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EDITOR'S NOTE

"I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'" (Isaiah 6:8, NKJV).

This is a powerful verse, especially when considered within the context of earth's history. The end of the world is drawing near, and Christ's Second Coming is imminent. While this reality is cause for rejoicing, it is also cause for serious reflection on our life's purpose. As God's last-day people, we have a unique—and very serious—last-day commission.

In *Counsels for the Church*, page 64, Ellen White warns, "The time is short; the night soon cometh when no man can work. Let those who are rejoicing in the light of present truth, now make haste to impart the truth to others." How are we imparting present truth? Are we making haste to do so? This is our last-day commission: sharing present truth to the world—in haste.

No longer can we "talk the talk" while refusing to "walk the walk." The world is increasingly sensitive to hypocrisy of any kind. They are holding Christians accountable to their words. We preach of missions from the pulpit, but are we prioritizing service? We have such an incredible last-day message of Christ's soon and glorious return, yet how is this truth and joy reflected in our lives?

This edition of *Inside ASI* is designed to inspire and encourage action. Included in these pages are 10 stories from ASI members and ministries dedicated to mission and service. May God touch your heart as you read, and as He asks, "Whom shall I send?" may your answer be, "Here am I! Send me."



Kristi Jensen, Editor

WHAT'S INSIDE?



Table of Contents

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|----|
| Ayyad Meets Jesus | 4 |
| The Congolese General | 6 |
| Rerouted | 10 |
| New Beginnings Brings New Life to Austin South | 12 |
| The Healing of Marcio | 14 |
| The Church Next Door | 18 |
| Sharing Christ in an Appalachian Marketplace | 20 |
| "In Our Homes, the Song is FARM STEW!" | 22 |
| Health to the Islands | 26 |
| Boots on the Ground for Christ | 28 |

ASI President:
Steve Dickman

Vice President for Communication:
Ruben Dias

Editor:
Kristi Jensen

Graphic Designer:
Aleksandar Popovski

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Address and subscription correspondence may be sent to:

ASI
9705 Patuxent Woods Dr.
Columbia, MD 21046

+1 443.391.7235
asi@nadadventist.org
www.asiministries.org



Ayyad Meets Jesus

by Gospel Outreach



Gospel Outreach is a Great Commission organization. Its mission: to reach people in the 10/40 Window with the story of Jesus. The 10/40 Window lies between 10 and 40 degrees north latitude. It includes North Africa, the Middle East, India, China, and the Philippines, and is home to 97 percent of the world's unreached.

Ministry partners sponsor more than 2,000 indigenous Bible workers in this area.



Ayyad was the leader of a terrorist cell in an East-African country. He had directed many brutal operations against people suspected of being foreigners or traitors to Islam. He believed, as many do, that performing an act of jihad (a struggle or fight against the enemies of Islam) such as committing suicide while killing others will allow one to earn instant entrance into eternal paradise with 1000 virgins. He believed he was doing Allah's (God's) bidding. Now he is a secret believer who works to redeem youth who have been radicalized. He has renounced his violence and stands for peace. His is a "Saul to Paul" story. This is how it goes...

One day, Ayyad oversaw the killing of several expatriate relief workers. As they were being shot, one of them raised a Bible in his hand and

said, "Forgive them Father, for they don't know what they are doing." In anger at why anyone would call Allah, Father (as if there was a Mother somewhere), he shot the man twice in the chest and in the head. The relief worker died instantly. The killers ransacked the corpses for money, passports, cameras, and any valuables. Ayyad took home the Bible. That night, he couldn't sleep. He kept hearing the cry of the man with the upraised arm saying, "Father forgive them..." He tossed and turned the whole night. Then he saw a bright light. A tall man dressed in a long flowing Arab robe and headdress appeared. He was shining so bright that Ayyad fell down prostrate. The following are Ayyad's own words of what transpired...

"The tall man lifted me up. In a clear, gentle voice, He told me, 'Ayyad, I have a mission for you.

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Your hands are bloody from many lives lost at your hands. Now many lives will find Me through you.'

"Who are you?" I asked, even as I could not dare to look in his face. He was so bright. I felt so sinful.

"In a gentle voice, He answered, 'Look at my hands.' I did. I saw scars. 'What are these, Maalim (Teacher)?" I asked.

"Taking the Bible by my bedside which I had taken from the man whom I killed, He turned to Zechariah 13:6 (AKJV). He began to read, 'And one shall say to him, What are these wounds in your hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house

of my friends.' I was still confused, 'But good Sheikh Rasul (a messenger such as a prophet in Islam), I don't understand. I am but a child. Teach me,' I cried.

"He then proceeded to open John 19 and read. When He came to verse 18 where it says 'Crucified them... with Jesus in the middle' it suddenly dawned on me who this was. 'You are Isa (Jesus), the prophet who is to return as Masih (Messiah) in the last days.'

"Next he taught me about the Bible and urged me to teach others. He told me to go to Samir (a secret believer and Gospel Outreach worker) to learn more about Him. I did. Twenty-eight months later,

here I am going for water baptism the same way Isa (Jesus) did. It is the greatest day of my life. I will die for Him who died for me. The rest of my 17 compatriots being baptized today believe like I do. We must cause a revolution of ideas in this country. We must wage a spiritual jihad. Isa is coming soon. We need to prepare our people to meet Him."



