

INSIDE

ASI

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Who could have predicted 2020 would be such a turbulent year? The shock of COVID-19 has forced the world to adapt to circumstances never before seen in this generation.

As the ASI editor, I've had the privilege of reading countless stories of people, businesses, churches, and ministries adapting to these extraordinary times. Many have embraced digital evangelism while others have become creative in the ways in which they reach out to their neighbors and offer comfort, advice, and support. The ASI community even banded together to host the first-ever virtual convention, reaching thousands of people in the comfort and safety of their own homes.

Troubling times truly show the strength, grit, and creativity of the ASI community.

In the book of Esther, Haman convinces King Ahasuerus to decree the destruction of the Jews. When Mordecai hears of this, he sends word to Queen Esther to go before the king to plead for the lives of her people. He tells Esther, "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14, NKJV).

Who knows whether you are here for such a time as this? To support, comfort, and encourage others with truth and peace during these tumultuous times. The world is facing chaos; perhaps we are called to be the bearers of peace.

For such a time as this, you have a purpose and a mission. My prayer is that as *you* read these stories, you will be inspired to continue pressing on until the end.



Blessings,
Kristi Jensen, Editor

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Such a Time as This



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MESSAGE FROM ASI LEADERSHIP



Andi Hunsaker is a physician practicing in Boston, Massachusetts. She currently serves as the General VP for ASI National. She has a great love for the gospel of Jesus Christ, and as a result, loves giving Bible studies. She is blessed with a godly husband and, together, they teach a Sabbath School class at their local church.

In 2 Timothy, we see the greatest evangelist living shamelessly and boldly for Jesus Christ as he faced the end of his life. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 says this: “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

Today, we are witnessing unprecedented upheaval in all areas of society and the above passage tells us why.

It addresses not only the worldly but also those who profess to be Christians. The world is in upheaval and perilous times have come because people have become selfish and self-focused and professed Christians have only a “form of godliness.”

It is my belief that God in His mercy has allowed this crisis to wake us all up. He will use whatever method He has to save us and use us for His glory. Many are desperately wanting and waiting for things to get back to normal. We are to use these times to reach out to those around us.

At the start of this miserable pandemic, I was out for a run one morning when a thought kept going through my mind. As I passed the houses

in my neighborhood, I wondered whether anyone inside knew Jesus or needed help. Then I thought, “Do they know anything about simple ways to remain healthy during COVID-19?” At once, a feeling came over me that my husband and I needed to do something for our neighbors. As soon as I got back home, I formulated the plan of making a handout for my street and a few adjoining streets. It was three pages, containing health tips, such as getting rest, regular exercise in the fresh air, and lots of water; abstaining from caffeine and alcohol; following a plant-based diet as much as possible, and taking daily hot and cold showers. I also included two beautiful and delicious plant-based recipes. The handout ended with an invitation to my house for plant-based cooking classes when COVID-19 subsided. The response to this handout was met with gratitude and enthusiasm. The most common comment was “Thanks for caring about us.” Recently, one neighbor told me he has been doing the hot and cold showers daily and has not even had a sniffle!

Even though I am a physician, I assumed COVID-19 would pass by July! I was wrong. My hopes for the promised cooking school were dashed. I had planned for September, but COVID-19 was still raging on. I was very discouraged and wondered how I was to reach my neighbors for Christ in these times. One afternoon, I got a call from my friend, Denzil. I moaned to him that I was discouraged because COVID-19 is still a problem and that my plans for a cooking class were dashed. He said, “I know what you

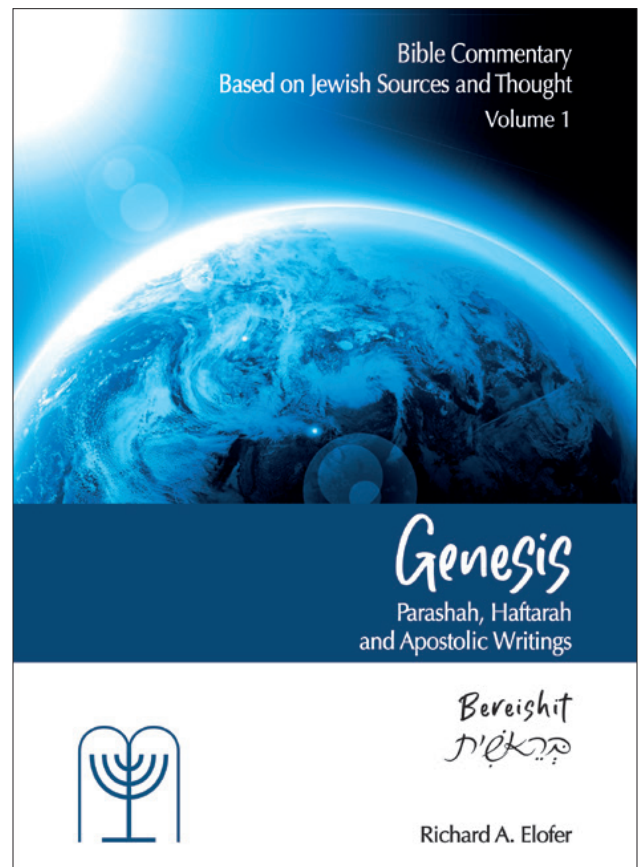
need. You can do it on Zoom. Donna did that. I will send you pictures. Donna and I will come out to help!” Cooking class? Zoom? I looked at the pictures he sent, and they were great.

