministry Burnout Using Christ's Example**
by Angela Poch

Departments

- 4 **Officer's Outlook:** Heaven is Near by Naomi Jackson
- 6 **The Bottom Line:** The Power of Humility by Danique Tersmette
- 8 **To Your Health:** Are Your "Brain Grooves" Working?
by Adell Haughey Claypool
- 10 **Members in Action:** Big Man on a Big Mission by Keith Dobbs
- 11 **Members in Action:** Testimony of a Neighborhood Bible Study
by Andi Hunsaker
- 17 **Members in Action:** The Right Arm Touches Lives by Kieth Schleifer
- 20 **Members in Action:** Bible Work Through Food Business
by Heidi Liv Tompkins and Ivan Joshua Raj
- 22 **Members in Action:** I See the Light, Helen's Story by Taj Pacleb
- 30 **ASI Abroad:** Finding Peace on the Journey Home by Viriato Ferreira.
- 32 **ASI Project Report:** New Beginnings Picture Rolls
- 33 **New to the Family:** New ASI Members
- 35 **ASI Project Report:** Living Waters Grows Food to Feed Orphans



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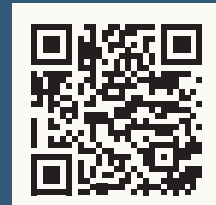
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Wayne Atwood
Editor, *Inside ASI*

The expression "home, sweet home" has a special ring to it. I'm sure you have felt that way coming back from a trip that separated you from your loved ones or when simply arriving at home after a long day at work. There's no place like home!

ASI has had the privilege of "Sharing Christ in the Marketplace" for 70 years. We are motivated more than ever to finish the work, so that we don't have to wait another 70 years to go home! At the very heart of ASI is the vision and a passion to work hand-in-hand with our church in reaching souls for Christ. Imagine a church where every single member is active in soul winning! I especially like the following quote that illustrates the importance of laymen and church leaders working together. "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers" (*Gospel Workers*, p. 351).

May God bless you as you read this issue of *Inside ASI* entitled "Almost Home." May you be inspired to act *your* part in preparing for Jesus' soon return.



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HEAVEN *is Near*

“THEY ARE PREPARED FOR THE COMMUNION OF HEAVEN; FOR THEY HAVE HEAVEN IN THEIR HEARTS”

—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 421.



When I was in my early 20s, I worked as an au pair in southern Germany. I was quite accustomed to being far from home, as I had already spent approximately two years in Austria. But a few months after moving to Germany, I experienced extreme homesickness for the first time. Only after a few days was I able to articulate what had otherwise never crossed my mind throughout my travels. I wanted to go home. Immediately.

I made plans to return home to spend Christmas with my mother. Once the plane ticket was purchased, I breathed a sigh of relief. It would only be a matter of weeks before I'd fall into my mom's warm embrace.

The long-anticipated day came, and I found myself weaving intently through the corridors of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. But when I arrived at the exit and scanned the faces, my mother was nowhere in sight. Confused and terribly disappointed, I waited and waited and waited—I was *almost* home. I was already on familiar soil, but until I saw my mom's face, I wasn't home yet.

I was eventually able to place a call to her cell phone. She was at the airport. My close friend, who was flying overseas that same day, had requested to ride with my mom to the airport, and she was the reason

behind my mom's late arrival! It seemed to me I couldn't wait a moment longer. Tears were forming puddles and streaming down my cheeks as my mother walked through the airport doors.

Imagine the passion in Moses' plea as he spoke with the Lord about entering the Promised Land: "I pray, let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon" (Deuteronomy 3:25, NKJV). But God had made up His mind, and there was nothing further to discuss. Moses, who had spent decades leading God's children through the wilderness, would not be privy to enter the land flowing with milk and honey, because he had lost his patience over the cantankerous crowd. He had labored so long with God's people to only almost make it home.

The Lord in His mercy ultimately granted Moses' desire to see the beauty of Canaan centuries later. Nonetheless, it serves as a sobering reminder of two opposing realities to being almost home. The first testifies of humanity's inability to achieve God's standard without God's help. Oh, we may look good sometimes, but the truth is, we're just not good enough. There is simply no such thing as being almost righteous.

The second reality, however, is wonderfully encouraging. Our heavenly home is not so much about a place as it is about a Person. When Christ our Righteousness fights for us, as He did over the body of Moses (Jude 9), He cannot lose. As we pour out our lives in love and service to God and our neighbors, that saving relationship sustains us until we finally reach the Promised Land. "To His faithful followers Christ has been a daily companion and familiar friend...In them the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ has been reflected...They are prepared for the communion of heaven; for they have heaven in their hearts" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 420).

With Christ in our lives, heaven is very near. Let us not be the kind of friends that keep Jesus just outside of reach. Rather, may our testimony bring heaven and the One who makes it home nearer to everyone we meet.



Naomi Jackson is currently vice-president for logistics for ASI and communication director for OCI. She studied music at Andrews University prior to moving to Honduras to serve at VIDA Internacional. With her love for mission work and languages, she enjoys encouraging people around the world to consider full-time ministry.

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THE POWER OF HUMILITY

BY DANIQUE TERSMETTE



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Danique Tersmette does graphic design, editing, and animation/visual effects at Little Light Studios. She was raised in the Netherlands with a Dutch father and a South African mother. With her mother having left the church at the age of 18, Danique was not raised in a Christian home. She only knew there was a God somewhere and that she didn't come from monkeys. After a rocky road, Danique accepted Christ as her Savior when she was 15 and was baptized when she was 16.

The only greatness is the greatness of humility. The only distinction is found in devotion to the service of others” (*The Faith I Live By*, p. 297).

This is one of my favorite quotes from Ellen White, and one of my favorite verses goes right along: “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30, NKJV).

I was listening to a sermon by evangelist Randy Skeete on Audioverse recently, in which he explained why the first commandment was first. This message was so simple and yet so profound. The first commandment is first, because if we would never have any gods before us and always make God first, we would automatically be keeping all the other commandments too.

The core of every sin is self. Ellen White writes in *Steps to Christ*, page 43: “The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness.”

It’s all about submission, surrender, and allowing God to live in us, while we die to self.

I have been praying more for this spiritual death lately. In fact, it’s probably the one thing that I have been praying for most, and I can tell you now that God has been working on my heart like never before. It is when you pray for humility that God opens doors for you to be humble, and that’s when your true character is revealed. Will you choose to be a servant or instead, choose to serve self?

As I was praying for more humility, God led me to a message on Audioverse by Melody Mason, which she presented at GYC 2016. In her presentation she quoted Andrew Murray, who writes: “It is easy to think we humble ourselves before God: but humility towards men will be the only sufficient proof that our humility before God is real. The humble man feels no jealousy or envy. He can praise God when others are preferred and blessed before him... He can bear to hear others praised and himself forgotten, because in God’s presence he has learned to say with Paul, ‘I am nothing.’ He has received the spirit of Jesus, who pleased not himself, and sought not his own honor, as the spirit of his life” (*Humility*, pp. 25, 27).

