

INSIDE

ASI

SUMMER 2023

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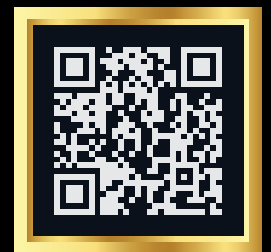
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader,

What a pleasure it is to once again connect with you via the pages of the ASI magazine.

Twice a year, I sift through dozens of inspiring stories, taking great care to share the most engaging articles, testimonies, and mission projects. This year, my goal is not just to inspire you with purpose, but to inspire you to action.

The theme for the 2023 ASI International Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, is this: Revived to Witness: United. Transformed. Sent.

What is the purpose of being a part of a united body or spiritual transformation if it doesn't lead to action? We are to be sent as witnesses for Christ. Being a witness for Christ doesn't have to involve a third-world country. We are called to be witnesses in our daily lives. A smile, kind gesture, or thoughtful compliment can mean the world to a lonely soul. A warm meal, heartfelt note, or grocery money can make a world of difference to someone in need.

While I hope you are inspired with the following stories of missionaries spreading love in a multitude of ways, I hope your inspiration does not simply come and go. I pray you are inspired to action.

With love,
Kristi Jensen
ASI Editor



Kristi Jensen is the editor for ASI National. She also runs a communications business and real estate company. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, traveling, and searching for beautiful things.

WHAT'S INSIDE?



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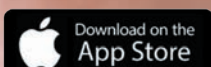
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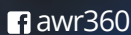
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Hartland College and the Vision for a Professional Missionary College Education

by **Norbert Restrepo**

I grew up in a missionary home as a pastor's kid with a mother who was a missionary physician. We lived in different countries and worked to meet the needs of the people. As a young adult, I wanted to pursue a formal college education; however, I felt called to be a full-time missionary. This placed me in a predicament because most colleges focused on secular careers, and most missionary training schools only offered short courses with no professional training.

From this personal dilemma grew the vision of providing professional missionary college education. This vision was to provide education that combines solid academics presented within a biblical worldview and practical training within truly ministry-oriented careers—an educational program structured to

support the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to proclaim the three angels' messages to the world. This vision led me to accept the call to lead Hartland College in 2011. This call came while my wife, Ivonne, and I were in Colombia, leading a missionary training school and outpost center which we had founded 15 years earlier. Hartland College offered a wider scenario for working with young people and contributing to their holistic development.

Hartland College was established in 1983 in Madison, Virginia, as a comprehensive training center for young people with a vision for Christian missionary training. Throughout its 40 years of existence, Hartland College has trained hundreds of missionaries, many of whom have established centers of influence in numerous countries. Our alumni are

evangelists, medical missionaries, media ministers, and educators. Many of them have led hundreds of people to Christ. Today, Hartland continues to train youth to spread the three angels' messages, with a renewed emphasis on supporting the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

At Hartland College, we are striving to implement what we have called "Madison 2.0." Why? Because Madison College was perhaps the most effective educational model in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This model of education was the first that offered a holistic education which truly prepared students to be self-supporting missionaries. Ellen G. White declared that if other Adventist schools would follow this model, "we as a people would be a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men" (*An Appeal for the Madison School*, p. 2).

Students at Hartland College receive instruction on how to start a self-supporting ministry. We equip missionaries who can establish centers of influence or serve in professional careers as soul-winners. Most of our students receive a call to service before graduation. Just within the past couple of years, we have graduates serving in Laos, Cambodia, Nigeria, and Indonesia.

In a special way, we are sponsoring and training students from the 10/40 window and other world areas that need committed laborers. Hartland's Missionary

Training Fund covers 50% of the cost of education for worthy students. Through their on-campus work, they cover the rest. Thus, we enable youth who are committed to being missionaries to be thoroughly trained. You can partner with us to hasten the Lord's second coming through your prayers!



Norbert Restrepo has served as president of Hartland College since 2011. He has been privileged to work motivating youth to be missionaries since 1996 when he and

his wife Ivonne founded Las Delicias missionary school in Colombia. Norbert is an elder at the Living Hope Seventh-day Adventist church in Haymarket, Virginia where Hartland students often fulfill their church commitment. Norbert is a PhD candidate in Leadership from Andrews University.

LIGHT Recipe

Oat Burger

- 4 cups rolled or quick oats
- 1 cup parsley, chopped
- 1 cup Brazil nuts chopped
- 3 ½ cups of water
- 1 chopped onion
- 4 cloves of garlic, crushed
- ½ cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons of oregano
- 1 tablespoon of molasses or honey
- Salt, to taste

1. Mix oats, chopped Brazil nuts, and parsley together in a bowl.
2. Add water and other ingredients to a pan, mix, and bring to a boil.
3. When it boils, turn off the heat and add the oatmeal mixture to the pan. Stir well with a wooden spoon.
4. When the dough cools down and can be handled, use your hands to make balls and flatten them into a round shape with a thickness of approximately one finger. (It helps to grease your hands with water so the dough doesn't stick.)
5. Grill in a nonstick skillet until golden.