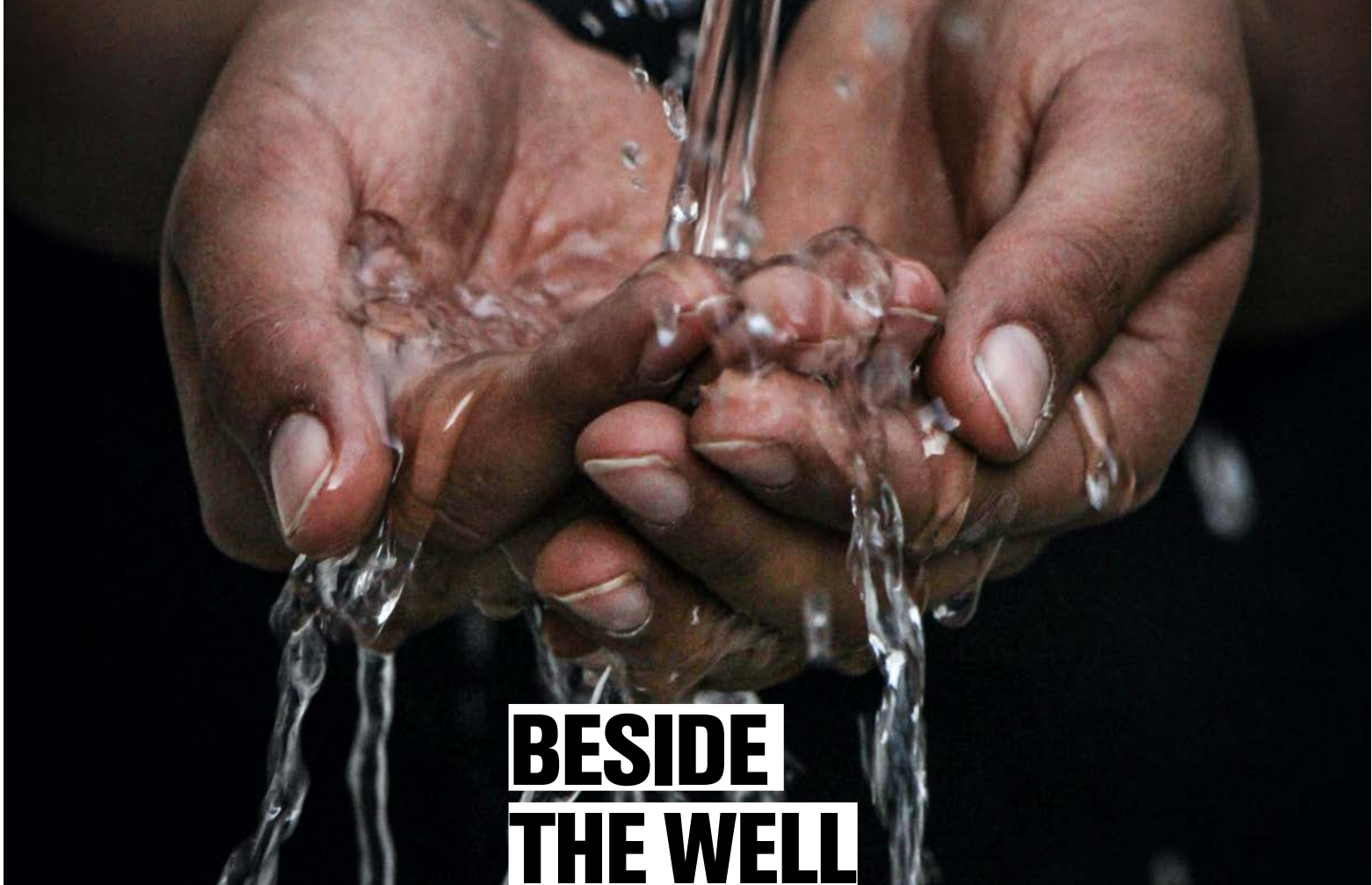
My spirits quickly revived. The first event took place on September 10 with great help from friends and family. We had nine attendees in our home and the rest on Zoom. It was a great success. When I sent out invitations to the next one, the responses were immediate. My in-person group wanted to be sure to reserve their spots in our home. They loved the lectures given before the cooking demonstrations and asked many questions. COVID-19 is surging again, but God is working even harder in the lives of our neighbors.

We as Seventh-day Adventists have a mission to reach others for Christ, especially during this time in earth’s history. Ellen White says this: “When God compares His children to salt, He would teach them that His purpose in making them the subjects of His grace is that they may become agents in saving others... Salt must be mingled with the substance to which it is added; it must penetrate, infuse it, that it may be preserved. So it is through personal contact and asso-

ciation that men are reached by the saving power of the gospel. They are not saved as masses, but as individuals. Personal influence is a power. It is to work with the influence of Christ, to lift where Christ lifts, to impart correct principles, and to stay the progress of the world’s corruption” (*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 231-232).

May God bless us as we seek His will for how we can cooperate with Him.





BESIDE THE WELL



Mike Bauler moved from southwest Washington in 2017 and now resides in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, with his wife and five children.

Three years ago he began working full-time for Mission Projects International (MPI).

Mike has conducted more than 50 evangelistic meetings around the world. MPI helps build churches, clinics, and radio stations and helps with many other evangelistic endeavors.

Can you imagine life without clean water? In the United States, one person uses an average of 80-100 gallons per day. We use it for bathing, laundry, cooking, cleaning, watering our gardens and most importantly, drinking. God is so good to have created one of Earth's most remarkable resources—one of the most precious assets we have. Without water, life could not exist. Perhaps that is why God created water before He made plants, animals, and humanity!

According to the World Health Organization, two billion people around the globe use drinking water contaminated with fecal material—water that can transmit diseases such as diar-

rhea, cholera, dysentery, typhoid, and polio. Two years ago, Mission Projects International began drilling wells to provide safe, clean drinking water for the people in Togo, West Africa, and right now the drilling of our third well is underway. The wells have been a major blessing to the people who live within walking distance. They can now continue growing fruits and vegetables through the dry spells without fear of the irrigation water polluting their produce with harmful bacteria. They no longer use disease-infested water to bathe, cook, and clean.

When I visited Togo, West Africa, some time back, I couldn't help but feel sympathy for the people in Lassa, a village in the northern part of this

small country. The women had to haul water for their families more than a half mile, and sometimes even further when the hand-dug well in the village went dry. This well was very dirty, and from the odors ascending from its mouth, you could tell it had bacteria growing in it. Wells in Togo tend to be shallow, dug at the same depth as the latrines. Many people become sick from cross contamination and some even die from the water that is supposed to keep them alive.

Jesus likened the work of the Holy Spirit to a fountain of water within us. "He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive" (John 7:38, 39). The soul's longing after God is likened to thirst: "My soul thirsteth for Thee. . . in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is" (Psalm 63:1). And of course, it was next to a well that Jesus offered the Samaritan woman "living water" (John 4:6-14). Clean water is such a blessing and necessity that it is a fitting reminder of these gospel truths!

Today, the gospel is being preached beside a well in Lassa, Togo, thanks to a church in Sandy, Oregon, that donated the money to drill it. The women of this village can now bring home clean drinking water that has been government tested to be free from contaminants. However, providing clean, safe drinking water wasn't the only objective we had in drilling this well—we also wanted to bring souls to the Lord by giving local workers the opportunity to share the

"water of life" with them. Physical thirst can be quenched at the well, but the thirsty also receive an invitation to drink at the well that will never run dry. How? We purposely drilled next to a small Seventh-day Adventist church so that people coming for water would meet church members and become familiar with the Seventh-day Adventist message.

As soon as the well in Lassa was completed, girls, boys and mothers with babies strapped to their backs lined up to fill their containers. People came from far and near to share in the blessing. That's when the church's work at the well began! While the villagers wait to fill their containers, the pastor or a Bible worker preaches to the people. When they have filled their water jugs, they are provided with literature to take home to learn about God's last warning message to Earth. Because of the well, spiritually thirsty souls are hearing the words of life! Already, we are seeing God bringing souls to the truth through the preaching beside the well.

One such soul is Koumeabalo. Koumeabalo had been a taxi driver for 14 years. He started work before sunrise and continued long after sunset; yet even with his 16-hour workday, his income could not support his family. In discouragement, he told his wife one evening that he needed to change jobs if they were to survive. The trouble was that jobs in their area were extremely rare.

The next day Koumeabalo went looking for work. Providentially, he came to the well and heard the Bible worker speaking. Hope began to swell

in his heart that the Bible was the answer to his difficulties. As he sat and listened to the Bible worker talk about God and His love in sending Jesus to die for our sins, the Holy Spirit began to touch Koumeabalo's heart. Conviction of his past sins came vividly to his mind, and he knew he must confess and forsake his wrongdoing. Finding a quiet spot, he unburdened his soul to the Lord. Then he came back to the Bible worker and asked him to tell him more about his newfound Savior and the three angels' messages. The Bible worker agreed to study personally with Koumeabalo's family, and after many Bible studies, they all decided to follow the Bible's teachings.

Feeling that God was impressing him to be a farmer, Koumeabalo quit his job as a taxi driver and began cultivating the land near the well, where he would have plenty of water to irrigate his plants. He grew carrots, onions, lettuce, and tomatoes—and the sales brought in enough income to take care of his family. Koumeabalo thanks God for the well!

Many are coming to a knowledge of the truth because of the wells drilled in Togo. The wells continually remind the people that God is the source of all life, just like the water they receive day by day. "Let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17, NKJV).