This is humility: when you want others to be preferred over yourself. People might think you are the least of the least, and someone else the creme de la creme. You could be there too by glorifying self, but you choose to be a servant instead. God acknowledges those who seek to glorify Him only. Their time will come. “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up” (James 4:10, NKJV).

We find the same example in Jesus’ life. Romans 5:10 says that while we were God’s enemies (before we accepted Christ) He died for us. When you look at the crucifixion, it was the priests who shouted: “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” (John 19:6). Still, Jesus willingly died for the leaders of Israel, His murderers. Those priests are the leaders of the church today. We are all guilty of the cross because He had to die for our sins. We murdered the Son of God. But while we were yet His enemies, His murderers, He died for us, for you and me.

“Satan with his fierce temptations wrung the heart of Jesus. The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb. Hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the grave a conqueror, or tell Him of the Father’s acceptance of the sacrifice. He feared that sin was so offensive to God that Their separation was to be eternal. Christ felt the anguish which the sinner will feel when mercy shall no longer plead for the guilty race. It was the sense of sin, bringing the Father’s wrath upon Him as man’s substitute, that made the cup He drank so bitter, and broke the heart of the Son of God” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 753).

Christ was willing to die for those who murdered Him and were the cause of what He thought was a possible eternal separation from the Father. If He did this, we should be willing to do this too, not just for Jesus whom we love, but for those whom we consider our enemy.

Are we willing to put others first, dying to self, and if necessary, dying a physical death? Even for our enemies? This kind of humility is what we need, so that the Spirit can work through us fully and let the gospel spread like wildfire. This is the power of humility.

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“WE SHALL BE INDIVIDUALLY, FOR TIME AND ETERNITY, WHAT OUR HABITS MAKE US.”

—Testimonies, vol. 4, p. 452



Adell Haughey Claypool, MMusEd, MSPR, is a board-certified biblical counselor.

Dr. Elden M. Chalmers, ordained minister, psychologist, and university and college educator, once explained to a class I attended that messages are processed in the brain and then sent to various parts of the body through nerve cells. Each cell is made of a nucleus with surrounding fluid (cytoplasm) and boundary membrane. From this membrane come many little fibers (dendrites) that receive messages and one long fiber (axon) that transmits messages to the neighboring cells. Stimulate these pathways with thoughts or actions and you have a habit, a “groove” in your brain.

Perhaps it’s a bit difficult to wrap your brain (!) around all of this (there’s much more) but if you can, you’ve developed a new brain pathway.

When I was 10 years old my parents sent me to a trombone teacher—long before girls were known to play brass instruments—and after each lesson I was sent home to practice. By employing various techniques of the lips, tongue, breath, and arm-stretching, I repeated over and over those elements of horn blowing that would someday produce (hopefully) a “golden trombone” sound that eventually placed me on first trombone in bands in which I later played. I remember once as a teenager repeating a four-note passage, focusing on intonation—trying to play it as many times as necessary to tire Mother of my practice. It worked. Mother wearied of hearing that passage, but today I’m able to play those four-notes in tune, having formed that “groove” in my brain that has lasted more years

than I care to admit. Muscular memory that controls the distance my arm must reach, coupled with a sensitive “ear,” formed those “grooves” in my brain and body which, at this age and still being reinforced, will probably never be eliminated.

The sobering thought is that every act, thought, or feeling produces changes in our nerve pathways that become curses or blessings when these changes are reinforced. What kind of brain signals are your children forming when they see or hear your example? What kind of brain “pathways” are you forming in your daily walk with God, your Bible study, or even your positive (or negative?) attitude toward activities around you?

We can build new brain pathways by consciously responding differently to given situations. Of course, this is not only true with adults, but also with children. What kind of habit patterns or “grooves” are your children building? What experiences do they engage in that develop habits of self-discipline and strong Christian character? Perhaps this jaded music educator can suggest a music education in which habit patterns and self-discipline must be developed.

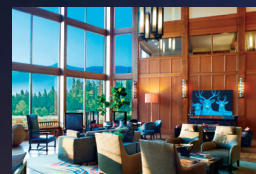
Warding off depression and anxiety may mean developing a new set of habit patterns. Developing good habits of prayer, praise, and Bible study are essential to paving the brain with those “grooves” that will be a lot more difficult to form after you retire. Just ask most any retiree.



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Big Joe

BIG MAN ON A BIG MISSION

BY KEITH DOBBS



“GOD HAS A CALLING IN MY LIFE. I’VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT HE WAS GOING TO USE ME.”

Weimar Institute is a health and Christian education facility that operates in harmony with the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Originally started in 1919 as a small tuberculosis sanitarium, the Institute has grown to a 450-acre campus surrounded by walking trails that are enjoyed by guests to NEWSTART™, Nedley Depression and Anxiety Recovery™ programs, Weimar College, and Weimar Academy. The campus also includes Weimar Inn, the Weimar Seventh-day Adventist Church, a bakery, and the Weimar Country Cafeteria.

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Big Joe may be Goliath size but he’s more like David, the man after God’s heart. At 6’6” and a record weight of 495 pounds, Big Joe became an overnight sensation when a random video was captured in Los Angeles at the Women’s March following President Donald Trump’s inauguration.

Big Joe is seeing some mighty work from the Big Man with book offers, online shows, radio interviews, and even invitations to visit the White House.

Sighting his love for evangelism, mass distribution of Christian literature, and his love for working with people, Big Joe said that God opened the door wide open! “The video, and several subsequent videos, has given me a very unusual platform where people would be willing to hear what I’m saying,” Big Joe continued. “People understand that I was speaking of prophecy. God has given me a bold confidence, like Stephen in the scriptures.” He said that it’s hard to keep his faith a secret when so many people want to hear what he’s saying. “The seeds have been planted and are being germinated.”

In a home of divided faith—his mother was Catholic and his father was a Seventh-day Adventist—Big Joe was raised in New York with his mother. At age 13, he started to split time between his mother in New York and his dad in Philadelphia.

His father had studied ministry at Oakwood College in Alabama and instilled some of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s beliefs. His grandfather was

a church planter in the Island of Haiti.

Big Joe began studying for himself, trying to find the right hope for his path. “After my research I ended up right back where I started. I believed in the Sabbath and the dietary laws of Leviticus.”

His research extended into the Spirit of Prophecy and Ellen White as a prophet for interpretation of scriptures to compliment the biblical truths. “I came into the Adventist truth by studying all the religions. It wasn’t a tradition thing for me.”

