

INSIDE

ASI

SUMMER 2020

**THE THREE
ANGELS'
MESSAGES: OUR
URGENT CALLING!**

**2020 ASI
INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION**

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The year 2020 has likely not been as you expected. Uncertainty encompasses the earth like a blanket, the stock market has faced volatility not seen in over a decade, and millions of people have lost their jobs.

During times of uncertainty, it's easy to become discouraged and lose focus of what's truly important in life.

In 1942, C.S. Lewis published a brilliant book entitled, *The Screwtape Letters*. This novel is a compilation of fictional letters from a senior demon, Screwtape, to his nephew, Wormwood, a less experienced demon tasked with corrupting and condemning a man from earth.

Screwtape explains to Wormwood that the only thing that truly matters is separating the man from his Enemy (Christ). Screwtape explains, "It does not matter how small the sins are, provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."

Essentially, Screwtape explains that the road to Hell is found through gradual but steady separation from Christ.

Corrie Ten Boom makes a similar argument: "If the devil cannot make us bad, he will make us busy."

During these troubling times, the temptation may be to place all our focus on the world and current circumstances. We relentlessly search after news, we stockpile toilet paper, canned goods, and masks, we stress about the stock market and our finances, we wash our hands every 10 minutes, we distance ourselves from our friends and families.

While these actions may not be inherently bad, the question is, are we letting them distract us from what's most important? Are these distractions gradually separating us from our Savior and from our mission on earth?

My prayer is that the stories presented here will serve to reconnect you to the Lord and to our mission as Seventh-day Adventists: to share the three angels' messages with the world and to hasten Christ's second coming.

Together, let's refocus on what's truly important: our relationship with Christ and our mission.



Blessings,
Kristi Jensen, Editor

WHAT'S INSIDE?

2020 ASI International Convention



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THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES: OUR URGENT CALLING!



Philip Baptiste is the departmental director of ASI for the North American Division and the secretary/treasurer of ASI.

ASI is pleased to announce that the theme for our 2020 ASI International Convention is totally focused on the three angels' messages. At ASI, we love to do two-year themes. The first year allows us to introduce the theme; the second year allows us to come back and share how we have practically lived out the theme in our lives! One theme for two years enables us to provide in-depth, next-level training, equipping attendees from around the world to live out the theme in their individual marketplaces!

Our ASI International Convention themes are designed in such a way that each theme builds upon the other. If you look back on all our themes

throughout the years, you will see the values of ASI and aspects of our missionary focus being emphasized.

For example, four years ago, we launched the two-year theme, "Called. Chosen. Committed." This theme was a reminder of God's unique calling for Seventh-day Adventist Christians. It was also an encouragement for us to stay committed to that calling while sharing the hope of Christ's love with those in our marketplace.

For the past two years, our theme was "Business Unusual." This theme was uniquely designed to illustrate that as Adventist Christians living in the very last days of earth's history, we cannot go about with business as usual. Instead, we must go on God's errands

in a spirit of business unusual. We must have unusual faith, unusual commitment, unusual sacrifice, an unusual burden for souls, an unusual focus, and an unusual commitment to witness and share Christ in these last days.

We are thrilled about our theme for the next two years. For the first time, ASI is introducing a two-part progression of a very special theme. This year's theme is, "The Three Angels' Messages: Our Urgent Calling." Next year's theme is, "The Three Angels' Messages: Into All the World." This year, we plan to focus on the urgent calling we have as Seventh-day Adventist Christians to spread the three angels' messages to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.

In fact, the mission statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to "Make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the three angels' messages in preparation for His soon return (Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Rev. 14:6-12)."

ASI's goal is to help rally our church members to passionately pursue our church's mission and to equip attendees to share this special message with the world. It's an exceptionally beautiful and extremely relevant message of hope that is centered on God's love and we pray that our attendees will be mobilized to share it with everyone they know.

Ellen White wrote: "Several have written to me, inquiring if the message of justification by faith is the third angel's message, and I have answered, 'It is the third angel's message in verity'" (*The Review and Herald*, April 1, 1890).

The blessing of ASI is that we don't merely share information, we also provide practical tools to our members, enabling them to engage in our mission of sharing Christ in the marketplace.

Pastor Mark Finley from the General Conference will be our keynote speaker at ASI's 2020 International Convention. He has also prepared a special series of 13 sermons, complete with accompanying PowerPoint presentations and easy-to-use sermon scripts and videos, all about the three angels' messages! We will be making this brand-new, incredible resource available to each one of our attendees. This series can be used to conduct evangelism in churches, communities, or in small groups.

We can't wait to see you at ASI! Join us as we explore our urgent calling and discover the importance of the three angels' messages in our lives! At ASI 2021, should the Lord tarry, we will learn how to carry this message into all the world.

Make plans now to join us next year in Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 4-7, 2021, for part two of our theme, "The Three Angels' Messages: Into All the World."

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MISSIONARY ASSISTANCE PLAN



Steven Grabiner, D.Th., is president of Outpost Centers International, a global network of supporting ministries. He conducts seminars on topics such as the book of Revelation, apologetics, and leadership principles. He lives with his wife, Vivian, in Tennessee, while their three children serve in different parts of the world.

The Missionary Assistance Plan (MAP) is one of ASI's longest-running programs; it's funded by the ASI offering and administered by Outpost Centers International (OCI). In the early 1990s, the ASI executive officer group took a long journey to Africa for an in-depth tour. They wanted to see firsthand the work that ASI members were carrying forward. They witnessed the positive and extensive impact these supporting ministries were having in sharing the beauty of God's love as embodied in the gospel of the three angels' messages.

Observing the willing and sacrificial spirit of the overseas missionaries, the ASI team was favorably impressed.

Upon learning that these families were receiving a stipend of less than \$100 per month in local currency, a desire spontaneously sprang up in their hearts for ASI to do something more to encourage and support these missionaries. Upon their return to the US, the vision of ASI establishing a Missionary Assistance Plan was established.

MAP was designed with the purpose of helping individuals and families who have sacrificially made the decision to leave the comforts of home in the United States, and begin working for the Lord in countries currently described as the "Global South."

In such countries, the daily wage is often less than \$20 a day—in some cases, much less. The ASI- and OCI-affili-

ated ministries operating in these locations often struggle financially. There are limited resources to help support expatriate missionaries who have skills that are greatly needed in such locations. MAP supplements the wages of those who have chosen to take their education, talents, and abilities to countries where their skills can be multiplied. In addition to assisting the workers with their monthly expenses, MAP contributes monthly to an account the volunteers can use when they return to their home country on furlough. For those serving overseas with families, these additional funds make a tremendous difference in relieving financial pressures.

