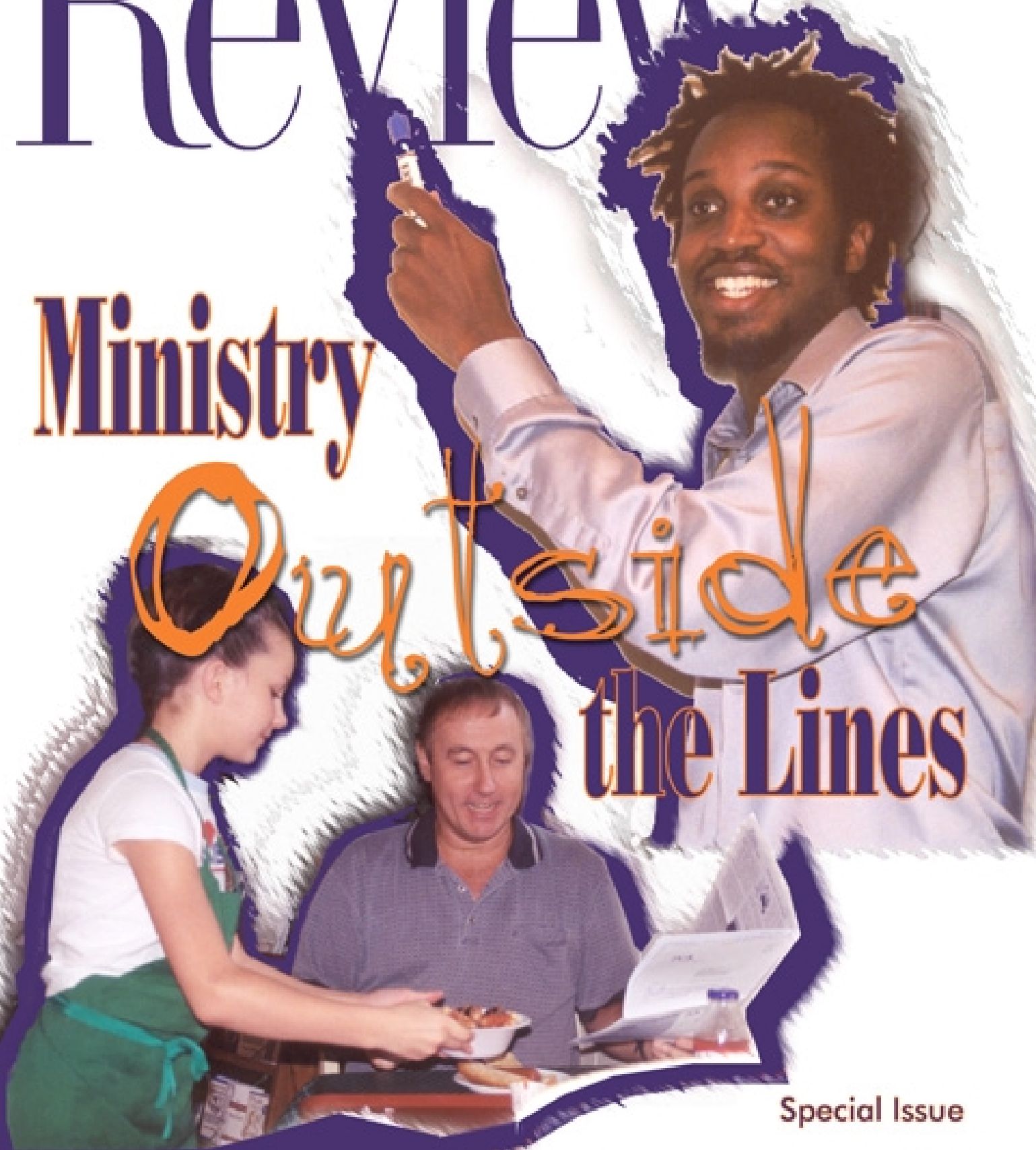


A D V E N T I S T

Review

Ministry

Outside
the Lines



Special Issue

Outside the Lines

This issue is unlike any *Review* you've ever seen. Turn it over and you'll see why.

Here's how it came about. Last September when the *Adventist Review* editors set aside a day for long-range planning, we decided to devote a special issue in



Left to right: Merle Poirier, Bonita Joyner Shields, and Kimberly Luste Maran.

2002 to nontraditional ministries. Everyone who accepts Jesus as Savior and Lord becomes a minister of His grace to others, and He gifts us in a variety of ways.

But this issue goes way beyond.

You can start it from this end and read about adults serving outside the lines. Turn it over, and it starts from the other end with children, who are always outside the lines.

We asked Kimberly Luste Maran to spearhead this special issue. The youngest member of the *Review* team, she has superb gifts of organization and planning.

Last November Merle Poirier came on board. Her forte is layout and creativity via the computer. Then in February Bonita Shields also joined the staff, bringing strong pastoral skills and interest in children's ministries.

Merle and Bonita joined Kim in planning the special issue. They huddled, and huddled some more. Kim, Merle, and Bonita coalesced into a dynamic, creative trio.

And this issue went way beyond the lines.

For years the *Adventist Review* staff has been dreaming about a *Review* for kids. With Merle and Bonita coming on board, we now have the firepower to launch it.

So here it is, the second half of this special issue—*KidsView*. Next month (September) it will run in the Cutting Edge issue (September 19), thereafter in the AnchorPoints issue each month. But always as a four-page color pullout that kids can read and write for. Their *Review*.

Which is right way up for this special issue? With my introduction on this page, or the one I wrote at the other end?

You figure it out. But more important: prayerfully figure out God's plan for your ministry—inside or outside the lines.

WILLIAM G. JOHNSON, Editor

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The WordSight Web

An Internet ministry soars.

BY AMANDA SAUDER

ONE SENTENCE, AND I WAS hooked; her passion for Christ was contagious.

"I determined to get to know [Jesus] so well that if we caught each other's eye across a crowded room we could grin and wink because we'd know what the other was thinking."

It was December 1996, and Heidi (then Halvorson) Arms was a Bible and English teacher in Seoul, Korea, when she uttered these words. To attain such a close relationship with Christ, Heidi set a goal for herself: to read the Bible through six times in one year.

After she had completed one round of the Scriptures, Heidi was changed. "That reading revolutionized my life," she says. "The power, the passion, and the person of Jesus Christ captured me completely. I committed to sharing the picture I saw of Him with the world."

While reading the Bible, Heidi was impressed with its storylike features. "From Genesis to Revelation the Bible is one grand symphony of salvation. Running through this symphony, like the melody theme in a piece of music, threads Jesus' story. It was this thread, His personal story, that I needed to share," she says.

So on a computer in an office in Seoul, Heidi spent six days "praying and typing, praying and typing, praying and typing" until she had finished the first draft of what would come to be known as *God's Diary*—a summary of the story of Jesus Christ throughout the entire Bible.

"I felt like Moses at the burning bush," Heidi recalls. "It seemed as though I was holding something holy. There was no way, humanly speaking, a summary of the Bible could have been drafted in just six days."

But it was.

Originally *God's Diary*, "a fresh look at the longest lasting



WEB WORK: Heidi Arms searches the Scriptures for Web content in Word Sight's first office, in a side room of the Snoqualmie Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church, Fall City, Washington.

best-seller of all time," was to be used only in Heidi's Bible classes in Korea. But Heidi felt God calling her to an Internet ministry, and after reading *Experiencing God*, by Henry Blackaby and Claude V. King, she faithfully decided to move ahead.