A series of life events happened for Big Joe including marriage, three sons, divorce, and a lot of emotional eating. He said that it was like a “Job experience” all in one day. After earnest prayer, Big Joe was put in contact with some health-conscious Adventists. Using his words, “God put the right people around me at the right time.” Fast-forward to February 2017 when Big Joe reached out to Weimar Institute in Northern California to enroll in the NEWSTART program. “It was time to get my life back in order and be reflective of the health message that I have in my heart.”

NEWSTART is an 18-day residential program using an acronym that stands for nutrition, exercise, water, sunlight, temperance, air, rest, and trust in God. Joe feels that as he gets his weight under control, and drops down to his desired weight of 240 pounds, people will notice and ask questions. “Being in front of the camera all the time these days, it will give me an opportunity to tell about the Seventh-day Adventist health message, which can open

all kinds of doors.”

During his 18-day program at Weimar, Big Joe got a good start toward reaching his goals. He lost 21 pounds and five inches. With a size 16 shoe, Big Joe says, “I plan on looking like actor Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson with a set of six-pack muscles. That will get everyone’s attention and they’ll be asking questions.”

Now at 47, he feels it’s time to claim the promises of Isaiah 8:20, which says, “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

As we talked, Big Joe spontaneously began singing his favorite hymn, “Seeking the Lost.”

“Seeking the lost, yes, kindly entreating, Wanderers of the mountain astray; Come unto Me, His message repeating, Words of the Master speaking today. Going afar upon the mountain, Bringing the wand’rer back again, back again, Into the fold of my Redeemer, Jesus, the Lamb for sinners slain, for sinners slain. Seeking the lost and pointing to Jesus, Souls that are weak and hearts that are sore, Leading them forth in ways of salvation, Showing the path to life evermore.”

Big Joe said that God wants him to use his newfound fame to sound an alarm to the lost and point them to Jesus. He believes that during these end times, the Seventh-day Adventist message will come from obscure places. Referencing a passage in *1 Selected Messages*, p. 221, Big Joe said, “We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange and eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven—events which it was declared should shortly precede the great day of God. Everything in the world is in an unsettled state. The nations are angry, and great preparations for war are being made. Nation is plotting against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. The great day of God is hastening greatly. But although the nations are mustering their forces for war and bloodshed, the command to the angels is still in force, that they hold the four winds until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.”

Being a public figure himself, Big Joe isn’t star struck with an invitation to meet the president or by his encounter with

“IT’S ALL PART OF GOD’S PLAN TO PUT THE RIGHT PEOPLE IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME. GOD WILL PROVIDE A PATH TO SHARE HIS MINISTRY JUST LIKE HE OPENED THE DOOR FOR ME TO BE AT THAT WOMEN’S MARCH.”

With over 100 million views and over a million shares, in one form or another, of the YouTube video clip (*Scan the QR code to view the Youtube video*), Big Joe says he’s humbled by this experience. In the video and subsequent videos, his experience is one of defending Christian beliefs, opposition to planned parenthood, and advocating for a united nation.



“There was no way that I was supposed to be in the middle of this march. I was on my bike on the way to the subway,” reflected Big Joe. “I’m a believer in the Creator. I believe in Divine Providence.”

renowned neurosurgeon Ben Carson, who now serves as the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. He wants to make sure that people know that his motives are not about politics but rather, sharing a common ground—that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Savior over all.

During Big Joe’s recent experience at Weimar Institute, he was re-baptized by NEWSTART chaplain Damon Snead.

“It’s all part of God’s plan to put the right people in the right place at the right time. God will provide a path to share His ministry just like he opened the door for me to be at that Women’s March.”

*Big Joe is his name of choice. With a birth name of Joseph DeGuerre, last name that means “of war,” he has been known as Big Joe since 1998. He is a member of a Seventh-day Adventist Church in Southern California.



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Testimony of A NEIGHBORHOOD BIBLE STUDY

BY ANDI HUNSAKER




Andi Hunsaker is a physician. She graduated from Loma Linda University and completed residency training at Loma Linda University Medical Center. Her greatest passion is Bible study and one-on-one evangelism. She lives with her husband, Bob, in Boston Massachusetts, where they both practice medicine. They attend Stoneham SDA church, where, together, they teach a Sabbath School class.

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“**S**ervants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given.” This was a quotation from *The Great Controversy*, page 612, read by Pastor Mark Finley in his Thursday-morning sermon entitled “Pentecost Revisited” at the 2008 ASI convention. This is a remarkable quotation in and of itself. But it is what Pastor Finley said in conjunction with this quote that arrested my attention and pierced my soul the very moment he spoke them. He asked a series of questions which are reproduced in part here: “Did Ellen White see a vision of people going from home to home with Bibles in their hands and filled with the Holy Spirit...knocking on the doors of their neighbors...sharing the gospel of Jesus? Did she see that in vision? Did she see real people? Did she see you?” It is that last question that grabbed my heart and I knew in that moment that my answer was yes. So I determined that my reserved husband and I would go door to door in our own neighborhood...our own street. There was only one problem. I had never gone door to door in an affluent neighborhood before. But I was compelled by those words which Pastor Finley spoke to go to my own neighbors.

After having professional stationery made and writing out our Bible study proposal, we set out after lunch on a nice Sabbath afternoon in mid-September of 2008 to knock on doors. It was easier than we thought and sure enough we formed a small Bible study group. There was one couple, Debbie and David, and their family, who said they would come but did not. They live across the road from us in a rather large house with beautiful apple orchards. She and her husband were real estate developers by profession and appeared to have all the trappings of high society. On the first night of our neighborhood Bible study, she came over with flowers to give her excuses, saying that she would try to join the following week. But that never happened. They would stop on their way to their home if they saw us doing yard work (a rarity for my husband and me) and chat about generalities. When she had a medical problem late one night, they called us because we had exchanged phone numbers. They valued our medical advice.

Several years later, in the fall of 2015, one of our young neighbors died of ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease). He was only 47 and left behind his wife and their two young boys. We and many neighbors went to the memorial service because we were invited. As Bob and I were walking across the parking lot to the building where the memorial service was to take place, I spotted Debbie and David and one of their older boys walking to the service. We caught each other’s eye at the same time and they waited for us. I mentioned that I had not met this son before. She said, “This is Danny; he is just out of rehab for substance abuse.” I was blown away. Substance abuse? Them? My neighborhood? Impossible, I thought—the big house, the fancy cars—no way! Well, I quickly collected myself and said to them and to Danny, “Danny, I am going to pray for you.” I met up with her later after the service and she said that Danny is a heroin addict and that he has overdosed many times and nearly died. She was at her wit’s end. I reassured her that I would indeed pray for them and for Danny.