Currently, the recipients of MAP are serving in a variety of ministries in South America, Asia, Inter-America, and Africa. They work in lifestyle and evangelistic centers, as well as engage in medical outreach and training programs. It is a privilege of Outpost Centers International to partner with ASI in providing this much-needed financial assistance to volunteers so they may serve where God has called them.

For more than 25 years, ASI's MAP has blessed and empowered these missionary families. MAP helps to lighten their burdens and affords them the privilege and joy of sharing more liberally with those they serve. Eternity alone will reveal the

far-reaching effects of this program. The many current and past recipients of MAP share their gratitude with the ASI members who freely support this ongoing program.



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HARBERT HILLS ACADEMY: STAFF HOUSING PROJECT



In 1980, Steve Dickman graduated from Walla Walla University with a degree in Civil Engineering. After completing his Professional Engineering certification, he practiced in that field until 1991, when he transitioned to the nonprofit world. For the past 29 years, Steve has served as the president and general business manager at Harbert Hills Academy in Savannah, Tennessee. Steve is also the president of ASI National.

Last year, Harbert Hills Academy was blessed to be included in the ASI project offering. The grant was focused on improving campus staff housing.

For many years, mobile homes have been a part of our campus. These mobile homes provided a temporary solution to housing an increased number of staff, however, the need for permanent housing was ever looming. In November of 2018, construction on the first of the permanent homes began. With the blessings of God and staff and students working together, four homes have been completed and are currently occupied. Five more homes are in progress.

This project will provide greatly-improved living conditions for staff, as well as enhance the campus by removing the mobile homes.

An additional aspect of the project is the opportunity to train students in construction. Students have been able to see the practical application of ideas that are presented in the classroom as well as gain valuable

work experience through hands-on education. Excavation, setting rebar, plumbing, electrical, framing, roofing, setting windows and doors, and other important building skills are being learned. Students will take these valuable experiences with them wherever they may go in life.

In Isaiah 65:21, we are told that in the new earth we will “build houses and inhabit them.” Ellen White states the following: “The youth need a training that will make them practical men and women who can cope with emergencies. They should be taught that the discipline of systematic, well-regulated labor is essential, not only as a safeguard against the vicissitudes of life, but as an aid to all-round development” (*Child Guidance*, p. 347).

The blessings of this project are being enjoyed by staff and students alike. Harbert Hills is very grateful to ASI for their partnership on this important project.

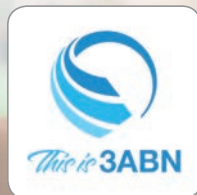
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- Programs on boosting your immune system, along with links to reliable health information
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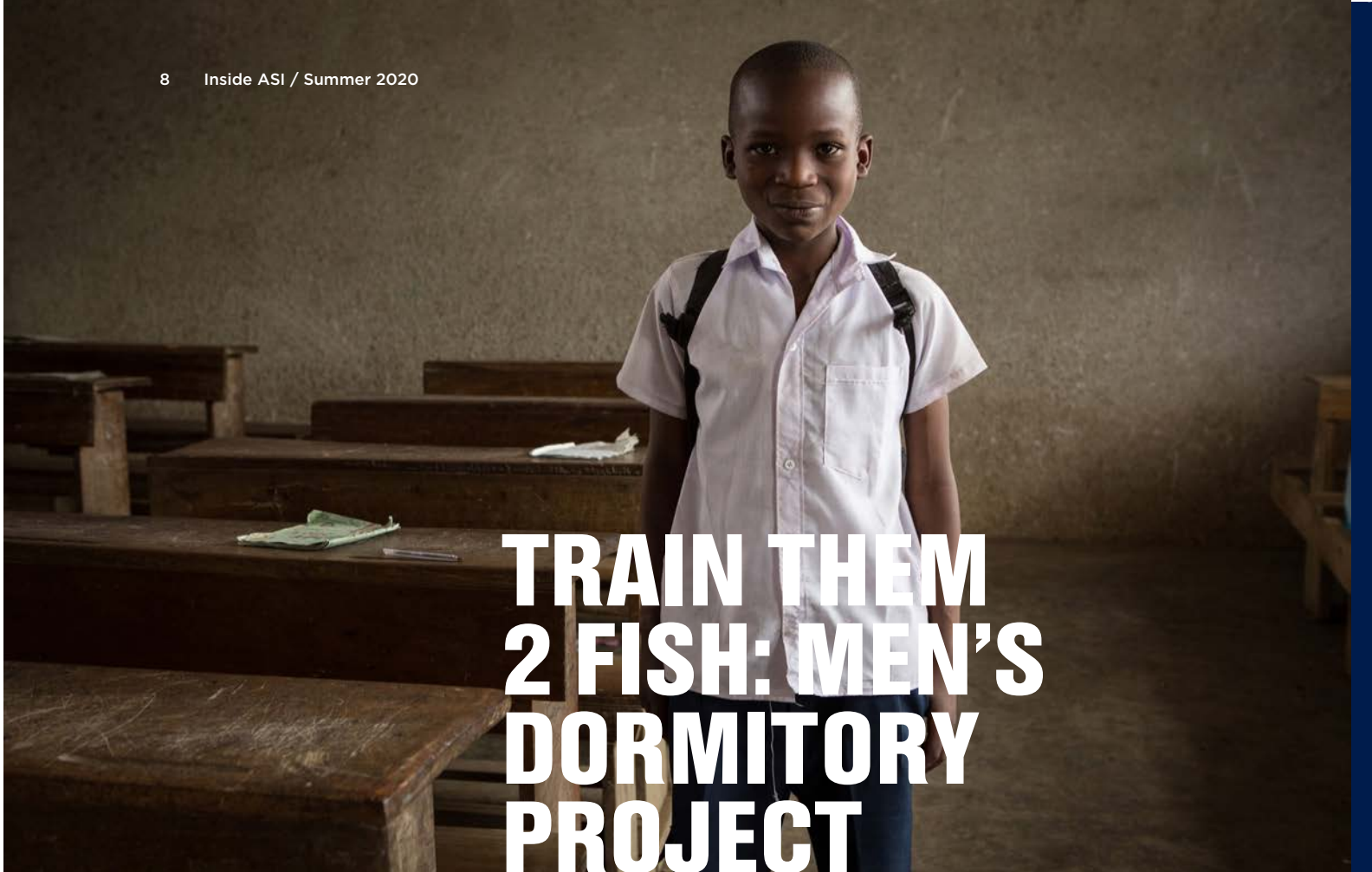


Find all these resources on 3ABN.tv via the COVID-19 3ABN Resources link.