Heidi returned home to Canada in the fall of 1997. There she continued work on *God's Diary* in kind church members' homes and on their

computers. She also drew graphic design plans for a Web site.

Heidi spent the following spring and summer with her brother, Palmer Halvorson, in Vancouver, Washington. Palmer, according to Heidi, is a "master graphic design artist." Palmer designed the Web site and helped Heidi get it online during her stay. "Almost before we finished," remembers Heidi, "God miraculously provided us with HTML programmer Todd Hossack." Todd proved to be just what the blossoming ministry needed. He was able to link the Web pages Heidi and Palmer had designed and produce an operational rough draft of the Web site all within about 10 days.

Up and Running

With the Web site running, Heidi began creating Web pages for the 100 chapters of *God's Diary*. Again God provided Heidi with help. This time it came in the form of Sandra Vincent, a retired Seventh-day Adventist school teacher. Sandra helped Heidi edit *God's Diary*. Through five editing processes, Sandra and Heidi spent countless hours

refining the manuscript.

Several months into the Web site work, Heidi was up late one Sunday night talking with a friend. They were discussing a possible name for the Web site, and the words "Word Sight" stood out. "[It] seemed to capture perfectly the essence of the program," says Heidi. "A place on the Internet where one can see Jesus and the Bible. The name stuck."

Word Sight became official with an eight-member board on March 22, 1999. Weeks later, on May 12, 1999, Word Sight and *God's Diary* were launched on the Web.

"[Word Sight's] goal is to reach at least 2 million people with Jesus' message before He comes," says Heidi. "Our aim is to connect ourselves and others passionately with the power and person of Jesus Christ. Essentially, we are actively and specifically working to increase the population of heaven."

To meet this goal, Word Sight has focused on evangelism. "Word Sight has essentially become a one-stop evangelistic Internet hub for the Seventh-day Adventist Church," says Heidi. "We want to provide [the SDA] message to anyone out there who is searching the 'Net for spiritual food."

Four of the denomination's leading evangelists can be found on Word Sight: Doug Batchelor, Kenneth Cox, Mark Finley, and Dwight Nelson. The Voice of Prophecy's evangelistic *Discover* study guides are also available, along with their companion videos by Lonnie Melashenko.

Word Sight browsers who visit a topic such as the Sabbath will find direct links to presentations by these evangelists on that topic. They can also watch a *Discover* video on the topic right over the Internet. "This is exciting because it means that every one of earth's 2 billion people with Internet service has direct access to these vital messages all in one spot—in their homes, offices, schools, and in some cases on their Palm Pilots," an eager Heidi recounts. "God is so very good to us to provide witnessing tools in this twenty-first century that can cross all boundaries of state, country,

culture, time, and distance."

Word Sight provides a haven for evangelists, pastors, teachers, and laymembers. Anyone can use the Web site to help them further the gospel in their own way. "Letting [people] know about the Web site and recommending that they check it out is an easy and inoffensive way to witness. Checking out Web sites is kind of a social fad right now," says Heidi. Word Sight also teaches traditional home Bible study instruction.

And who can forget *God's Diary*?

Heidi's summary of biblical salvation is available at Word Sight, along with 14 study options, including "Question and Answer" and "Study Prophecy." A short description of each study option is available on the Web site's "About" page. The Web site also features study guides on topics such as death, baptism, Creation, and the unpardonable sin.

In the Works

Of the five interactive options Word Sight features, two are still in the works. The other three—prayer ministry, worship group locator, and newsroom—are in operation. Elements for the forum and the chat room are in place, but the Word Sight team is waiting for God to provide volunteers to manage those areas. They are also hoping to band with Encouragement Ministries (www.beencourageddaily.net) to assist in managing their prayer ministry.

Amazingly enough, all of Word Sight's services are free. You are charged if you order the hard-copy book edition of *God's Diary* or if you purchase the Leader's Guide for the in-home *God's Diary* Bible overview study.

But if Word Sight's services are free

and Heidi works full-time on Word Sight, how does she get paid?

"One of the faith aspects of beginning Word Sight was the issue of funding," Heidi admits. "When I finally put Him on the spot to let me know if it was His will that I establish this ministry, I opened my Day-Timer and said, 'If You want me to do this full-time, You will need to provide a place for me to live and food to eat by September.' He did, and He has continued to provide all

along."

Heidi's eight-member board and support team are also on volunteer stipends. Her teammates are John and Julia Darrow, Merton and Sandra Vincent, Dennis and Lucia Dexter, Crystal Woods, Gary Chythlook, and her brother, Palmer Halvorson.



GOD'S DIARY, THE BOOK: Heidi Arms and Sandra Vincent hold hot-off-the-press copies of *God's Diary*. Vincent, a retired schoolteacher, is the secretary for Word Sight and assisted in the editing of *God's Diary*, a segment of the Web site's content published in hard copy.

The team began tracking hits on the Web site in 1999; since then, Word Sight has been hit 3,836,420 times. "The number that I like to watch is the number of distinct hosts we have served," says Heidi. "That number indicates how many individuals have visited Word Sight; at this point we have 89,846 individual visitors." (A hit indicates the number of items on the Web page that have been requested; thus, an individual site visitor may have 40 or 50 hits in one visit.)

Heidi and her team have heard back from several people whose lives have been touched because of the Web site. One couple, Bob and Sue from Illinois, e-mailed Word Sight this spring. They had been searching for a

church for several years and had stumbled onto Word Sight. Through the Web site they watched all of the Kenneth Cox evangelistic meetings in their home. Having been convicted of the seventh-day Sabbath about three years before, they decided to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They wrote the Word Sight team hoping they could locate an Adventist church nearby. Using the Web site's church locator (called worship group locator), the team found a church just five blocks from Bob and Sue's home!

Branching Out

Word Sight's ministry has branched into several areas. Through a series of providential meetings and generous donations, a hard-copy book edition of *God's Diary* was published by Remnant Publications in May 2001. The book can be purchased on the Web site.

Also in 2001, Word Sight began

conducting its own seminars. Heidi conducts two seminars; the focal point of each is to inspire a passion for Jesus Christ and for reading His Word. The "Welcome to the Word" seminar is designed to teach laymembers, pastors, and anyone interested how to use *God's Diary* and Word Sight in home evangelism, church revival, and unity study. Heidi's second seminar, "For the Love of the Text," focuses on the Bible itself. In Heidi's words it spans "Genesis to Revelation, bringing its message alive through culture, history, geography, and anthropology.

"I hope to add more seminar topics, including an evangelistic series, in the future," says Heidi.

"[This] entire experience has been a mysterious adventure and a real test of faith," says Heidi as she looks back on the Lord's leading.

Since its beginning Heidi's objectives for herself, for the Web site, and

for those it may reach have never waned. "[I hope that the people will get to] know Jesus—intimately—on a practical, authentic level. I want them to know that He—God—is the hero; He is the good guy in the Old Testament and in our world today. I want them to know that He is there for them right now in any situation they face, [that He gives them] exactly what they need to come through it with peace, power, and ultimate success. I want all of us to fall passionately and eternally in love with Jesus."