For more information about Mission Projects International and how you can get involved in our work, visit missionspro.org.



NEIGHBORHOOD EVANGELISM



Brenda writes and edits from Berrien Springs, Michigan. She is the editor for Adventist Heritage Ministries' newsletter, *Heritage Matters*.

How can museums contribute to evangelism? This was my question when I joined the Adventist Heritage Ministries (AHM) team as editor of the AHM Bulletin. Although our four sites (the Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Mich., the Hiram Edson Farm in Clifton Springs, N.Y., the William Miller Home and Farm in Whitehall, N.Y., and the Joseph Bates Boyhood Home in Fairhaven, Mass.) may not look like museums, they are definitely centers of influence where both history buffs and Seventh-day Adventists from around the world find meaning in the events and artifacts of the past. Both groups get to hear stories of the Sabbath, the sanctuary, the sleep of death, the Spirit of Prophecy, the Second Coming, and much more as they take these tours

with volunteers passionate about the way God has led this movement. But that's not all.

Witnessing to their own communities has inspired site directors and friends to find ways to interact with neighbors and neighboring communities. Surgeon Jo Ellen Walton, who passed away on April 4, 2020, had a passion for the Hiram Edson Farm. She procured Edson's father's 1830s barn and had it restored so authentically that nearby Mormon leaders from Hill Cumorah came to see how the Adventists had accomplished the restoration. Then she got New York's top historical architect to design a Greek revival-style house of the era that would likely have been the type Edson lived in. After it was built, Jo Ellen and her husband, Lewis Walton, launched into designing and writing

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narratives for the Bible Prophecy and Prayer Trail on the property. Today's site directors, Jim and Linda Everhart, are hoping to develop a bird and butterfly attraction near that trail to give nature-loving neighbors a reason to check it out. That's evangelism.

When Lloyd and Dora Hallock became site directors at the Joseph Bates Boyhood Home, they began cultivating friendships. AHM executive director Markus Kutzschbach said that this was their first task: to befriend the neighbors. As they busied themselves pulling weeds, cutting back overgrowth, moving trash piles, and planting beautiful flowers on the AHM property, they were also helping neighbors with their outdoor jobs. Soon the lady next door, who had been a ringleader in resisting whatever AHM wanted to do, became one of their best friends. In fact, this non-Adventist neighbor, a former school teacher, expressed interest in helping out. Today she is one of their best allies, giving tours for them and presenting the Sabbath truth when no one else is available. That's evangelism.

Rachel Middaugh, a student intern at the William Miller Home and Farm, learned about Sacred Harp singing a few years ago. Sacred Harp is a type of shaped note acapella singing that has its origins in New England in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Used in singing schools, it was designed to teach voice students to sing in parts for church worship services. There are four different shapes, which stand for different sounds and also represent different intervals between notes. Singers face each other in

a square with the different parts forming the four sides of the square. Someone calls out a song and stands up to lead it. Sacred Harp attracts people of all ages, interests, and religious persuasions. Intrigued, Rachel decided to see if there were any of these singing groups in the area around Whitehall. She went one step further and organized an Artisan and Trades Fair on site where basket weaving and other arts practiced around the time of William Miller were featured. About twenty people showed up just for the Sacred Harp singing part of the fair. Travis and Cesilia Dean, site directors at the Miller Home, plan to make this a regular feature, drawing people who otherwise would not discover the Miller story and its significance today. This, too, is evangelism.

Historic Adventist Village has been reaching out to its community during the holiday season since December 2007. Each year the Village is made ready to receive guests from the neighborhood and larger community. Candles burning brightly in the windows of village buildings welcome those who come for a special time of stories in each

venue. In addition, offerings are stuffed in little red stockings and hung on the Christmas tree to support the local Police Department's "Toys for Tots" program and "Shop with a Cop" night for low-income families. Each year the Village also hosts second-graders from local elementary schools who come to experience Battle Creek history. They get to hear stories of Seventh-day Adventist pioneers, too! This is evangelism.

There's no limit to the creative ways in which we can touch the lives of our own neighbors. Adventist Heritage Ministries is committed to reaching our communities as well as the wider world.

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SHARING THE GOSPEL WHILE STUCK AT HOME



Amy Prindle is the content marketing strategist for The Center for Online Evangelism and attends the Calimesa SDA Church in southern California. Amy's husband teaches at Mesa Grande Academy, where their two children also attend.

Communities of faith are not immune to the disruptions caused by the global COVID-19 crisis. Most forms of traditional evangelism are now difficult or outright prohibited.

When governments restricted gatherings of more than a specified amount of people, the physical doors of most churches had to close. The virtual doors, however, remain wide open.

While the world lacked preparation for such a devastating pandemic, God's plans will always persevere. He has provided avenues that allow us to continue our work of ministering to the needs of others. Even during a time when everyone is isolated, digital

evangelism can carry on the work of spreading the gospel truth and reaching out to those who are hurting.

Now, as churches race to adjust to online worship services and video conference board meetings and prayer meetings, The Center for Online Evangelism (COE) is here to help the ministries of the Adventist Church adapt to these new conditions by providing resources and training for several methods of digital evangelism.

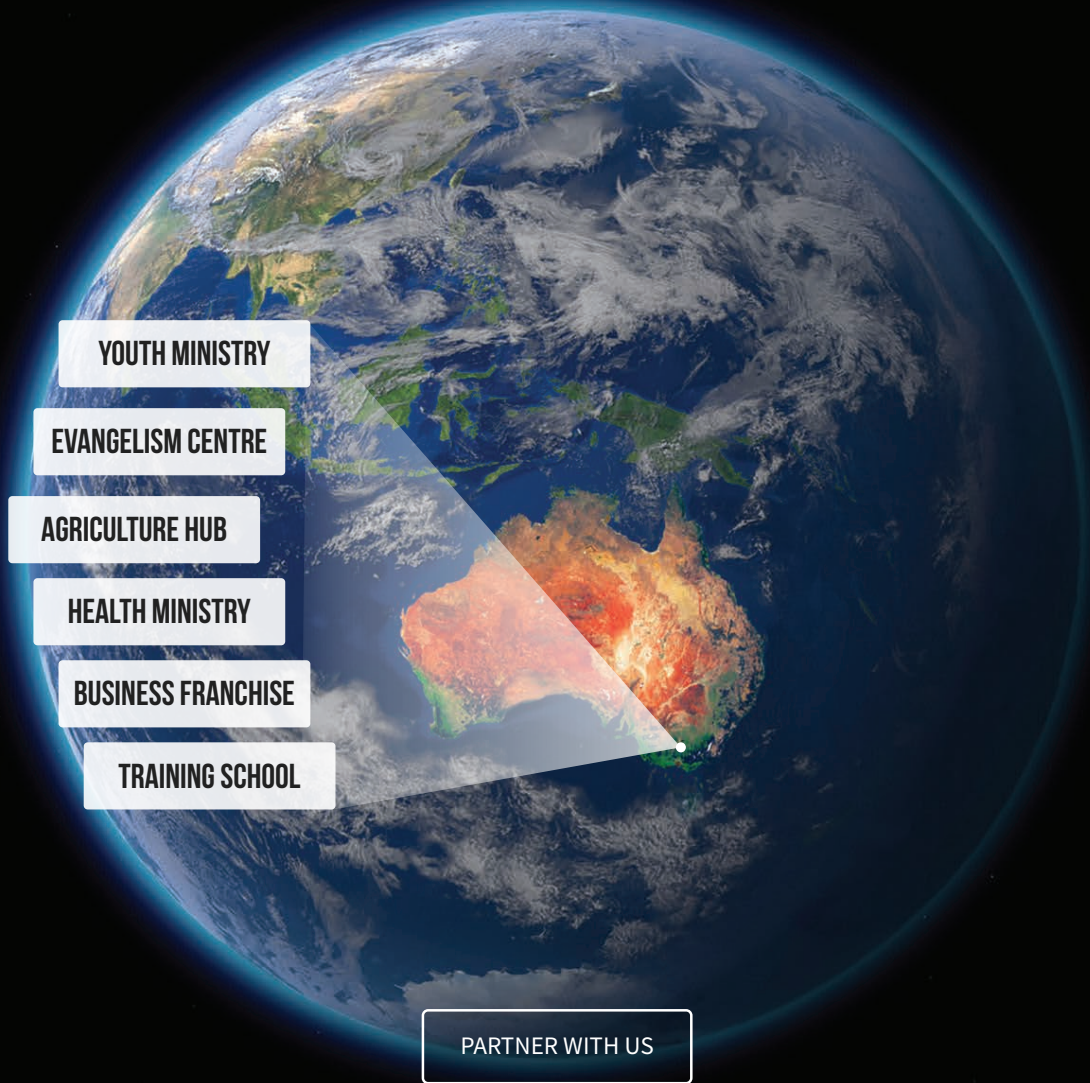
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GoToMeeting, or Google Hangouts, has become the primary method used during this time to assist churches, schools, and conferences as they transition to a digital space.