The Congolese General

by Abigail Duman, Train Them 2 Fish



Abigail Duman is communication director for Train Them 2 Fish, an organization that is reaching the Democratic Republic of the Congo for Jesus. She lives in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia with her husband, Chris, and their young son, Luke.



“I am tired of this confusion of religion,” the Congolese general’s gaze turned grim as he spoke to his watchful wife and children. “From now on, I won’t allow anyone in my house to attend church—anyone,” he paused. “And no one may come to this house to talk about the Bible or to preach.”

The wife nodded. When the general spoke, everyone listened.

There are churches on every street corner in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The sound of drums and music on Sunday morning greets the noise of traffic on the busy streets. “We have millions of people attending church every single Sunday,” the general explained. “But the country is corrupted. Every church preaches about good news, but if you look at the lives of the people in church, they are full of corruption. I don’t like it. They may talk about good news, but the church is not changing people.”

This is why I will not allow my children to go to these churches, he thought to himself. For they would become corrupted too.

Disappointed by a lack of genuine godliness in his Christian community, the general proceeded with his day’s agenda. Meanwhile, his wife ventured into town.

The general’s wife quickly learned that a group called “Train Them 2 Fish” was giving free medical care to the public. Curious, she decided to go through the vision program they offered.

When the general saw that his wife had returned home, he noticed something different.

“Where did you come from?” he interrogated her. “Where did you get that pair of eyeglasses?”

“There’s a free medical program around the corner,” she explained. “I went there, and the people gave these to me.”



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“Do you have any idea how much those glasses cost?” he demanded.

“I have no idea,” she replied.

“The glasses you are wearing are the best you can buy here. They are very expensive. So, you must explain yourself,” the general insisted. “Where did you get them?”

“My husband, these people are offering medical care for free. The glasses cost me nothing.”

“I will not believe that. I cannot believe that they were given to you for free. They are very expensive,” he repeated.

“Go and see for yourself,” his wife suggested. “Or send someone to go for you and see if it is true.”

The man savored the thought for a moment. “Well, I will send my daughter. I trust my daughter to tell me the truth.”

The following day, the general’s daughter made her way into the street and enrolled in the eye program. She was given a pair of glasses for free.

“It is true, Father,” she reported. “These were given to me. They were free.”

His eyes widened, incredulous. “Who are these people? I must go for myself and see them.”

When the astonished general arrived at the corner, he came just in time for the devotional. He listened to the message thoughtfully. When the program began, he approached the staff. “I want to see the chief—the coordinator—of this program,” he said.

The man in front of him shifted nervously. “I’m not sure...” he began.

“Don’t be afraid,” the general assured him. “I’m not here to arrest anyone. But I am here because I want to see who is in charge of all this. Please allow me to see him.” The military general was led to Thomas Ongasa.

“Who are you?” the man of influence asked.

“I am a pastor,” Ongasa replied.

“What is the name of your church?”

“Seventh-day Adventist.”

“What is that? I’ve never heard of the name.”

“The name Adventist means that we are waiting for the Second Coming of Christ,” Ongasa began. “And the Seventh-day part of our name is there because we worship Him on Saturday, the seventh day of the week.”

“What?” the man questioned. “Can you come and visit me in my home?”

Pastor Ongasa needed to be present for the remainder of the medical clinic, but he offered to send a Bible worker to visit with the general.

“Yes,” the general replied. “Send someone to my house.”

When the Bible worker arrived, he marveled at the building’s high security—no one was allowed to step foot inside without permission. But two pairs of eyeglasses had been the key to his entry, and genuine Christianity had softened the heart of a once skeptical man.

“Come to my house any time and tell me more about your church,” the official said as he agreed to Bible studies. “I had made the decision that there would be no more religion in my home, but because of what I see you doing, my doors are open.”



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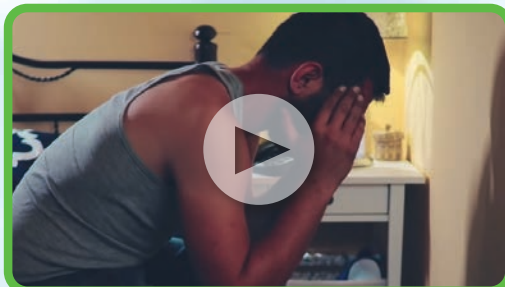
Why have rebels in the Philippines been laying down their machine guns and picking up Bibles? Watch to find out!



Taking a Bold Stand

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Wisam's own family tried to stone him for his belief in God, but today he is an Adventist pastor in the Middle East.



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Rerouted

by Brenda Kiš, ASAP Ministries



Brenda Kiš writes from Berrien Springs, Michigan, for Advocates for Southeast Asians and the Persecuted (ASAP Ministries). She delights in her sons and their families, friends both new and old, travel, books, music, and above all, sharing the gospel with as many as possible!



What are you doing for your people, Bemnet?" The voice came out of the night and startled Dr. Bemnet Meried. He had been praying for God's leading now that he was finally in the United States. He thought he was supposed to go to Loma Linda University for further training, but God redirected his ministry plans and indicated that he was to write a tract in his native language for the Eritrean people, something he could not have done while living in his home country.

Born into a faithful, fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventist family, Bemnet's life suddenly changed when persecution began in Eritrea and the church went underground in 2002. Bemnet was 17 years old at the time. A short

time after the persecution began, he started medical school. The years of medical school and internships were challenging and Bemnet often fasted and prayed for help to avoid breaking the Sabbath and to face professors who were mostly atheists. He realized there was no future for him in Eritrea as long as he was a Seventh-day Adventist doctor, and he began fasting and praying in earnest that God would lead him to the United States.