(618) 627-4651 or visit 3ABN.tv





TRAIN THEM 2 FISH: MEN'S DORMITORY PROJECT



Thomas Ongasa is president of Train Them 2 Fish Africa, based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He actively trains Bible workers and church planters in evangelism, coordinating various projects to bring physical and spiritual wellness to the people of Africa's French-speaking countries and beyond.

Train Them 2 Fish International began with a vision to train lay-people to become “fishers of men.”

Three hours west of the capital of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo lies our missionary training center in the town of Mbanza-ngungu. At this location, we have seen our dream of evangelism training come to fruition. Our Adventist brethren in the Congo and other French-speaking countries have limited opportunities to gain this type of education, and our small campus is one of very few in the region.

In years past, as evangelism students came from near and far to attend training, the need for lodg-

ing became apparent. Some of the young people had traveled from far away and had expended their resources, leaving them unable to pay for the limited lodging in town. The students needed protection from the malaria-carrying mosquitos at night and shelter from the heavy rains.

ASI resonated with the need in Central Congo. We received the funding to construct a men’s dormitory (the majority of our students are men). We purchased the land and building permit, and watched the walls take shape with eagerness. The building was constructed of quality materials, including cement and brick with a metal roof.

As soon as the building reached

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- ▶ Live cell phone evangelism training sessions
- ▶ “Meet the Staff” videos
- ▶ New and archived prophecy-focused sermons at awr.org/prophecies
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Adventist World Radio 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904

completion in December 2019, we received a request from the West Congo Union to conduct an urban missionary training session. A class of 38 used the dorm for two weeks. We had ten bunk beds that accommodated 20 students; ten mattresses on the floor accommodated the remaining 18 students. What a blessing for the students to find clean, well-ventilated sleeping quarters waiting for them upon their arrival!

Currently, we are constructing ten more bunk beds to accommodate more students. Without running water on the property, we purchased a 2,000-liter rainwater container to meet the current need. As it fills up, we purify the water

for the students in the dorm.

We appreciate ASI's special funding for this project. The dormitory is meeting an important need at the evangelism center, and other institutions and missions also value the investment. The General Conference requested to use our facility to train lay missionaries for the West Congo Union Mission in May of 2020. Two local conferences have also requested to use this dorm for pastoral retreats this year, in addition to our own scheduled Train Them 2 Fish evangelism training.

While the building is complete, it is without electricity and a permanent water source. In the future, we

would love to see electricity set up in the building and a water source in the form of a well.

Train Them 2 Fish is thankful for the grant funds to make the dormitory a reality. Many students in the future will be blessed with a stress-free housing situation as they focus on becoming "fishers of men."

"When I was in prison, ye visited me." Jesus (Matthew 25:36)

If you were in prison...

...would you appreciate a visit? A Bible? Or perhaps some soap, shampoo, and a toothbrush? Would you also like to receive homemade "Thinking of You" cards, devotional books and a gift that says, "We love you"?

...You can help someone today!

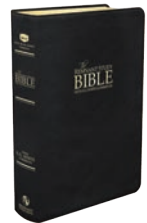


These men and women are listening to every word spoken by young people from the Indiana Academy. Your sponsorship dollars are making a difference in the lives of these young people with a Christian education. These people behind bars are being encouraged as they listen to the gospel message, some who perhaps have never heard the word of God or of the love of Jesus, who died for them.

One lady who was in prison told us that the homemade "Thinking of You" card meant more to her than the whole gift package because she had five children at home.

Today, will you help us make "Thinking of You" cards with the gospel message?

We are in need of your sponsorship for gift packages and Bibles. Your financial contributions help us to buy new Bibles for those who are behind bars. We are also able to accept used Bibles as well. Everyone appreciates receiving a new Bible, but if you are not able to financially make a contribution for new Bibles, we would appreciate it if you can help us get used Bibles. Please collect them at your church or your home, box them up, and send them to us. Media Mail is the most inexpensive way to ship the Bibles to us through the United States Post Office.



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<https://christmasbehindbars.org/donate>



LAY INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH TRAINING

The Lay Institute for Global Health Training (LIGHT) has been part and parcel with ASI from its ambitious beginning in 2005. LIGHT began when Charles Cleveland, then vice president of OCI, had a dream to send off trained young missionary teams into new countries. These mission schools would equip church members to spread the gospel through health ministry.

For the work to develop in new territories, Charles knew there needed to be practical training for workers under experienced missionaries. He believed in the old adage, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and

you feed him for a lifetime.” After two successful pilot projects, one in Portugal and one in Tajikistan, momentum was building to expand the project globally.

In 2007, James Hartley, then director of Wildwood’s Center of Health Evangelism, was asked to take leadership of the young project. James quickly pulled in many of his friends and past graduates to help take the project to the world church. The team put together a standardized curriculum of 125 hours of training and had it translated into the most-needed languages. The program was ready for growth. In the first three years of operations, LIGHT entered 23 countries on six conti-



James Hartley is the director/president of Lay Institute for Global Health Training (LIGHT). Raised a Roman Catholic, James left the church to explore spiritualism, drugs, and the psychedelic rock scene. Since his conversion to the Adventist faith, he has been teaching the right arm of the gospel around the world.

nents, trained over 1,500 church members, and saw a growth rate of over 700 percent.

Today, LIGHT has 60 full-time missionary teachers that travel the world upon invitation by Seventh-day Adventist Church leadership to conduct quality health evangelism training. These teachers inspire, instruct, and equip churches in how to effectively use health as an entering wedge for the gospel. LIGHT has now worked in over 90 countries and has trained over 30,000 church members. In no small way, LIGHT has been a part of reviving an interest in the health message and bringing it into proper balance and perspective for church members, leaders, and communities worldwide.

One of the keys to the success of LIGHT is that they follow the train-the-trainer model, which they believe is inherent in spreading the gospel. Those who teach the 125-hour certification courses are largely graduates from LIGHT's longer 6-12 month courses. There are now 45 different LIGHT affiliate schools located around the world that offer these longer courses. While the teachers of LIGHT's short course largely come from graduates of the 6-12 month courses, the leaders for the 6-12 month courses come from advanced students that have at least two-years of training.

The objective for LIGHT is simple: to make health evangelism training available to every church member in their country and in their language. Unfortunately for many, attending a LIGHT course in person is not possible due to a number of potential

challenges. To overcome this issue, LIGHT has developed their 125-hour course into an online video training experience. This online course is now available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Chinese, and Russian. Having the online course in Mandarin Chinese is especially important due to the Chinese government restricting LIGHT courses within their country.