A few months later, in May of 2016, their daughter ran across the street with a card in her hand saying, “I am graduating from high school and I want to invite you to my graduation party at my parents’ house. Will you please come?” Taking the card, I said that I would. So, that Sunday afternoon, I went to her party. I could not stay long. It seemed that our entire neighborhood was there. When I arrived, Danny was one of the first people I saw. He had been in and out of halfway houses and rehab centers and had lost friends to overdoses since the memorial service and would find himself in deep waters subsequent to that day. I told him again, “Danny I am praying for you. I wrote your name in my prayer journal.” I went out to the pool area and the orchards where the event was taking place and Debbie ran over to me and said, “Andi, I want you to study the Bible with me.” I said “Sure, I would be happy to.” I was there for about 20 minutes and Debbie came to me twice more to ask me to have Bible studies with her. She said that she remembered when we came and knocked on her door years ago and had thought of studying with us ever since, but that now she was ready. About a week later, she sent me a text message to be sure that I knew that she was in earnest about the studies. She insisted that we study at my house, though.

So began this journey of Bible study that I am now on with my neighbor Debbie. As we began our first study, it was obvious that she knew absolutely nothing about the Bible but was a deep thinker. She was raised with some Catholic influences, though she is Greek. She knew something about Judaism because her husband is Jewish. She really had no knowledge of God but felt that even though she was not raised with religion, there was a void in her life and it must be that there is a God. We began our studies with seven studies on God. Who is He? What kind of Being is He? And she truly fell in love with God. The wonder and amazement that flooded her face with each study was truly a blessing to me.

As I presented this picture of God as revealed in the Bible, she asked why she had never heard these things before and asked what religion I was. I told her that I am a Seventh-day Adventist and I thought to myself that she would never come back. She asked what that is and I explained that all that we had studied to that point is fundamental to Seventh-day Adventism. I told her that all of our doctrines are based on the fact that God is a God of love who values our freedom, who loves us more than Himself, and wants nothing more than for us to be with Him for eternity.



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With that we embarked on the doctrines. All of these doctrines were presented in light of the Cross and she was in awe that this is truly who God is. Well, the day came when we were on the topic of the state of the dead. So I began, as I usually do, with a question. I asked her if she had any thoughts on what happens when you die. She said yes. She believes that when you die, your soul goes to heaven and that she had seen hers leave her body. Well, I did not react. I simply said, “Oh, tell me about that.” She then related a story she told me at our very first meeting, but which I did not address because I wanted to lay a foundation with her about who God is. This is what she told me. When she was in her 20s (she is now 47), she had lymphoma and when she received chemotherapy, she was always very sick. She said that one day as she was lying in bed, she heard some bells and saw her soul leave her and float down the hall, and that she watched it as it floated down and then returned to her.

I then offhandedly said, “Well let’s see what the Bible has to say on death. I am not sure what was going on in your life at that time, but let’s look at the Bible.” I always heavily infused each doctrine with the Cross and began to lay out the biblical view of death. I discussed with her that Jesus really did die for us as a selfless act, and it was not just six hours of agony on a cross and then—poof!—off to heaven. I said that this would not be self-emptying agape love. We looked at John 3:16 and the fact that Jesus was really given for us as a sacrifice. Then we moved to some passages that may be considered difficult, including 1 Samuel 28, which tells about Saul and the medium of Endor. I was not ready for what happened next. She grabbed her chest and pushed her chair back from the table and said, “Now I know what happened to me. I have wondered all these years about that experience. Now I know.” She was nearly in tears but she looked happy. She said, “What you are saying is true, Andi. It is true.” She then gave me the name of a certain woman and asked me if the name rang a bell. It did. Her father was at that time married to one of the most famous witches in Massachusetts and she and her daughter had done an incantation over her a few days before she had this experience with her “soul” floating down the hall. She then asked me a very interesting question. She asked me how I knew to say “I am not sure what was going on in your life at that time...” Fortunately, that was the last part of our study. We prayed and she hugged me and thanked me for helping her. She understood it to be of the devil, indeed. She said it was her favorite study to that point and that she was going to rush home and share with her

mother, who lives with them. The next morning, I was at the hospital working and I got a text message from her saying that she and her mother were rejoicing in the truth and that they cried and prayed together that morning. Praise God!

The study on hell and the destruction of the wicked were also very high points for her. She was really struck by a God who does not torture the lost for eternity. This was a brand new thought to her, as she had always thought that indeed God tortures people for eternity. Our understanding of a God who does not micro-manage and who values our freedom of choice, and how that answers the question of sin and suffering in the world was eye-opening to her. She says after every study, that our religion and our view of God, death, hell, creation, and the destruction of the wicked, all make sense scientifically and fit in with the God that she is discovering really exists in the Bible. Even the Sabbath was quickly accepted as it made sense in light of the studies we had to that point. I presented the Sabbath as the day that God especially created for us, a time to meet with us, not as an arbitrary day, but as a day that He specially instructed us to come apart and commune with Him. She has asked to attend church with us and is now reading on her own and sharing all she has learned with anyone who will listen to her.

I think back on that ASI in 2008 and the providence of God in having Pastor Finley preach on that Thursday morning. I have learned a few things. First, we may think that our witnessing is in vain. It took Debbie eight years to come to the place where she felt her need of a God she knew nothing about. To all appearances, our door-to-door outing was not

really a success, as the people who came were already Christians. They were unmoved. I am reminded of Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NKJV), which says, “He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.” There is someone out there, someone in our sphere of influence in whose heart God has placed eternity and we need to be actively vigilant.

Secondly, the message of the Cross speaks in a compelling way to people. We have nothing to fear if we infuse every one of our doctrines with the Cross of Christ. Ellen White said, “The love of Jesus—who can comprehend it? Infinitely more tender and self-denying than a mother’s love! If we would know the value of a human soul, we must look in living faith upon the cross, and thus begin the study which shall be the science and the song of the redeemed through all eternity” (*Messages to Young People*, p. 115). She also said “It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 83)

Thirdly, I have also learned that attending ASI in person is totally different from watching on TV or another media outlet. The Holy Spirit was poured out on Pastor Finley in that place and it was palpable. God wants to move on His people in these closing hours of earth’s history, and I believe that we cannot afford to miss the blessings that are poured out in meeting together in a place with no distractions but the speaker. Hebrews 10:25 (NKJV) says, “Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much more as you see the Day approaching.”

Lastly, when God calls you to do something, trust Him and do it. He will supply all you need. Respond at that moment and follow through. I pray that God will entrust us with many souls for Him. See you at the convention this summer!



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The Right Hand TOUCHES LIVES

BY KIETH SCHLEIFER, M.D.