At that time, the borders of Eritrea were closed and even his ID card restricted his travel within the country. He had to be cautious when making contact with the outside world. Many times he cried and prayed in his discouragement and anxiety, and often God sent him encouraging dreams or beautiful

heavenly music in the night to calm his fears. In 2009, he applied for a visa to the U.S. and was given an interview date at the embassy in Kenya. So began a series of miraculous escapes and harrowing adventures through risky border crossings, refugee camps, and the desert during long night walks to avoid the scorching sun and greedy kidnapers looking to profit from escapees. The journey cost Dr. Bemnet thousands of dollars, but funds always seemed to show up at just the right time. God oversaw every step that led him, at last, to Sacramento, California. From there, each move took him closer to the ministry God was

laying on his heart.

Today, Dr. Bemnet is translating Spirit of Prophecy books and Bible studies as well as writing spiritual books and tracts in the Eritrean language. He is also involved in media evangelism, sharing the gospel through DVDs, YouTube, Viber contacts, Facebook, and more. Advocates for Southeast Asians and the Persecuted (ASAP Ministries) supports his Eritrean evangelism and humanitarian projects around the world and recently facilitated his visit to the Simple Updates studio in Berrien Springs, Michigan, for a special project funded by ASI. Through an ASI grant,

ASAP Ministries is helping Dr. Bemnet and other speakers produce quality sermon DVDs in their native languages. These sermons can also be put on flash drives and travel far and wide to Eritreans and other least-reached people groups scattered around the world.

If you know of any Eritrean people and would like to connect them with Dr. Bemnet, you can reach him by e-mail at hope1844ministry@gmail.com or by phone at 530-353-5983. May God bring many precious Eritreans into His kingdom!

Welcome to the Family

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The Mustard Seed
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Personal

Fred and Sandy Miller, Carney, MI



New Beginnings Brings New Life to Austin South

by Sean Carney, ASI Southwest



Sean Carney is a long-time member of ASI, known for his work in promoting technology use among Seventh-day Adventist ministries as well as supporting his wife, Linda Carney, MD, in her work of promoting Therapeutic Living through the Starch-Smart System.



A sermon title indelibly etched itself into my brain many years ago. While details have faded, the essence remains: “When Fishers Don’t Fish, They Fight.” Your church may not have fighting issues, but if it does, there is a tried and true remedy: evangelism. Evangelism brings life.

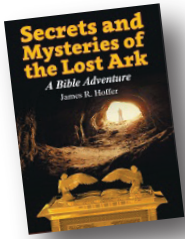
Our new pastor, Dr. Anthony Raybourne, noticing our church was “D-E-D Ded, no ‘A’ for alive,” quickly pointed out our lack of outreach and abundance of infighting. To remedy the situation, he encouraged us to get out of our comfort zones and get involved in active outreach and evangelism. It worked. Baptisms commenced.

The baptismal tank was filled and the pump engaged, but there was

a problem. The water was red. We were embarrassed. It was caused by rust from the pipes. The rusty pipes were both a rebuke and a challenge. Fortunately, the water is clear again.

While some attrition occurred, church growth resumed. Our challenge? A lack of Total Member Involvement. How could we revitalize the church and excite and empower our members?

We began Bible study training with Bible-marking classes. We encouraged the congregation to give Bible studies to missing members and their unreached families. Baptisms did result, but the Bible-marking was time-consuming and dependent upon a class schedule. In the vernacular of the twenty-first century tech sector, this didn’t scale.



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We needed another solution.

Pastor Raybourne discovered the New Beginnings evangelism resource from ASI, available on ASI's website at asiministries.org/newbeginnings. ASI was called and a session was scheduled for our two district churches to come together for intensive training that would take place in two months. Praise the Lord, but...two months? Pastor Raybourne decided to train some of the elders immediately. A Spanish-speaking group was established in the home of a newly-baptized member. The concept was proven, and we were hooked.

On July 13, 2019, Barbara Taylor, ASI's national coordinator of New Beginnings training, conducted a full day of training at the Austin South Seventh-day Adventist Church in Austin, Texas. We had a couple of problems: we ran out of parking and we ran out of seating in the sanctuary. Overflow seating was quickly set up in the church foyer.

Since that weekend, multiple New Beginnings groups have been established and baptisms are scheduled. Our youth are also being trained to give the New Beginnings presentations. Our refugee members are being encouraged to use the

materials in their evangelism. The studies are available in many languages and more are coming.

If your church is needing some new life and renewed vigor, consider New Beginnings.



The Healing of Marcio

by Bradley Mills, Amazon Lifesaver Ministry



Brad Mills and his wife, Lina, have two children, Levi and Lucas. From 2007 and on, Brad, a family nurse practitioner, and Lina, a nurse, have served as missionaries in the jungles of Brazil. Today, Brad coordinates Amazon Lifesavers Ministry and serves in the Northwest Brazil Union in Global Missions and Adventist Volunteer Services.



“Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength” (Acts 3:6, 7).

I met Marcio when his family began attending the small church we started in his jungle village—a village nearly 30 hours by boat from the city. Marcio’s family was very poor, more so than the typical jungle villager. His mother was a single parent, raising nine children, varying in ages from one to 20 years old. The family lived in a small thatched hut and cooked over a fire. Their daily staple was the fish they caught from the river that bordered their community.