Inspired by Heidi's love for Christ, Word Sight—like a web, on the Web—continues to grow.

Amanda Sauder is a junior journalism and marketing major at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. She wrote this while a summer intern at the Adventist Review.



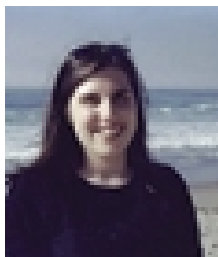
Connecting With Young Professionals

“Insiders” come together through an unusual ministry.

BY CAMERON ROGERS

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (YP) IS A dynamic young adult ministry that connects Seventh-day Adventist single young adults to our church, God, and each other. Created by young adults for young adults, the YP ministry uses a combination of high-tech and high-touch methods to accomplish its mission. It all started with a desire to get connected, the high-touch part of the ministry.

Heidi Domke, a native of Canada, found herself in the Northwestern United States after college. As a young single health-care professional, Domke felt a need to connect with similar Christians. A woman of action, she began approaching single young adults in area churches and inviting them to her home for dinner and worship. The first dinner and Friday night worship gathering in May 1997 grew into a monthly event, with the occasional Saturday night ice-skating event or other supplementary activity. This initial group of a dozen young adults in their 20s and 30s expressed a need for spiritual growth and peer fellowship—a challenge met by three weekend spiritual retreats that first year.



IN HIS SERVICE: Heidi Domke, director and founder of Young Professionals, takes a moment out of a busy schedule to pose for a portrait during a 2001 coastal retreat.

Soon Young Professionals had a name, a newsletter, and an event calendar. In the early years the group was fairly localized, growing through word of mouth. But that all changed in

early 2001.

Domke sent an e-mail to a few friends, inviting them to Whistler, British Columbia, for a ski/spiritual retreat. Some of these friends then sent the e-mail to their friends. The unmet needs of the northwestern United States young adults to connect and seek God together turned out to be similar to the needs of other young adults around North America. As a result, Whistler 2001 turned into an international event with 24 participants from Quebec, British Columbia, Washington, California, Oregon, and Michigan.

At Whistler there was much discussion about growing the YP ministry to reach friends who were disconnected from the church and each other. One obvious conclusion was that today's young professionals rely on the Internet as a primary means of communication. Thus at the YP Whistler



BONFIRE PRAISE: Young adults participate in a sunset worship on a North Pacific beach during a Young Professionals beach retreat.

BROWN BAGGIN' IT: Heidi Domke and several members of the Young Professionals hand out food at their Aldergrove Food Outreach Project in British Columbia, Canada.



SNOW BUDDIES: At their most recent Whistler retreat in 2002, Young Professionals members frolic on the slopes.



2001 retreat a young adult volunteered to develop a Web site for Young Professionals (www.yp4him.org). The launching of the Web site in July 2001 and an e-mail newsletter (subscribe at www.yp4him.org) signaled a new phase of remarkable growth for the Young Professionals ministry—the high-tech component.

Virtual Ministry

Today Young Professionals has

become a virtual ministry operating without borders or a single physical location. Heidi Domke, ministry founder and director, coordinates a team of key young adult volunteer leaders spread across North America and around the world. While this article is written in Chilliwack, British Columbia, another team member in Costa Rica is working on YP's first international mission trip in December 2002; the Web site is being upgraded by team members from California, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia. Between retreats and other "live events," YP team members coordinate by e-mail, online chat, and phone. The core leadership team members are all Seventh-day Adventists, but events are open to any young adult interested in fellowship, worship, and service.

As a member of the North American Division Adventist Volunteer Ministry Network (NAD-AVMN), the Young Professionals ministry is in full support of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Elder José Rojas, of the NAD-AVMN, comments, "Young adult ministry is most effective where there is a felt need and is fostered by grassroots

involvement."

Young Professionals currently hosts two types of events: spiritual/activity-oriented retreats and service-oriented events.

Upcoming retreats include a trip to the Oregon coast in September and a spring 2003 ski and outdoor activity retreat at Whistler, British Columbia. Young Professionals retreats emphasize worship, prayer, and a closer relationship with God. The retreats feature awesome accommodations and lots of extra-special touches that make for a unique experience. In keeping with the tastes of today's educated young professionals, retreat meals are gourmet vegetarian. For some a YP retreat is an introduction to the vegetarian lifestyle and the many attractive options it offers.

Key Outcomes

Young Professionals seeks two key outcomes from its events. First, that participants will grow closer to God through its ministry. Each retreat is themed around an aspect of our connection to God on a personal level. Second, the events create opportunities to network and build friendships with other single Christians in their 20s and 30s.

Founder and director Domke sees the need to get young adults more involved in service opportunities. "Service to others is key to our spiritual growth as Christians," she says. Past events like an Aldergrove, British Columbia, food share evening are a start in this direction.

"Obviously young adults can't travel very far for a local event, but we put the idea in the YP newsletter to encourage others to organize similar events," says

Domke. As a direct result of the food share evening in Aldergrove, a group in California organized a drive for their local food bank.

Young Professionals' most recent event was the Whistler Ski Retreat (April 2002), which brought 31 young adults from as far away as Arkansas and Wyoming in the United States, Ontario in Canada, and the Ukraine in Eastern Europe. Attendees learned of needs and opportunities for ministry in a variety of areas, including orphanages and building projects.

The YP team is currently planning short-term mission trips. "Our YP mission trips are designed to utilize the skills of our group," says Domke. "Many of our attendees are doctors, nurses, and other health-care professionals; however, this is not a prerequisite to attend a mission trip or YP event. We have a wide variety of young adults from all walks of life at our events, and as Christians we all have a desire to serve others." The first mission trip will be to Costa Rica in December 2002 and will include a medical mission component and building and evangelism outreach.

Beyond that, a trip to the Ukraine to witness in orphanages is in the planning stages. As a ministry led by young adults for young adults, YP is very open to any ideas for service opportunities.

As a virtual ministry with a real-life history of success, YP is poised for even more growth. When asked where YP is growing next, Domke expressed her gratitude to God for where He has led so far. "A year ago I never would have guessed that we would have so much interest in this ministry." At that time Domke was entirely responsible for all aspects of the YP organization. Today the ministry boasts more than 20 volunteers from around the world, including an administrative assistant, a Web team, a prayer team, public relations/promotions personnel, a special events

chef and team, mission trip coordinators, and a board of directors in Canada and the United States.

YP does not seek a monopoly on young adult ministry. While it has become one of the most visible of ministries targeted to single young adults within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, one of its aims is to encourage young adults everywhere to create fellowship, service, and spiritual growth opportunities in their own regions for their peers.

The vision of many groups of young professionals ministering to their peers is starting to take shape. Leaders are needed to turn vision into reality, and requests are coming in for help in starting chapters of YP both nation-

ally and internationally. A recently appointed young adult leader, advisor, and trainer leader for the NAD Adventist Volunteer Ministry Network, Domke is developing a seminar on creating viable young adult ministries. She explains, "One of the challenges of young adult ministry is

that it's a new area. Our parents' generation married in their late teens or early 20s. A 30-year-old single professional was rare. But today, with the average marriage age reaching the early 30s, it is fast becoming the norm."

Heidi feels the methods used by the church to retain young married couples with children are not effective in maintaining increasingly mobile, well-educated young professionals. "We have to rethink and retool to meet the needs of people in a life stage that never existed before."