Flip burgers over to brown on the other side. It is not necessary to use oil.

6. Serve while warm with whole wheat bread and salad, or as a side dish for lunch.

Recipe yields 20 burgers

Note: You can also bake the burgers in the oven. Place the burgers on a baking sheet greased with olive oil and bake for 15 minutes at 400°F. Flip burgers over and return to the oven for another 15 minutes.

Chef's Tips:

- When the water boils, mix ingredients together quickly. Do not wait.
- After removing the oat burgers from the oven, wait approximately 10 minutes before serving. This process makes burgers crispy on the outside and soft on the inside.

Raul Souza, LIGHT Brazil





Our Lost Split Pea

by **Jim and Judith Getchell**

One Monday evening in October, 2021, I was returning from my walk. As I approached our driveway, a cat emerged and started meowing, seeming to want attention. It followed me up the driveway, even tripping me up a couple of times as it walked too close to my feet. I told my husband, Jim, that a cat had followed me home. He told me to ignore it and that it would go away. Later that night when I went outside, the cat had not gone away. I looked up what cats like to eat, since we didn't have any cat food. Banana was one of the options, so I cut off a piece of banana and offered it to the cat. Later when Jim and I went outside, the banana was gone and the cat was timidly eyeing us as it meowed from the woods within eye view. The next day, Jim put some split

pea soup from lunch on a little plastic plate and offered it to the cat. The cat gobbled down the soup without hesitation, and so we decided to name her "Split Pea." Split Pea has been here ever since. She is a black Manx.

Fast forward just over a year. One December morning, Jim and I were walking our property perimeter to try to find the property pins. Jim wanted to create a walking trail, but we wanted to ensure we were not infringing on the neighbors' properties.

As we walked, Split Pea kept us company. She stayed close to us, watching what we were doing. I would talk to her sometimes, and pet her, too, encouraging her as she supervised our project. It was fun to have her with us. As we were almost to the last corner, just short of a neighbor with two dogs, Jim bent down to pick

up Split Pea, but she ran in a different direction. "Leave her alone, and she'll find her way home," I said. Jim and I arrived home. An hour and a half later, Split Pea was nowhere to be found, and it was beginning to get dark.

"Let's put on our headlights and see if we can find her," I suggested to Jim. I followed Jim as we walked through the woods and prayed that God would lead us to her. I would call to Split Pea, hoping that if she heard me, she would trot our way. In the meantime, Jim headed in the direction of where we last saw Split Pea. As we approached the area, Jim's headlight shone into two bright eyes. We both hoped that it was our missing cat and not a skunk! Sure enough, it was Split Pea, and when I called to her, she ran right to me.

I gave her a nice pet and Jim gently picked her up, placing her inside his heavy

green coat. I snapped an extra button on his coat to shelter Split Pea snugly next to Jim's heart. Jim held her close until we crossed the bridge at the bottom of our driveway, where he then released her in familiar territory.

Not knowing much about cats, I didn't realize at the time that some cats don't have the same sense of direction that dogs do. It appeared that Split Pea did not know her way home. She stayed close to where we had left her, and I am grateful that God led us to where she was. Thank God, the lost was found (see Luke 15)!

Split Pea reminds me of the world as we know it now. People are lost, and don't know their way to safety. Jesus is searching for us. He is our Light in this black and darkening world. He longs to carry us to safety. He longs to hold us close to His heart, to protect us from pain, discouragement, and hopelessness. Jesus (the Word) is our only Hope. Will you ask Him to

carry you close to His heart to the shelter of His peace? (See John 16:33; 14:27).



Judith Getchell has three children and three grandchildren. She and her husband, Jim, own and operate The Story of Jesus Study Ministry. Judith lives in Ohio with her husband, who is a retired civil engineer. Judith loves to study God's Word and is grateful for divine inspiration in her lesson preparation.



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Hope Through Prophecy—An ASI Partner in Ministry

by Laura McKinley

Have you ever wondered how effective YouTube evangelism can be? We at Hope Through Prophecy have seen God bless miraculously through our content. We want to share with you a recent testimony of God using our ministry to win souls for His kingdom. This is a testimony from one of our channel's subscribers, Borko. He writes:

“Dear Dustin, my name is Borko and I am from Croatia. During the Covid pandemic, I found your videos on YouTube, and they brought me to Jesus. I was an atheist for my entire life, and I never believed there was anything that could prove the existence of God. Still, because of you, Brother Dustin, and God's mercy, my eyes have been opened, and now I see evidence of Jesus everywhere I go.

“I watched the 19-episode presentation on your channel, and the series had such a huge impact on me that I decided to manually translate them into my own language so I could share them with my family and friends. I was able to translate all 19 episodes and add them to my YouTube channel. I am happy the videos are available for people who don't speak English.