Each night, Marcio faithfully came to the church meetings and listened attentively to the missionaries as they taught Bible truths. After several months, Marcio and his family

accepted Jesus and were baptized, forever changing their destiny and current life situation.

It was several years later that I, in the city of Manaus, Brazil, received a phone call from Marcio’s mother! I was quite shocked to hear that she and Marcio were in Manaus. I was surprised first, because they had never been to a big city before, and second, because so many years had passed since I heard from them. Marcio’s mother began sharing with me that Marcio was very ill. They had traveled many days to Manaus in hopes of getting help.

After several hours in the hospital, we received the bad news. Marcio had a joint infection in his hip. He had a large abscess that had eaten away the femoral head. The orthopedic surgeon noted that he would have to undergo several surgeries. The first surgery would be to clean out the infection and the second surgery would be to place a prosthetic piece, enabling Marcio

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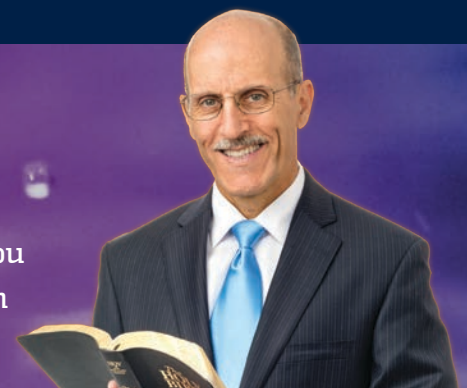
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to walk again. Marcio was only 25 and had so much life ahead of him, life that would be very difficult if he couldn't walk.

After the first surgery, Marcio recovered well. The infection cleared up and he was placed on a waiting list to be operated on in the large government hospital. However, as jungle people often feel when in a large, unknown city, Marcio and his mother felt overwhelmed. They couldn't get up and fish. They couldn't go anywhere, as they were afraid of the bus system. They were scared and lost. So as many jungle people do, they decided to not wait for the surgery but go back to the jungle. By the time I found out their plans, they were gone. I had no way to reach them, as they were back in the jungle with no electricity or cell phone signal.

Two more years went by and I went to their village to visit. It was a very special event to be back and see so many people that we once lived alongside. We saw babies that were now kids and many faithful church members who had even rebuilt the little church in the community. But I wasn't content until I saw Marcio. The villagers told me that he lived in a house at the back of the village. Off I walked down the trail to his house.

There was Marcio, out behind his house working in the garden. To my surprise, he was squatting and working away!

"Marcio!" I exclaimed. "So good to see you

again! How is your leg?" Marcio was beaming with excitement to see me. He ran up and shook my hand. He said he had waited for so long to tell me how God had healed him. Simple. Just like that. He prayed and God healed him.

I stammered, trying to understand. *How? What do you mean "God healed you?"* I wondered in my mind. This guy has no femoral head; he shouldn't be walking and jumping.

"Marcio, please tell me what happened," I asked in confusion. Marcio explained that he had come back to his village and was unable to do anything. He was unable to work or plant or fish or help with family chores. He was unable to be useful in any way. In despair, Marcio took his cares to God. He prayed and asked God to heal him so that he could take care of his family. The next day, he woke up and his leg was healed. He now could run, jump, bend, fish, and do all that he needed to do.

I suddenly remembered the story of Peter, John, and the cripple in Acts 3. Peter and John did not have material possessions, but they offered the power of God. My friends, we serve the same God today. We serve the same God who knows no limits in saving His children. As God healed Marcio's femoral bone, He can take care of your problems today. Move forward in trusting in God and remember to pray for the missionaries in the Amazon jungles of Brazil!



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The Church Next Door

by Christopher Beason,
Mission SONlight



Christopher Beason is the father of Victoria, Jocelyn, and Julianna, and has been married to Christy for nearly 28 years. He is the president of Network 7 Media Center and host of Mission SONlight, the quarterly 13th Sabbath World Mission Offering video emphasis. He worked as a pastor and departmental director prior to moving into the supporting ministry work. He also currently serves as the president of ASI Southern Union.



Esmiarito and Dalkis heard about the meetings at the church next door. They wondered if the noise would bother them at night. The little house church at Cifuentes, a small town in the north central region of Cuba, seemed to come alive on Saturday mornings when the Adventists arrived for worship. But now they were going to have meetings every night for over a week. Esmiarito and Dalkis decided to keep to themselves and stay indoors.

The first night they could hear the music. The church was too small for the crowd of visitors, so the meetings were held on wooden benches in the backyard of the church. The singing was just a few feet from their little block home with jalousie windows. It almost felt as though they were part of the program. But it was OK; no one could see them or know they were listening in.

Soon, they could hear Henry and Arlene Stubbs speaking. They would rotate the preaching responsibilities with giving health talks before the sermon. Henry and Arlene are adept speakers, having worked in Cuba for 20 years as the directors of World Youth Group, an ASI affiliate. As the Stubbs laid out the case for living a

life in Christ, Esmiarito and Dalkis became more interested.

They quickly found little projects outside their home to work on so they could casually keep an eye on the happenings next door. One evening, Esmiarito cleaned the same window three times while she listened to Arlene preach. Listening night after night, their interest grew, and with little more than a barbed wire fence between them and the church yard, they started standing at the back of the meetings. Then they asked if they could come over and join those attending.