For example, administrators of the Grenada Conference connected with COE to organize a webinar that helped pastors and church leaders learn how to utilize online platforms to continue their ministries. As a result, the conference launched a successful virtual Sabbath program.

Working with ASI Ministries

As the global situation developed, ASI Ministries noticed the immediate need to expand digital efforts. To help equip their constituency, they partnered with COE to provide a series of training seminars for churches, conferences, and other ministries.

Driven by their mission to empower people to “share Christ in the marketplace,” it made sense to train members on how to share Christ online through webinars that can become shareable videos. Thousands of individuals from around the world have registered for these webinars.

Collaborating with Digital Missionaries

In response to this global crisis, COE sought to connect with individual digital missionaries. Online workers like Matthew Lucio and Dustin Pestlin shared their experience working in the digital field (these videos are posted on the COE YouTube channel). As a result, viewers were able to quickly put these strategies into action, which also inspired others to become part of

the conversation.

(If you’re a digital missionary and are interested in collaborating with COE, contact info@centerforonlineevangelism.org)

Video Conferencing Assistance

One very specific need for churches, schools, and ministries during this time is a reliable method of staying in touch and keeping conversations going. Video conferencing is the next best thing to meeting in person, but there is a learning curve involved for those who have never had to use these types of tools before.

What’s more, aside from learning how to use these digital tools, there are necessary precautions to understand. Especially for business, education, and faith communities, it’s important to learn how to safeguard against uncooperative participants or online “trolls” that can interrupt group meetings. COE is continually producing content on our YouTube channel and centerforonlineevangelism.org that addresses these issues.

Staying Strong in a Time of Turmoil (and a Time of Opportunity)

While this worldwide crisis caused by COVID-19 has essentially put normal life on hold, COE has shifted into high gear to help Adventists thrive as much as possible while abiding by regulations to stay isolated.

Even without the regulations to stay homebound, the evangelistic opportunities in the online mission field are abundant. Online content is consumed at an incredible rate as people across the age groups use their

devices all throughout the day. This is where our young people are, and this is where spiritual seekers are. We’ve sifted through mounds of data that show people regularly googling for answers to questions about life, the Bible, God, Jesus, death, health, etc.

These are topics most Seventh-day Adventists are uniquely prepared to answer. By using digital methods and following best practices, we can embrace these countless opportunities that can provide hope and help to a demographic that desperately needs it—but otherwise may never cross paths with us. And with global circumstances as they are, what better time to begin or enhance our digital evangelism efforts?

The distinct message of hope Adventists can proclaim does not have to be silenced just because our buildings can’t be used right now. We can continue to embrace the Great Commission, using whatever tools and media we have available to us to share Christ in the marketplace and beyond.

To start or expand your digital evangelism efforts, find free resources at centerforonlineevangelism.org.



GROWING GARDENS, GROWING HIS FUTURE

Kuda Vana Partnership is proud to partner with fellow ASI member FARM STEW International in Zimbabwe!

While attending the 2019 ASI International Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, the board chair of FARM STEW approached us to seek ways we might collaborate. Kuda Vana learned that FARM STEW was working to improve the health and well-being of poor families and vulnerable people by sharing the recipe of abundant life throughout the world.

Kuda Vana (which means “loving children” in Shona) is an orphanage that works to empower the most vulnerable children of Zimbabwe to

not just survive, but thrive. A natural partnership was born, and one young man’s dreams for a self-sufficient future were stirred.

Kuda Vana is not your typical orphanage. Our staff provide holistic care to each orphaned or abandoned child brought to us by Social Services. Children are raised in a group home setting and given love, nutrition, security, healthcare, education, life skills, and spiritual and emotional guidance—enabling them to live more independent, dignified, and enriched lives. When the children in our care turn 18, Kuda Vana’s Youth Transition Program offers transitional housing and tuition support for trade school or university.



Tara Petersen is the Executive Director of Kuda Vana Partnership. She has a lifelong passion for travel and connecting with people across the globe. Tara has worked in resource development for more than a decade and holds a master’s degree in Nonprofit Management. She enjoys the process of helping people discover the joy of philanthropy and believes the best part of her job is telling stories. In her free time, you’ll find her and her husband and daughter camping in the mountains.

Each child in Kuda Vana's care is treated like family and, where possible, supported in their individual hopes and dreams. This is why we were concerned about the future of young Tendai, a 16-year-old who has been at Kuda Vana since he was a child. Tendai suffers from a severe learning disability, and as a youngster was often bullied by teachers. At 15, he was unable to read or write his name and despaired at ever achieving his dream of becoming an agronomist or being independent.

With time and care from our staff, Tendai recently learned to read. He is a remarkably intelligent young man who excels at inventing things and tending the gardens at Kuda Vana. He can make anything grow and takes great pride in his work. However, our staff were anxious about what would happen to Tendai when he turns 18 and is legally required to leave Kuda Vana's campus.

Thankfully, Dr. Rick Westermeyer, volunteer country director of FARM STEW Zimbabwe, and his wife visited Kuda Vana Children's Home last fall. They walked through our gardens and learned about Kuda Vana's ambitious vision to launch the Thrive Farming Program, an initiative to enhance the organization's food security and foster essential life skills. Just a few short months after this program was launched, Kuda Vana was able to increase their farmable land by 500 percent! We also told Dr. Rick and his wife about Tendai and his affinity for agriculture, along with his struggles in traditional school.

FARM STEW Zimbabwe and Africa

Orphan Care generously offered to provide Tendai with a scholarship to attend a Foundation for Farming Training in Harare along with a FARM STEW volunteer. This opportunity proved to be the perfect recipe for Tendai's confidence and his future prospects as an agronomist.