Along with developing the health evangelism course curriculum, the LIGHT team has also developed further resources to be used while working with communities. LIGHT for Kids is a fun and fully-illustrated workbook used to teach the principles of health to children. Light Up Your Life is a booklet used in door-to-door ministry with a seven-week health improvement plan. One health habit is introduced and put into practice each week. Bible studies are a natural follow-up upon completion of the plan. In addition to these materials, LIGHT has developed a model for each church to establish a community health club. These clubs allow relationships to be developed with those we have met during health expos and other outreach activities. The ultimate goal is to lead people to Christ.

One of the best examples of LIGHT in action is in the country with the largest Muslim population in the world, Indonesia. Here our LIGHT school is in partnership with an Adventist health food store chain. LIGHT has helped all four of their stores in Jakarta to operate a health club in upstairs rooms on a

weekly basis. The fruit of this effort has resulted in dozens of baptisms from people of many different faiths and the establishment of four new Seventh-day Adventist churches connected with each store. The health message is indeed a powerful tool to reach souls!

From the inception of LIGHT, ASI has shown their support, partnership and encouragement. Funds from ASI are used to support our growing team of 60 LIGHT teachers as well as a team of workers dedicated to developing and improving our training curriculum and translating it into needed languages. One of LIGHT's projects this year will be to develop an intensive health evangelism training program tailor-made for Seventh-day Adventist pastors and theology students. ASI funds are also used to provide basic materials needed to conduct our training and outreach, such as health expo materials and children's training and door-to-door health evangelism booklets.

LIGHT's vision is to see God's church truly be a light in the world through practical ministry, sharing the love of God, and helping prepare a people for our Lord's return. Please remember LIGHT ministry in your prayers!

Hope On Death Row

Today you can make a difference in someone's life.



Will you help us fill this cart and give them hope?

This cart is empty.

But it has the potential to transport Bibles and gift packages to people who are sitting on death row, awaiting their last day on earth. After their execution, they are transported down this walkway and out of the prison. We all have one life to live, one candle to burn – may we share our life, light and hope with those who are confined to these dark, dark places. Some, perhaps most inmates never hear or know the love of God.

We are asking you today to please open your checkbooks and partner with us to bring the light and love of Christ to those who are behind bars. We came into this world with nothing, we will leave this world with only the decisions we have made, and the legacy we will leave behind for others to be encouraged for Christ.

This week, as you read this article, **Christmas Behind Bars** will be putting together almost 3,000 gift packages in a rural Amish community in Ohio. Some of these gift packages will be going to people who are on death row in an Indiana prison. The Amish people from Indiana and Michigan communities will be helping to deliver these gift packages. Would you be willing to partner with us today to bring hope to prisoners?

Where does the money go?

Christmas Behind Bars is a not-for-profit ministry that started over 20 years ago. This ministry is made up of many volunteers working together for the furtherance of the kingdom of heaven.

We have no paid staff or administrative overhead, so your contributions go directly to the work of bringing hope to men and women, many forgotten by society, but whom you and I know that none of them have been forgotten by God.

What does it cost?

Christmas Behind Bars is desperately in need of your financial contributions today, as we are receiving many calls from prisons asking for our help, but we cannot meet all the need. Your donation of \$4.36 will help us purchase: a bar of soap (\$.25), plus a nice toothbrush (\$.42), a bottle of shampoo (\$.69); and a nice paperback Bible (\$3). Another \$7.00 will help us buy: Ramen Noodles, granola bars, bags of dry cereal or granola, pretzels, chips, snacks, and miscellaneous candy bars and/or cookies. Sometimes we are able to get cashews, almonds, or peanuts to put in the bags, and occasionally dried fruit as well.

\$10,000 donation = almost 1000 lives encouraged for Christ

\$5,000 donation = 440 lives encouraged • \$3,000 donation = 275 lives encouraged

\$1,000 donation = 88 lives encouraged • \$500 donation = almost 50 lives encouraged

On this earth you may never meet the inmates your giving will influence, but we pray and desire that you meet many people in the Kingdom of Heaven because of the light, love and hope that you share with them through your financial contributions today.

Please make your tax deductible donations out to: Christmas Behind Bars, P.O. Box 474, Bluffton, IN 46714

For all who financially contribute from this article, we will be sending you some letters, homemade cards and other items that the inmates have sent us (while supplies last). This is out of our appreciation to you, our sponsors. We have a few keychains made out of leather and homemade flowers made out of bread and glue – it is pretty amazing what they can do! So today it is our prayer that you will consider what the Lord would have you to do, for he clearly states, “when I was in prison ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

If you wish to give, you can do so here: <https://christmasbehindbars.org/donate>

To view a video about Christmas Behind Bars and what they are doing, go to <https://youtu.be/Vyasu93m5Kw>

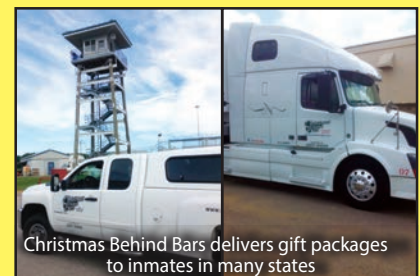


Hope for the hopeless

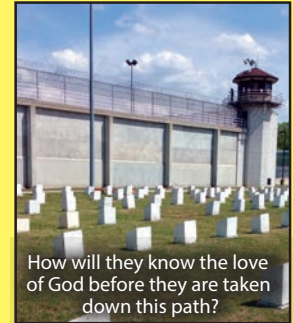
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Christmas Behind Bars delivers gift packages to inmates in many states



How will they know the love of God before they are taken down this path?



Gift bags for inmates



ASI PICTURE ROLLS



Rodney Bowes has served as a pastor, evangelist, teacher, and medical missionary trainer. He currently serves as a divisional director for LIGHT in Africa and East Asia. He is also president of Health Education Resources and vice president for Evangelism for ASI. He and his wife, Julie, live in southern California.

Isn't it true that "a picture is worth a thousand words?" Think about it: have you ever tried to describe something and just couldn't find the words to communicate it clearly? But when you showed a picture or diagram, it became so easy to understand. Now, think about the Bible and the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. Aren't you glad you have the privilege of being blessed by pictures and images to make these truths come alive?

Unfortunately, there are many places where there is limited access to pictures that tell the story of the Bible and the three angels' messages. In 2016, there was a Total Member Involvement initiative in Rwanda that culminated

in over 2,000 evangelistic meetings throughout the country. Many of the sites used ASI's New Beginnings DVDs or computer presentations—but many of the sites could not. We learned that a large portion of the sites did not have reliable electricity sources. The speakers simply used the New Beginnings script book and read the sermons without any graphic support.

At an OCI retreat in Portugal, Steve Dickman, Charles Cleveland, and I started discussing what could be done to help future programs in areas with limited or no electricity. An idea came to mind: to create a brand new picture roll set that would showcase some of the best Christian artwork to help illustrate God's amaz-

ing love and His message for these last days. The picture roll needed to be able to survive the harsh environment, humidity, and extreme conditions of many frontline mission fields that quickly destroy electronics.