During an appeal toward the end of the series, the neighbor couple came forward and said, "We want to be baptized." Henry said, "Let's study and then in a few weeks when you've understood, you can be baptized." "No, we want to be baptized this Sabbath. We understand." "Well, where have you been?" "Oh we live next door, we've listened every night. We believe and we don't want to be missed."

They quickly found the hope they had been missing in their home. Their new Adventist family shared with them lessons from Scripture and better ways of living. Now they are baptized members of the Cifuentes Seventh-day Adventist Church, sharing their newfound hope with their neighbors and in turn, growing the church exponentially.

And that noise from the church next door? It's always welcome as Esmiarito and Dalkis join the sound of praise with their new church family week after week.

*You can see the story of Esmiarito and Dalkis and other mission stories like theirs every week on Mission SONlight. Learn more at: www.missionSONlight.org.

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I made a decision after my first trip to the Holy Land - over 40 years ago - that I would return and bring others with me. This will be my 38th tour since, and every time I learn something new. I truly enjoyed my last trip more than my first, and look forward with great anticipation to this next one.

I know you will be thrilled when you visit places like Jericho, Capernaum, Nazareth, The Sea of Galilee, Caesarea, Bethlehem, and, my favorite city in the world, Jerusalem. You will truly be able to say, **"I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked"** as the words of the song go. We will sing, pray, and share together in a short devotional time each evening just before our buffet dinner. We would count it a privilege to have you join us on this trip. You will make new friends, some for eternity.



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Sharing Christ in an Appalachian Marketplace

by Albert Dittes, Kristina's Kitchen



Albert Dittes is semi-retired, devoting himself to music and freelance writing. Albert plays piano and organ for three churches as well as teaches private piano lessons. He graduated from Southern Adventist and Andrews Universities and pursued a career in pastoral ministry and journalism before his semi-retirement.

“All my life I wanted to do ministry in the United States,” says Kristina McFeeters while cleaning up after a day’s work in her vegetarian restaurant on the main street of Whitley City, Kentucky. “I remember praying that God would show me a place where I could share Jesus’ love. When my husband and I got engaged, he lived in Appalachia, and that’s how I found Eastern Kentucky.”

She married Daniel McFeeters, a computer programmer and fifth-generation Seventh-day Adventist from nearby Somerset, Kentucky, in March, 2009. They started teaching cooking classes in Whitley City the following October. The cooking classes grew into a thriving restaurant in June, 2014.

“We’ve been here 10 years,” she says. “I began by researching the needs in our community and making friends for six months. Then I started a free cooking class at a local food bank with my new friends.”

Word of mouth brought people to her monthly cooking classes. Kristina

volunteered at the health department with their weight loss classes, health fairs, and diabetes classes. She also helped with school backpacks, the local homemakers club, and kids’ health programs in the community.

After three months of cooking classes, a health food store in Somerset asked her to teach the same class there, enlarging her program to two cooking classes a month. That regimen has stayed the same for the past decade, with hour-long instruction in both locations. After five years of making friends, volunteering, and teaching cooking classes, people began asking to buy Kristina’s food.

“So I operate a store here as well as a restaurant,” she says. “I also saw the need for a center of influence. We are a community center. The Farmers Market sets up here every Wednesday during the summer and conducts monthly board meetings here in the winter. Several non-profit organizations use our dining room for board meetings.”

The local homemakers club meets there once a month. The health



The end is near, stealing upon us stealthily, imperceptibly, like the noiseless approach of a thief in the night. May the Lord grant that we shall no longer sleep as do others, but that we shall watch and be sober. The truth is soon to triumph gloriously, and all who now choose to be laborers together with God will triumph with it. The time is short; the night soon cometh when no man can work. Let those who are rejoicing in the light of present truth, now make haste to impart the truth to others. The Lord is inquiring, "Whom shall I send?" Those who wish to sacrifice for the truth's sake, are now to respond, "Here am I, Lord; send me.

– Counsels For The Church, p. 64



department plans to conduct diabetes classes there because the restaurant attracts more people than their own facility. "I just have to prepare the food," Kristina says.

She joined the Chamber of Commerce, which then asked her to cater their lunches a few times a year. That led to a seat on the board of directors and election as president.

She also represents restaurants on the county tourism commission and sits on the advisory council for the agricultural extension service.

On Thursdays, she drives 30 miles to Somerset and delivers sack lunches and baked goods to local businesses there. She loves getting out and meeting people where they are!

Customers daily patronize the restaurant serving plant-based foods as well as baked whole-grain goods. Organic herbs and supplements are on

the shelves for sale. Patrons on one afternoon included two out-of-state families; one local repeat customer liking the potato soup, spaghetti, chili, bilberry tea, and vitamins; and four Adventist golfers from East Tennessee ordering tomato-avocado sandwiches, veggie burgers, pinto bean chili, granola, and Mediterranean rice salad.

Kristina's mother runs the restaurant on Thursdays with the help of two employees. Four part-time employees comprise the staff, with one or two on duty during any given day. Kristina also runs an apprenticeship training program for students who want to learn the health/restaurant ministry.

Kristina's supportive husband began as a computer programmer, then added a bivocational lay ministry and began serving two churches. When the Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference called him into full-time ministry of serving four churches, the community responded positively, calling him a circuit-riding preacher.

Operating the restaurant has led to Kristina giving two Bible studies a week, resulting in two baptisms so far.