I don't want anything to do with the spiritual part of this program," Sue emphatically declared to our lifestyle program director on the second day of the session. Our BRL (Biblical Response Living) counselor, whom Sue* had not yet met, stepped in and reassured her that in their session together "they didn't have to do anything spiritual, that she didn't even have to come, but that we are like Burger King—you can have

One never knows what will come up, nor how swiftly, when talking with guests. On her first session of BRL, Carol* said referring to the issue of security in salvation, "I've got that all covered. I was baptized." Like Sue, Carol was also of another denomination than that of Eden Valley. She has traveled the world extensively with her work, and says of herself that she is a good judge of people. As she experienced the morning Bible discussions led by Eden Valley's president that focus on God's goodness and grace, and experienced the sessions preceded by prayer with the sincere and friendly therapists, and experienced the dining staff, physician, counselor and, as she says, "even the maintenance, grounds and farm staff who would greet me on my walks," she told the BRL counselor, "You know, it's possible to find people who put in their hours and say the right things, but to find people who really mean it is rare, but that's what I've experienced here." Two days later she said, "I am going to go to the Seventh-day Adventist church in my city. I know there is one. After all, the only real difference from Baptists is the day."



it your way." Sue replied that she did have some things she wanted to talk about. She came that day and brought up some spiritual issues. At the end of her first and only week, her two hydro-therapists told her, "We love you." She responded warmly, "You really mean that, don't you?" Earlier that day she had voluntarily said to the BRL counselor that, "It's really good that the Bible is part of the Eden Valley program, especially for the non-Adventists." Sue is eagerly looking forward to another visit to Eden Valley near Loveland, Colorado, following a scheduled surgery.

Truly, medical missionary work conducted by happy, converted Christians is the right hand that opens the door for the gospel.



Kieth Schleifer, MD, was born in Colorado, graduated from Southern Adventist University and received his M.D. from Loma Linda University in 1984. Board certified in family medicine, he's been full time in emergency medicine 24 years. Becoming medical director at Eden Valley in 2014, Kieth along with his wife, Kate (Kittie Crook), have been learning, practicing and promoting a healthy lifestyle for 30 years.

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BIBLE WORK Through FOOD BUSINESS

BY HEIDI LIV TOMPKINS AND IVAN JOSHUA RAJ



Heidi Liv Tompkins and **Ivan Joshua Raj** are the founders of Heidi's Health Kitchen. Both have several years of experience in sales and marketing, while Ivan has experience in business development, project management, and consulting. Both are Bible workers who

felt impressed to leave their jobs to work for the Lord, rather than for the world. They are partners in full-time ministry and business with Heidi's Health Kitchen, and enjoy serving the Lord through their health food ministry and Bible work. In addition to winning hearts with their foods, they are passionate about winning souls to Christ for His Kingdom!

Heidi's Health Kitchen (HHK) was established in June 2014, in an effort to produce healthy, delicious, plant-based foods and desserts, as well as to educate people on the health benefits of plant-based foods, natural remedies, temperance, and the gospel through cooking classes, health workshops, and Bible study. Health, and the health that God desires for us spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally, is at the center of all that we do.

In the Spirit of Prophecy, emphasis is placed upon the value of the health food work as a soul-winning agency, and everything that we do is centered around that principle. Heidi's Health Kitchen has entered this work to bring about opportunities for people to learn the truth of God's life-giving, life-saving plans for each of us, through the knowledge and use of delicious plant-based foods.

Through God's providence, as the founders, we, Ivan Raj and Heidi Liv Tompkins, have several years of work experience in people management, sales, marketing, business development, and business, and both have a burden for souls—to be co-laborers with Christ to draw people into His kingdom. When HHK began operations, Heidi had fifteen Bible students with whom she was studying. Since the inception of HHK, our single objective has been—through delicious, plant-based, healthy, and delicious foods—to make friends with our patrons and then point them to Christ.

In 2014, the personal ministries leader of our church asked us to conduct cooking demonstrations for the community on a monthly basis. This expanded into offering quarterly hands-on cooking

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programs in Manhattan, and as a result, we have come across several Bible study interests and have been able to share our faith. In some instances, we have even begun weekly Bible studies with these attendees. During the monthly and quarterly cooking programs, the attendees are offered Adventist health literature to take home and read. In addition, the attendees also have the opportunity to sign up for Bible studies. Through these efforts, HHK and the church have had a wonderful opportunity to share insights with the community on health and the “everlasting gospel,” as well.

Earlier this year, a young attendee who had left the Adventist Church and wanted to learn how to prepare healthy plant-based foods, registered for HHK's cooking class held at a gourmet commercial kitchen in NYC. This young woman had no idea when she registered for the class that HHK is an Adventist-operated business. She enjoyed the foods that she learned to make and was pleasantly surprised at our innovation as Bible workers. She gave excellent feedback toward the end of the cooking class, and asked us to “keep her in the loop” for any future events, saying that she would be interested in attending and meeting with us again.

Another special experience this year was when a couple who had watched our HHK interview on 3ABN signed up for a hands-on cooking class. During the class, the husband and wife mentioned that they were from a Baptist background and were “looking to attend an Adventist church” and expressed that they had some questions about Adventist doctrines. Praise God, Ivan immediately

followed up with Bible studies and answered their questions, providing a roadmap for their baptisms.

In 2016, in addition to the on-going cooking classes and demonstrations, the Lord opened doors for HHK to operate “pop-up” restaurants in two locations, Manhattan and Babylon, New York. At these “pop-up” restaurants, HHK serves Indian and American cuisines while sacred music plays in the background, and provides the patrons with Adventist literature—all done with the help of a dedicated and consecrated Adventist staff.

As we operate our pop-up restaurants, we continually notice that God often sends former Adventists our way, giving them an opportunity to reconnect with the church through our ministry. One person had left the church during her early 20s and was brought into contact with us through a friend of one of our Bible students. She emphatically said that she had not experienced such tasty and delicious vegetarian food since she had been in the Adventist Church, and was pleasantly surprised to be brought into contact with Adventists once again.

As we continue to “Share Christ in the Marketplace” in and around NYC, Heidi's Health Kitchen continues to be engaged in Bible work, both on a personal level and through involvement with church evangelism efforts. In the months of March and April, we had the privilege of volunteering to conduct Bible work for an evangelistic series in the Bronx that resulted in the baptism of over 50 souls! We consider it an inestimable joy to work for the Lord!

“I SEE THE LIGHT!”

Helen's Story

BY TAJ PACLEB

I will never forget the day I received the text message: “I have not drank a drop of alcohol nor smoked since the meetings. God is good! I do crave, but it’s wiped out when I focus my mind on His greatness. I see the light!” This powerful testimony was all the more meaningful because it was sent to me by my beloved Aunty Helen. Those words caused my eyes to fill with a fountain of grateful tears. I was seeing the Lord answer my prayers. All my life I’ve watched my Aunty Helen struggle with different addictions and various world views. When I first became a Christian, she challenged my faith and warned me of organized religion. She would always say, “To each his own,” affirming her belief that there are no moral absolutes and that everything, including morality, is relative to one’s own personal experience. Of all my family members, it seemed apparent that she would be one of the hardest to reach. Fast forward 16 years later. There she was, sitting in the pew at our Revelation of Hope Bible Prophecy Seminar in Aiea, Hawaii. My Aunty Helen came every night with an open mind and a searching heart. She found herself

dissatisfied with life, enslaved by bad habits, confused by the various world views she had explored, broken by unhealthy relationships, and longing for something better. At those meetings she received sound and satisfying answers to all the major questions of life. She was presented logical evidence as to why the Bible can be trusted as absolute truth. Most of all, she had an encounter with the love of Jesus Christ. Such love she had never seen before and it gripped her heart. On the following page, she shares her testimony in her own words.