The ASI evangelism committee liked the idea, and we began investigating to see if there was interest in the mission field. God allowed us to speak directly to the division leaders during the annual ASI International Convention in Orlando. The response from several divisions in Africa, Asia, and the South Pacific was a resounding Yes! “How soon can these be ready?” “How many can we get?” and other questions showed that interest was high.

Jim Wood and the team at LLT Productions edited the scripts to fit the simplified 7-picture-per-sermon design. Since the picture rolls are designed to be used with smaller audiences that meet underneath trees or in homes, schools, or churches, we also included small-group discussion questions to further enhance thinking and action. Norman Reitz, the ASI VP for Evangelism at the time, organized an event where we spent hours looking through thousands of pictures to choose just the right ones to illustrate the sermons. Donna Sawasky wrote a short script for the 26 new health talks that tackle the real-world challenges that villages around the world struggle with every day.

In order for the picture roll to be durable, we decided to use a special synthetic paper from Japan that is tear- and water-resistant. Additionally, we decided to place

the completed picture roll in a waterproof plastic tube, making it virtually indestructible.

Through the generosity of several mission-minded donors, God provided ASI with the resources to do our first print run of 7,500 picture roll sets. A large portion of the 7,500 sets were shipped to Africa. Additionally, one container was shipped to the South Pacific Division, and one was shipped to Cambodia (which was quite a challenge, as it was the largest shipment of religious goods to come into the country after new laws were passed).

Despite the roadblocks, all the picture rolls have made it to their destinations, and we are hearing great reports of how these simple rolls are helping countless people learn about their Savior, Jesus Christ.

One of the picture roll sets is used on a regular basis in the Advocates for Southeast Asians and the Persecuted (ASAP)-sponsored school in Thailand. Hundreds of young children are “seeing” the Bible come alive like never before!

Riverside Farm Institute also received several hundred picture rolls, and their pioneer missionaries are very busy sharing

the three angels’ messages throughout Zambia.

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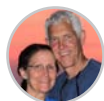
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THE HUTIA HUNTER



In 1997, with their youth Sabbath School class known as Westminster Youth Group (WYG), Henry and Arleen Stubbs felt God's call to share Jesus Christ in the unreached mountain villages of communist Cuba. Today, WYG leads youth from across America in 30 annual mission projects to unreached cities in Cuba.

Freddy avoided looking down as he climbed higher and higher up the swaying tree top, some 60 feet off the ground. Determined not to go home from the hunt empty-handed and unable to provide for his family, Freddy chased the evasive Hutia up to the very tip-top branches. The Hutia, Cuba's largest endemic mammal, is a large tree-dwelling rodent that grows to two feet in length and can weigh up to 20 pounds. A live Hutia can sell for nearly a month's wage (\$30) in Havana.

Hunting without guns requires strength and bravery. Focused on the Hutia, Freddy chased the animal out onto smaller and smaller

branches, high above the forest floor. Suddenly, the limb supporting him snapped and he plummeted more than six stories to the ground. Landing miraculously between two jagged tree stumps, Freddy found himself on the ground with a broken spine, several fractured ribs, and a punctured lung.

Two friends heard his falling cry and ran to help. Together, they carried Freddy to the edge of the forest where they summoned a horse cart. Traveling several kilometers on a cart jostled his broken spine and bones. Barely able to breathe with insufficient oxygen, Freddy passed in and out of consciousness. At the edge of a dirt road, his friends ap-

pealed to a driver of a farm tractor with a cart to take him to the nearest paved road where an ambulance could pick him up.

Despite several operations over the next eight months, Freddy lost his ability to move, except to shake his head. With a crushing sense of his loss, Freddy knew he could no longer care for his family, pursue the hidden dreams of his heart, or even be a normal man. Freddy cried, becoming angry, bitter, and ultimately depressed. He thought about his life and past. He remembered his mom taking him to church as a boy. He remembered the stories from the Bible that engaged him and spoke of such a powerful God. Could they be true?

The more Bible stories he tried to remember, the more Freddy wondered if the Author of those miracle stories would listen to his own painful story. "What do I have to lose?" he thought. Alone one night in a Cuban hospital bed without chaplains or counselors, Freddy cried to God, asking for faith to believe in Him and asking for forgiveness for the years of unbelief.

Freddy states, "To my surprise, I immediately sensed that God heard my cry and that I was accepted and forgiven. I felt a peace I had never known. I asked God to take all of the remains of my life and to give me this one thing, the presence of Jesus in my heart." Freddy continued, "From the moment I invited Jesus into my heart, I knew I had made the right decision as hope and energy returned to me. The next morning, I asked to be placed in a wheelchair in a sitting position and rejoiced at how well I did.

The following day, I asked to be taken to the new church (WYG plant) in my town. I went joyfully and had no pain. In fact, my pain is totally gone now. I don't need any more pain medication. I am now moving my arms and beginning to get a little feeling in my lower extremities and I know it is because of God."

WYG's Medical missionary/Bible worker (MM/BW) couple in the town began applying treatments to Freddy's bed sores and studying the Bible with him and his wife. This past Sabbath, Freddy, his wife Annibel, and eight of their friends were baptized. Freddy declares: "Yes, I'm an invalid; I can't chase Hutia and do the things I once thought important, but I've never known the happiness I now know. With all I am, I am grateful God saved my life, allowing my testimony to impact many who are now studying the Bible with my pastor (WYG MM/BW) and giving both my wife and me the joy of eternal salvation!"

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life" (1 John 5:11, 12, KJV).

Please continue to keep Cuba in your prayers. Learn how you can get involved at worldyouthgroup.org.



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MISSIONARY TRAINING FUND STUDENTS FULFILLING THE MISSION



Norbert Restrepo has served as president of Hartland Institute since 2011. He is an elder at the Living Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church in Haymarket, Virginia, where Hartland students often fulfill their church commitment. Norbert is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in leadership from Andrews University.

It was calm and quiet in the Hartland College library one evening as John Samuel Dilli Babu studied. Yet within him raged a tempest of doubt. His past mistakes and current challenges made him almost despair of living up to his ministerial calling. But God reassured him as he read, “[God] saw through the rough and repulsive exterior and loved us for what we could become through His grace” (*Reins on My Life*, p. 6). His courage renewed, John remembered how, as a student from India, receiving missionary training sponsorship had not only made Hartland possible financially, it had confirmed God’s calling for his life.