Kristina, a seventh-generation Seventh-day Adventist, grew up in Washington State and earned a degree in personal ministries at Ouachita Hills College in Arkansas.

"When Daniel and I married, we moved here to bless others. It's my dream come true!" she says. "Every Christian should be a witness wherever they are. It just takes being intentional. There's nothing better than sharing Jesus' love with others!"

“In Our Homes, the Song Is FARM STEW!”

by Joy Kauffman, MPH, FARM STEW



Joy Kauffman is the founder of FARM STEW. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from both Johns Hopkins University with a Masters in Public Health and from Virginia Tech with a B.S. in International Nutrition. She is also a Master Gardener through the University of Illinois. She was a Presidential Management Fellow and worked for six years with the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington D.C. Joy has been married 21 years and is the mother of two teenage girls and “grandma” to two orange cats.



Fifteen women in brightly colored dresses, a few fully veiled, gather together under the shade of a mango tree to cook. In Wanyange Hill, this rural village in eastern Uganda, there is no electricity or running water, yet these women have something many others lack: joy!

What is the celebration?

It is a FARM STEW training day! Today the women will learn to make a rainbow dish (a mix of colorful vegetables), and soy scrambled eggs (tofu). Besides learning to cook healthy meals, the community is growing healthier, both spiritually and mentally. Even marriages are becoming healthier too!

The change in the villagers is a result of FARM STEW’s mission: to promote the health and well-being of poor families and vulnerable people around the world. FARM STEW’s vision is inspired by Jesus’s desire that all “may have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). Through FARM STEW training, participants learn to address the root causes of hunger, disease, and poverty, including spiritual and relational poverty.

Mrs. Irene, an Adventist church member and the head organizer of a local women’s group, says, “Our

husbands were even suffering; they even wanted to run away. But we women are now OK; we have kitchen gardens, have soy gardens, and have learned about sanitation. Before, I never used to wash my hands. I knew about soap, but we had no money for it. Then we learned that we can wash our hands with ash. It is helping us stay healthy. May God bless this program until the end.”

All the women express their great appreciation for Betty and Jonah, the two FARM STEW trainers who, every Tuesday for the past five months, have shared the “recipe of abundant life.”

Norah, another FARM STEW participant, shared her story of transformation. Norah had been struggling to feed her four children and there was tension between her and her husband. But so much has changed. She says, “I give my thanks to God who gave us life. God has enabled you people, the FARM STEW guys, who have brought this message to us. When FARM STEW teaches you, it helps your family, your community, and even your neighbors. Even our husbands are surprised, asking, ‘Where did you learn this?’ We always tell them, ‘FARM STEW, FARM STEW!’ The FARM STEW lessons are not something to hide; you reach somebody’s home, and



you can see they were taught FARM STEW. In our homes, the plates talk FARM STEW. In our homes, the song is FARM STEW.” (To watch Norah’s video testimony, visit FARM STEW’s website at www.farmstew.org/post.)

The song in these communities echoes the song of Moses and of the Lamb, as they give glory, honor, and praise to God for what He has done for them. The hope is that “all nations will come and fall down in worship before You, for Your acts of justice have been revealed” (Revelation 15:4, NKJV).

Susan, another church member, also shares: “I didn’t know the importance of water. Now I know that I need to drink water. I have a very big difference in my skin. Every morning, before we brush our teeth, we take water.

“We now have vegetables. We know how to plant them, and even if they are not ready yet, we can use the wild greens and jackfruit. My husband reminds me about the training, saying, ‘Every Tuesday, training day!’”

These Adventist women are reaching out to their neighbors, even Muslim women, in a way that exemplifies “Christ’s method alone,” as described by Ellen White in *The Ministry of Healing* (p. 143).

Although what is happening in Wanyange Hill is incredibly hopeful, they still lack one of life’s essentials: clean water.

The water they use is muddy in color and full of parasites. Those organisms grow inside the body, swelling the belly with a swarm of worms that get first “dibs” on the food that enters the stomach. Many children have a similar look due to the parasites: skinny arms, sunken eyes, and big fat bellies that are teeming with life.

In the next few months, all that will change. The locals are working together to solve the water situation. Mrs. Irene has organized her women’s group into a FARM STEW Savings Club, and now that the villagers have vegetables to sell, each member brings 6,000 Ugandan shillings (about \$1.75) to contribute every week.

FARM STEW will partner with the group to bring clean water to their village by contracting with a local drilling company. Community members will be required to bring the stones and sand for the well, in addition to getting training on pump maintenance. Their savings will provide the insurance plan they need to ensure the pump will be maintained and repaired quickly if it ever breaks down!

FARM STEW has planned 50 water projects, impacting an estimated 2,500 families at the cost of \$15 per person, at an average cost of \$4,680 per repaired or drilled well in 2020. Contributions to FARM STEW will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$84,000!

We can only imagine that at the pump, the song will be FARM STEW.

Learn more about FARM STEW and how you can get involved at farmstew.org.