“I've been working on a cruise ship for 12 years. After the pandemic, when my company returned to service, I decided to do Bible studies on the ship and start presenting the truth I had learned to crew members. Now, after long hours of work, I am excited to go to a small room on the ship and invite others to join me in giving glory to God and worshiping Him. Playing your videos to other workers who are eager to accept Jesus and follow His teachings

is a highlight of my busy days on the ship. I have been doing these Bible studies for eight months, and your videos have begun changing people's lives.

“This month, I will be leaving the ship for a three-month stay back home. During that time, I will be preparing presentations to share the Word of God in my own seminars. I am praying and asking God to guide me and help me reach all the crew members on the ship, and He has answered by blessing me with materials for Bible study.

“Also, I prayed to get baptized, and miraculously, an SDA pastor came as a guest for a cruise. The pastor said he never planned to go on a cruise, but friends invited him, and his ticket was a gift from them. And because of that, he got the opportunity to meet me out of 4,000 guests and offered to baptize me.

I accepted, and on January 6, I was baptized. My life has changed since then, and my full commitment is to God. I am asking God for guidance and wisdom as I continue evangelism. May God continue to bless you.”

Isn't this powerful? It thrills our hearts to hear how God is able to use us to help win His precious children to the Kingdom! Please keep Borko and those he is ministering to in your prayers! May we all be about our Father's business as we see the signs all around us that He is coming soon.



Laura McKinley has been blessed to work with Hope Through Prophecy since its beginning in 2018. She loves answering people's questions about the Bible and helping lead them to Jesus. Laura lives in Michigan and spends most of her time growing food and flowers. She is involved in a health ministry called "The Creator's Way," which she and her parents collaborate on. They live on 40 acres and are seeking to have a place set up for those seeking to learn more about health, farming, and the Lord. Laura is also a massage therapist and lay-midwife.



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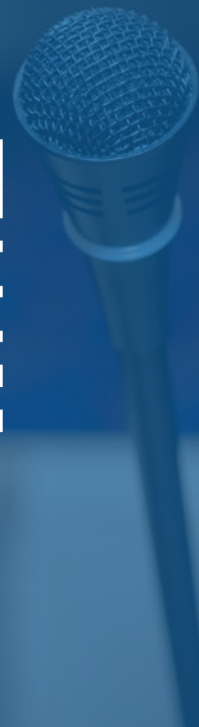
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From Witch Doctor's Curse to God's Blessing

by Cynthia Prime

When Wynand Van Staden and his wife, Ilse, bought a mountain farm in the Shiselweni Region of Eswatini, southern Africa, they felt that their dream for the future had come true. This was their piece of paradise, with its rolling hills, verdant valleys, and rich vegetation. A vision unfolded in their minds, to make this place a retreat where guests would pay for the brilliant sunrises and sunsets, and where their 10,000 heads of sheep would have rich pastures. This would also be the ideal place for their sons to grow up and perhaps one day build families of their own.

As students of the Bible, they felt God had answered their prayers by giving them this pristine mountain home, but

a witch doctor in the community had a different idea. Every day, he would go to the top of one of the hills and rain down curses on the occupants of the farm. This piece of “paradise” was controlled by the demons he sought to appease, not to some unknown God.

After tolerating the chanting and curses for several weeks, Wynand Van Staden trudged up the hill to meet the witch doctor. They faced off, measuring each other. Finally, Wynand shouted, “You’re wasting your time and energy! Curse all you want; nothing will harm this place because it belongs to God! And there is nothing you can do about that!” With that, he marched down the hill and headed to the farmhouse he had built as home.

Eventually, the witch doctor gave up because the farm seemed to be blessed rather than cursed. Wynand and Ilse began an

intense search of the Bible as they brought up their five sons on the farm. Whatever they learned, they put into practice. They discovered the Bible Sabbath and began observing it, much to the chagrin of some of their friends.

They homeschooled their children until they were of college age, then decided to provide for their education using the farm as collateral. That is when the tables turned and the debt load put their ownership of the farm at risk.

They sold their sheep and began wondering if they would lose their piece of heaven as well. “What next?” they asked God. They had no way of knowing that God was about to change the trajectory of their lives.

While they were in the middle of this questioning period, SOHO (Saving Orphans through Healthcare and Outreach)

had been praying for eight years for land with title and deed where a sanctuary for orphaned and abused children could be built. All existing projects were built on Swazi Nation Land, owned by the king and held in trust for the Swazi people. There was always a risk that a change in tribal leadership or a break in a relationship could mean loss of the land and assets.

The Van Stadens put their farm up for sale with the hope that word of mouth might bring a buyer to the table. God chose this opportunity to show Himself present. A SOHO staffer, returning from a fruitless search for land on a visit to Eswatini, was bumped off a shuttle between Eswatini and Johannesburg. Next to her came a woman who had been transferred from one vehicle to another. “You’re from America?” she asked. “What were you doing here in Swaziland?”