It is thrilling to see how God places a calling on young people’s lives and takes them wherever they will best be prepared for His service. He opens doors and gives encouragement when the way forward looks impossible. Samuel Amirtharaj also had challenges as he sought to fulfill God’s calling. In his native home of India, freedom to choose is restricted by the family’s wishes. Samuel’s Hindu relatives wanted him to stay in India and receive a secular education. But Samuel was steadfast in his decision to pursue God’s purpose for his life. Finances were a challenge for him also, and he, too, felt confirmed in his calling by receiving missionary sponsorship from Hartland.

John and Samuel both feel called to minister in India, a country where Christianity is not only a minority religion, but also tends to be embraced only by the poorer classes. Jesus longs to reach people at all levels of society, and He brought these young men to the United States to equip them for this purpose.

At Hartland, both John and Samuel chose the four-year pastoral evangelism major. When asked as a junior how Hartland was preparing him for ministry, John answered, "Hartland is preparing me in three ways: by giving me intellectual knowledge of the Bible in classes; by giving me opportunities for practical experience in evangelism and church-related activities; and by providing me an environment and experiences to help me hold communion with God." Samuel responded, "The student experience at Hartland is unique. I really enjoy the spiritual atmosphere here. This helps me to grow closer and closer to God. The staff and teachers are a huge blessing to me. They help me not to get distracted from my calling, but instead guide me in the right path. It is very hard to find this mentorship." And God had even more mentorship experiences awaiting John and Samuel during their undergraduate internship during their senior year.

With much consideration and prayer, John and Samuel moved forward as the Lord opened the doors for them to intern at the Living Hope School of Evangelism under the experienced mentorship

of Pastor Mark Finley and Pastor Chris Holland. Here they were able to learn and witness firsthand the effectiveness of Christ's method of ministry-gospel medical evangelism. They helped with many creative outreach programs designed to touch the health needs of the community. They learned how to befriend the attendees and draw them into spiritual programs, personal Bible studies, and commitment to Christ.


Through these experiences, they witnessed how non-Christians' prejudice could be broken down through health ministry. This was especially meaningful because of the prejudice against Christianity they were preparing to meet back in India.

During their internship, John and Samuel also learned how to contextualize outreach strategies. For example, Northern Virginia, being an affluent community, is very responsive to professionally-styled seminars. As well as observing their mentors, John and Samuel had exciting opportunities to run some seminars themselves. They saw good results with this contextualization method, giving them experience and ideas for ministering to all sectors of Indian society.

John and Samuel have now graduated from Hartland, prepared, under God's guidance and provision, to be missionaries to their people. Samuel's vision as an undergraduate was specific: "One of the needs in India is for a strong Bible-based training center for evangelism. So my plan is to start a training center in India in association with my brother who majored in health at Wildwood." John

was also touched by the needs of the church: "Our Seventh-day Adventist Church in India needs pastors and evangelists, and I want to use what I have learnt by theory and by experience to be a laborer in His vineyard in India." We've seen how God has truly worked mightily to prepare them for these ministries.

Please join us in praying that many lives will be touched by these young men who, through God's grace, have become part of "the Lord's army of youth, rightly trained" (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 555).



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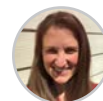
CHAPTERS WITH GOD

Dust hung in the morning light that danced across shelves stacked high with books. I peeked at the cover of one book and, not seeing what I wanted, continued digging deeper into the stack. Something familiar caught my eye, but the title was almost worn off. I gingerly opened the vintage cover and the hidden gem was revealed: *The Great Controversy*, printed in 1888. I couldn't wait to call my customer back and tell them the good news.

When God moved me away from a career in the medical industry and into the book industry, I had conflicting emotions. I knew I was following His leading, and I knew there was ministry in books, but I felt it wasn't

as tangible as walking into a hospital room and getting a sick patient out of bed. Others I met who had similarly been called into new ministries understood and supported the transition, but it was those who questioned my move that sparked in me a desire to truly understand the importance of the publishing and writing ministry.

Working for TEACH Services was an immediate blessing and the perfect place to gain an appreciation for the reach of the written word. My main responsibility was as the director of LNF (Lost and Found) used books, but when I began taking on other roles, I was inspired by what I saw. In a world where money is the focus for many, it was refreshing to



Olivia Hale works at TEACH Services in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, as the director of LNF Books and assistant to the author advisor. When she's not writing and editing from her home base in Chattanooga, Tennessee, she is travelling, adventuring outdoors, or playing her ukulele.

start working for a place focused on responsible publishing.

It became clear to me what a precious responsibility we have as publishers, writers, and booksellers to present only materials which glorify God. I found myself on the phone or e-mailing with people from all around the world who were excited to pursue their writing ministry, or excited to find an out-of-print book with an important message they feared had been lost forever. I was exhilarated when I filled up my first box of books for the mission field, knowing many would use them to learn about their Creator while also learning English.

When I started writing and helping design for projects, I became even more aware that my work isn't just a job or a paycheck—it's an honor

and a meaningful responsibility in the service of our King. When we call ourselves Christians, we are representatives of Christ, and what we put into digital or physical print may have a lasting impact of which we know nothing. I think of the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30. Jesus made it clear that those talents were to be multiplied faithfully in the service of the Master.

I used to think we had to choose one career path and work our way to the top, or that we all needed college degrees. I've learned from joining the book publishing ministry that God just wants us to follow Him wherever He leads, even if that means multiple career changes, or no career at all. Whether writers or publishers, doctors or physical therapists, truck

drivers or mechanics, teachers or volunteers, we are to do whatever He gives us to do with all our might (see Ecclesiastes 9:10).

When I followed God's leading away from the health field to TEACH Services, I felt certain I wouldn't be reaching as many souls. Yet God showed me instead that when we go where He wants us to go in ministry, even when it doesn't make sense from a human perspective, we will reach more people and be used in more ways than we could ever imagine. No matter where God places us, remember, "In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:6, NKJV).