After two weeks of learning about building compost, mulching, and creating high yields from small pieces of land, Tendai earned a certificate in Foundations for Farming. As the youngest student there, he says he felt accommodated and included by everyone, and that FARM STEW's volunteer, Khan Ellmers, was especially patient and helpful in ensuring he understood each concept. Tendai says of his experience:

"I would want to express my gratitude and give thanks to the people who funded me to have the opportunity to attend this life-changing training. I have always had dreams of getting the chance to have such training to master my skills, since I have great passion in farming. Now I have something I can do when I age out of Kuda Vana. I would like to be a big farmer and supply food to larger grocery chains. Right now, I am tending Kuda Vana's Thrive Farming Program, and it's not trial and error: I'm now doing the correct things when farming. This certificate means a lot to me. No one can take away the knowledge that I have, and I will explore the world. Once again, thank you very much for the support."

Kuda Vana is grateful for our partnership with FARM STEW and looks forward to collaborating in more ways

to ensure that the most vulnerable children of Zimbabwe not just survive, but thrive.

If you would like to learn more about Kuda Vana's work with orphaned children in Zimbabwe, please visit www.kudavana.org!

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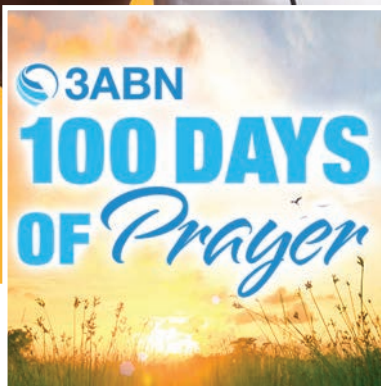
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NEW NORMAL OPENS NEW DOORS



Albert Dittes lives in his hometown of Portland, Tennessee, having grown up in the Highland Academy Adventist community. He earned degrees from Southern Adventist and Andrews Universities and began his career in pastoral ministry, later earning a degree in journalism at Ohio University. He is currently semi-retired and devotes himself to freelance writing, playing music for several churches, and teaching private piano lessons.

When the COVID-19 pandemic set in, Kristina's Kitchen, a vegetarian restaurant in the Appalachian foothills in Whitley City, Kentucky, and an ASI member, changed from indoor dining to carry-out and delivery service.

But a drop in traffic due to the shutdown of many businesses on main street (the courthouse, library, bank, clothing and furniture stores, etc.) turned out to uncover previously untapped witnessing opportunities.

"With social distancing, we are continuing our cooking classes the third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. on YouTube and Facebook live," says

owner Kristina McFeeters. "Customers know to tune in and share it with their friends. We are reaching out more by Facebook and YouTube than before and believe it will continue once we can resume in-person classes."

She cites the "most amazing" new development as being the response to a "sermon in the woods" her pastor husband, Daniel McFeeters, preaches via Facebook and YouTube. "Because everyone's churches have been canceled or closed, he goes into the woods every week and records sermons with beautiful scenery as a backdrop. I have been sharing those links with my restaurant customers, and many of them follow us."

This ministry started as a result of the March shutdown. Advertising a special Easter sermon by texting delivery route customers brought in more requests for weekly sermon links.

"I send out promotional text messages each week and get regular feedback from customers," Kristina says. "Some say, 'There are so many doomsday preachers out there. Thank you for sharing messages of hope!' Others mention, 'I love seeing the nature scenery while you are preaching—it's like going outside for a walk!' Some share Daniel's sermons on their own Facebook pages. None

of this would have happened if not for COVID-19. Church would have gone on as usual."

Kristina's Kitchen lost nearly half of its customers when businesses closed and people began to work from home. But other customers have stayed faithful, ordering every week, with some even increasing their orders. Operating capital comes mostly from carryout meals, baked goods, and delivering vegetarian foods to business customers in Somerset, a city 35 miles away. Additionally, a partnership with a local Christian school selling strawberries has resulted in many new customers.

Enough business has come in so far for the restaurant to stay afloat so they can continue sharing God's love!

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LEMA AND THE RED TASSEL



Thomas Ongasa is director for Train Them 2 Fish International, Congo Division, where he trains soul winners for Jesus.

Christian Lema was born into a Catholic family in Mbanza-ngungu, a small town west of Kinshasa, Congo. In spite of his upbringing, he didn't care about religion—instead, he was obsessed with soccer. The sport consumed his life from boyhood through adulthood. He became fairly well known for his natural talent, and signed contract after contract with various teams. Soccer became his idol, and he gave God no place in his life.

In light of Lema's achievements, someone approached him with advice. "You need to be protected from jealous teammates and other people who may not be happy with

your success," the man said. Thus, Lema decided to visit a witch for protection.

The witch gave him a small rope of red fabric to carry at his hip at all times. "This rope will protect you from harmful, jealous people," the witch explained. "It will help you to score many goals as well."

If repeatedly scoring goals did not convince Lema of the tassel's power, what happened next did. Lema was seriously injured during a soccer game—and then realized he had forgotten to wear his fetish that morning! He sought help from the witch again and was soon back on the soccer field. But from that day forward, Lema became a slave to a

piece of fabric; he feared the consequences of ever being without it.

Even though Lema was famous, he did not have peace of mind. He had many sleepless nights, strange dreams, and fears for his future. Then the arrival of COVID-19 in Congo abruptly halted his career. Lema felt bored and troubled until he was introduced to an enthusiastic young man with a contagious smile—Bienfait, a Train Them 2 Fish (TT2F)-sponsored pastor working double time. “I want people to have peace of mind during this crisis,” Bienfait explained. He invited Lema to sign up for Bible study guides. With the red fetish still hanging at his hip,

Lema agreed.

After two weeks of studying God’s Word twice a day, Lema became a different person. He discovered that God had a wonderful plan for his life, and for the first time he knew what joy felt like. Now free from fear, he tore off his fetish and gave it to Pastor Bienfait.

Together they watched the red tassel melt into tall wisps of smoke.

Along with six people Lema helped lead to Christ, the former soccer player was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He will never consult the witch again. And instead of living for soccer, he

lives for Jesus.

Train Them 2 Fish-sponsored pastors like young Bienfait have used lockdowns in Kinshasa as another opportunity to invite people to study the Bible. They set up booths on street corners to spread awareness about the virus, distribute free masks, and tell people that there is a virus more dangerous than the COVID-19—it is sin. Over 2,000 people have studied the Bible with TT2F workers in Kinshasa alone, and each have been given a Bible. Fifty-six have since surrendered their hearts to Jesus and been baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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The Lion Is Roaring

Dear friends,

Have you heard it? The lion is roaring again!

At a time when we are experiencing a global pandemic, social and political unrest, and economic uncertainty, we find that many people are promoting such differing opinions as to why these things are so. Conspiracy theories and distrust have become the norm on the news and social media. It is as if we are bombarded by "secrets" that "somebody somewhere" is disseminating to cause division, panic and unrest in our minds. The Bible warns us that ...



"Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8 (ESV English Standard Version) That's always been his strategy, to roar, so his victims panic and are scattered or are paralyzed with fear, thus becoming easy prey. Dear friends, I believe it's high time for our **imaginings and thoughts to be guarded and under God's control.**

Isaiah 8:12, 13 says, "Do not call conspiracy everything these people regard as conspiracy. Do not fear what they fear; do not live in dread. The LORD of Hosts is the One you shall regard as holy. Only He should be feared [awed]; only He should be dreaded [revered] ." (Berean Study Bible)

It's not uncommon for man's imagination to run wild, so we must continually surrender all to God and let every thought be under His control. This is our daily warfare, to resist our tendency to try to be in charge of ourselves. You see, victory is already ours when we allow Jesus to take over our thoughts and our lives. As we do this, we will enter into God's rest, and then this will, by His power, become our new normal - experiencing the peace that surpasses all understanding!