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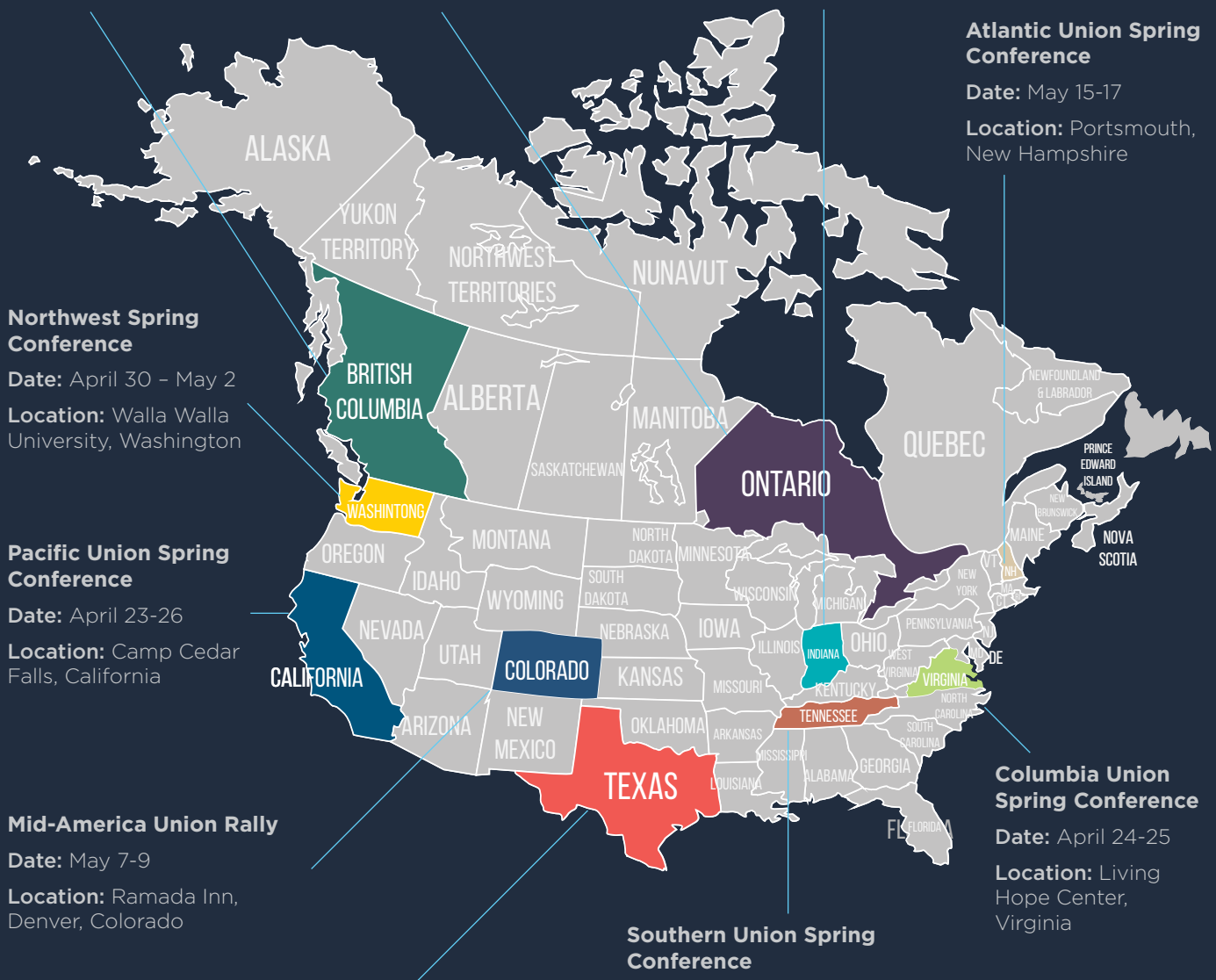
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Columbia Union Spring Conference

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Health to the Islands

by Jamie Spence, Canvasback Missions



Jamie was enjoying the care-free life of a sailor on the blue waters of the South Pacific when God called him to a life of mission service. The work of offering hope and healing to the people from the islands of Micronesia began more than 40 years ago and continues to this day.

What would you do if you suffered in pain for 26 years?

What if you suffered a knee injury and had no way to correct the problem—causing you continual misery? Could you handle it?

Allow me to introduce you to Edith and her story.

Edith, a woman from an island in Micronesia, had an accident that left her with a bad knee, causing her unending pain. As if that wasn't bad enough, Edith's knee joint would lock while she walked. It would sometimes lock so fast she would be thrown forward on her hands and face.

"I went to the hospital but they offered little help. They simply didn't have doctors with enough expertise to conduct the required surgery," says Edith. "The best they could offer me was frequent visits to the Physical Therapy department where they attempted to relieve the pain—with

little success."

Edith continued to visit the hospital's PT department for over 26 years.

However, everything changed the day our Canvasback Orthopedic Super Team arrived on the island of Palau to conduct clinics and perform many, much-needed surgeries.

Edith's story is not unlike the gloomy stories of many others. Each time we conduct orthopedic clinics, we examine people who have suffered in pain for many years and who could have their pain relieved through surgery—the very surgeries that Canvasback provides.