Domke gives the credit for the success of this ministry to God. "Nothing is ever planned or done without prayer," she says. "Our motto with the YP ministry is: Prayer Is the Key!" (Phil. 4:6-9).

For more about the Young Professionals ministry, visit <http://www.yp4him.org>.

Young Professionals has become a virtual ministry.

Cameron Rogers writes from Chilliwack, British Columbia. Cameron is a real estate developer and an active participant in Young Professionals events.



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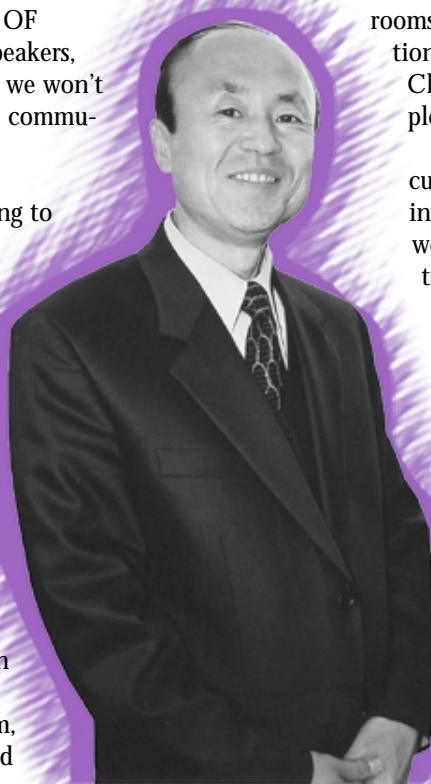
BY ANSEL OLIVER

THIS WILL BE OUR METHOD OF evangelism: we won't bring in speakers, we won't rent sound equipment, we won't print up brochures. We'll just do community programs."

That was Myung Soo Cho, pastor of Maryland Central Korean church, talking to me last September. He had come to my office at the Seventh-day Adventist world church headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, to put an ad in the workers' in-house newsletter. "We need teachers for our English school," he said.

His church of 85 members is smack dab in the middle of the state of Maryland, near a population of Korean immigrants. Cho is a Korean immigrant who came to America in 1978. Known to be a very persistent, committed person, Cho wanted to reach other people like him. Instead of going the more traditional route to evangelism, he analyzed needs of the community and found a wanting for English language instruction.

During his stop by my office, Cho explained to me how one of his church members, an architect, had designed the back of the church to be remodeled into small class-



GREAT IDEA: Myung Soo Cho, pastor of the Maryland Central Korean church, started an English language school as his way of pushing at the lines of conventional evangelism.

rooms for English as a Second Language instruction. He spoke of his wish to introduce people to Christ and explained his church members' complete support for the project.

He stepped a little closer to me inside my cubicle and made his smile even warmer. He informed me that those who became teachers would be missionaries, but without having to travel to another country. He produced an even bigger smile, now with the eyebrows raised.

"We will meet their needs first," Cho told me. "Then they will come to study the Bible."

That's a great way to evangelize, I thought. Somebody should definitely help this guy out.

I've been teaching one night a week ever since.

An Afternoon Translation

A Saturday afternoon in May, two minutes before 5:00, I park my car in the last spot on the church's gravel parking lot. I walk into the building, past some larger classrooms that are rented out during the week to a Montessori school. I am greeted by Cho and a few other members. I enter the sanctuary and notice that, so far, I

am the only person not of Korean descent. I also notice that about one-third of the congregation is made up of youth—a statistic not lost on Cho, who boasts the figure at every chance.

This afternoon's event is the one-year anniversary of going beyond the lines of evangelism—teaching English to speakers of other languages.

Cho steps up to the pulpit and welcomes everyone to this afternoon's event. He speaks in Korean so that all of the church members, both young and old, can understand. First elder Jay Ko whispers translation to the person next to him in the pew—Henry Fordham, secretary of the Allegheny East Conference, who has traveled nearly four hours to attend. Jocelyn Jones, one of the five other teachers, and I listen in.

The translator informs Fordham that the pastor has just called him up to say a few words. Fordham is joined on the platform by another translator. "Someone had a vision here," says Fordham, pausing to hear the Korean equivalent. He continues, "We are looking for ways to clone this type of program." The translator pauses to think how "clone" is translated.

Now youth pastor Mark Kim leads the young in two songs. Several of my students have told me they would be singing. I see them, but they focus on Kim intently as he directs their choir.

"We don't just teach them, we do community service," Kim tells me. He is the school's registrar during the week for morning and evening classes, and he's the youth pastor on Saturdays.

"I do community service every day," he says.

"Jesus met people's needs first," adds Cho. "Then they were more open to the Word of God. We are trying to do the same thing here."



HAPPY VOLUNTEER: Bryan Collick teaches a more advanced English as a Second Language class during one of the evenings he volunteers at the school.

This first semester, which was celebrated at the afternoon anniversary event this past spring, gave the church a few new members through its English program. With its steady growth, Cho anticipates teaching more people about Christ with his evangelism program.

"The purpose of a church is to minister to its community," he says. Cho and his congregation have taken this goal seriously.

Crossing Barriers

Usually churches spend money to conduct evangelism. But at this church the students bring money as tuition and are required to attend four nights a week. This pays the youth pastor's salary and brings in a captive audience four nights of the week.

The school is set up as an extension of Griggs University, the Adventist Church's international distance education institution.

One student showed up after seeing an ad in the Korean community newspaper. She's been attending all semester and came to this afternoon's event by herself. Another saw the school sign while jogging by one morning. With her outgoing personality we've found it rather easy to communicate despite language barriers. After

improving her English at this school she is thinking more about college.

"At first glance they may be shy," says Bryan Collick, a volunteer teacher for the advanced ESL class. "That's only because they're a little uncertain about how to express themselves. Once that barrier is crossed they're very open."

"What's your retention rate for this evangelism program?" I ask Cho. "How many of the students who have joined the church have stayed?"

"Ah, so far is 100 percent," he says



TAKING NOTES: Students compare pictures with words during a class assignment at the Maryland Central Korean church's ESL school.

with a thick Korean accent—or is that dialect the result of his trying to suppress a big smile? One year ago he was working 16-hour days—eight hours with church work and teaching a class at Columbia Union College, and another eight hours starting up the English school.

I stand him in front of the school's sign by the road to take his picture. "You know," he says, lowering his voice, "I was told that this school wouldn't work." He waits to let it sink in. I open the shutter, and then it does. We look at the full parking lot and listen to the racket coming from the crowded church building. "We're going to try for 10 baptisms next semester," he says, not suppressing his smile this time.

Ansel Oliver is a news assistant for the Adventist News Network, part of the General Conference Communication Department.



Treasures in the Sand

Cyprus leaders battle years of tradition, uncovering biblical truths with archaeological evidence.

BY ALEX ELMADJIAN, WITH IOANNIS GIANTZAKLIDIS

THE ISLAND ON WHICH THE FIRST organized evangelistic endeavor of the early apostolic church started is the very place we have been called to share the Advent message,” states Ioannis Giantzaklidis, pastor of the Nicosia church on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. Pastor Ioannis recently completed a 10-week biweekly evangelistic series entitled “Treasures in the Sand” in the seaside resort town of Limassol. “It is amazing that even though 2,000 years have passed since then, we still face some of the same challenges that Paul and his companion encountered,” he continues.

