

September 2013

ADVENTIST WORLD



VIDA:

That's Life

*How life came to
Mario, Julieta, and
many more*

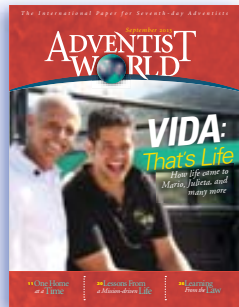
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ADVENTIST WORLD

September 2013



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On the cover: Jose Suazo (right) poses with Steven Gabiner, president of Outpost Centers International. The story about Jose's spiritual journey, and the mission he coordinates in El Suyatal, Honduras, begins on page 16.

Walking Into Joy

Some call them “divine appointments”—these seemingly random intersections of our lives with others heaven intends for us to know. In the midst of our haste and busyness, Jesus so orders lives that two of His disciples meet, discover each other’s faith, and thus increase the gladness of the kingdom.

Such moments are impossible to plan, nor often to explain, even with years of hindsight. No coincidence of calendar or strategic calculation could ever yield in what these godly friendships bring us. We marvel in amazement at all the joy and richness we might have missed if we hadn’t allowed these unplanned graces to occur. What if, we ask in holy fear, we hadn’t paused by that staircase to tie a shoelace or ask a question? What if we hadn’t yielded to the Spirit’s promptings and approached that stranger after church?

Five years ago I didn’t know that John* existed—or how much his prayers and counsel would enrich my life. His journey with Jesus has been so well matched to the needs of my own that I have frequently poured out my gratitude to God for the friendship only He could have appointed.

Five months ago I stopped before entering an elevator, caught in the Spirit’s grip for an extra 15 seconds or so—just long enough to meet David* at a ministry convention. Within the hour I learned to my amazement that he had been praying that we might be given a chance to talk, to share, to pray together as brothers in Christ. Today, across many miles, we do that via Skype or phone at least every other week.

As you read this month’s cover story, “VIDA: That’s Life,” you too will marvel at the divine appointments that brought salvation to so many. And like me, you may also bow your head and praise the hand that still guides us toward that rich, abundant life He promised to all who follow Him.

*not their real names



Bill Knott

WORLD REPORT

Adventists Ordain First Kyrgyzstani Pastor



Left: FIRST PASTOR: Talgat S. Kubegenov, on the platform with his wife, was ordained during a mission conference at the Tokmok Adventist Church in Chuy Province on June 14. He is the first Kyrgyzstani ordained as an Adventist pastor. **Right: LONGTIME SERVANT:** Kubegenov is a former police officer and has functioned as an Adventist pastor for many years.

■ A former police officer in the Central Asian nation of Kyrgyzstan has been ordained as the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s first native pastor.

Talgat S. Kubegenov was ordained during a mission conference at the Tokmok Adventist Church in Tokmok in Chuy Province on June 14.

Kubegenov, 39, has already been serving as a pastor of two churches and has worked as secretary-treasurer of the denomination’s Kyrgyzstan Mission since 2010.

Kubegenov is a graduate of the Academy of Home Affairs Ministry and joined the church in 2002. He was ordained a local church elder in 2005, and in 2008 the Adventist Church hired him as a Global Mission pioneer.

“It was heartwarming to see this small but successful step,” said Ben Schoun, an Adventist world church vice president, who attended the ceremony. “I’m aware that several countries in the region can be difficult for our church to work in, but God is helping us accomplish some very wonderful things.”

Kyrgyzstan, which shares a border with China, is a former Soviet republic. It became an independent country when the Soviet Union disbanded in 1991. Many citizens work in mining and agriculture. Its current population is roughly 5.5 million. A large majority of the population is Muslim, and many are also Russian Orthodox.

The Adventist message came to Central Asia through German missionary Philipp Trippel in 1906, said Denis Sand, director of

Continued on next page ▶

WORLD REPORT

Adventist Mission for the Southern Union Mission, based in Almaty, Kazakhstan. In 1915 the construction of the Orlovka Adventist Church became the denomination's first church in the region, then known as Turkestan. It had 50 members.

Adventists and other Christians faced heavy persecution during the reign of the Soviet Union, Sand said. Many members buried their Bibles each time after reading them.

Today the Adventist Church in Kyrgyzstan has nearly 800 members and operates the only elementary school in the Southern Union Mission.

The church in Kyrgyzstan employs Global Mission pioneers who work in the country. At this month's mission conference about a dozen Global Mission pioneers graduated from a training program, Schoun said. Earlier this month the church also opened a new Adventist World Radio studio in Bishkek, home to the Adventist Church's Kyrgyzstan Mission.

—Reported by Ansel Oliver, Adventist News Network

Inter-America: Church Celebrates Champion Lay Evangelists and Long-active Members

■ Top Seventh-day Adventist leaders of the Inter-American Division (IAD) honored champion lay evangelists as well as the longest-active members from across the territory during a special ceremony at the IAD headquarters office in Miami, Florida. Many executive committee members were present.

“Inter-America would not be Inter-America without its laypeople,”

LIBNA STEVENS/IAD



Left: MEMBER HONORED: Manuel Nuñez, champion layperson from west Venezuela, shows his awards after being honored at the Inter-American Division headquarters in Miami, Florida, May 25, 2013. Nuñez was among 22 outstanding laypersons recognized for their dedication and commitment in their respective church regions as Inter-America celebrates its Year of the Laity. **Right: YEARS OF SERVICE:** Lay evangelist Marva Farquaharson smiles after being awarded a special medal for being an outstanding active member for 36 years in the Atlantic Caribbean Union region based in the Bahamas.

said Pastor Israel Leito, president of the church in Inter-America. Leito expressed appreciation to the notable laypersons representing more than 1.5 million members across the territory watching the online streaming of the event.

“Your division appreciates you and the work that you do in the fulfillment of the mission of the church,” said Leito. “You’re an integral part of this church, and we thank you for partnering with our pastors together as teachers, professionals, nurses, doctors, and all who join to proclaim the gospel.”

Twenty-two outstanding laypersons from each of the IAD's church regions, or unions, were honored with a medal, trophy, evangelistic books, and funds to use towards their evangelistic endeavors.

The special event sealed a two-day leadership training summit, and was part of a busy schedule of Year of the Laity festivities.

Sergio Moctezuma, a retired personal ministries and Sabbath school director for the church in the IAD, was also recognized for shaping scores of laypersons for decades.

“The laity in Inter-America was formed by Pastor Moctezuma,” said Leito. “Because of his work and his wife allowing us to benefit from this giant of a leader, today we have one of the strongest lay forces around the world church.”

Marva Farquaharson was among the laypersons honored. She represents the Atlantic Caribbean Union territory comprised of the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, and Turks and Caicos.

For 36 years she has preached, trained, and shared Bible truths in New Providence and throughout dozens of islands in the Bahamas. When she's not working as the human resources director for the Public Hospital Authority in the Bahamas, she uses her vacation time and own funds to work with leaders at the South Bahamas Conference in church planting, community outreach projects, youth training, and reaching out to those in correctional facilities.

“The Lord puts elastic to my ministry,” said Farquaharson, when she refers to how her money stretches as she preaches. She has not kept record of all the individuals who have joined

the church through her evangelistic efforts, but it is in the several hundreds she believes.

She was the first Bahaman woman to be ordained as an elder back in 1985 and has been one outstanding lay leader among the 19,500 active laypeople in the region, bringing hundreds of new believers into the church, according to Dr. Leonard Johnson, president of the church in the Atlantic Caribbean Union.

With only four years of being a Seventh-day Adventist, Jose Puentes is all about letting God lead him in his ministry. He was among thousands of active laypeople to be chosen as the champion to represent north Colombia. A former policeman, Puentes, age 26, coordinates citywide ministry programs such as “Jesus the Great Hope,” where more than 100 young people travel on buses throughout the city of Medellin to pray for people, offer Bible studies, and distribute literature. Puentes also ministers to the indigenous people in the jungles of northern Colombia and was inspired to continue his service during the event.