“Working with our orphans. We’ve been looking for land to build safe homes for children at risk of abuse and trafficking.”

“Well,” the lady responded in surprise, “I am a realtor and I have just the place for you!”

That began the journey strewn with miracles that brought SOHO and the Van Stadens together. What Wynand learned was that God had chosen his piece of Heaven to build a haven for children without hope. Even the price of the property was a dramatic answer to prayer.

SOHO only had a \$100,000 deposit from a donor who, two years earlier, had called to say that after seeing a 3ABN interview with Cynthia Prime, God told her to help His orphans. The property was acquired, miracle after miracle, debt free.

Today, on this 1083-acre farm, an entire children’s village is envisioned, and the first homes are expected to be ready this year. The macadamia nut plantation is beginning to produce its first nuts. Over 400 children were fed from its vegetable produce during Covid, and the agriculture program is growing beautifully. Partnerships are developing as God continues to do much with little. Various partners, including Andrews University, Walla Walla University, Oakwood University, 3ABN, and others, are all sharing the vision. Only the collective hands and hearts of faith

could hold at bay the power of the enemy lurking in this Edenic environment.

Miracles that happen here ever so often remind us that God has plans for His children, and no forces of evil can deter Him from making them a reality. Satan has shown up in dramatic ways, but the stories of God’s intervention and strong presence continue to unfold. By faith, the day will come when this once-cursed farm will become a lighthouse shining beams from the Sun of Righteousness throughout this land where spiritualism and Christianity still exist side by side.

Pray for this farm and join us on a journey we hope will transform the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children in Eswatini forever.



Cynthia Prime is the CEO and Co-Founder with Linda Schultz, of Saving Orphans through Healthcare and Outreach (SOHO), a 501(c)(3) non-profit ministry dedicated to Christ centered service to orphans and vulnerable children in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland).



Thought Question

How can we reflect God’s love and compassion in our interactions with others?

Wild horses need training to surrender to their owner. Similarly, prison inmates need "training" to learn to surrender to their Creator.

"Gentling" refers to this process of working with a wild horse until it becomes responsive to its trainer's commands, developing trust and obedience. A properly handled wild horse can create a strong bond with its trainer.

"Penned up" prison inmates need training, or "rehabilitation" to learn to trust their "Trainer/Creator," surrender in obedience, and begin to live in peace with their fellow man.



Christmas Behind Bars' Outreach Ministry's mission is to reach the prisoners with the resources that will bring hope and eternal change through a relationship with Jesus Christ, the "Ultimate Trainer." We believe that in Christ Jesus prisoners can be rehabilitated, learning to live the rest of their lives in obedience to God's Word.

We provide free care packages filled with snacks, candies, soup packets, hygiene items, letters of encouragement, "thinking of you" cards, Bibles, and ministry materials.

Please help us share with the prisoners about the "Ultimate Trainer, Jesus Christ." Your financial contributions and donations of Bibles will help us reach them with the Gospel message, letting them know that they are loved and there is hope.

"I was naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.... 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." -Matthew 25:36



Please partner with us today!

Your donations help this ministry grow and deliver care packages all throughout the year, reaching prison inmates with the love of God.





Sharing Christ's love with those behind bars, not just on Christmas, but all year long!

With your help, we are bringing hope and encouragement to as many prisoners as we can, trusting God to provide the resources. We share with them about salvation in Jesus Christ alone. When we pass out the free care packages and Bibles, we let them know that they are loved and not forgotten.



Please partner with us today!

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

-Mark 16:15

I am writing this letter to say Thank You for all that you do for all of the inmates incarcerated. You have no idea how happy you make us when we hear Christmas Behind Bars is here. I mean the guys cheer like their hometown sports team has just won the championship! You guys truly bring joy to all of us. Thank you for continuing this blessing you do year-round for all of those behind bars. God bless you! (Inmate - Putnamville Correctional Facility)

I am currently incarcerated....and that was the first commissary I had. When you go to bed hungry for over 50 days straight, it is a godsend to receive a bag full of food... You have so touched my heart that words cannot do justice to the feelings I have! Thank God for you and your organization!
Herbert, Inmate, Owen County, IN

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Dear friends,

Thank you for caring so personally about the mostly forgotten men and women in prisons all over. Many souls will be rejoicing with you all because you have brought hope and peace to their souls by reminding them how valuable they are and loved so deeply by Jesus their Saviour.

Carol, Ministry Donor

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Give and It Shall Be Given

by Miriam Popovski

“**B**ut this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:6,7).

Through God’s providential orchestration, Build and Restore International (BRI) acquired some tools that were essential for the different projects we hoped to accomplish throughout the year.

These tools came at the perfect time as we prepared for our next mission trip to Castle Valley Academy in Utah and were informed that they were in need of the same tools we had acquired.