“I have been trying to use an approach that would appeal to the Cypriot mind-set,” says Pastor Ioannis. “On such a staunchly Greek Orthodox island where other religions are openly condemned as heresies by the religious establishment, it would be a futile exercise to conduct a ‘conventional’ series of meetings. Instead, our experience has shown that Cypriots, being surrounded as they are by centuries of archaeology, are more receptive to an approach that authenticates biblical prophecies and teachings historically.”

The people of the island of Cyprus take pride in the fact that their home was the first place in which a government official, a governor by the name of Sergios Paulus, believed and accepted Jesus. Today the largest portion of the island’s population is comprised of Greek Cypriots (84 percent of the 741,000 population). The next-largest segment of the population is the Turkish Cypriot community, who reside in the northern part of the island; this area became inaccessible to the Greek Cypriots after the Turkish invasion of 1974.

Currently there is only one organized Adventist church on the island, and it is located in the capital city of Nicosia.

Approximately 50 people attend regularly; however, during the past four years an active small group outreach ministry has been taking place in Limassol, the second-largest city in Cyprus. It is hoped that the fruitage of this ministry will result in an established church in this town. Small group ministry, combined with an out-of-the-ordinary evangelistic campaign such as “Treasures in the Sand,” seems to be the recipe for success in this unique country.

Orthodox Challenges

The first striking characteristic of the Greek Orthodox religion is that it is embedded in the national culture. The sociopolitical life of the Greeks in Cyprus has also been influenced by religious figures. For instance, Archbishop Makarios was the first president of the island after it gained its independence from Great Britain in 1960. “It is always expected and assumed that anyone who is Greek is a Greek Orthodox,” comments Pastor Ioannis. “Those who are not are somehow regarded as ‘impure’ Greeks. The Greek Orthodox consider themselves to be God’s chosen people, a nation favored by God. After all, the gospel did go first to the Greeks, the New Testament was written in Greek, and the tradition of a state church goes back to the very 12 apostles.”

Perhaps this is why, in order to prove conclusively how dreadfully misled people from other religious backgrounds are, the very first question a Greek Orthodox will ask in a conversation about religion is “When did your church come into existence?” Then, mathematically, they prove that theirs is the best religion, since its origins can be traced to the apostolic church.



UNCOVERING THE TRUTH: Pastor Ioannis Giantzaklidis shares scriptural truths during the evangelistic series entitled “Treasures in the Sand,” in the seaside resort town of Limassol, Cyprus.



SLIDE SHOW: Cypriots attend a 10-week biweekly evangelistic series in which biblical truths are supported with archaeological evidence.

meeting in Limassol on a weekly basis, jointly funded the lecture series. However, it was remarkable to note that the Holy Spirit moved one non-Adventist Cypriot who had attended similar meetings in the past to donate funds to cover 30 percent of the total budget for this endeavor.

“These challenges are by no means new,” says Pastor Ioannis. “In preaching to the Jews, Paul encountered people with strongly ingrained Jewish traditions. Jesus had an apt answer for the Jews who argued that they were right simply because they were descendants of Abraham [see John 8:39]. The evangelistic series ‘Treasures in the Sand’ sought to present our message in a way that would respond favorably to these challenges. Emphasis was given to the fact that our doctrines also originate from the Apostolic Era.”

Removing the Sand

More than 80 persons filled the conference room of the Kanika Pantheon Hotel on the Limassol seafront to hear the first in the series of these 20 biweekly lectures. Initially the first few lectures used illustrations and stories from ancient civilizations to show the reliability of the Bible and its prophecies. Particular emphasis was given to the fact that many of these ancient stories were unknown until archaeologists, in recent times, brought them to light. During subsequent meetings Pastor Ioannis uncovered ancient Bible truths that had been

“covered by the sands of scepticism, ignorance, and bigotry.” These Bible truths were repeatedly referred to as “treasures,” and the lectures, therefore, became a quest to reveal the original Bible doctrines. Keenly interested individuals in the audience were seen videotaping and recording the lectures. Because of the immense importance that Greeks place on their tradition, church forefathers were quoted extensively.

“Further in the series, when the time came for more doctrinal issues to be presented,” added Pastor Ioannis, “we demonstrated how many of the revered Greek Church Fathers, such as Chrysostomos and Athanasios, practiced adult baptism and accepted the seventh-day Sabbath respectively.”

Weeks before the meetings were scheduled to begin, church members from Nicosia and Limassol assisted in the door-to-door distribution of 15,000 four-color handbills. Newspaper advertisements printed in the popular Greek press also contributed to the success of the meetings.

Global Mission and the Nicosia church, with the anticipation of boosting the small group of Cypriots already

years of working in this environment it becomes evident that it is not possible to undo the influence of 2,000 years of tradition in just a few meetings. This is why the purpose of these meetings was not to lead people to baptism, but rather to get acquainted with people in order to invite them to join our existing small groups in Limassol,” reported Pastor Ioannis after the meetings had concluded.

Several of these people did accept the invitation to join the small groups at the end of the series and with the support of the existing members are slowly being led to making a decision. The merging of these groups will establish the church in Limassol.

Alex Elmadjian is the Communication and Media Services director of the Middle East Union in Cyprus. Ioannis Giantzaklidis is the pastor of the Nicosia Seventh-day Adventist Church and the presenter for the “Treasures in the Sand” evangelistic series.



An Affluent Outreach

Vegetarian café expressly does God's business

BY CELINA WORLEY

THEY HAVE everything: influence, purpose, money. They've sauntered past the church several times, never dreaming they'd ever enter it—never having a reason to. Yet here they are on any given weekday: golfers, businesspeople, and writers stepping off the street into the warm embrace of the Chestnut Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church in northwest Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It's not Sabbath; neither is it potluck.

"Why do you come here?" I ask young Maura Hussie, manager of The Candle Shop down the cobblestone street.

"Healthful food and because it feels like home—it's comforting here," she says without hesitation.

Nestled in a community that showcases expensive restaurants, quaint shops, and book nooks, the baronial, stone-laid Adventist church had been overlooked by the hundreds of socialites and wisdom seekers that leisurely stroll its sidewalks. But that changed on December 9, 2001, when Expressly Vegetarian: Taste 'N' See, the newest café on Germantown Avenue, opened its doors.

Now, each weekday between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., well-to-do community members, professionals, stay-at-home mothers, Jews, senior citizens, Hare Krishnas, and professed New Age followers stop by the church for a cup of soup, sandwich, and casual conversation. They peruse the bookcases of healthful-living materials for sale, read a free pamphlet or magazine provided by the church, and savor every bite of their meal.

Expressly Vegetarian attracts an average of 15-20 people



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS: Church members, each volunteering their service, work together to produce the tasty fare of Expressly Vegetarian: Taste 'N' See, a new café on Germantown Avenue in northwest Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, run by the Chestnut Hill church.

daily, most of whom have never entered the church before. "The people who come in are enthused," says Jennifer Schwirzer, the café's manager. "They say, 'Wow! This is so cool! I can't believe you've done this.'"

"This community is into all kinds of things," says church member and café vol-

unteer Dr. Cheryl Schaeffer. "A man came into the café while I was there and gave us two tickets to the art museum. Later a woman who was really enjoying the food learned that the church had recently held a musical concert. 'Oh! I would have come if I had known,' she told Schaeffer.