“It was a great honor to be here, to witness the unity of our church leaders within the different cultures in Inter-America,” said Puentes.

In addition to the 22 outstanding laypeople in Inter-America, long-active Seventh-day Adventists throughout each church region were honored.

Hadassa Henry Johnson of Jamaica, age 101, was the longest-standing Seventh-day Adventist featured, with 91 years since she was baptized. Following was Consuelo Cummings of South Central America, age 102, with 90 years of being an active church members, and Eligio Rosado of Puerto Rico, age 105, with 89 years in the church. —Reported by Libna Stevens, *Inter-American Division*

Brazilian Adventist Students Join Global Entrepreneurship Challenge

■ Students at the 5,000-student campus of the Northeast Brazil College (known by its Portuguese acronym, FADBA) in the city of Cachoeira, Bahia State, Brazil, recently gained access to a global entrepreneurship challenge program.

Faculty contacted the headquarters of the Brazilian Enactus, the world’s largest social entrepreneurship program. Since July 2013 the team Enactus-FADBA was assembled and able to participate in events sponsored by the organization.

Present in more than 35 countries, and reaching over 120 other nations with their projects, Enactus promotes entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, following social projects related to university studies, conducted entirely by students and supervised by teachers.

Participating institutions create “teams” responsible for the projects. The teams are trained throughout the process, culminating in a national championship celebration where projects are presented.

The best project, judged by CEOs and executives of large national and

multinational companies, represents the country at the World Cup Enactus, which this year will be held in Cancún, Mexico.

Brazil currently has 30 teams. The most recent is the FADBA team, who was present, along with major universities of the country in the most recently Enactus National Championship, held in São Paulo on July 3-4.

Professor Fabio Bergamo, faculty advisor to the Enactus-FADBA team, and business administration student Taís Angels were invited to be observers of the event. There they had the opportunity to experience the exciting spirit of Enactus, a community that has more than 700 students in the country and more than 65,000 worldwide.

The Enactus-FADBA team has approximately 30 students, and they are defining their initial projects aimed at helping underserved communities of the Reconcavo Baiano area around Salvador, the Bahia state capital. —Reported by Adventist World staff

Web Site Explains Investigative Judgment

■ Students of Seventh-day Adventist doctrine have a new online resource aimed at increasing understanding of the investigative judgment. Called www.1844madesimple.org, the



BRAZILIAN STUDENT, PROFESSOR: Fabio Bergamo, FADBA faculty advisor to the Enactus-FADBA team, and business administration student Taís Angels at the 2013 Enactus Brazil finals in São Paulo.

WORLD REPORT

Web site presents video lectures and background material explaining the Adventist understanding of Daniel 8:14, explained by Clifford Goldstein, editor of the *Adult Bible Study Guide* and author of *1844 Made Simple*, published 25 years ago. While the book is difficult to find in print, the online site contains the essence of Goldstein's message.

"I show how the gospel is central to the judgment," Goldstein explained in a recent *Adventist Review* column. "I contend that the only way to fully appreciate the gospel is to understand it in light of judgment."

He added, "At the site you can watch the video online or download it, either as a whole or in sections. Besides the video, we have podcasts and resources for those who want to go deeper. Because the site is brand new, the podcasts and resources are scant, but we're going to add more."
—Reported by Adventist World staff



DANIEL EXPLAINED: Home page of www.1844madesimple.org, a Web site sponsored by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists containing Clifford Goldstein's lectures on a key element of Adventist teaching.

By ANSEL OLIVER, *Adventist News Network*,
reporting from Atteridgeville, Gauteng, South Africa

Stay committed to God, Carson tells Adventist youth

Renowned surgeon joins world church president at South Africa event

Renowned brain surgeon Dr. Ben Carson implored Seventh-day Adventist youth to exercise their willpower and remain committed to God in a series of three addresses to the Seventh-day Adventist Church's world youth conference.

Carson served for more than two and a half decades as chief of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, United States, and was a key presenter at Impact South Africa. The event attracted more than 3,100 Adventist youth and young adults from around the globe for two weeks of community service, workshops, and worship.

"God has given each one of us something that is extraordinarily special. It's called willpower. You don't have to give in," Carson said of things that can divert young people from realizing their full potential.

During the July 13, 2013, Sabbath

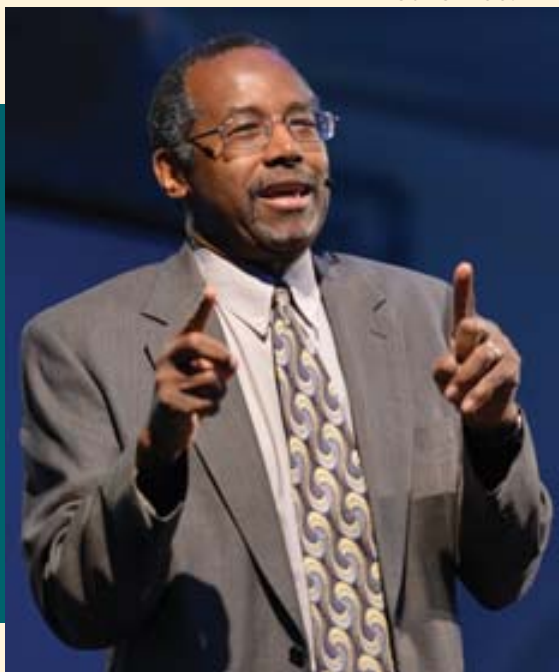
worship service Carson also recounted his experiences in becoming a neurosurgeon, as told in his book *Gifted Hands*. He credited God for allowing him to make an impact through his career, despite it turning out differently than his childhood ambition of becoming a missionary doctor.

"Never get too big for God, never deny God, no matter where He takes you, no matter what roles you're in," Carson said. "If you put Him first in your life, you will be extraordinarily successful."

In the audience, Argentinian Ezequiel Durán, 26, said Carson's speeches were some of the conference's highlights for him. "He is a good leader and example for young people. He dedicated his whole life to God. I like that."

Carson and other presenters spoke to an audience of more than 18,000—youth conference attendees and

DARYL GUNGADOO/ANN



ANSEL OLIVER/ANN

Left: DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER: Seventh-day Adventist Church member Dr. Ben Carson speaks at Impact South Africa, the Adventist Church's world youth conference in Pretoria on Friday, July 12, 2013. He invoked Romans 8:31—"If God is for us, who can be against us." **Right: SABBATH SERVICE:** Moeketsi Toka, a resident of Pretoria, South Africa, watches a Sabbath worship service at Lucas Masterpieces Moripe Stadium on Saturday, July 13, 2013. The large-scale service was held on the final day of Impact South Africa, the Adventist Church's world youth congress.

community members—at Lucas Masterpieces Moripe Stadium in this Pretoria suburb.

In a sermon, Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, similarly affirmed youth and urged them to continue carrying out the church's mission.

"We love you, and we're counting on you for the future," Wilson said. "Impact your city. Impact your country. My brothers and sisters, impact the world for Jesus Christ!"

Indeed, Shereen Rodney, 24, from the United Kingdom, said she came to the conference for the community service work that some 1,000 attendees gave during the conference's first week. In a stadium seat, she said, "We're looking to replicate some of these things when we go back home. It's going to be like a chain reaction."

Gilbert Cangy, director of the Adventist Church's Youth Ministries

and organizer of the conference, said the event successfully integrated youth from around the world as a family of faith.

"We truly embraced diversity at this event," Cangy said. "There was a place at this conference for everyone—from every country, from every culture."

Celina Sunder Singh, 20, from India, said the conference offered her the chance to meet new people in a supportive environment. "It's nice to know so many people who have the same faith as you, and learning a few words in every language was fun," she said. "My favorite was Spanish."