Unfortunately, the number of needed surgeries far exceed both the time and finances available. In a recent orthopedic mission trip, we successfully completed 24 total knee replacements, one total hip replacement, six other orthopedic surgeries, gave 115 injections for osteoarthritis relief, and saw





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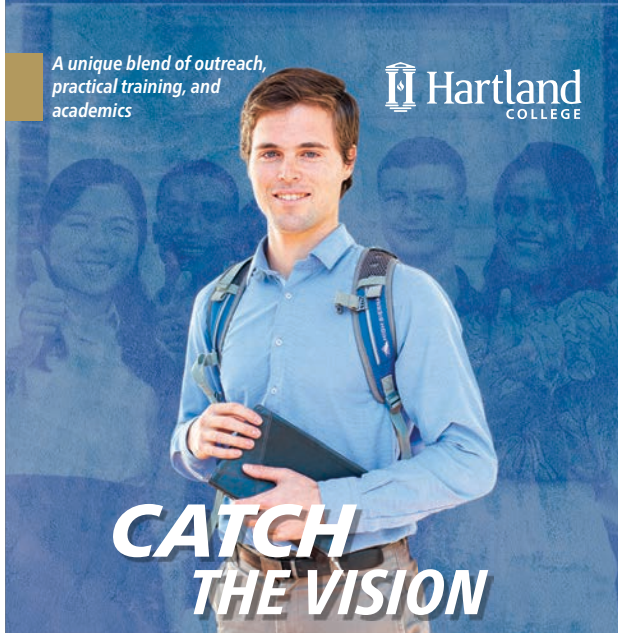
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hundreds of other islanders in our clinic. The cost to transport the team and the cost of medical supplies was over \$1,000,000. The cost to the patients? Zero.

We also trained the local hospital staff in various procedures that will help them greatly as they carry on their work. At the end of our trip, we had identified more than 40 patients who need a total knee replacement in the next year.

Orthopedics, however, is not the only help Canvasback Missions offers. From their humble beginnings sailing the remote islands of Micronesia, Canvasback founders Jamie and Jacque Spence found Christ and were moved to bring hope and medical help to those who were in great need.

Almost 38 years later, Canvasback continues to grow. In 2019, eight trips will bring Orthopedic, Ophthalmology, Gynecology, and Colonoscopy Super Teams to the islands to conduct clinics and surgeries that will change hearts and lives one miracle at a time.

In conjunction with the government of Majuro and the island hospital, Canvasback has established an amazing Wellness Center that is helping to reverse diabetes among the people. Many islanders operate their barbecues from 8:00 in the morning to late at night, filling them with lots of pork and turkey tails—a great delicacy there.

The Wellness Center offers three healthy meals a day, a traveling food truck, exercise classes, vegetable garden training classes, and health screening teams that travel

across the island to help identify problems and educate the people. We have written a classroom instructional book on health that is being used throughout the island school system with very good results. We are working to change the habits and mindset of the younger generation!

Jesus first healed the people so they could then focus on the gospel. Canvasback has taken His model very seriously.

The revitalized health of several island nations is causing other islands to take notice. They are asking Canvasback to “Come over and help us!” Praise the Lord.

Learn more about our work at Canvasback.org.

Boots on the Ground for Christ

by Karen Phillips, ASI Mid-America VP of Communications



Karen is happily married to John, and has four children and three grandchildren. Along with working in Human Resources for over 15 years, she partners with John in their worldwide ministry, HeReturns. She is also a Bible teacher and the VP of Communications for ASI Mid-America. Her passion is proclaiming the Lord's end-time message and being an instrument in saving souls.



What does it mean to have boots on the ground for Christ? As a Seventh-day Adventist church member, I really had no idea. I would take my children to church each Sabbath and do the best I could during the week to pray and study my Bible. I started to lead out in a women's Bible study each week at church and saw the growth as we dug deeply into God's Word. But all these women already knew the Lord. There were so many unreached in the world, and I had no idea what to do to reach them. Sadly, when it came to missions, I was asleep like many of us.

"Boots on the ground" is defined as ground troops who are fighting in a war or conflict. The Apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV): "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities,

against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." How is it possible to get engaged in missions and spread the everlasting gospel to the world?

As I pondered this question, a church friend of mine told my husband, John, and me about Adventist-laymen's Service & Industries (ASI) and invited us to an ASI Mid-America convention in Kansas City in the spring of 2015. We walked into that convention with our youngest son, Robby, not knowing that it was about to change our lives. We listened to the Members in Action (MIA) segment, heard the speaker (Ty Gibson), and visited all the exhibit booths. We were also able to share meals and fellowship with missionary-minded people. We were so impressed that we decided to

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join ASI as an “Organizational Non-Profit” with HeReturns, our 501(c)3 ministry.

Our first ASI International Convention was in Spokane, Washington, that same year. We were able to witness ASI’s motto, “Sharing Christ in the Marketplace,” in action on an even larger scale. We met mission-minded individuals and ministries from all over the world and were impressed that the Lord was giving us our marching orders.

By the spring of 2016, at the ASI Mid-America convention in Denver, Colorado, we had our boots on ready to go. We wanted to be part of this great organization that is committed to spreading

the three angels’ messages to the world and to awaken church members to the opportunities to serve. When asked to serve as ASI officers in the Mid-America Union, we wholeheartedly accepted.

What does it mean to be an ASI officer? It takes commitment and prayer. We have worked with our team to plan and work rallies, design and distribute flyers and newsletters, commit to monthly conference calls, update our website, work with various local churches and pastors, position Members in Action (MIA) spots, secure keynote and seminar speakers, coordinate music and audiovisual teams, arrange hotel accommodations

and meals, and much, much more. We passionately pray at rallies and conventions for the Holy Spirit to move people to service just as the Lord had moved us.

Our commitment to serve as ASI officers has led to a global view of the need for “Sharing Christ in the Marketplace.” We are amazed at how the Lord works to connect individuals and ministries from all over the world to work together to finish His work. With these mission boots on, we have traveled where the Lord has led, spreading the good news of ASI involvement and encouraging others to do the same.

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