Chestnut Hill's pastor, John Peters, points out that the primary benefit the café provides the church right now is that it is building a good rapport with the community. "During the past 10 years or so the community didn't know much about the Adventist Church. Now, not only do they know it's here, but they view it in a very positive image instead of a neutral or benign image."

The Ministry Angle

There's no question that the café is in operation for the purpose of ministry. "We're told that Jesus mingled among men as one desiring their good," explains Schwirzer. "This is a fantastic opportunity to put Christians in contact with nonbelievers, to put them in the way of a relationship. The café is an access point," she continues. "It is very difficult to access nonbelievers. People have so much going on—so much dress, entertainment, materialism, and busyness. Why bother with church? We have to find creative and relevant



WELCOME TO MY WORLD: Jennifer Jill Schwirzer, full-time café manager, aproned appropriately, pauses a moment in the busy kitchen to pose for a shot.

ways to reach them, and a common denominator we all have is food.”

“Our church is located in such an area that the typical people who walk by won’t stop in for a public evangelistic event, but they will come to our café,” says Lil Yarosh, who has been a

member of the church for more than 30 years.

Schaeffer adds, “This is one area these socialites in Chestnut Hill will open up—they [will] step inside our church for food. We just want to lead them to a higher level of eating and nourish them with spiritual food.”

Pilot Project Takes Off

The café is a good example of the new paradigm for outreach. In 2000 the Columbia Union Conference’s metro initiative, under the direction of Monte Sahlin, union creative ministries vice president, conducted a survey among a sample of the general public in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. According to Sahlin, only 32 percent of the people had ever heard of the Adventist Church, and more than half of that segment did not know anything specific about the church.

With this vast, almost impenetrable mission field, the metro initiative has

partnered with the three conferences and 48 Adventist churches in the Philadelphia metropolitan area to develop a “wellness center” in each community across the region.

Expressly Vegetarian is a pilot project of the initiative, and one of the goals is to learn from the experience of the Chestnut Hill church and its ministry team.

“The Chestnut Hill church is doing what every congregation in a major metropolitan area must do: it is developing creative, new ways, to reach out to the community where it is located and meet the needs of the residents,” Sahlin says. “It is evangelism as a process, not as an event. It provides a presence in the Chestnut Hill neighborhood that is constant, five days a week, 52 weeks out of the year, is appropriate to the culture of this affluent community, and visibly attuned to the needs of the community.”

Michael Cauley, president of the Pennsylvania Conference, is amazed

Christian Aerobics Class Attracts Attention

BY AMANDA SAUDER

Imagine high-kicking to Jennifer Knapp, side-stepping to Steven Curtis Chapman, stretching out to Michelle Tumes.

Imagine Christian aerobics.

Even just a year ago, newly baptized Rose Mills wouldn’t have guessed she would be leading a Christian aerobics class at the Tridelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maryland.

Rose, who grew up Catholic, first heard about last-day events and the Second Coming from a Muslim friend who believed in the Bible. Her curiosity triggered, Rose began studying the Revelation prophecies for herself. Rose didn’t understand the prophecies; she became frustrated and quit searching.

Several years, a happy marriage, and a move later, Rose found herself in a lovely Maryland neighborhood. “I had it all, materialistically,” she says. “But something was missing. I thought it might have been the Lord, but I didn’t know how to get the Lord in me.”

Rose received a flyer in the mail about a series of evangelistic meetings being held by speaker Leo Schreven. Rose, along with her husband and son, began attending the meetings. At the meetings’ close, Rose had felt the

Holy Spirit leading and was eager to be baptized. “It was amazing,” Rose recalls. “I didn’t curse anymore; I felt so pure and clean, so free from sin. I felt peace and joy.”

Rose, who works as an aerobics coordinator and instructor for a local gym, was eager to share the good news she’d found, and felt a Christian aerobics class would be a perfect arena to do exactly that. “It was the Lord’s calling,” says Rose. “I had a sense, a feeling; I wanted to contribute. I thought the class could attract people from outside [of the church].”

Rose’s Christian aerobics class meets every Sunday morning at the Tridelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church. Prayer is offered at the beginning and the end of each class, inviting the Lord to be part of their activity. After prayer Rose leads the group in a combination of walking, toning and low-impact exercises, aerobics, and even stepping. “They get to do just about everything!” comments Rose.

So far, they have had only one visitor from outside the church, but they are hoping for more.

A picture of the Christian aerobics class was recently featured in the Howard County paper, the *Harold Times*. Also, the church occasionally advertises the class in the newspaper, hoping to attract more community attendees.

Rose’s son was baptized earlier this summer, and her husband attends church with them both regularly.

how quickly connections are being made. “In just a few short months men and women who have never stepped foot in the church are now finding their way into a place that has stood in the community for more than 50 years.”

Quick Encounters at the Café:

- A retired judge from Philadelphia who is acquainted with Adventists enthusiastically started coming once a week. On one occasion Mike and Jennifer engaged him in conversation in which he remarked, “No Adventist has ever told me what they believe like you have.”
- John, a bright young man with a background in sales, loves the café so much that not only does he regularly bring friends there, but he once took a stack of menus and started handing them out on the street.
- “You know we Seventh-day Adventists worship on the biblical Sabbath as you do?” Jennifer asked one of the many kosher Jews that frequent the café. That opener sparked a connection and concluded with the possibility of having a joint worship sometime.
- Deeply devoted to animal rights, a Hare Krishna couple came to the café, thankful that no animal products are being used. “I let them know that we as Christians care deeply about how animals are treated,” says Jennifer.
- A couple came in, collected a stack of free literature, then inquired about joining the church and how they could send their child to Blue Mountain Academy.
- Two women who are extremely excited about the café stopped by to purchase one of Jennifer’s music CDs. “They wanted to play it on their answering machine,” says Jennifer.

This kind of ministry has an indirect evangelistic impact. “Can I visit your church?” one woman asked as she stood at the checkout counter. “I invited her to come the following Sabbath, and we have her name and number,” says Peters. The café has built a mailing list of more than 200 people, several of whom have filled out an interest survey that reveals things

they would like to learn about. As a result, Mike Schwirzer, the church’s Bible worker (and Jennifer’s husband), has begun cultivating the café friendships for Bible study.

Why She Does It

The majority of the people who walk through the café’s doors are unchurched. This factor is one of the

top reasons Jennifer, an accomplished singer, musician, speaker, and author, was willing to make food service her priority. When she was asked to lead the café project, Jennifer was managing her own ministry called Michael Ministries—the last thing she wanted to do was cook for people.

“I thought, *Oh, I really don’t want to get into restaurant work,*” she says. “But then I realized that a big lack in my life has been ministering to unchurched people. I had been doing this music ministry for 15 years, and it’s literally singing to the choir. I felt as though I really wasn’t obeying the Great Commission.” God convicted her to use her talents to reach the lost, and the venue He chose was food.

“We couldn’t have asked for a more ideal situation—a Bible worker and café manager husband-and-wife team,” Peters says of Mike and Jennifer.