Following the morning service, dozens of attendees traveled throughout nearby neighborhoods to distribute 20,000 copies of the book *The Great Hope*. The book is an abbreviated version of Adventist Church cofounder Ellen G. White's touchstone book, *The Great Controversy*.

That evening, back at the conference's base at the Saint George Hotel and Convention Centre, a report was given from the final of the denomination's 13 world divisions. Each regional administration presented throughout the week, with colorful national garb and video reports.

Cangy also thanked his team of organizers, who helped coordinate everything from service projects and workshops to producing evening worship services that featured music and preaching by evangelist David Asscherick.

"By God's grace we're finishing well," Cangy said. "We give God all the glory, and we're grateful for His gracious spirit." ■

Adventist World associate editor Lael Caesar also attended the world youth congress in Pretoria. Read his blog dispatches online at <http://bit.ly/16Gx14u>.
—Editors

The images are familiar—three angels flying in the midst of heaven. We see them in beautiful paintings and colorful stained-glass windows, on church signs and evangelistic presentation slides. We can even discern a stylized version on the official Seventh-day Adventist Church logo.

Yet how well do we know these heaven-sent messages found in Revelation 14, and how comfortable are we in proclaiming them? Isn't there a more loving and more sensitive way to share our faith?

Certainly we are called to do the work of Jesus in showing compassion and providing relief for those in need. As we know, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"¹

Making the Message Accessible

We are called to show the world God's love, and part of that love is *compassionately* sharing complete Bible truth, not just the parts with which we are most comfortable. Making the astonishing, life-changing messages of truth and warning found in Revelation 14 accessible to everyone is one of the most loving and responsible things we can do—and it is not something we can do on our own. Ellen White wrote, "There are men and women everywhere whose hearts are susceptible of being inspired with the truth. If those who have a knowledge of the truth would now work in unison with the Spirit of God, we would see a great work accomplished."²

We are living in exciting yet seri-

ous times. Around the world, people sense something out of the ordinary taking place. Societal destruction through secularism, chaotic world politics, the instability and extensive greed of world economies, massive natural and human-made disasters plaguing the planet—all bring unrest and uncertainty. What better time to share the hope we have in the soon coming of Jesus and the urgent news found in Revelation 14?

Seventh-day Adventists "have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance."³ Given the crucial nature of these messages, how important it is to study them carefully and be ready to share them with a dying world.

First Message: Worship God

While the announcements of the first and second angel were first presented by the early Advent believers in the mid-1840s, they, along with the third angel's message, will be given

again near the end of time as God's final appeal to this world.⁴


The first message, found in Revelation 14:6, 7, proclaims Christ's wonderful everlasting gospel—salvation through Christ's righteousness and grace—His justifying and sanctifying power. The same angel announces that the time of judgment has come upon the world, and calls people back to the true worship of God, recognizing Him as their Creator. The announcement that we are living in the time of the judgment is based upon the fulfillment of the prophecy in Daniel 8:14—after 2,300 years the sanctuary would be cleansed. Since October 22, 1844, we have been living in the period of time known as the investigative or pre-Advent judgment—the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary.

The call to worship God as Creator automatically places upon all people the responsibility to observe the day that honors His creative act. A created being cannot honor His Creator while defying the command to keep Saturday, the Sabbath, the seventh day of the

By TED N. C. WILSON

Called *to* PROCLAIM

Messages of Life



week, holy. God Himself set this day aside as a memorial of His creation.

But there is more to recognizing and worshipping God as the Creator. There must be a willingness to reject false theories about the origin of life. It is impossible to believe in evolution and say that God is Creator of heaven and earth and all the life they contain. The two concepts are not incompatible. Evolution is essentially a false form of religion. Realistically, it involves more faith to believe in evolution than in creation. Evolution is not only a religion, but is a part of spiritualism, as “spiritualism teaches ‘that man is the creature of progression; that it is his destiny from his birth to progress, even to eternity, toward the Godhead.’”⁵ Spiritualism, in its many forms, will play a major role in the closing events of Earth’s history.

Second Message: Leave Babylon Behind

The second angel’s message, found in Revelation 14:8, announcing the fall of Babylon, was first presented in the summer of 1844. Because this announcement follows chronologically, in the prophecy of Revelation 14, the preaching of the judgment, and because the churches to which this message applies were once pure, Babylon here refers to churches that rejected the warning of the judgment. The second message, “Babylon is fallen,” is so important that it is repeated in Revelation 18:1-4. God’s people who are still in Babylon are called out so they will not be guilty of participating in her sins and will not receive her plagues. Therefore, Babylon is constituted by churches that teach the theological errors passed down through the church of the medieval era.

Although the fall of Babylon began in the summer of 1844, it is a gradual

process and will not be complete until the following two conditions exist: (1) the churches reject the three messages of Revelation 14 and accept the strong delusions and lying wonders presented by Satan, and (2) the apostate churches are fully united with the world, accepting and believing what the world accepts and teaches.⁶

For God’s people who are still in Babylon to understand the urgency of getting out, they must understand the sins and errors of Babylon. This puts a tremendous responsibility upon God’s remnant people, identified in Revelation 12:17, who “keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

The preaching of the three angels’ messages will be met by intense anger and fierce opposition for exposing Babylon for what it is, even though it is done with Christian love and biblical authenticity.

Third Message: Be Faithful

The third angel’s message in Revelation 14:9-11, contains a clear warning: don’t worship the beast, his image, or receive its mark. Doing so will result in annihilation. This message is based on the prophecy of Revelation 13. The beast represents the apostate church. The second prophetic animal in chapter 13, which represents the United States of America, makes an image to this beast.

Although the U.S.A. has been known as a land of religious freedom, according to Bible prophecy a time is coming when that religious freedom will be reduced and religious forces will so control the government that laws will be passed fulfilling the wishes of apostate Christianity. The end result is intolerance toward anyone who disagrees with what this church/state relationship demands. While this scenario might seem unlikely with the rapid rise of secularism around the world, we can know with absolute certainty that this

prophecy will be fulfilled, just as previous prophecies in the Bible have been fulfilled *exactly* as predicted.

The mark of the beast—observance of a day other than the seventh-day Sabbath—is an institution that clearly sets forth the authority of the beast. One church boldly boasts that it has changed the seventh-day Sabbath instituted at Creation from Saturday to Sunday. Other churches indicate that they worship on Sunday as a memorial of Christ’s resurrection. Neither assertion has biblical foundation or merit. As a result, the recognition due the Creator is removed.

Results of Apostasy

Several events will contribute to the United States forming an image to the beast, demanding that the government enact a law requiring everyone to observe Sunday as the Sabbath, and given the superpower role of the United States, the international impact of this change will be enormous. The first event is severe moral decline in society. The second is frequent natural and human-made disasters, along with financial trouble. The third factor is the pressure brought on the government by religious leaders, who will blame true Sabbathkeepers for causing the crisis.

Apostate religious leaders will not be able to refute scriptural evidence for the sacredness of Saturday, and this will fill them with anger. As a result, Sabbathkeepers will be persecuted and imprisoned. Amid all these events, the proclamation of the third angel’s message will have an effect that has not been seen before. People will see that prophecy is being fulfilled exactly as stated.

The formation of the image of the beast and the enactment of the Sunday law will be enforced upon the entire world by the lamblike beast of Revelation 13, and will lead to national and international ruin.

Faithful to the End

Those who have accepted Jesus and His messages given by the three angels of Revelation 14 will hold fast to their Savior, refusing to abandon these vital truths. They will realize they must perform their duty in presenting these messages and they leave the results with God. They will have “faces lighted up” that will “hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. . . . Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. . . . Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand. The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. . . . The rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. . . . Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord’s side.”⁷

I urge you to study prayerfully the three angels’ messages found in the fourteenth chapter of the “Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to Him to show His servants . . . things which must shortly take place” (Rev. 1:1). ■

¹ Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1905), p. 143.

² Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1948), vol. 3, p. 64.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 9, p. 19.

⁴ Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1911), p. 604.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 554.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 390.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 612.



Ted N. C. Wilson is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



A One-Day Church

Three Men on a Roof

When you join Maranatha Volunteers International on a church- or school-building mission project, you always find assistance from a team of local Maranatha employees. Some of the workers—like these “three men on a roof” at Valley View University, a large Seventh-day Adventist school in Ghana—are from the country where the construction is taking place. Other members of the Maranatha crew may include workers from Ecuador, Panama, Mozambique, India, and other countries.



DICK DUERKSEN

WORKING TOGETHER: Teamwork is an essential part of this, and other, One-Day Church/School projects.

Maranatha is in the business of people building. These “three men on a roof”—along with all the other workers from other countries—guarantee the accomplishment of Maranatha’s mission: “We build people through the construction of urgently needed buildings.” The workers usually start with little or no construction experience, and eventually become building project supervisors.

Most of the primary and secondary school buildings on the campus of Valley View University in Ghana are One-Day structures, fabricated in Dodge Center, Minnesota, loaded into containers, trucked to an East Coast port, then added to the cargo of a container ship headed for Accra, where local Maranatha and Adventist Church leaders negotiate the maze of customs requirements and deliver the containers to the construction site.

Valley View University has thousands of students. However, until March of 2013, it did not have local primary and secondary schools to care for staff children and to serve as a “feeder system” for the university.

That is rapidly changing. Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of donors, the “three men on a roof” have worked with scores of international volunteers, and have completed the first 20 of more than 40 One-Day School buildings.

After all, “building people for the kingdom” is the only purpose of One-Day buildings.

Maranatha Volunteers International is coordinating another mission trip to Valley View University in January 2014. For more information or to register, visit www.maranatha.org.

The One-Day Church program is a collaborative effort between the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI), and Maranatha Volunteers International. These stories come from Maranatha storyteller Dick Duerksen.



One Home at a Time

Restoring the meaning of family through ministry

Adventist Family Ministry Leaders

The mission of Adventist family ministries is grounded in restoring the importance of unity while emphasizing the biblical teachings that relate to the gift of family. Under the leadership of Willie and Elaine Oliver, General Conference directors of the Family Ministries Department, hundreds of unions, conferences, and churches are coming together to strengthen families. Below are three stories of how the work of Adventist family ministries is reaching out and touching lives around the world.

The Prayers of the Righteous

As told to EUGENE and IRENE CRUZ

Despite one very important difference between them, Romy and Bing Manalasan appeared to be happy in their marriage. Bing was a Seventh-day Adventist and Romy a member of another Christian denomination. From the outside it looked as though their religious differences didn't have much of an affect on their relationship, but Bing was dissatisfied that she and her husband were not of the same faith. She prayed for Romy, knowing that he could be converted only through the

COURTESY OF THE FAMILY



THE MANALASANS:
Romy and Bing

working of the Holy Spirit. She held on to the hope that one day her husband would worship with her.

Family Ministries in Action

In February 2004 Romy and Bing were invited to the annual weekend retreat put on by Christian Couples' Circle (CCC) of the Pasay Adventist Church, in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, through the division's Adventist Family Ministries Department. During the retreat Romy was impressed by the warmth and camara-

derie of couples who encouraged one another in their walks with Christ.

Touched by their experiences at the retreat, Romy and Bing were inspired to start a CCC chapter in their hometown. Despite his involvement with CCC, however, Romy still hadn't fully surrendered to the Lord.

When Romy finally retired from his job, Bing hoped that he would be baptized. Romy's job required him to work on Sabbaths; now nothing hindered him from keeping the seventh day holy. But Romy started a business that required work every Sabbath.

A Turning Point in Korea

While on vacation in Korea, Romy, Bing, and their daughter decided to worship at the nearest Adventist church. At one of the many transfers necessary to get to church, the door of the train suddenly closed, separating Romy from his wife and daughter. He had no passport, no money or mobile phone, and worst of all, he didn't know a single Korean word.

Terrified of getting lost in a foreign country, Romy talked to God, pouring out his fears and worries. Just as he ended his prayer, he saw his wife and daughter get off a train. Romy knew the Lord had answered his prayer.

Moving to Full Surrender

During the 2012 Pasay CCC retreat Romy shared in a group discussion the concern that was keeping him from a full commitment to the Lord—closing his business on Saturdays. One of the pastors told about a man in Guam who had closed his business on Sabbath, and how the Lord had blessed him with even more business.

Returning home, Romy met with his staff and explained that the shop would be closed during Sabbath hours. Romy expected a negative reaction from his staff, and worried that he would lose them—or even some clients. But the Lord blessed Romy's shop.

His cliental increased, so much so that Romy had to hire more employees and move his business to a bigger location.

A few months later the church Romy and Bing attended held evangelistic meetings. After years of being undecided, Romy publicly dedicated his life to the Lord through baptism in June

2012. Romy's conversion was met with love and support from his family and friends. Bing's years of prayer, patience, and witness had finally borne fruit. ■

Eugene and Irene Cruz are former presidents of the Pasay Adventist Church chapter of the Christian Couples Circle.

his church confirmation ceremony. At first he wasn't interested in participating in the studies his parents were taking. During their Bible studies, however, Hannes would leave his bedroom door open slightly, curious about what was being taught.

Changing Behavior

What he heard raised a lot of questions, and Hannes needed answers. He visited his confirmation teacher, but found the man's answers incomplete and dissatisfying. Both Hannes and his parents decided that the Adventist Church was closest to the teachings they had learned from the Bible.

At first Hans and Anita's youngest son, Michael, seemed happy to go along with his family's newfound faith. He attended Sabbath services and participated in the children's programs. Then, at the age of 16, Michael decided he was no longer interested in church life. His parents wanted him to continue

God's Way By RAIMUND FUCHS With a Family

When Hans Fleischhacker was 17, the last thing he had an interest in was Christianity. His mother, who was a Christian, often urged him to go to church with her, but his response was always the same: "I can sleep more comfortably at home than I could in a church pew." But when Hans grew older, he began dating a young woman named Anita, who was serious about her Christian faith. Being with her changed his views about God, and he found himself believing the same things she did. The pair married and were blessed with two sons.

Bible wrong, however, she discovered that Adventism seemed to hold closer to the truths of the Bible than what she'd previously learned.

While his parents were learning about Adventism, Hannes, Hans and Anita's oldest son, was preparing for

An Introduction to Adventism

As their children grew older, Hans and Anita became acquainted with a Seventh-day Adventist couple. Through this friendship they saw life and the world from a different perspective. They wanted to know more, and soon began taking Bible studies with their new friends. Anita nearly quit the studies at one point because she so strongly believed in what she'd been taught through her own Christian faith. In her search to prove the

COURTESY OF THE FAMILY

Below: PROUD GRANDPARENTS: Hans and Anita with their grandson. **Right: FATHER AND SONS:** Hans with his two sons, Michael (left) and Hannes.



attending, so he reluctantly agreed. But he took every opportunity to provoke those who shared his parents' beliefs.

As they saw Michael's behavior spiral out of control, Michael's parents prayed for him, hoping God would intervene. One day, out of ideas for how to reach their son, Hans and Anita sat Michael down and said, "You may go wherever you want, and do whatever you please; we will no longer force you to do anything you don't want to do."

With tears in his eyes Michael said, "I can't do that! You have taught me right from wrong by your words and examples. I simply cannot continue to live this way."

The Final Victory

Jesus gained the victory in Michael's life. He made a decision for Christ and was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Today Hans, Anita, and their sons are faithful Adventists, engaged in committed ministry to families and youth.

Parents, never give up on your children. Your example and your patience could make all the difference in their lives. ■

Raimund Fuchs was serving as director of family ministries in the Austrian Union when he wrote this story.