We were torn. If we used the tools and

then donated them to the academy at the end of the project, BRI would be without these essentials that were needed for other projects. After praying, it was decided to donate the tools and leave our ministry needs in the hands of the Lord! The week before the Castle Valley Academy mission trip ended, a woman “randomly” emailed BRI and said she had tools and buckets she would like to donate to our ministry.

After a successful mission trip, we returned home lighter, leaving the tools at Castle Valley Academy. Upon arriving home, we were happy to see the woman’s donation had been received. Once we looked through the items, we realized the donation was worth more than \$2,500. One of the most amazing realizations was that the very tools we left behind were among the tools donated! However, the replacement tools were of higher quality

and in better condition. Praise God! As the Bible says, “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:38).

But the story doesn’t end there. That same day we got a call from another friend of the ministry who wanted to donate all the tools from her father’s garage. “Could you pick them up from Oregon?” was the question. God arranged that BRI’s president’s sister, Natalia, was at that very moment passing by the very exit that led to the tools on her way back to California. Natalia stopped by and packed her car with as many tools as she could. In the meantime, BRI received a call from our next mission trip location, Heavenly Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church in South

Lake Tahoe, stating that rakes and shovels were needed to accomplish the project.

“Okay, we will see what we can do,” was the response from Ostap, BRI’s president. As Natalia arrived, Ostap eagerly surveyed the contents of her car. It was full of rakes and shovels. Praise God!

“It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear” (Isaiah 65:24).

If you are interested in participating in our mission trips or would like to learn more about the ministry, visit buildandrestore.org.



Miriam Popovski serves as the Project Administrator for Build and Restore International. Her background is in communication and she is currently pursuing an MPH. She loves to serve people and together with her husband, Aleksandar, she enjoys sharing the everlasting gospel in her neighborhood and around the world.

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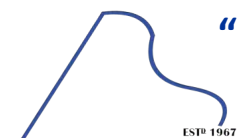
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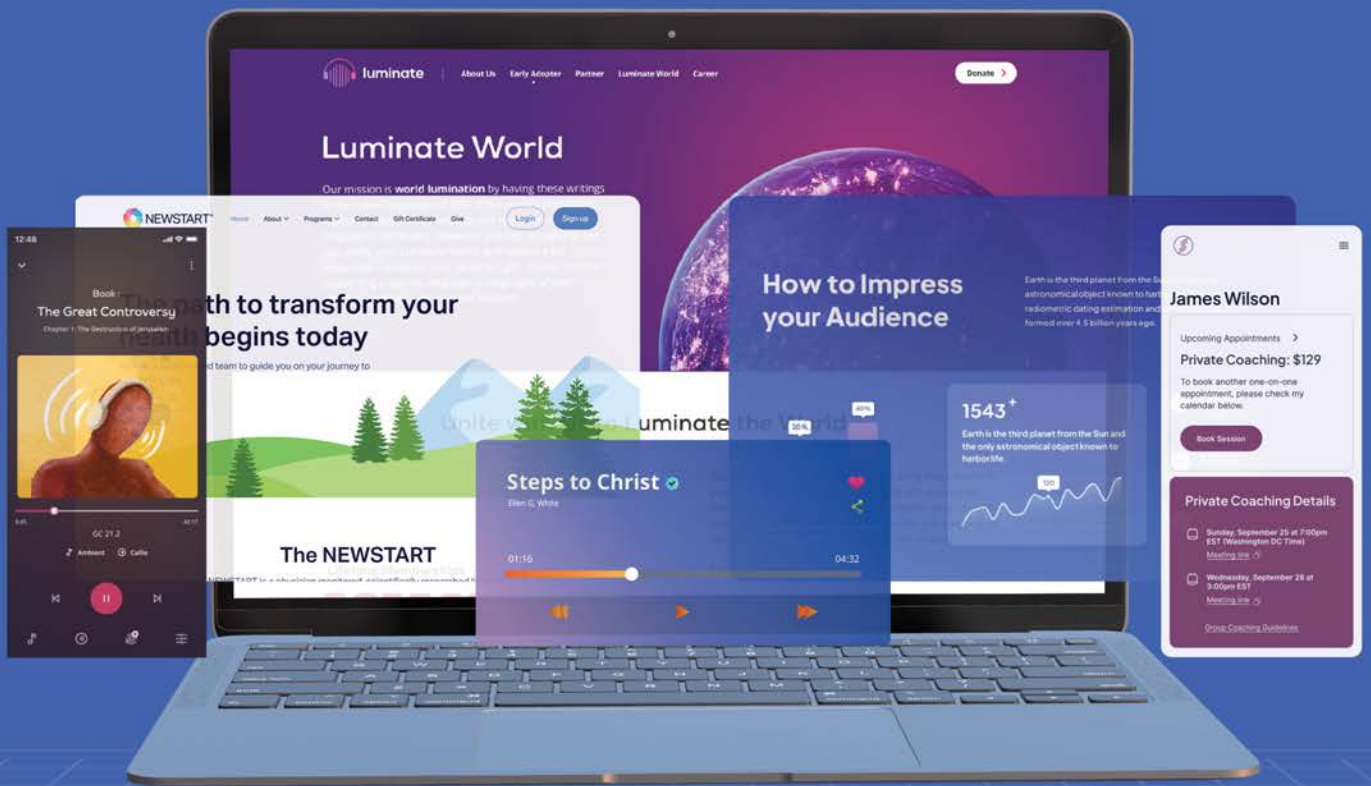
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My heart, O God, is steadfast ... I will sing and make music. Psalms 57:7