“I eventually hope to do some concerts at area coffeehouses and churches,” says Jennifer, “and maybe even schedule something at the café

on a Friday night or something. I have dreams of starting a ‘coffeehouse’ right at the café, and bringing in various Christian artists. There are so many directions we could take this thing; the possibilities are endless . . . ”

The Church Takes Part

Driven by a desire to be Christ’s hands and feet, the church and its members have given endlessly to the cause. Right now Jennifer is the only person hired at the café. All other help is voluntary. Many members, like Gretta Brown, have committed one day to help out. “I think the café is a wonderful idea,” she says. “Everyone is talking about vegetarian cooking. The café meets a need in our area.”

Still others, like Schaeffer, have no kitchen experience but are eager to help. One day she lopped off a chunk of her schedule and headed to the café. “You’ve got to get used to working in a restaurant,” she says. “As I was serving, a woman said, ‘My soup is cold.’ I replied, ‘Yes, your soup is cold. Let me

fix that for you!’ ”

When Schaeffer got back to her office, one of her patients couldn’t believe she had been waiting tables and working in a kitchen and even said that Schaeffer shouldn’t be doing that. Schaeffer responded, “I just couldn’t leave. It’s mission right here at home—the asphalt jungles of Philadelphia—and I want to serve.”

To the casual observer, it’s just the newest café on Germantown Avenue. But for Jennifer Schwirzer and the Chestnut Hill church, there’s a lot more at stake. They share with you and me the mission of Christ to seek and save the lost; and, with every bowl of soup and casual conversation, they are one step closer to this mission being accomplished.

Celina Worley is assistant to the president for communication and mission in the Pennsylvania Conference.



The Sunburned “Little Man”

Australian senior Noel Duffy takes his passion for literature distribution to the streets.

BY WILLIAM GROBLER

HIS ENTHUSIASM IS INFECTIOUS. His eyes, his expression, reflect a bright and happy disposition. He speaks enthusiastically about the spread of the gospel at the second coming of Jesus. But you'll be surprised to see him at your church, because he's always passing through.

Seventy-six-year-old Noel Duffy was inspired by a text in Esther: “And who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14). Applying this question to his own life and recognizing the need to share God's love, Noel packed his caravan vehicle and traveled to a town 50 miles north of his home to distribute Bible correspondence school cards in residents' mailboxes. After letterboxing the entire town, Noel studied the map of South Australia and decided to move to a caravan park in another nearby town with the same mission.

People responded. Requests were received at the Bible school correspondence desk, and Noel was enthused to continue walking from home to home, mailbox to mailbox, in a growing number of country towns until the open map on the foldout table in his caravan revealed pencil markings on nearly every town and village in the state. Noel had decided that with careful management of his only income—a relatively small monthly pension—and particularly frugal living, he could afford caravan park fees and share the literature that was so important to him with many more people.



YOU'VE GOT MAIL: Noel “Letterboxer” Duffy, 76, holds just a few of the several hundred tracts he hands out every day as he caravans across Australia. So far Duffy has distributed literature to more than 600,000 homes.

“So many of the towns have no Seventh-day Adventist presence,” says Noel. “Wouldn't it be something if we could one day see a group of people worshipping in at least one of these places? And what would happen if scores more of our members could visit neighboring towns to extend the same invitation?”

An Early Start

Noel starts early—about 8:00 in the morning—and continues until 1:00. A slow cooker in the caravan has a nourishing pot of vegetable stew or soup to see him through his afternoon walk, which usually ends around sunset. Noel has spent many Friday nights without Adventist company, but he enjoys a restful Sabbath day by reading, praying, and meeting people in the holiday and caravan parks.

“How long do you plan to continue?” I ask.

He is quick to respond. “Until the Lord comes or my legs stop walking!”

His response sounds lighthearted, but you may notice a sincere tear glistening in his eyes. “I would love to visit a million homes before I retire,” he says.

“How many homes have you visited so far?”

“About 600,000.”

Only God knows what the fruit of Noel's work might be. Noel has heard of 12 baptisms occurring as a result of his literature distribution. But there may be many more who are visiting Seventh-day Adventist churches throughout the states of South Australia, Victoria, New

“I would love to visit a million homes before I retire.”

South Wales, and Western Australia, where he has worked.

“And this walking keeps me healthy,” Noel says. “I had to keep in close touch with my doctor and the heart specialist six years ago when I started. Now my doctor has to search for the ‘padding’—the ounce of fat! He says I am his healthiest senior patient. In the doctor’s own words, I am ‘as fit as a Mallee bull.’”

Part of Noel’s success must lie in his jovial and positive disposition.

Many Adventist congregations have heard Noel’s inspiring experiences of God’s leading and of the souls who have expressed their appreciation for what he has shared with them over fences and in the streets and shops. Many congregations supplement his literature supplies with material from their own cupboards—in some cases material that has been there for some time. Where it is possible, churches allow him to park his caravan on the church grounds to save him caravan park fees. Others have even invested in his literature distribution with small donations.

“I have had my share of obstacles and challenges,” says Noel. “I have arrived in towns where the church leaders have declined my offer to letterbox the town with material of their own choice. Where possible, I try to contact the pastor or elder of a town before I come. I really just want to help with the local church’s plans for sharing the good news.”

Adventists at camp meetings throughout Australia will recognize the sunburned “little man” as the one who works as a volunteer in the *Signs* literature tent. Here he encourages members to become both sponsors and participants of publications evangelism.

On and off the streets Noel Duffy, with his unconventional ministry, is dedicated to the great literature ministry of our church.

William Grobler, who moved to Australia in 1993 from South Africa, is currently the pastor of the Queenstown, Gawler, and Barossa Valley churches.



I Was a Stranger and You Made Me Welcome

A best-kept secret in the Lord's work in Canada

BY DENISE DICK HERR

SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOUR passport is safe with the tour leader and that your luggage is in the care of the bellhop of a five-star hotel, you relax during your vacation abroad. You are cocooned from cold weather by a heated bus or cooled from tropical heat and humidity by air-conditioning. All your expenses have been taken care of before you left home. Your every need is anticipated, and, in your own language, a guide tells you of the history of the places you have come to visit. When your three-week tour is over, you repack your travel clothes, souvenirs, and film, board the plane, and return to your secure job and comfortable home.

This, however, is not the experience of everyone who travels. At the other end of the spectrum are immigrants and refugees fleeing from political strife, who leave their homes with few possessions or money, with no guide to translate a new language and explain the culture. Many, fearing for their lives, leave careers as surgeons, lawyers, scientists, engineers, or pilots. When they arrive in North America, they find not only that the weather, clothes, food, entertainment, transportation, and language are different, but that their skills and their educational credentials are not recognized in the new land.

They face many difficulties in their quest for a new home in a new, free land, but in Edmonton, Canada, a city of close to a million inhabitants, they do not face these challenges alone. New Home Immigration and Settlement Center is there to assist them.

Take, for example, José Sanchez. Sanchez, 44, a lawyer in Bogota, Colombia, who worked in the prosecutor's office charging drug criminals, fled from his home after cocaine drug trafficking cartels targeted him for death. One year ago Sanchez, his wife, and their two elementary school-age children, landed in Canada without knowing any English. Sanchez and his wife began studying English at New Home last October. In July they graduated from its language program. Sanchez now plans to start upgrading in math and

computers at a university, and his wife is taking advanced English at New Home. Besides teaching them English, the center gave them advice on careers and provided them with necessary job contacts. Sanchez hopes to practice law again.