THE STEPANEKS: Maike, Brian, and their two sons

Rekindling *the* Flame

By MAIKE STEPANEK

Not long after our picture-perfect wedding, my husband and I found ourselves becoming more unhappy in our marriage. For years I felt rejected by Brian's lack of interest in me, while he felt disrespected and at times shunned. This left us feeling helpless, ready to give up and move on. But as we discovered, God always provides a lifeline for even the most hopeless situations.

The Healing Begins

Sally Lam-Phoon, family ministries director for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, and her husband, Chek Yat, came to the Ilsan English church in Goyang City, South Korea, and held marriage enrichment programs. They introduced us to the

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), a questionnaire designed to help people understand how we perceive the world and those around us. Through six sessions of marriage counseling, my husband and I began to understand each other on a deeper level and how to communicate and accept each other's differences.

I learned that Brian is an introvert, while I am an extrovert. We both learned that extroverts and introverts exist on different social planes. While I know no stranger, Brian is more hesitant about whom he socializes with. He tends to keep his thoughts to himself, while I verbalize almost every new thought that pops into my head. Understanding these differences, and that they both have their positives and negatives,

helped us rediscover each other. We learned how to better work together in our marriage. The flame was rekindled.

Working Through the Changes

Everything changed again when we had children. More stress was added to our relationship when we moved to another country so that Brian could become a full-time student. In a haze of sleep deprivation and financial troubles, we were back where we started—our marriage hanging in the balance. We had no energy or time for devotions, which had us facing the same problems as before but with greater ferocity. We pretended to be happy, focusing all our energies on the kids, but we neglected our marriage.

Despite our carelessness, God proved to be always one step ahead. He helped us to see that we had to be honest with Him, with our family, and with those around us. We are so grateful for the tools we have been given to help rebuild our marriage. The flame is burning once again. ■

Maike Stepanek writes from Thailand, where Brian continues his studies at Asia-Pacific International University.

By DANIELA GELBRICH

REFLECTING *the* Original

Discovering the power of Christ in our daily lives

We are put off by those whose lives contradict their theories or beliefs, and we are repelled by professed Christians who take advantage of people's trust. Though humans cannot be an example of perfection, in a broken world we are desperately in need of people who demonstrate in real-life values that are intimately linked with God and His kingdom.

Freedom From Self

We live in a world of rapid change, where values are created and dropped according to the whims of convenience or human philosophy. As Seventh-day-Adventists we are destined to lead others to an encounter with the ever-existing God. In fact, we are called to be living examples of the power of a loving God who desires to redeem us from evil. Despite this, reality catches up with us. As fallen people, separated from God, we behave according to our brokenness. We feel the void, triggered by the existence of

evil in our hearts, and search for a meaningful life. Often our number-one priority is "I," and we are ready to defend our interests at any cost. We are self-centered.

Somewhere beyond Eden, we have to find redemption. We need healing from the wound evil has inflicted on us. As Christians, however, we can look beyond the limits of human brokenness. We see God's unique plan to restore broken humanity to its true dignity. As Christians we believe in a God who liberates us from evil, who brings us into His covenant, and enables us to adore Him as the only true God—He provides the remedy for our existential problems. That is why, relying completely upon God's grace, we are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with the values of heaven. Indeed, redemption and Christian behavior go hand in hand. The reality of redemption implies a profound character change and freedom from the bondage of selfishness. Humanity

is destined to be holy as God is holy, on all levels of human existence (Lev. 11:44; 19:2; 20:26; 1 Peter 1:6).

The Image of the Invisible God

We were created in the image of God. Therefore, God sent His Son, who "is the image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15), thus revealing the meaning and content of true human dignity. How did the Son of God, who is the image of the invisible God, relate to human beings trapped in self-righteousness and self-deception? How did He point humanity to a greater and more worthy cause? The answer is simple: *He lived*. He revealed His Father in His daily life, He shared, and He was only dependent on the Father. Jesus did not entrust Himself to human beings, for He knew their brokenness (John 2:24, 25). Nonetheless, He was close to humanity, acquainted with their woes and trials. He put His trust solely in His Father. He did not define Himself in the light of other people's opinion.

He was grounded in God, living in constant connection with His heavenly Father and exhibiting the values of God's government in His life. In fact, His life showed that authentic faith reveals itself in all the aspects of human existence. Jesus showed no favoritism, but instead considered everyone as equally valuable. Indeed, He "was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd" (Mark 6:34). He cared deeply, He was involved, and He did not drive away those who came to Him (John 6:37). He was free to love unconditionally, remaining a true friend despite being forsaken, denied, and rejected. He loved human beings without ever condoning evil or the slightest expression of injustice. His love was not blind but real.

He was humanity's humble servant, choosing to serve freely without ever becoming their slave or sport. "When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he

entrusted himself to him who judges justly" (1 Peter 2:23, NIV).^{*} His personal life was not His supreme value, but instead He lived exclusively for God. It was more important to Him to live up to His Father's values and reveal His Father's heart than to stand up for His rights. His words and actions coincided. As the ambassador of heaven, where true love and justice reigned supreme, He meant what He said and said what was true (Matt. 5:21-26).

Our Destiny

As Christians we profess to follow Jesus and therefore belong to God. We have been redeemed for a life that is designed after God's values. God's character is our point of reference for true love and maturity. We know that it takes courage to swim against the tide and to renounce the alluring pleasures of sin. As we are confronted with our brokenness, we admit that we are in desperate need of a redeeming and sin-pardoning God. He enables us to

lead a life reflecting Christ's character. In order to do so, we need a close walk with Christ. We also need to spend time to reflect on God and who He really is. We must be willing to question ourselves and have a biblically informed sensitivity to what is in harmony with God and what is not. We should depend on the God of Israel and His unfailing Word because this enables us to seize the beauty and freedom of a life centered in Christ. Christian behavior is intricately linked to a character shaped in God, illuminating all aspects of human life. This is what our broken world needs. ■

* Scripture quotations credited to NIV are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



Daniela Gelbrich, Ph.D., is professor of Old Testament at Friedensau Adventist University in Germany.

CHRISTIAN Behavior

We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with the principles of heaven. For the Spirit to recreate in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things which will produce Christlike purity, health, and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty. While recognizing cultural differences, our dress is to be simple, modest, and neat, befitting those whose true beauty does not consist of outward adornment but in the

imperishable ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit. It also means that because our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, we are to care for them intelligently. Along with adequate exercise and rest, we are to adopt the most healthful diet possible and abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures. Since alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies, we are to abstain from them as well. Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholesomeness, joy, and goodness. (Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 John 2:6; Eph. 5:1-21; Phil. 4:8; 2 Cor. 10:5; 6:14-7:1; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 10:31; Lev. 11:1-47; 3 John 2.)

Mario and Julieta Suazo were in tears. Their darling José was leaving home. It would be the first time in his 14 years that they would be separated from each other. José was going to America. They couldn't know then, but it was the beginning of a brand-new life.

Training a Missionary

Mario and Julieta had raised their son the best they knew. Julieta still remembers the prayer José and his brother, Mario junior, prayed every morning for years before getting out of the car for school: “In Jesus’ name I declare that I am a man after God’s own heart and a servant of the Most High God.” José’s love for God shone through in his leadership among his peers at school and in church. He was ever sensitive to the needs of

others. Julieta says, “It was not hard for me to see that he had a calling from God.”

Church was not José’s only love. He loved his dad and the country farm. He loved everybody and all of life—science, space, architecture, sports (especially soccer), riding horses, and swimming. Drawing, design, painting, animals, and computers engaged his fertile, youthful mind.

Julieta always believed that her son’s life would be a wonderful testimony for God.

Hurricane Changes

José’s aunt Elva and uncle Ignacio Bautista are ardent Evangelical missionaries. They own and operate Camp Betel, an interdenominational camp located in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. The campsite hosts a

ministry school where many pastors are trained.