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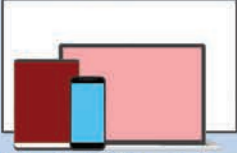
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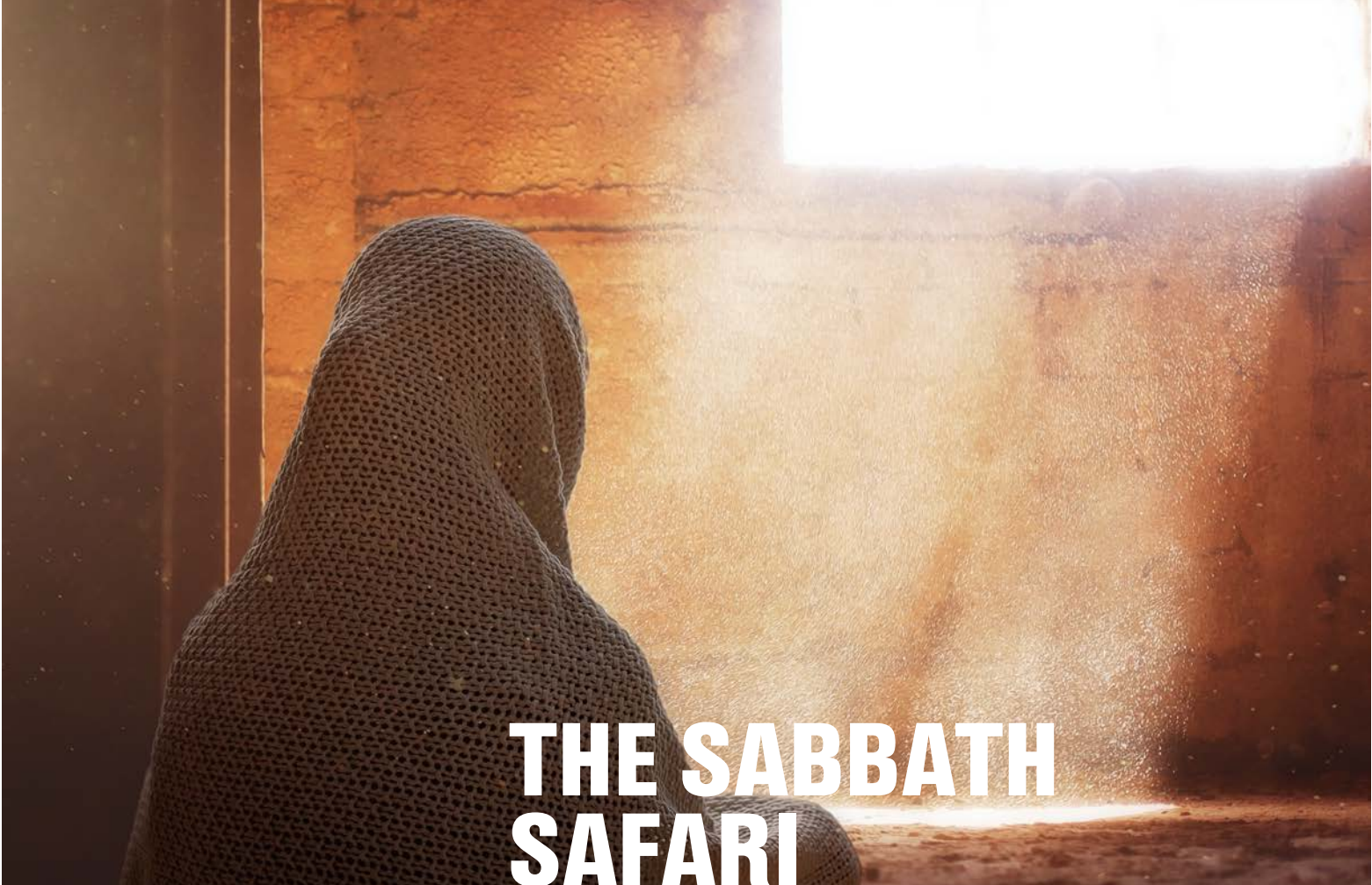
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THE SABBATH SAFARI



Meiring Pretorius has dedicated his life to full-time mission work. After pursuing a mathematics degree, God called him into ministry through medical missionary work. His wife, Juanita, shares this passion and together they train medical missionaries with LIGHT. Currently Meiring is the publishing correspondent for Africa for Light Bearers Ministry.

We were entering an open market where a young Muslim woman was selling her produce. While waiting for customers, her attention was absorbed in a familiar piece of literature from Light Bearers. The pastors and elders with me approached her for a possible impromptu interview and video. Suddenly, the atmosphere of the market changed. The woman was friendly, but the atmosphere around us was not. Noticing the seriousness of the moment, one of the pastors whispered, “We are putting this lady in a difficult situation.” Many of the other marketers were also Muslims. “Her family and com-

munity may shun her,” he added. We quietly left the market.

This incident was a sharp reminder of the difficulty in reaching the Muslim community with the gospel. Even so, many in Tanzania are receiving Bible lessons from Light Bearers Ministry and are reading them privately. Silently, God’s Spirit is touching many of the 17 million Muslims in Tanzania who are searching for the truth.

I met another woman named Mary. She was a Muslim but had been born in a Christian home. From a young age, she had been on a safari to know more about the Sabbath. Safari means “a journey with a purpose” in the Swahili language.

Her purpose in this journey was to find the meaning of the Sabbath. Answers from her own Christian community were disappointing and inadequate. She felt unfulfilled in her worship. "Maybe I will find the Sabbath in Islam," she hoped, turning to the Muslim faith for answers. She remained a Muslim for 18 years.

One day, Mary fell ill and had to go to the hospital for treatment. Doctor Mbogo attended to her. After the treatment, she jokingly remarked, "Any other things to be treated, doctor?" In answer to her question, the doctor opened a drawer and handed her a Swahili Bible lesson entitled, "Search the Scriptures."

Mary asked herself, "Am I not a Muslim? What Scriptures do I need to search, since my childhood Christianity could not give me the answers on the Sabbath? This is why I turned to Islam, which has not satisfied my desire for worship either."

She took the tract home but did not read it because Islam says that Christians are blasphemers. But Islam also says that it is an abomination to destroy the holy Word written on paper. This was contradictory to her. "Was this tract not speaking the Word of God?" she reasoned. She took the piece of literature, unstitched her pillow, pushed the tract inside, and stitched it closed again. For three years, she slept on that same pillow. The message was preserved under her head.

After three years, she moved closer to the city. In the city, someone handed her a tract with the same title, "Search the Scriptures."

The Holy Spirit was speaking to her heart. Mary went home, unstitched her pillow, and started reading the hidden lesson, continuing her safari for the Sabbath. She then attended a series of Seventh-day Adventist evangelistic meetings in the city.

During a Q&A at the meetings, Mary's first question was on the truth of the Sabbath. "Why don't you Seventh-day Adventists worship on the first day of the week like others?"

On her safari through these Bible lessons, she learned the amazing truth that Jesus conquered death. She started studying the resurrection. The resurrection made sense to her, more than anything she had heard before.

"If Jesus rose from the grave, why can't I also be healed from my illness?" she thought. "Maybe if I am baptized I will be healed physically." She decided to be baptized. God gave her not only spiritual healing but also physical restoration.

Now she tells Muslims that Jesus overcame death and that He is alive! He is interceding for us in the Most Holy place and preparing places for us in heaven. He is with everyone, speaking to their hearts, because He wants every human to be saved. On her safari in search of the Sabbath, she met the Lord of the Sabbath.