Taj Pacleb was born and raised in the beautiful islands of Hawaii. Growing up with no Christian background, Taj got involved in a life with no purpose or direction. But at age 16, he was invited to a prophecy seminar where the Word of God was able to penetrate his clouded mind. Currently he is living out his calling by serving God as a public evangelist and revivalist, holding seminars across California. He and his wife, Wati, live in Fresno, California.



HELEN HAS FOUND A WONDERFUL FAMILY OF FAITH IN THE WAIANAE ADVENTIST CHURCH

“For a large portion of my life, I was depressed. I did not know it at that time. But what I did know was that I was often in trouble, had many relationship conflicts, and was never comfortable in my skin. Running away was my solution. I never got far from home and I always returned. Nobody knew.

“My journey with God was put into motion two years ago when I found myself restless. With alcohol in one hand, cigarettes in the other, I began pondering, ‘What is the purpose of my life? Is there more to life than this?’ My addictions had consumed 30 years of my life. It seems like I had been trying to quit smoking and drinking for as long as I had been doing it. I had engaged in many risqué behaviors, relationships, and mind-altering substances in hopes of uncovering what every human being desires: love, acceptance, and discovery of oneself. While at one time my activities were satisfying, that satisfaction had long ago burned its wick, and all I felt was smolders of a long-ago memory. But then I found myself at the Revelation of Hope Seminar in Aiea.

As Taj’s aunt, I attended his meetings a few times in the past as a participant in a family excursion. That’s how it felt to me. I was usually in an altered state, a little high and a little drunk. It made everything more pleasant. But at this meeting I was not in that ‘happy’ state. Instead, I was in a state of ‘openness.’ What I heard moved my heart.

“Christ’s sacrifice was not new to me. I grew up Christian. I learned about Jesus dying on the cross for our sins. But when I went to college, that became an experience of the past. In college, I learned about evolution in the various sciences; existentialism in my philosophy class; and meditation, death, and dying in my studies on religion, history of the world and civilization, ethnic studies, anthropology, and literature. I moved so far from the Bible that God was just an idea—a belief system—just like everything else taught in school.

“I knew about Jesus Christ dying on the cross. But hearing about Christ’s sacrifice this time around was different. His experience became relatable.

I recently invested in a real estate program that I was not making money on. Like I did, Jesus Christ made an investment when He died on the cross. A price higher than I paid for my program. I felt for Him. So I prayed and made a deal. If He helped me quit smoking and drinking, I would be a worthwhile return. It’s been a year and a half. I have not drunk nor smoked. The more I learn about Him, the more I want to invest. The love that I looked for in all those relationships, I found in him. When I feel rejected, abandoned, or lonely, I look to Jesus Christ in prayer. His words uplift me. Fear for my future is allayed and memories of my past are released. I feel whole because I know that God has my back. In my trouble, I can access His love and grace to carry me out of the depression that has stalked me for so long. For these experiences, choosing to be baptized became an easy choice. I choose to announce that I dedicate my life to Him!”—**Helen Pacleb**



On April 1, 2017 I had the great honor and privilege of baptizing my Aunty Helen at my favorite Hawaiian beach. Her new life is a testimony to the power of God and the perseverance of prayer. Every time we talk about Jesus together, I see tears flow from her eyes. She has found a love that has liberated her from physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual bondage. Now her passion is to help her family and friends to also see the Light! As I have witnessed her transformation over the past year, I can testify that I have definitely seen the Light, clearer than ever before!

“HELEN, MY DAUGHTER! I’M SO HAPPY FOR YOU. YOU ARE NOW MY SISTER IN CHRIST.”—MAC PACLEB



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—*Education, p. 15*

Holbrook Indian School is a first-through 12th-grade boarding academy operated by the Pacific Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Eighty percent of funding for Holbrook Indian School comes from individuals who have a desire to support Native American ministries and Christian education. Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of our students, their families, and the communities they serve.



Jovannah was desperate to escape the life of poverty and abuse she knew on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Located in South Dakota, Pine Ridge is known as one of the poorest reservations in the United States. When she heard about Holbrook Indian School (HIS) at the age of 14, Jovannah decided that this might be her chance for a way out, so she found a ride in the back of a pick-up and made the long trip to Holbrook, Arizona.

HIS has been operating as a boarding academy for Native American youth, grades one through 12, for more than 70 years. Unlike the first Christian boarding schools established in the U.S.

whose motto was “Kill the Indian. Save the man,” HIS aims to help students get on the path to healing and restoration.

HIS does this by ministering to the whole person. Through the NEW (Nutrition, Exercise, Wellness) You Health Initiative, HIS seeks to improve every dimension of students’ lives to help make their futures brighter. The program has four pillars. Each one is a fundamental component of our students’ environment and education with specific, practical applications.

The four pillars are spiritual, mental, and physical health, with a focus on academic achievement.



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Spiritual discipleship is provided through an on-campus chaplain, Bible classes, group and individual Bible studies, worship services, religious programs, activities in nature, opportunities for community service, and mentoring through faculty families and groups. All of these activities communicate the Good News of a loving God, who paid the ultimate price for our eternal good.

Mental health:

Onsite Christian, clinical counseling and trauma therapy help treat post-traumatic stress disorder and other crises found



among HIS students due to physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, alcohol and drug addiction, domestic violence, and abandonment. Group therapy for grief and loss is available to help students process the loss of a loved one.

Physical health:

Students engage in physical activities in addition to regular physical education classes. These activities range from team sports to hiking, biking, and playing games like dodge ball, HORSE, and capture-the-flag. The activities are designed to help students understand the value and benefits of being physically active. Students learn that physical activity can be fun, it helps them develop understanding and respect for others, and improves their health. Extra-curricular activities such as camping, trail hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking are provided on weekends.


Special recreation days are provided twice a year when students can go swimming, bowling, ice skating, and skiing. HIS also provides education on health and nutrition through family life and consumer science classes, and through the "Garden-to-Plate" program, in which students learn how to grow and harvest produce through hands-on classes on the school farm.

Academic Achievement:

Teachers foster a desire to learn and grow by demonstrating to students that their lives have meaning and purpose, and by inspiring them to dream big about their future. HIS provides students with an accredited education, and through innovative learning experiences such as Outdoor School, where students spend a full week at national and state parks.