We read in 2 Corinthians 10:4, 5 (KJV King James Version), "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

Friends, as we do this, we will experience true inner peace and stop worrying about our physical, mental and spiritual condition, because, you see, HE works within us! It all belongs to God now. So let go of your burdens, and let God carry them!

(Continued on next page)

Baptism in the Arctic

We praise the Lord today for the new precious souls who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and joined the SDA Church fellowship in baptism after going through the Native New Day video series. Petu "Chris" Koonooka (pictured on the right), of the Gambel Alaska church, who conducted the studies and performed the baptism, proudly stands next to new members of God's family: Ila, Ina and Salomon.



For the past many years, the Native New Day video Bible series has become a powerful tool to reach Natives all across the NAD and other parts of the world with hundreds of these precious souls joining God's remnant church as a result. Hosted



Christ's Second Coming artwork
by Jeannie Spratt

by Storyteller Monte Church, and produced and directed by Carlos Pardeiro of Safe TV®, this four-time Emmy-nominated series is recognized not only for its high quality, but most importantly, for its effectiveness in revealing Bible truths in a simple, yet convincing approach set in stunning nature locations.

Roaring Lion

(Continued from previous page)

In closing, I would like to leave you with these encouraging thoughts: *"...If God is for us, who can ever be against us."* Romans 8:31 (NLT New Living Translation)

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV New King James Version)



By Carlos Pardeiro, President/CEO of Safe TV®

Proclamation

During this COVID-19 pandemic, Arkansas Governor, Asa Hutchinson, has once again recognized the value of Safe TV's television programming that brings people *hope* in a tumultuous world; wholesome *entertainment* to release stress; *wellness* for health and fitness; *comfort and soothing* through music; and *spiritual connection* with God through inspiring stories.

Carlos was presented with another "Safe Television Day" proclamation encouraging television viewers to choose safe programs that uplift God, Family and Country, the principles that make America great.



AR Governor Hutchinson with Carlos and Nancy Pardeiro, Bob Abrahamson and Rick Rodgers

Telly Award

In May, Safe TV® received this message from the Telly Award Managing Director. "Undoubtedly, this has been an unprecedented season for our entire industry. The global impact of COVID-19 has shaken the film, video, and television industries in ways we could not have imagined. Every year since the inaugural Telly Awards in 1979, Telly Winners have reflected the top tier of our industry, and this year, even more so. We are truly thrilled to recognize you as a standard bearer of video excellence!"

Three Telly Awards were bestowed this year to Carlos Pardeiro, Producer and Director, along with Host Monte Church, for our original programs, Native New Life and Native New Health.



Carlos & Monte in production

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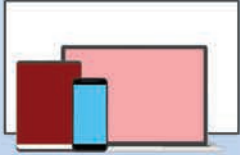


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MYSTERIOUS WAYS

The searing sun beat down on Emmanuel as he climbed the final slope to the village. It seemed like an eternity since he had begun hiking in the muggy darkness of predawn. His clothes, soaked through with dew in the morning, were now soaked with sweat as the afternoon wore on.

Just below the village, an ancient tree spread a little shade and Emmanuel stopped to let the sweat dry. He knew from experience that once he entered the village he would be interrogated non-stop by the suspicious highland natives. He needed some rest before he faced their investigation.

Over the screeching of cicadas,

Emmanuel heard little feet running. Looking up the trail, he saw a naked child hurrying toward him. He expected the child to run away in fright when she saw him. But instead, the child ran right up to Emmanuel. “Older brother! Please come quickly! There is a sick baby in the village. The parents heard that you are coming, and they want you to help. Please come quickly!”

“I’m not a doctor,” Emmanuel replied. “But I will help however I can. Please show me the trail to the baby’s house.”

When Emmanuel arrived, he found most of the village crowded into the tiny bamboo hut built on stilts. As



John Holbrook grew up in the mountains of the Philippines where his family served as AFM missionaries. After finishing his university education in the States, he returned to the Philippines to start a new AFM project among the Tawbuid people. John, his wife Rodelyn, and their daughter, Ellen Joy, continue to plant churches among the Tawbuid on the Philippine island of Mindoro.

Emmanuel started to climb the ladder, a splintering sound announced the impending collapse of the floor which had not been designed to carry so much weight. Men dressed in G-strings with machetes tied around their waists started bailing out of the house from all sides through the grass roof which came nearly down to the floor. Once the load had been reduced sufficiently, Emmanuel climbed up into the hut to look for his patient.

“Over there in the corner,” one man pointed.

Emmanuel picked his way through the crowd in the direction indicated. Arriving at last, he looked down in consternation at the little bundle wrapped in a rattan sleeping mat. “Friends! You asked me to come and help your sick baby. But this baby is dead! You’ve already wrapped him up in your mat to bury him. What more can I do to help him? I will just pray to God asking Him to comfort and encourage the grieving parents.”

“No!” the mother cried. “We know God. In ancient times, before the First Sin, we could climb the balugo vine and talk with God, too. We know it was our own sin that cut the balugo vine and disconnected us from Him, leaving us in slavery to the spirits. But we also know that you missionaries can talk to God, and that He hears you. Please pray to Him to bring my child back to life again!”

“Pray to bring your baby back to life again?” Emmanuel was shocked. “I’ve never heard of a missionary doing such a thing. Well, Jesus brought people back to life again. And through His power, some of the prophets and

apostles did, too. Maybe it would be okay to ask this of God, if it is His will.”

“Okay,” Emmanuel shouted over the roar of conversation filling the tiny house. “I am going to pray to God to bring life back to this baby. Everyone must be very quiet and respectful as I talk to the great, all-powerful God your ancestors once knew.”

The hut grew nearly silent, something that never happens among the highlanders of Mindoro. The only noise was the clucking of hens under the house and the whimpering of a child who didn’t understand what was happening.

Emmanuel knelt down, put his hands on the little bundle, and began to pray. “God in heaven, You are so powerful that You can do anything if You want to. I know that You love the people of this village, and that You want to restore the relationship they broke so long ago by committing the first sin. But they are scared that the spirits will punish them if they accept new teachings. Please, God, show them that You can protect them from the spirits, and that You want to restore the broken relationship. Please show them by bringing this baby back to life again. I don’t always know what is best, so I ask this only if You see that it is for the ultimate good. In the name of Your Son, Jesus, Amen.”

Emmanuel opened his eyes expectantly. He felt the bundle under his hands, hoping for it to start to move.

Nothing.

He sat back down as embarrassment flooded through him. Why didn’t God answer me? he wondered. Why didn’t He come through? Now the vil-

lage will probably never let a missionary come in!

Two hours passed in a blur of embarrassment and shame. Emmanuel was about to flee the scene when, without any warning, the little bundle in the corner let out a long, wailing cry and began to thrash around.

“My baby! My baby!” the mother screamed, rushing to the bundle and ripping away the bark cords that bound it. When she finally got the mat open, she found her baby alive and in perfect health!

“Let’s thank God!” Emmanuel shouted, jumping up. “We don’t always understand why He does things the way He does. But we can trust that He

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will always bring good out of whatever happens.”

A week later, Emmanuel again was climbing the final slope to the village where God had proven Himself powerful. The village had overwhelmingly welcomed Emmanuel, inviting him to live among them as a missionary. The few suspicious elders had been overruled, and Emmanuel had left to gather his few belongings in preparation for a long stay in the village.