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Poem Testimony

by **Charissa Zima**

O Lord, I want to thank You
For the work that You've begun
In all the ways You've shaped me
And for all the things You've done

O Lord, I want to thank You
For Your love so deep and strong
E'en, at times, I've questioned You
Still, You carry me along

Lord, I want to praise Your name
Just for all the ways You've led
For all the love You've giv'n me
And how You have protected

Lord, I want to praise Your name,
I just love You more each day
O Lord, I want to thank You
Just for all the things You've done

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:2-4, NKJV).



Charissa writes from California. In her free time, she enjoys nature, traveling, spending time with family, and sharing Jesus with others.



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The Gift that Keeps on Giving

by Luella Nelson

It all started in 1975 in Sacramento, California. Sacramento Central SDA Church was to host a group of La Sierra students while they canvassed in the Sacramento area. I was only 23 at the time, and I had an extra bedroom in my mobile home. When the question was posed as to who would be willing to be the students' housing coordinator, my hand shot up, and so began a 47-year relationship. A kindness shown then has blossomed.

In June, a group of four Chinese students (three boys and one girl, all friends from the same high school in Hong Kong) and a Korean young lady, landed in Sacramento. It was agreed that an elderly couple would take the three boys and I would keep the two girls (the Korean girl later decided to return home). Their leader, a slightly older Japanese ministerial

student, also stayed in the same home with the three boys.

On the weekend, we piled into my car to explore interesting places. One Sabbath afternoon, we went to Folsom Lake and had a watermelon party. I think it all started that day. We agreed that I would be called the "house mom," which over the years ended up just being mom. One of the boys still remembers that day.

We spent July 4th in San Francisco's ChinaTown where I struggled to learn how to eat with chopsticks; eventually they brought me a fork. By the end of their time in Sacramento, one of our students was the top salesman for all of Northern California.

The summer soon ended and parting was such sweet sorrow! However, the next summer quickly rolled around and another group of students were placed in

Sacramento, and I continued as housing coordinator/house mom/"mom." This time, we found two homes a few houses apart on the same street whose owners were going on vacation during the same period the students would be in town. I moved into one of the homes and we used it as a home base for meals, counting money, and spending time together.

This group was as fun as my group from the previous summer. One of the students from the first year returned for a second year. We celebrated birthdays, went on trips, and spent time bonding. At the end of that summer, one of our students was again a top salesman. We had a lot to celebrate!

Then they left and I thought I would never see them again. But I was in for a grand surprise! I was able to keep in contact with several of the students. A few

came up to visit and we met in Eureka for a weekend. In 1977, I needed to take a psychology class, so I took it at La Sierra University over the summer. While there, I visited with my old friends more frequently. By this time, I could use chopsticks very well.

Then the weddings started and I attended several. Eventually babies were added to the growing family.

In 2007, the student who was the first top salesman, Oliver Chung, now married with grown children, invited me to join his family for Thanksgiving. What a fun time I had meeting even more of the gang!

During that time, I was experiencing sciatica and Oliver, now an established acupuncturist in La Paz, Mexico, invited me to be treated for sciatica. I went at Christmas—five days, five treatments at no charge. I haven't had sciatica for 12 years!

Frequently, I visited and stayed in the homes of several of my Chinese friends. I would attempt to pay for the Chinese dinners, but I was waved onward. I think

I tricked them only once or twice in all these years. Several times, I visited La Paz for acupuncture treatments and was never charged. I stayed in Oliver's home, so I didn't have to rent a hotel and he did a lot of the cooking. At one point I flew to Monterrey to a University graduation of one of the "grandsons."

I soon realized I had other "children" I had mentored or adopted along the way. By the time I moved to La Paz to become an English as a Second Language teacher at our elementary school in 2017, the count was up to 11 adopted "sons and daughters" and 16 "grandchildren."

While here in Mexico, several more have been added to those numbers. I became acquainted with number 16 while acting as his office assistant as we re-opened a medical clinic in Northern Baja. As a result, his English is much better. Number 13 would now be considered bilingual and lives with me; he does all the heavy lifting, translating, driving, and some cooking. I have learned so much from my Mexican

family. How to make tamales is next on the list.