We exist to "Defend the cause of the weak and the fatherless.." Psalm 81:13

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DON'T TAKE YOUR HONDA TO MEXICO



Luella Nelson graduated from Andrews University with a B.S. in secretarial studies in 1980 and Pacific Union College with a B.S. in nursing in 1995. She worked as a nurse for 22 years, but in 2017, was impressed to leave the US to become an English teacher in La Paz, Mexico.

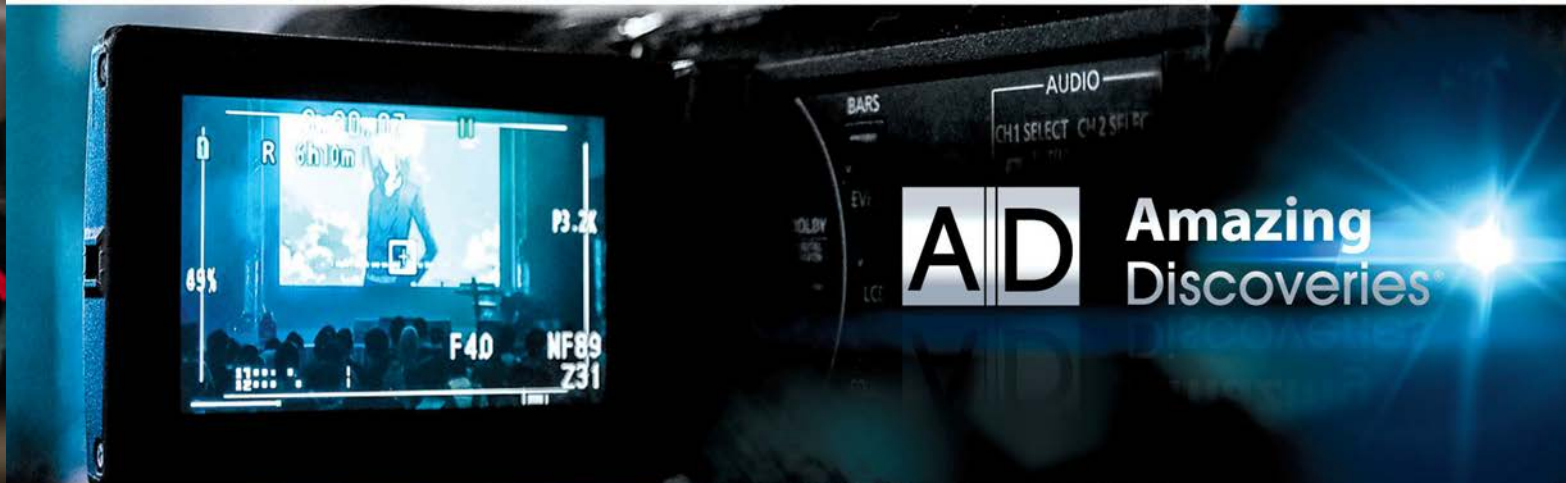
I didn't know I was going to become a missionary volunteer until after I heard myself saying to an elementary school principal in La Paz, Mexico, "Well, I could become certified in 2-3 months and return in August." That was April 2017. I had flown to La Paz to see my friend who was giving me complimentary treatments for a neck issue. Upon my return to San Diego, I studied hard and fast, completed the Teaching English as a Foreign Language course in 2.5 months, and began making plans to retire from nursing. I also began the process of packing, trying to keep my luggage down to what I could put in the back of my Honda Fit. However, God had other plans.

The Sabbath three weeks before I was to leave, I drove from San Diego up to the San Marcos church (still San Diego County). As I drove, I heard a voice: "You cannot take your Honda to Mexico." Immediately, I began questioning this voice. "Lord, my Honda is paid off, it gets good gas mileage, and it is versatile for hauling my stuff." For a few minutes, I reiterated my arguments. I dismissed the voice as soon as I reached my destination. I didn't think about it again until Tuesday Seventh-day Adventist, when I heard the voice a second time: "You cannot take your Honda to Mexico." Now it had my full attention.

Two years prior when I was hunting for a new car, the only two cars that I could comfortably get in/out of

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were the Mazda-5 Mini-Sport Van and the Honda Fit. I bought the Honda because of the much better gas mileage and its versatility to carry my nursing bags and supplies. It was perfect. Now it had 48,000 miles on it.

Considering the voice, I went online to several sites to see what my Honda was worth and to research more about the Mazda-5. I was disappointed that the Honda was so devalued and again disappointed that the Mazda had held its value. I did find a Mazda that I thought might fit my needs. After a few minutes of conversing with the owner over the phone, I asked, "Where are you located?" The salesman quickly said, "Vermont." Well, that was certainly too far. I decided to drive to a much closer dealership.

As I entered the dealership, one salesman approached me and I asked whether he had any used Mazda-5 Mini-Sport Vans. He paused for perhaps five seconds, then answered, "Yes, I believe we just took one out from the detailer. Let me get the keys." We took it for a spin. It was as I remembered. Easy to get in/out of, comfortable to drive, room for six to seven people, and seats that folded down for lots of cargo space. But I still didn't understand why I needed this car.

The salesman and I chatted about my decision to go to La Paz, Mexico (in the southern part of the Baja), to teach English in a small parochial elementary school, more specifically a Seventh-day Adventist school. The salesman seemed genuinely interested. The fact that I was going to be a missionary volunteer, giving my time away for free, was a new concept for

him and he wanted to know more. Eventually, we got back to the subject of the car. I said I needed more time to think before purchasing.

I went home and discussed the car with some of my family. They wanted to immediately drive back to the dealership and see it. After another test drive and inspection, we all sat down to talk with the salesman. We were several thousand dollars apart on the sale price and the price I was able to pay. After a few trips to the dealer's finance man, our salesman brought us a good figure. Esther, one of my family members, said, "I think you just need to trade pink slips." And 20 minutes later, that's just what we did. I only had to pay for the tax and license.

Now I had a car that got much less gas mileage but was a bigger vehicle that could haul more stuff. Upon arriving at the school in La Paz, I found out that their seven teachers didn't have a car, and it was a two-plus mile walk from their homes to school and church. I became their "Uber driver." Later, my car was used to transport students on field trips, and most recently, was extremely useful in hauling 10-20 sacks of cement

and other building supplies to a church that was being completed.

The concept of "You can't take your Honda to Mexico" and the fact that we merely "traded pink slips," will always be a miracle in my eyes. The Honda Fit would not have been large enough to handle any of the vehicular needs at the school. No matter what, listen to that "still, small voice" (or perhaps not so still and small)! It is telling you something you need to hear. God is the owner of this car; He has merely entrusted me to use it for His honor and glory.

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