Once again, Emmanuel stopped under the ancient tree to dry his dripping sweat. To his surprise, he again heard the pounding of little feet.

“Brother!” the little girl cried. “You’ve come back! Oh, but it’s so sad. After you left, the old shaman came. He told the baby’s mother that since her child had been born prematurely, its soul was incomplete. He told her that there was no hope, that it was cruel to torture the baby by prolonging its life. He whispered that the paroy spirits were very, very angry. He said that they would open up the earth under their house with a huge clap of thunder, sending up a fountain of water and killing everyone in the family.

“Oh, older brother! The mother and father were so scared. They didn’t know what to do. God had brought their baby back to life. But the spirits were angry, and they feared they would kill them all. They had seen the spirits do such things. They didn’t know if God could protect them from the paroy spirits. So they left their baby on the cold bamboo floor. It cried and cried. The mother cried and cried. The father wiped tears from his eyes. But the spirits, oh, the spirits are

so cruel. The poor baby died again.”

At this, the little girl burst into tears herself. Emmanuel picked her up and carried her back to the village, his own heart shattered. *How can I help these people?* he wondered. When will they believe that God is more powerful than the demons that pretend to be spirits? Oh, God! Help me be a missionary to these people! Use me to bring Your peace and life to those enslaved to terror!

Postscript:

Today, there is a healthy, happy church in the little village where Emmanuel first became a missionary. The father and mother of the baby that died have come to love and trust God. They no longer fear the spirits or the shaman, and they will never again allow themselves to be bullied by Satan. Most of the villagers are baptized believers, and the church is working to bring the Good News to other villages nearby. Emmanuel’s work is done in this village, and he has moved to another area where he, along with his wife and daughter, still work to lead Satan’s captives to faith in Jesus.



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PERFECT TIMING

Two Quiet Hour Ministries (QHM) mission teams were making their way to serve in Cuba just as scattered reports of COVID-19 were beginning to pop up around the United States. Little did they know what was coming in the days ahead. But God knew and He had a plan!

“We are praying for travel mercies for all of you,” Randy Bates, QHM president and CEO wrote to the departing team. “I invite you to claim the promise in Proverbs 3:23, 26: ‘Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble, for the Lord will be on your side.’”

Over the next few hours, QHM mission team members from around

North America began to check in on the WhatsApp mission team group chat. “We are almost to Cuba!” reported team member Moraa, unaware of the incredible week that lay ahead of her.

The teams arrived safely on March 12. One team headed for the city of Pilón and the other to Niquero. Amazingly, all of their evangelism supplies made it through customs quickly. They weren’t even opened, which is uncommon for missions to Cuba. The teams were ready to focus all of their energy on their work.

First, each team tackled construction projects and held free clinics, sharing Jesus with hundreds of people along the way. In Pilón, team member Linda reported that attendance at the



Elaine Hinshaw is a native of the Pacific Northwest. She joined Quiet Hour Ministries in 2018 from Walla Walla Valley Academy, where she served as marketing and recruitment director. Elaine enjoys trying new things, going new places, and collecting experiences with her family and friends. She is excited to go on God’s errands, meet new people all over the world, and help build an inclusive and enthusiastic community of disciples.

children's program had jumped from 26 the first night to 54 the next. At the first clinic, the team served close to 200 people in four hours. In Niquero, they were also experiencing packed clinics and excellent progress on construction.

But back in the United States, COVID-19 was rapidly overwhelming the news as the seriousness of the situation started to mount. Back in the Quiet Hour Ministries office, prayers were going up for wisdom. Should the teams come home? Or should they continue the work?

Randy wrote the teams: "We are so excited as we hear how God is blessing your work in Cuba. We don't want to bring you home early if we don't have to." The teams were relieved. They wanted to continue, praying they'd be able to finish what they started.

As the week went on, there were small challenges. In some places, there were whispers that the Americans were sent to spread the virus and warnings to not attend clinics. But people continued to flock to the clinics and the nightly meetings anyway.

However, by Thursday the virus situation had become more urgent and when the US State Department issued a level 4 travel advisory for US citizens, QHM knew it was time to bring the teams home, a few days early.

"As you have all heard," Pastor Wes Peppers wrote, "it's likely that we will need to leave for home as early as tomorrow. If you are planning to leave anything behind for the churches, do that tonight."

At home, the QHM office team was scrambling to make arrangements on short notice to get the whole group

safely home! The teams would take a bus, traveling 20 hours back to the airport in Havana, and then fly back to the US. The team was prepared, yet heartbroken to have to leave before the end of the mission.

But the miracle is this. The night before the teams left, they were incredibly blessed to witness baptisms from their work already! With even more to follow! While the final numbers are still coming in, this team knows they got to be part of something extra special.

Sunday evening, with everyone home safe and sound, Pastor Darryl Bentley shared with the group:

"The conference president in Cuba said that these two mission teams were the most impactful of any team from any group in his conference. Between the turnout from the clinics, the requests for Bible studies, and harvest of those ready for baptism, he said he was just overwhelmed by how the Lord worked.

"That affirms to me that we did the right thing by staying the course as long as possible and conducting our mission as the Lord directed us. I believe the timing to make it into the country and the timing to get every-

one out was just as the Lord wanted. The enemy tried hard to derail us, but our teams stayed the course and the Lord got us through it all."

God had a plan. A plan with perfect timing. And He used it all to His glory.

Team member Janice shares, "Praise God! We came from Niquero where we were infused with love and peace through our experiences. May the peace we have stay with us as we come back to America during this chaotic time."



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“DON'T GET CONVICTED”

When he walked into his first Revelation of Hope seminar in the summer of 2013, Jon Baker told himself, “Don’t get convicted.”

Up until that point, Jon and his wife, Karissa, weren’t the least bit interested in God. They would much rather be throwing back a few cold ones with friends over a football game than sitting silent and stiff in a wooden church pew.

But that night, as the couple listened to their old high school friend, Taj Pacleb, preach the gospel, something shifted in their hearts. They couldn’t tell you later what the topic had been. They may not have remem-

bered any of the verses. But they knew one thing—God had grabbed hold of them, and they needed to make “a lot of changes.”

They started with emptying the alcohol pantry—and they haven’t looked back since. But their testimony goes far beyond a party-hard couple getting sober. It’s about family and friends who never gave up. It’s about second chances and a loving God who will stop at absolutely nothing to get to the heart of His children.

Jon and Karissa both grew up in Adventist homes. Going to church on Saturday and avoiding unclean foods was part of their everyday life, but without a personal relationship with God, they were lost and didn’t even know it.



Karissa Baker was raised on the island of Maui, Hawai’i. She received her bachelor’s degree in business administration and finance from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and has worked in the field of estate planning and business law since 2007. Karissa is happily married to her husband, Jon, and has two beautiful daughters, Makaylah and Marley. She and her husband also run a clothing ministry called J3:XVI.

Jon grew up on the west side of Oahu in Wai anae, a place known as the slums. Jon had to learn street smarts at a young age. He was often left to fend for himself, which sometimes meant having to steal just so he could eat. His family life was a lot different at home than what was portrayed at church, so Jon never had a deep desire to learn about God. When Jon was a junior in high school, Wai anae SDA Church held a Revelation Seminar, led by Pastor Nemaia Faletogo. It was then that Jon felt on fire for the Lord and decided to move mid-year from Wai anae High School to Hawaiian Mission Academy.