But one day a very different missionary group arrived at that campground. Hurricane Mitch had just decimated the country. Nothing like Mitch had been known in the region since Hurricane San Calixto in 1780.¹ For Honduras alone, its toll was more than 5,600 dead, more than 8,000 others missing, and approximately US\$3.8 billion in economic damage, undoing 50 years of progress, according to Honduran president Carlos Flores Facussé.²

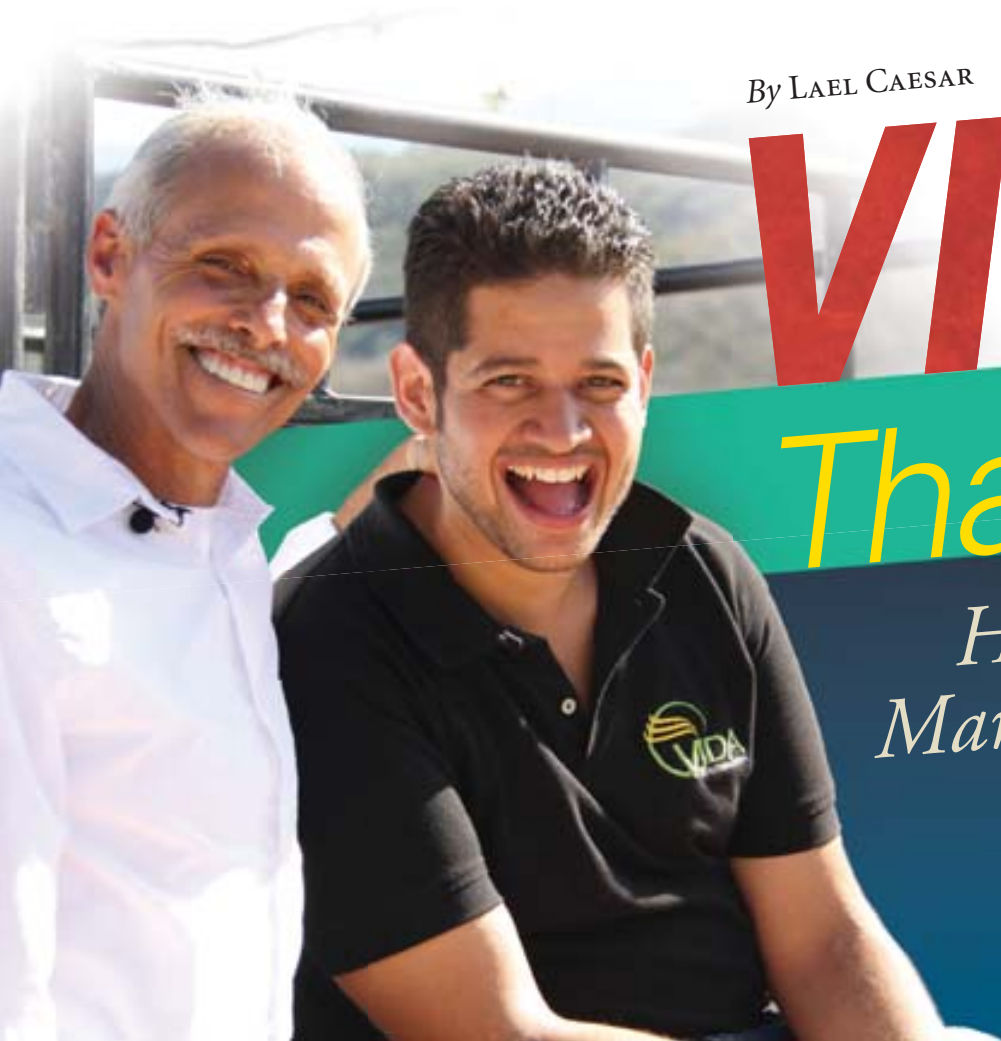
The missionaries were students from Laurelbrook Academy in Dayton, Tennessee (USA) who had come to help after the hurricane. Elva took them in because they had nowhere else to stay. The longer they stayed, the more they fascinated her. She had

By LAEL CAESAR

VIDA:

That's Life

How life came to Mario, Julieta, and many more



never seen young people both that hardworking and that spiritual. As they helped her in the kitchen, they told her all about Laurelbrook Academy. Elizabeth, Elva's daughter, explains: "My mother saw young people who were not afraid to say that they loved God."

So captivated was Elva that she asked Elizabeth if she'd like to attend Laurelbrook. "I never thought my mother would let me go out on my own. It was amazing!" Elizabeth explained. But in 2001 her high school freshman year found her at Laurelbrook.

More Changes

Aunt Elva kept recruiting for Laurelbrook. She began trying to convince José's parents about the school. "My sister spoke so highly of that school," Julieta says. "She gave me a leaflet that explained its philosophy. I realized that Laurelbrook's priority was spiritual." She thought of sending José. He was two years from graduating from high school—a school he and his friends had attended since they were 5. Yet, somehow, she and Mario both knew that this would be the best decision for José's life.

Knowing that didn't make their parting any easier. "I made a deal with Julieta not to cry when José left," Mario said. "But on the day he left, we both burst into tears." José remembers his mom's advice about his new school: "Don't argue with those crazy Adventists; they're not bad people. They believe in the Sabbath, but you know the truth. Take advantage of the situation."

José and Mario enjoyed their last father-and-son trip for a while, like those nostalgic times he had accompanied his dad out to the country farm. Mario's visit to Laurelbrook left quite an impression on his open and secular mind. He said, "When I returned [to Honduras], I was sure that José was in very good hands."

Missionary José

For José, arrival at Laurelbrook meant he could do some evangelizing of his own.

"I asked a lot of questions. Boys' dean Rick Carr heard about it, so he invited me to Bible studies. I believed I could straighten them out through the Bible." José began taking the studies. He learned more than he had thought possible, and made a life-

changing decision for God's truth. It was the spirit of total commitment to God that he had learned from his mother, the life she had been preparing him to live. So when dean Stephen Conway insisted, "If you believe, get baptized," José knew he had to. Cousin Elizabeth became one of his first converts. "As soon as he learned the truth he accepted it," she says. "I admired this. He influenced me a lot in my decision because he spoke plainly to me and rebuked my wrong ways."

"I didn't want to tell my parents until I was baptized," José remembers. "When I did, my mom started crying. Then she said, 'I believe God took you there to teach you these things—come back and teach us.'" Her earnest words were more prophetic than she could have imagined. Life was changing for the entire family.

Off to Europe

During his last year at Laurelbrook, José's horizons dramatically expanded when Eddie Ramirez, a recruiter from the European Bible School (EBS) in Norway visited Laurelbrook. "The Lord made it possible



Above: IT STARTED HERE: Students from Laurelbrook Academy in Tennessee, helping with hurricane relief in Honduras, started a chain of events that led to the founding of VIDA. **Right:** TRAINING MISSIONARIES: The Central American Bible Institute (Instituto Biblico Centroamericano [IBC]) offers a 10-month course in personal evangelism.





Above: TALENT SCOUT: Director of public relations, Naomi Jackson, uses her musical talents to raise VIDA's profile in the United States. **Right:** PRACTICAL TRAINING: Students of the Central-American Bible Institute practice their skills by meeting people.

for me to spend two years in Norway as a student and a staff member,” José explained. As he trained and worked he thought of home. “I started thinking of my father’s land in the village of El Suyatal. It was far from the city and yet near enough. I started dreaming of emulating the Norway experience in Honduras,” José recalled. He was thinking of another school of ministry for Honduras.

Mario remembers José’s phone calls home that discussed his love for Norway and his ideas for starting something similar back home. “From the beginning of his stay in Norway, he told us about his idea of starting a project in El Suyatal. We decided to support him in everything.”

“My mom wanted me to do graduate work, but I wanted a place like EBS—a Central American Bible school. My dad said, ‘José, God gave you these experiences. God has given me all I have so you can start this. My gifts are no coincidence.’”