HIS also assists students with the college and scholarship application process and offers a one-year, college transition program designed to ensure their success following graduation. Some of HIS alumni have gone on to be Gates Millennial Scholars.






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Dr. Jiri Moskala
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JOVANNAH POOR BEAR-ADAMS

THE REST OF HER STORY

When Jovannah shares her memories of Pine Ridge Reservation it is hard to visualize what she is saying. She talks about sharing one small meal, that was delivered by Meals-on-Wheels, with her five siblings and their grandmother. "My grandmother would select one item from the aluminum tray for herself, then we would divide the rest. That would be our meal for the day." She goes on to describe what it was like to

be so hungry that she would pick and eat the grass from her yard just to try to make the hunger pangs go away.

She talks about coming to HIS. "When I first came to Holbrook, I was amazed that there were three meals served every day. I remember thinking, who eats three meals a day? That is only something you see on TV!" Nothing is harder to imagine than the sexual abuse Jovannah suffered beginning

at the age of eight. She describes Holbrook as her sanctuary, "It was the first time in my life I wasn't afraid to go to sleep at night."

Jovannah was determined to go to college so that she could escape the poverty she grew up in. She had no interest in the Christian religion. For her, as for many Native Americans, Christianity was something to distrust. Most of what was done to the Indige-

nous people throughout North America was done in the name of Christianity. But because Jovannah wanted to go to college, her GPA was important to her. She was doing well in all of her classes except one—Bible class. Someone suggested she join a Bible study group to help bring up her grade. As she learned about Jesus she began to see a Christianity she was unfamiliar with. "I rejected Christianity for what I thought it stood for and accepted it for

what I learned it truly stood for." Jovannah was baptized at HIS and went on to Union College to earn her degree in Education. She married Zak Adams, who also graduated from Union. They've since returned to Holbrook and have three beautiful children; Daniel, Matthew, and Elizabeth.

Jovannah still struggles with painful memories of her past but openly talks with the girls she now ministers to in hopes of encouraging them to

get the help they need. "When I share my story of where I came from, I can see on their faces that they are in it right now." Jovannah and the team at HIS long to break the cycle of poverty and abuse that is a result of the genocide and forced assimilation of Native Americans. For Jovannah's family the cycle has been broken. Together, they work to help other students who, like her, want to find a way out.

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USING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

BY ANGELA POCH

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Jesus said in Matthew 25:40 that to minister to the prisoners was to minister TO HIM... 40 "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (KJV)

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Angela Poch is a certified nutritionist in BC, Canada, as well as a Certified Life Coach, and has been a Certified Depression Recovery Program director for over 10 years. She holds a certificate in several Lifestyle Matters programs, Food Safe Certification, an REBT certificate, and a CBT certificate. Angela is a member of the

Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine and is also a member of the BC Conference Health Advisory Committee. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree through Andrews University.

Health ministry, along with all forms of evangelism, can take a toll on our own health. So how do we stay fit, both physically and emotionally? Let's take a lesson from our Master, Jesus. "His life was one of constant self-sacrifice." "His compassion knew no limit." "What a busy life He led!" (*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 19, 17, 24.) Jesus worked hard and long, even late into the night. Did he get physically tired? Of course. Emotionally tired? No question. So how did He avoid burnout? "Not until the last sufferer had been relieved did Jesus cease His work. It was far into the night when the multitude departed... The long, exciting day was past, and Jesus sought rest. But while the city was wrapped in slumber, the Saviour, 'rising up a great while before day,' went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." Mark 1:35 (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 29).

Jesus rejuvenated, not by only by sleep, but by prayer, sometimes forfeiting sleep for prayer. "The Saviour's life on earth was a life of communion with nature and with God. In this communion He revealed for us the secret of a life of power" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 51). Jesus took time for nature and for building a relationship with his Father.

"He found recreation amidst the scenes of nature, gathering knowledge as He sought to understand nature's mysteries. He studied the word of God, and His hours of greatest happiness were found when He could turn aside from the scene of His labors to go into the fields, to meditate in the quiet valleys, to hold communion with God on the mountainside or amid the trees of the forest. The early morning often found Him in some secluded place, meditating, searching the Scriptures, or in prayer. With the voice of singing He welcomed the morning light" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 52). We hear about prayer, song, and Bible study, but nature is often undervalued by those who are busy. More and more studies are being done on "green zones" and how these tiny pockets of nature impact the health and mental wellness of people. Outdoor activities in nature are helpful for all kinds of disorders and disease. To learn more, visit www.BodyMind-Health4u.com for the free course "Optimal Health," whose principles are backed by hundreds of scientific references.



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FINDING PEACE *on the* JOURNEY HOME

BY VIRIATO FERREIRA

John* arrived late. The 10-day residential Depression and Anxiety Recovery Program had already started a few days earlier, but running a 600-employee company was often filled with last-minute issues that needed immediate attention. Suffering from burnout didn't help. He had gotten to the point where he wasn't able to cope with even the smaller pressures of life when some friends told him about the VitaSalus Lifestyle Center, a place where he would find help.

When John signed up for the program, he had little idea about what to expect, neither did he know that the Center was run by Adventists. On his first evening he listened to a short spiritual message presented by the chaplain. It gave him hope, and at the end of the meeting he asked if they could hear more on the following day.

MEDICAL MISSIONARY WORK IS THE RIGHT HAND OF THE GOSPEL AND IS NOT LIMITED TO TIME OR SPACE.

On Friday night John noticed some differences in the evening meeting. Staff members joined the group and they dressed differently. "Why these differences?" asked John. "The Sabbath has started, a special time God gave us to rest," replied the chaplain. John was very curious and wanted to know more. Other patients joined the conversation. Amongst those listening was a woman who had been raised as an Adventist but had left the church many years before. To the chaplain's surprise, this woman helped John see the beauty of the Sabbath and identified herself as an Adventist.

John's life changed for the better. Peace filled his heart in spite of the many challenges he still had to face in his business. A few weeks later he returned for a follow-up

appointment. During the visit he told us that he had discovered he had a "knee problem." How? He had started to pray, and when he knelt down he noted this problem! We praised God for what was happening in his life.

John is one of many people who have been helped at the VitaSalus Lifestyle Center in Penela, Portugal. VitaSalus is a start-up project that has opened to the public, even though the buildings are yet to be completed. Nevertheless, patients keep coming. Many of them suffer from depression, an incapacitating illness that steals away their joy and health. The center's nine bedrooms are not sufficient to house all those seeking help. "Our priority is to help people; that's why we are here. We have not waited to have all the rooms ready before we started; patients were calling and we needed to do something," says Marianne Ferreira, a medical doctor who co-founded VitaSalus. "At the center, atheists and agnostics start believing in a loving God; they find a home for their troubled hearts," adds Viriato Ferreira, president of the institution.