Karissa grew up in Wailuku, Maui. Shortly after being baptized around the age of 12, Karissa succumbed to the influences of her peers. Occasionally smoking cigarettes later led to smoking marijuana and drinking. She had the philosophy that as long as she came home with "A's" and "B's", her parents wouldn't question her social life. At the end of her junior year of high school, she realized a change needed to be made or she would end up "spiraling downward." Karissa decided to move to Oahu and attend Hawaiian Mission Academy.

Jon and Karissa first met at Hawaiian Mission Academy, but they were just friends at that time. Here they became friends with Taj and Wati, two individuals who were also attending Hawaiian Mission Academy. After high school, Jon and Karissa slipped away from following God. Jon stayed on Oahu and enjoyed the party life. Karissa went to Pacific Union College for a year, but came back to Oahu to

finish college.

In the summer of 2005, Karissa and Jon ran into each other at a bar and exchanged numbers. A few months later they started dating and Karissa eventually moved in with Jon. Jon worked as a valet and Karissa was a bartender; they thought they were living the ideal life. Partying, clubbing, and gambling were typical pastimes for this couple. About a year after dating, Jon and Karissa found out they were expecting. Young and unmarried, Karissa was afraid to break the news to her parents and Jon was contemplating abortion. To make things right, they decided to move to Maui and get married before the baby arrived. On March 31, 2007, Jon and Karissa had a shotgun wedding and the next day, on April Fools Day, Karissa gave birth to their first daughter, Makaylah. A couple of years later, their second daughter, Marley, was born. Other than being parents, not much changed. The partying continued. Whether it was a football game, MMA match, or birthday, it would be a "party at the Baker's." Throughout the years, Taj and Wati tried to reach out to Jon and Karissa, but their attempts were dismissed. Jon and Karissa weren't interested in hearing about God.

In the summer of 2013, Karissa's parents told her about an upcoming Revelation Seminar at the Kahului SDA Church and that Taj and Wati would be there. At first Karissa wasn't interested, but God was working on her heart. The opening night of the seminar, Karissa asked Jon if he wanted to go, but he wasn't interested. Nor did they attend the second night. On

Sunday, Jon and Karissa decided to stay home and drink a new beer they recently discovered at a beer fest. The following night, Karissa tried a different approach and told Jon they should just go and say "hi" to their friends. Jon grew up with Taj in Wai anae, and Karissa and Wati were both Maui girls. Jon and Karissa were also classmates with some of the musicians playing for the meetings. Jon agreed to go, but just for dinner. They planned to leave before the sermon.

While having dinner and catching up with their classmates, the couple's daughters took it upon themselves to go to the children's program. Karissa and Jon had no choice but to stay for the sermon that night. Before entering the sanctuary, Jon repeated in his mind "don't get convicted." They stayed, listened to the whole sermon, then headed home. The car ride home was dead silent. When Jon parked the car, he turned to Karissa and said, "there needs to be a lot of changes." The next day, the pantry that was once full of alcohol was emptied out and the couple started getting rid of jewelry, clothing, movies, music—anything they felt God was telling them to clear out. They started going to church on a regular basis, hosting vespers at their home, surrounding themselves with fellow believers, and making God the foundation of their home. Six months later, on January 11, 2014, the couple was baptized by Taj in a fresh mountain stream at Iao Valley.

The couple still resides on Maui and are still faithfully serving God. Jon serves as a deacon and the young adults leader and Karissa serves as

the teen Sabbath School teacher and VBS director. Their home is still the hangout spot, but now for missionaries, visitors, and the Adventist young adult group that has grown over the years. "Allowing God to be the center of our marriage and family was the best decision we ever made," they said. Jon and Karissa also started a Christian clothing brand named J3:XVI (John 3:16). This brand has opened up many doors for the couple to work with the Maui community, other Christian brands, and believers of all walks of faith.

Jon and Karissa are amazed to see that God never gave up on them. To see how God used Taj and Wati and Revelation of Hope Ministries to bring

them back to His fold is something Jon and Karissa will be forever grateful for. Karissa has come full circle and now works as the new communications director for Revelation of Hope Ministries.

Never give up on reaching out to your loved ones. Taj and Wati never forced, never judged, and were genuine each time they reached out to Jon and Karissa. Karissa's parents never gave up on inviting them to church. You may have been praying for someone close to your heart and have reached out several times, but don't get discouraged if they have not yet responded. God's timing is not our timing. Galatians 6:9 says, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in

due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Just as God used many to reach Jon and Karissa, God is working in your loved one's life, and when they are ready to listen, God will do wonders.

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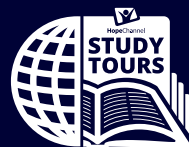
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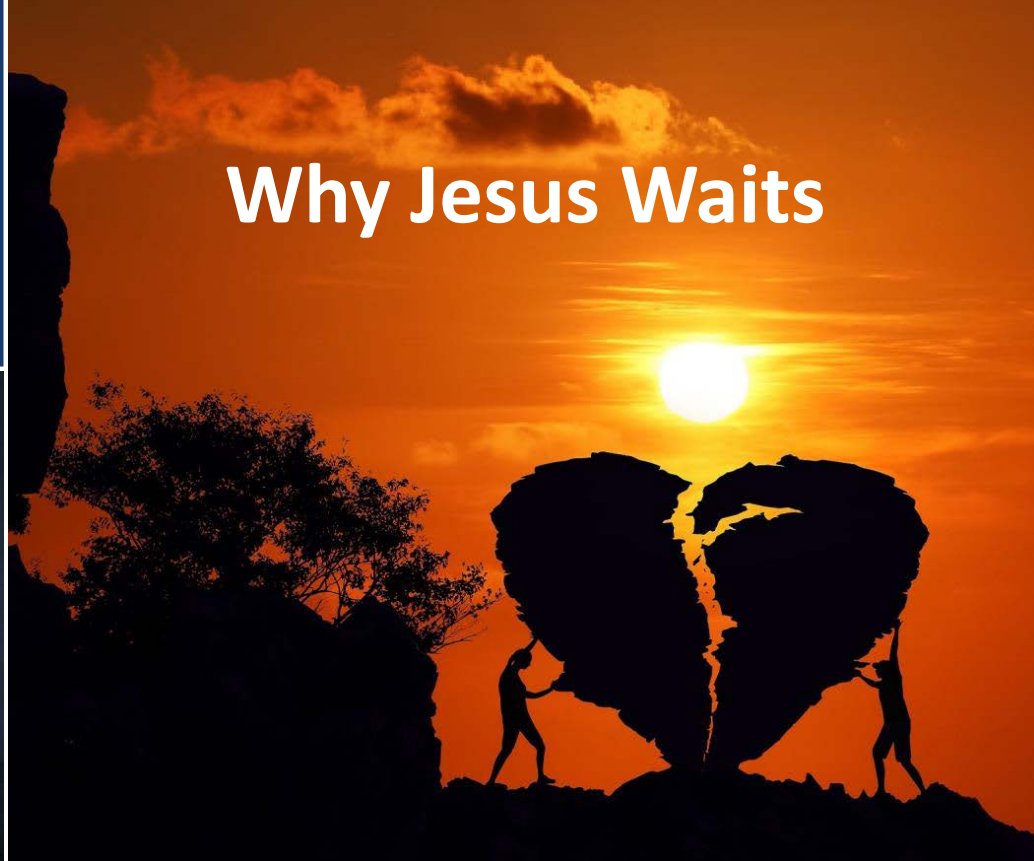
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