So it was that in 2006, back in Honduras studying technical engineering, 19-year-old José used the gift of a six-acre guava plantation from his dad to

launch VIDA for God. Julieta was on board: “We understood why the Lord had led his father, 15 years ago, to buy some land in Suyatal. God had been planning the project that was later born in José’s mind and heart.”

New Life in El Suyatal

Before VIDA there were no Adventists in El Suyatal’s population of about 5,000. But with helpers from EBS and Laurelbrook, José held evangelistic meetings in the area as his ministry project began to take root and grow. People welcomed the preaching. Some denounced their established religious leaders: “You have been teaching us lies,” one individual cried out. Trinito, an elderly citizen, was the first to be baptized in the little creek that runs through the property. As the examining pastor asked if he was in agreement with all the doctrines, Trinito responded, “Of course, Pastor, I believe these things; if I didn’t, I wouldn’t be here to be baptized.” Coming out of the water, he announced: “I can die in peace because I’ve met Jesus.” José overflowed with joy as his dad also gave his

heart to the Lord, as he had earlier given his land. Now he and his son would work together in every sense of the term, fulfilling God’s great commission in their part of the world.

Julieta is following closely. She loves the health message and believes that Ellen White was God’s prophet. She says, “My husband has been involved in virtually everything! I’m behind them, supporting them in prayer and in all that I can.”

VIDA Works

VIDA, the missionary enterprise that began at El Suyatal in 2006, is an acronym that spells “life” and stands for Vision Integral para el Desarrollo Asistencial—An Integrated Vision for Helpful Development. As much as anything else, VIDA integrates the peoples of the world: Heike Olschewski, head of its Health and Lifestyle division, is a seasoned health practitioner from Germany with 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector. Eliazar Moro, of Belize, José’s Laurelbrook and EBS classmate, manages finances. Director of evangelism is Erick Montenegro Oreamuno, of



Above: BILINGUAL EDUCATION: The Campos Blancos educational center offers a quality education in both Spanish and English. **Right: SIMPLE TRUTHS:** Erick Montenegro Oreamuno, VIDA's director of evangelism, sharpens his Bible study skills.

Costa Rica. New Englander Joseph Nally came to VIDA as a trained vegan chef and now directs the Central-American Bible Institute. Manuela Fankhauser, of Switzerland, directs the Campos Blancos bilingual school that started with two students and now has 35. A second American, Naomi Jackson, director of public relations, is a trained musician who dedicates several weeks each year to promoting the organization through her music in the United States.

"Two months is the average stay for visitors and volunteers," José explains, of VIDA's missionary training program, but it ranges from two weeks to four months. Bible school and other students go through a 10-month training program, with four hours each of classes and practical work per day. The time that VIDA's international team invests in their own growth and the project's steady development includes captivating early-morning hikes into the hills around for daily personal devotions.

Naomi Jackson explains the project's early going: "EBS participated in three mission trips, each two months

long, from 2007 to 2009. . . . Marta and Werner Rusch, then the directors of EBS, have always supported VIDA and continue to visit and serve on annual mission trips." Other supporters include the Skotselv Seventh-day Adventist Church, which was the EBS local church, the Heartgood Foundation, the Matteson Mission School—also of Norway—and missionary-minded individuals from several countries.

"We thank God for each and every one of those missionaries who are giving everything to God for this project," José says. Without them, the ministry would not be the same. God bless each of them!"

Passion for a Finished Work

VIDA's youthful leaders understand that they, and all they possess, belongs to God and His work. As Mario admits: "It fills me with consternation to hear my son say, 'Papito, nothing of all you call your own is really yours. It's all God's.'" But José preaches only what he himself lives and believes. The total commitment he learned in childhood, from an hon-

est, hardworking dad and earnest, missionary mother, aunt, and uncle, are seen in daily work on campus, health visits into the surrounding community, Bible studies and evangelistic initiatives in the homes of El Suyatal, and every prayer-saturated executive committee planning session. And because everything VIDA has and is has been given over to God's use, God has seen fit to bless. People are in awe of their health work. Materially speaking, VIDA began with one adobe building worth about \$5,000. The physical plant is now worth almost \$400,000.³

VIDA runs on passion for a finished work. "God doesn't need our talents or our resources," José insists; "He needs our weakness that gives him an opportunity to do His work. God has done so here using young people to do great things. More laity needs to join the ministry. When the laity rally to work with ministers, the work will be finished."

Mario and Julieta look forward to that day, a day of glorious, eternal life. But already they are reaping in joy. ■

¹ www.gobierno.pr/NR/rdonlyres/49EA64D0-305B-4881-8B85-04B518004BD5/0/Ciclones_en_PR.pdf.

² www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/reports/mitch/mitch.html.

³ Tax-deductible contributions to support VIDA Internacional may be made through Outpost Centers International (OCI), 5132 Layton Lane Apison, Tennessee 37302; info@outpostcenters.org.



Lael Caesar is an associate editor of *Adventist World* who received new inspiration for ministry

while teaching at VIDA.



Studying in Seventh-day Adventist schools demands a huge amount of effort and sacrifice. In fact, some people cite this fact when trying to excuse their indifference toward Christian education. Unfortunately, we share this challenge in the Inter-American Division.

Is the investment and effort by the church, the parents, and every student to study in a Seventh-day Adventist school worth it? Is there actually a difference between a young person studying at a Seventh-day Adventist school and someone who does not enjoy that privilege?

Well, life itself has provided me with an answer. At the same time, I have learned two great lessons that I will p illustrate by means of a life story. Indeed, the following testimony provides a glimpse into what mission-driven education in Inter-America's Adventist universities is accomplishing for their students.¹ Rightly applied, these lessons are closely related to the fulfillment of God's mission for His church.

Do Not Let Your Past Stop You

The eldest of eight brothers, Pablo Sáenz—or “Pablito,” as friends affectionately call him—began his life in a singular way. He was literally born into the hands of an uncle, since he arrived so suddenly that there was no time to call a midwife, even his father.

When Pablito was just 4, the exposure of long walks in torrential rain in Chiapas, southern Mexico, left him with a bad case of bronchitis. Throughout his childhood he suffered the weakening effects of that infection. In spite of it all, by 12 he had become a lay preacher who, regardless of distance, embarked on the mission of preaching in the many churches of the area.

This mission made young Pablo realize the importance of music in church. He decided to learn how to play the guitar. As he developed his musical talent, he made the most of it by praising God and sharing His Word. Pablo eventually recorded two albums, including some songs he composed himself.

It was the time he spent in Seventh-day Adventist schools, however, that left the most indelible mark on his life. Thanks to Adventist education, Pablo's life, he admits, is today both different and truly meaningful. Here are two lessons that, in addition to his studies, Pablito has learned thanks to Seventh-day Adventist higher education.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PABLO SAENZ

Lessons From a Mission-driven Life

Adventism in the Inter-American Division

By ALEJO AGUILAR

Learn to Value God's Plans For You

"If I had not left my home with the goal of getting an education in the Seventh-day Adventist school," Pablo admits, "I would now be working in the beanfields and cornfields, and picking up *cacatés* [a sort of breadnut fruit common in the mountain regions of southern Mexico]."

The Lord, however, had other plans for him, which were definitely beyond Pablo's own expectations. Just one year before he had to decide about going to college, Pablo began working as a colporteur. Consistent with God's plan for his life, this service activity motivated him to decide to attend Linda Vista University in southern Mexico.

Attending a Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher learning was a dream come true, a joy that, when looking backward, however, produced mixed feelings in Pablo. On one hand, remembering the multiple setbacks he experienced in getting there left him with an aftertaste of sadness and nostalgia. On the other hand, he began to enjoy his current situation, as he got an ever-clearer picture of the promising future awaiting him on God's side. Pablo felt his God was a God who had not only helped him to get where he was, but also Someone who would assist him in making his greatest dream come true—eventually make it to his heavenly home. There is no doubt that God's plans for us are the best!