I never would have guessed that for someone who never bore children, I can count 17 sons and daughters and 18 grandchildren. My "children" and "grandchildren" are truly gifts from God. And who would have thought my family would begin to grow when I volunteered to be a housing coordinator all those years ago?



Luella Nelson graduated from Andrews University with a B.S. in Secretarial Studies in 1980 and from Pacific Union College with a B.S. in nursing in 1995. She worked as a nurse for 22 years in California but in 2017, she was impressed to leave her life in the U.S. to become an English teacher in La Paz, Mexico. In her free time, John 21:15 propels her to entertain her church and school families and evangelize her neighbors.



Making Memories

by Ron Price

Try this fun family game for your next game night!

Over the course of a few days, each member of the family writes down their top 10 memories. Younger children may need help from a parent or older sibling. These memories may include milestones, special events, celebrations, etc. The order is not important.

During a family game night, the family member with the closest birthday is asked to share two memories from their list. Once the memories are shared, the sharer chooses another family member and invites them to share memories #2 and #7 (or whatever numbers they choose). The responding person shares their memories as vividly as possible. This process repeats until all the family members have shared two of their favorite memories.

You may want to set a time limit for each memory, depending on the number of participants and the depth of discussion. Ideally, each participant will share at least one memory.

The purpose of this game is to rekindle the feelings of joy, elation, or togetherness accompanied by each memory and bring one's family closer together.



Author, speaker, and humorist Ron Price holds a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Rhode Island and M.A. in Counseling from the University of New Mexico. By God's Grace, he has written three books in his "PLAY NICE in Your Sandbox" series. He also created an online video course for small groups called "PLAY NICE in God's Sandbox."

LIGHT Ministries

by Ima-Obong Jonathan, LIGHT Nigeria

Like a drop of water that makes ripples in a lake, one person who is well-trained in natural remedies can have a large impact in training and inspiring others. As more and more ripples are formed on the lake, more people can receive God's life-giving water: the health message.

My name is Ima-Obong. After a life-changing training weekend given by Elder Agayong with LIGHT Ministry, I was inspired by the Holy Spirit to talk about health at our Lay Evangelism program that took place in October. Equipped and on fire about what I had learned, I talked about NEWSTART and the eight laws of health. Fifty members from the community joined, as well as quite a few church members.

Soon after that, I became ill. Charcoal, fresh air, and sunlight were my medicine. By the end of the week, I was healed. Our new pastor was also blessed with healing after he used exercise and fresh air to recover after major surgery. All glory to God for bringing LIGHT Ministries into our lives and showing us God's way of healing. We have been blessed beyond measure and are praising God.

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About a Boy Named Young: Our Origin Story

Young Banda was suffering with joint pain, tiredness, Rheumatic Fever, and malnutrition. In the spring of 2022, he was admitted to Malamulo Adventist Hospital with severe heart failure and Rheumatic Heart Disease.

A divine appointment with Charlene Wang, a young medical student from Loma Linda University and Doctor Arega Fekadu Leta, a Loma Linda trained Heart surgeon in Kenya, Young was able to have a much needed surgery in July of 2022.

But what if there had been no one to care? What if that care was so far out of reach that the very thought of it was a cruel dream?

This is the reality for far too many in sub-Saharan Africa. The story of Young Banda touched our hearts for the hearts of others.

Hearts 4 Mission International was founded because we wanted to do something for the other kids out there with failing hearts that had no access to cardiology or surgery.

We plan to do this one heart at a time.

In Sub-Saharan Africa

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HEARTS
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A Free Clinic in Page

by Anne Crosby

Page, Arizona is a remote town on the edge of the Navajo reservation. Amid this beautiful area with vast needs, the Page All Nations Church strives to be God's hands and feet in their community. The church was purchased in 2012 by the 13th Sabbath offering. Through God's providence, the property was purchased at a significantly lower price than market value.

Page All Nations has made a positive impact through their community garden and greenhouse, medical clinics, clothing giveaways, cooking and gardening classes, and day camps for children. They are always looking for more creative ways to reach out.

Last fall, the Page All Nations Church hosted a free clinic for their community with the dedicated service of volunteers

from the Chattanooga Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church. The clinic offered dental, dermatology, and vision services and was able to fill a need that had been felt by many people in Page, Arizona, and surrounding communities.

The dentist-to-patient ratio on the Navajo Nation is among the lowest in the country. There are only 32 dentists per 100,000 people, and vision and dermatology services are difficult to find on the reservation. On the first morning, a queue began to form along the church sidewalk outside the tent as people waited in the early hours of the morning, eager for the clinic to begin.

Pastor James Crosby welcomed visitors and provided literature for the waiting patients. The patients were able to fill out surveys and indicate their interest in in-home Bible studies, pastoral visits, and

other church events. More than 10 people requested Bible studies, and significant interest was generated for healthy cooking classes.

At triage, one woman said she had not been able to receive dental care on the reservation since before the pandemic. Another woman explained: "Had we gone to the clinic on the reservation we would've had to wait all day to try to get an appointment, and then wait in line for another day to be seen."