Medical missionary work is the right hand of the gospel and is not limited to time or space. We do not have to travel to faraway places to find people in need. Like John, they could be right where you are, even in your own home. Is God calling you to minister to those in need? Seek God in earnest prayer and He will tell you how you can best help them.

* The name has been changed to protect the person's identity and privacy.



Viriato Ferreira, MD (MBChB) serves as president of VitaSalus (Portuguese Association of Preventive Medicine), an Adventist-operated Lifestyle Center in Portugal and a member of ASI Portugal and OCI (Outpost Centers International).



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New Beginnings

PICTURE ROLLS

BY NORMAN REITZ



TRULY WE ARE ALMOST HOME AS WE SEE THE GOSPEL BEING PREACHED IN THE ENDS OF THE EARTH THROUGH THESE PICTURE ROLLS.

A major priority of ASI Missions Inc., this year is to produce a picture roll based on 26 sermon subjects from New Beginnings. At their February 2017 board meeting in Tennessee, board members allocated \$500,000, for printing the first run of 10,000 sets of picture rolls; about \$100,000 had previously been raised for creating and developing the rolls. Under the evangelism portfolio of ASI, a group was assembled in January 2017 whose task was to create the evangelism picture roll. A horizontal format of 4 feet wide by 3 feet high was chosen for high visibility in outdoor or low-light settings. Seven Bible pictures plus one health poster make up each of the 26 presentations.

The New Beginnings picture roll project has garnered a great deal of interest, and for many church members, the concept conjures up pleasant memories.

In the hallways of my own Hayward church one person said, "That reminds me of going to Sabbath School in Samoa where we used such a roll" (most likely a reference to the initial Sabbath School picture roll sponsored by ASI some years ago). The New Beginnings picture roll, however, is not intended primarily for church use, but for public evangelism.

In Rawanda in 2016, of the many baptisms obtained through the TMI meetings, it was assessed that 20 to 30 percent of the new believers were converted at sites where there was no electricity. New Beginnings sermon manuals in the Kinyarwanda language, along with the Bible, were the only materials used. So when the Eastern African Division planned for meetings in the late spring of 2017 in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, they made a strong request for picture rolls with evangelistic content.

Health educator Dawna Sawatzky was the primary scriptwriter for the health talks, with Pat Arrabito of LLT Productions serving as the editor. The artwork was drawn by the Justinen Creative group, the illustrators for the Sabbath School Quarterly, *Our Little Friend* magazine and *Primary Treasure*. Contributions were also made by Health Education Resources. The result is perhaps the highest quality set of health materials ever produced within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Jim Wood, of LLT productions, who has served in Africa as a missionary and as a scriptwriter for *Faith for Today*, used his creative talents to design the picture

rolls with a style that is both eye-appealing and reaches the intended audience. Early samples were vetted by some of the most active evangelists in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Based on their feedback the scripture content was enhanced, and for each sermon there is now a complete list of scriptures to track with the actual New Beginnings sermon scripts.

To ensure that the pictures are the best available to accompany the Bible stories, ASI evangelism leadership met in Sacramento, California, for three days during the first week of June 2017. Picture by picture the group evaluated the possible images from Goodsalt, Sermon View, the *It Is Written* archives, Nathan Greene artwork and other sources. Once selected, Joe Garza, a contract employee of ASI, began rendering the images in high resolution format for printing.

The picture rolls will likely be printed in Asia. The idea is that there will be two rolls, each containing 13 sermon sets with the accompanying health poster. The two rolls, along with the evangelism and health scripts, will be encased in large waterproof tubes. The scripts are written in simple English so they can be easily translated. A single person can carry a roll to the remote site as needed for a meeting.

We invite you to participate in helping to fund this project through the offering at the 2017 international convention in Houston. Truly we are almost home, as we see the gospel being preached in the ends of the earth through these picture rolls.



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



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LIVING WATERS *Grows Food* TO FEED ORPHANS



required at eighth grade and most now qualify for sponsorships to continue their education.

The community has benefitted from the presence of the feeding center, not only as a means to help the local children, but as a financial boost to the community as a whole. There are ten full-time staff employed by the local conference (sponsored in full by Living Waters) to care for the children and to operate the farm. The feeding center is used for community education programs, weddings, church functions, and much more.

The development of the farm to help offset the cost of feeding the children started Phase One in July 2016 and we recently completed the first phase. The farm has been fenced with 15-strand high-tensile, solar-operated electric fence, a 30-foot water tower was constructed along with a water pumping station and work shop, miles of underground irrigation was installed, and a jungle property was transformed into a productive working farm.

The farm is supplying fresh vegetables every week to the feeding center as well as having surplus to sell to the local village to offset the farm expenses and is on schedule to be fully self-sustaining this year. The farm is one of only a few sources of fresh vegetables on the island as Rusinga is experiencing a years-long drought. The local community recognizes God's mercy in this farm project.

The farm project was about 20 percent over budget, as there were many unforeseen challenges and expenses. One, for example, was the need to build a retaining wall to keep the rising waters of Lake Victoria from claiming the farm land we leased. A 150-foot long by seven-foot high dike was built with the electric fence being integrated into the top of this dike. The construction of the dike cost approximately \$10,000, and in order to do the work, we had to purchase a large tractor with a front-end loader to move the 20 dump truck loads of large rock into place.

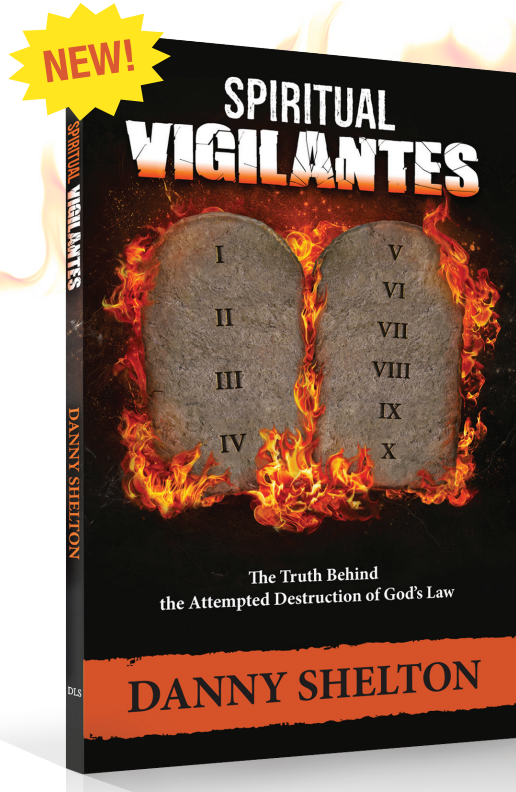
This project has been a tremendous success and will continue long into the future. Thank you again for the support of Living Waters International!



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