United Nations

New Home is an immigrant aid organization. It began in 1989 through the initiative and enthusiasm of Victor and Elsa Schulz. Elsa had begun five language centers in Chicago to help immigrants. Victor, an Adventist evangelist,¹ noticed that immigrants were not being reached with the gospel. He was convinced of the soul-winning potential of targeting the more than 200,000 immigrants that make Canada their new home each year. He was also convinced that "sometimes the best sermons are preached with lots of soul and no words." So when Victor and Elsa moved to Canada, they combined their experience and their love for the Lord and others—and the ministry of New Home was born.

New Home is a mini-United Nations of newcomers. From Egypt and El Salvador, from Venezuela and Vietnam, from Afghanistan and Zaire—from a total of 73 different countries—more than 8,000 immigrants have come to New Home. If you visit a New Home classroom, you might see, studying side by side, a general from the former Yugoslavia, a physician from Lebanon, a priest from Serbia, a Chinese businessman, a Russian scientist, a judge, a journalist, a carpenter, or a housewife.

Sandip Bairas, 23, a Sikh woman from India, troubled by the caste system, arrived in 1998 and enrolled in New Home's nine-month English program as 800+ other students have also done each year. But, she thinks that the extracurricular support she received was equally important.

Simon Uguak, 48, agrees with Bairas's observations. After



his arrival from Sudan in 1999, Uguak found that the programs at New Home helped him learn English and computers, but also gave him stability as he became oriented to North American culture. Uguak is now employed as a group counselor and social worker for Catholic Social Services in Edmonton.

Hosts of All-around Assistance

The services available to immigrants are myriad—and all free, provided by New Home in

partnership with federal and provincial gov-



AN INTERNATIONAL WELCOME: A number of the 800 New Home students, each dressed in their country's finest, greet the dignitaries in their own language during the immigration services' 10-year anniversary celebration.

ernments. There are full-time day and part-time evening English classes. Child care also is provided free of charge. Immigrants registered in language classes spend one hour each day in a state-of-the-art computer lab to develop their listening, speaking, reading, writing, and grammar. They can also spend a second year preparing themselves for academic training or for the job market.

Noncredit adult education courses, such as Introduction to Computers, Introduction to Internet, Citizenship for Newcomers, and First Aid, round out the "academic" offerings that New Home provides, but assistance continues. Many people not enrolled in English classes can avail themselves of the Internet job bank, the tax clinic, the "Health for Two" program for preg-

nant women, dental screening, clothing distribution, information and referrals to community services, or summer camps for children.

However, the "Host Program" may provide the strongest personal support for immigrant families faced with the plethora of new experiences confronting them in a new culture. Canadian volunteers, many of them Adventists, are matched with immigrants of similar ages, interests, or careers. The hosts offer friendship and share time with immigrants during the critical first months. During their time together, hosts help newcomers get used to living in Canada, accompanying them to the bank or the grocery store, mapping out important bus routes, helping their children enroll in school—sometimes even explaining popular but confusing sports, such as hockey and curling. Connections are made, friendships are formed, and meaningful conversations about life and spirituality often spring from the time spent together.

"Every day an important segment of my time is used to help people with their personal problems," says Elsa, the director of the project. "A special bond is created with each individual we help. There is no major satisfaction in my life than to know that I am an instrument in God's hands to help these people in a difficult transitional period of their lives."

New Home currently begins assisting immigrants when they reach Edmonton; however, thanks to an agreement signed between New Home and the former federal minister of foreign relations, Barbara McDougall, the organization was also instrumental in bringing 89 people, imperiled by life-threatening situations, to Canada.²

Team Effort

Obviously, all this work is not accomplished single-handedly. Since July 17, 1991, when New Home was officially incorporated as a nonprofit agency, the organization has grown to 41 employees and between 90 and 120 volunteers per year. Its yearly budget, more than \$750,000, is totally funded by the federal and provincial government.

New Home began in the basement of an Edmonton church, with 45 students taking English classes three nights a week. It soon outgrew that facility and moved to a school, and then to a high school. What started as a dream kept growing, and New Home is currently operating in modern facilities occupying two floors of the Hermitage Road Shopping Center in Edmonton, the capital city of Alberta.

As the Schulzes planned their work for Canadian immigrants, they read and acted upon the advice given by Ellen White: "There is a work to be done in foreign fields, but there is a work to be done in [North] America that is just as important. In the cities... there are people of almost every language. These need the light that

God has given to His Church."³

The Schulzes know that all immigrants are searching for a new life in a new land, but they also have helped many to set their sights on an even better land. "We don't have statistics on the number of New Home graduates or contacts who have been baptized into the Adventist

Church," states Schulz, "but we know of many families who have joined the family of God and indicated that they want to become citizens of heaven. It's thrilling to walk into an Adventist church and see, for example, a New Home graduate as the Sabbath school



FOUNDERS: New Home's "heart and soul" Elsa Schulz, and her husband, Victor, smile for the camera during the organization's 10-year anniversary celebration.



DOS TALK: New Home students, representing 73 countries, spend one hour per day in the state-of-the-art language lab, where they actually talk with the computers.

superintendent.”

On July 19, 2001, amid celebration and ceremony, many dignitaries and members of the media helped observe New Home’s tenth anniversary. The main speaker, the Honorable David Kilgour, secretary of state for Canada, noted that the founders and staff at New Home have spent 10 years “helping others through friendship and understanding.” The Canadian minister of human resources and employment spoke about the “outstanding work that this unusual organization is doing.”

Jean Chretien, the prime minister of Canada, sent congratulations and commented on the important role that New Home has played in Canadian life, “not only . . . ensuring that newcomers to Canada feel welcome in their adopted home, but also . . . preserving vital cultural links from generation to generation.” The governor general of Canada, the Honorable Adrienne Clarkson, added to the joyous celebration by writing that “newcomers often come to our shores to fulfill their dreams but they end up feeling like ‘a stranger in a strange land.’ But New Home has helped thousands of people to unravel the complexities of a new culture.”

Anne McLellan, the minister of health, referred to the “vision” that had founded New Home, and continued by saying, “I applaud you for showing the best in human spirit—its strength, its warmth, and its generosity.”

Strength, warmth, and generosity characterize New Home—its programs, its staff, and its reason for existence. Its classes, clinics, and services give immigrants the skills they need to become



PLAY TIME: In the child care, professionals take care of the children during the hour their parents are in classes. All these services are provided free at New Home in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

strong in a new culture. Its staff and volunteers, with their willingness to help, explain, and facilitate, warm the hearts of newcomers in a new—and sometimes cold—country. New Home was founded with the vision of helping others adjust to life in a new land and anticipate eternal life. This goal reflects God’s generous desire for all His children.

For more information about New

Home, please check the Web Page: newhome@newhomecentre.org. Or you may contact executive director Elsa Schulz at elsa@newhomecentre.org.

¹ Schulz conducted 62 major crusades in the U.S.A., Canada, and overseas countries, with more than 8,000 baptisms. Recently he was the speaker of a ‘NET satellite crusade targeting the Hispanics. Carried by five different satellites, the crusade covered 70 percent of the planet and an estimated 12,000-15,000 were baptized around the world as a result.

² The danger to these people’s lives is very real: in three unrelated cases, while papers were hurriedly processed, the potential immigrants were killed.

³ *Christian Service*, p. 199.

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