"These doctors came from so far to help us! This is so wonderful," said one grateful patient. Even in the heat of the day, the volunteers worked tirelessly to serve every patient. News spread, with patients traveling over an hour across the reservation to seek treatment. Parents brought their children, and caretakers brought the elderly to receive the help they

needed. One woman came out of the dermatology tent with tears in her eyes. Pointing to her face, she exclaimed, “I have had so much trouble with this spot before and now I don’t have to worry anymore.”

A steady stream of visitors continued for the second day of the clinic. Over 60 individuals received glasses, and many others were given prescriptions. Patients walked out of the clinic with beaming faces, expressing their thanks. The event made a deep impression on many of the patients who felt the compassion and care of all the volunteers. During the two days the free clinic operated, it offered free services valued at \$150,000. The Page All Nations Church is thankful for all the volunteers and donors who made this event possible!



Anne Crosby lives in Page, Arizona, where her family ministers to the Navajo people. She is a senior in college studying Elementary Education and has a music studio where she teaches piano to children in her community. In her spare time, Anne enjoys writing and participating in children’s ministries at her local church.

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The Cat That Went to Prison...

Christmas Behind Bars was scheduled to deliver gift packages to a prison. The night before, we loaded the trailer at the warehouse. The next morning, we arrived at the prison, and when I opened the doors to the trailer, I heard a cat “meowing” from inside! I wondered what I was going to do – there are several cats at the warehouse, not very tame, and they only come when you feed them. I started to unload the trailer, and a frightened “Midnight” the cat jumped out! He wouldn’t come when called, and I had no food to draw him, so I didn’t know what to do. I kept unloading the trailer while the cat hid under it. When I finished unloading, lo and behold, somebody was holding Midnight. He brought him to me, so I put him in the semi cab. Midnight had never been in the truck before, and I figured he would wildly claw to escape. I wanted to help him get home, even if he messed up the cab. But he laid down in the corner of the floor, and was content to rest all the way home, while even neglecting the cat food that I stopped and got him.

When we arrived back at the warehouse, the other seven or eight cats were there, and when I showed Midnight his friends, he knew right away he was home, and had a happy reunion with them. **It actually made me cry, because I thought about what Christ has done for us!** He saved us from our prison, and ensures us that he will get us to our heavenly home if we are willing to allow him to work in our lives.

The moral of the story: Midnight the cat, one of many, was in a bad and unfamiliar place. I wanted to help him, but he wouldn’t answer my call. Sometimes, we don’t hear the call of Christ or answer right away, but He wants to ensure that we reach our heavenly home and are reunited with our loved ones. He went to the cross to help each one of us on our journey.

Midnight was not the most desirable cat, he had mange and was losing his hair, but I still wanted to help him get home. Prison inmates may not be the most desirable people, but Christ wants to transform them, give them hope, and help them reach their heavenly home.

Christmas Behind Bars takes the message of hope and salvation in Jesus Christ to the inmates, for in Christ alone there is true freedom.

Will you help us to continue to reach the prison inmates today?



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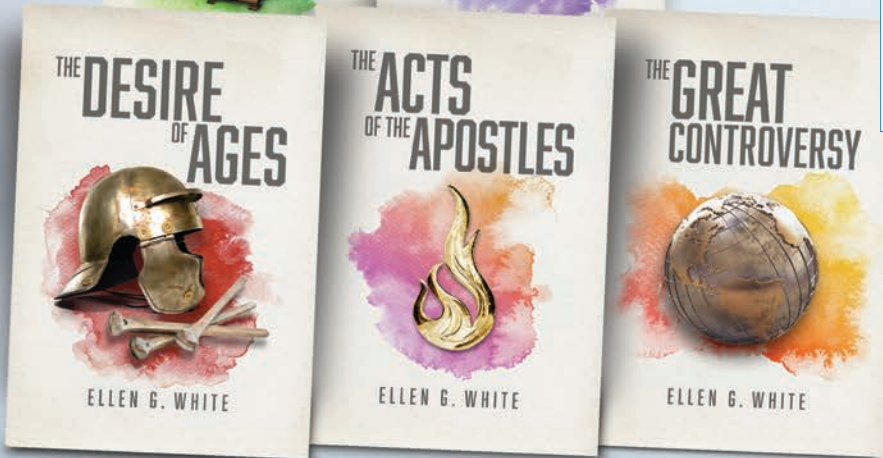
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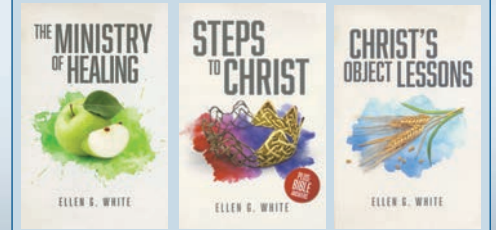
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