Learn to Depend on God More

"During my stay at Linda Vista University," Pablo recalls, "I had to work with cattle on the farm, and also as an assistant blacksmith and carpenter. I was able to accomplish all this, however, because God made most of my health issues disappear a few months after I got to school."

Depending on God taught Pablo that getting involved in the Lord's plans not only helped him to master his health issues, but also to make him aware of anything else that might move him away from God's plans for his life.

Pablo also learned to trust God when he set out to get financial resources to pay for his studies. His father had always opposed his son's decision to study theology, and made it clear that he would not pay for his tuition. But not even this significant setback prevented Pablo from studying. He is now completing his theology degree at Navojoa University, another of the Inter-American Division's esteemed academic institutions, this one in northwestern Mexico.

"Life is too short," Pablo states. "Every minute is a privilege, and we must make the most of it for the sake of God and humanity. We should never forget to depend on the Lord's help. This is something that I learned only after attending an Adventist school.

"I do not say this because I have the privilege of studying at an Adventist university. But I thank God for helping me obtain that education, and I feel He has enabled me to be a persuasive preacher. I know that God has definite plans for my life. The time spent at Seventh-day Adventist schools has helped me to better understand and value those plans as I strive to acquire the tools I need for effectively accomplishing those divine plans in the future."

The Work of Redemption

One of the priorities and ultimate goals in our schools is to foster a spirit of service and a deeper longing for eternity. We also understand that to educate is to redeem, and that God has specifically entrusted us with the task of working toward the redemption of souls. We must keep asking for His help to wisely carry out such a solemn responsibility.

There is still a lot to accomplish in order to fulfill our mission in the Inter-American Division. We wish to commend and thank all those who, as God's plans for their lives were unfolding, made the commitment to follow through in spite of every setback and roadblock. The testimonies of their bravery renews our own courage to keep believing and accomplishing the mission that our Great Master has entrusted to us!² ■

¹ The Inter-American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church operates 14 universities. In those classrooms, God is daily manifested in the lives of their 19,608 students and 1,354 teachers, according to Gamaliel Flórez, director of the Education Department of the division (as of May 2013).

² The author would like to thank God for allowing him the privilege of being part of the theology faculty at Navojoa University, where he also began his training for the ministry, and where during the past 10 years he has been able to meet many students with lives impacted by Seventh-day Adventist education.



Alejo Aguilar is a professor of theology at Navojoa University in northwestern Mexico.

By HEATHER VANDENHOVEN

Home *to* His

When we least expect it, He



The story doesn't say she sought Jesus out, or even that Jesus sought her out. Luke simply says in the story about the widow of Nain that "when the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, 'Don't cry.'" It then goes on to tell us just how Jesus changed this woman's life forever. "Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, 'Young man, I say to you, get up!' The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother" (Luke 7:13-15).*

No More Hope

Jesus was in town on a day that held sorrow for an already widowed woman. Her husband had died some time earlier, and now she mourned the death of her son. Her loss did not only mean emotional upheaval, but would transform her life forever. Without a son to provide and protect her, she was defenseless. Without the emotional support of her son, she was

destined to years of loneliness. Most likely she would live out her remaining days homeless, alone, and hungry. The people of her town, walking with her in the funeral procession during her time of grief, would be long gone when life would return to the routine of survival. She was helpless, and her tragedy was just beginning. She would have to deal on her own with the assault life had thrown at her.

Not Alone

But on that day Jesus walked through her town and into her life. He brought healing and compassion, ready to drive out her feelings of despair and give her refuge. What she didn't realize was that Jesus had been making it His business to help people just like her, and that this afternoon it was her turn to receive mercy.

"Jesus' heart went out to her." The story could stop right there and still capture an amazing wealth of truth for us. Just those words alone show us that in His ministry, Jesus did more

than just heal; He actually felt our pain—He felt compassionate toward our dilemma. How encouraging to know that His heart goes out to us and that He feels compassion for us. Our Savior cares! He's not just walking by our town; He's stopping by to be the Savior in our lives.

But this story of compassion doesn't stop at "Jesus' heart went out to her." It goes on to demonstrate God's amazing grace that only Jesus Christ Himself can give—and He extended this gift to His daughter in Nain. As Jesus saw the crying woman, He went to her and said, "Don't cry," because He realized her great need for hope. Jesus approached the coffin that held the grieving woman's son, no doubt causing confusion among those gathered. But then He did something wonderful—He touched the coffin and said "Get up!" to the dead.

In that instant this bereaved woman witnessed a miracle—her son was returned to her. Jesus did all the action in this story, and she received

Town

brings hope

“Through one woman’s story, Jesus gave . . . an example of the depth of His compassion and His willingness to put people back together.”

all the grace. He recognized the desperation of her situation; He saw her needs; He took care of it—Jesus the Savior! It was as if He was saying to this poor broken daughter, “Daddy’s here, honey; everything is going to be OK. I saw what happened to you, and it hurt Me, too. I’ve put your son back together especially for you. I love you.”

That afternoon Jesus gave hope to a mother through the resurrection of her son. Perhaps even a hope beyond how she would live life on earth, but also a hope in a Savior that would rescue her again, but this time for eternity. Through one woman’s story Jesus gave millions more a demonstration of His heart. He gave an example of the depth of His compassion and His willingness to put people back together.

Jesus in Your Town

Have you ever wished Jesus would stop by your town, that He would walk into your life? Have you hoped that He would see your needs and understand what you are dealing with?

Maybe you just want to feel loved, noticed, or taken care of, but instead your life is constantly being flooded with complications and heartache. Perhaps you’ve lost loved ones, money, or your job. Maybe you’ve prayed some mornings, you’ve managed to get through life that day, but you know you’ll have to go through it all over again tomorrow and the next day. You’ve been wondering when it will be your chance to receive the mercy Jesus has promised to all His children.

Our Savior makes a simple yet powerful promise in His word that we are never alone, even in our greatest moments of weakness. “I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isa. 41:10). Or listen to this: “I have engraved you on the palms of my hands” (Isa. 49:16). Matthew 10:31 tells us, “So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows,” and Psalms says that “the Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made” (Ps. 145:9).

Just as Jesus’ heart went out to the widow of Nain, that same compassion and care is extended to us today. Through His written Word He has assured that we know about the day He walked through this widow’s town. We are told about His compassionate actions in her life so that we can take courage. We can be encouraged that He too is in our town and is acting with kindness in our lives. One day the procession will stop and He will say “Get up!” to the millions that have rested in Him. We will then go home to His place! I cannot wait—come, Lord Jesus! ■

* Scripture quotations in this article are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



Heather VandenHoven writes from Angwin, California, U.S.A., where she and her husband live with their 12-year-old daughter.



Ellen G. White

By MERLIN D. BURT

AND Adventist Fundamental

Her role in finalizing doctrine

Seventh-day Adventists believe that God called Ellen G. White to a prophetic ministry that played a vital role in the beginning and establishment of the church. Her visions and prophetic dreams spanned a period of a little more than 70 years, from 1844 to 1915. These special revelations were a correcting voice that kept the church and individuals close to a biblical faith. They did not originate any Adventist fundamental belief, but rather unified believers and enriched their biblical understanding. This role is clear in the history of Seventh-day Adventist doctrinal development.

In looking at the most important distinctive doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—the sanctuary and the Sabbath and their integration in the three angels’ messages—we see this demonstrated. As a further illustration, we will see Ellen White’s role in the teaching of tithing.

Heavenly Sanctuary

In March 1845 O. R. L. Crosier published his first article in the *Day-Dawn* suggesting that Jesus began His ministry in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary on October 22, 1844. He further developed the idea of the antitypical day of atonement in a lengthy article titled “The Law of Moses” in the February 7, 1846, *Day-Star Extra*.¹

Ellen White confirmed his presentation when she wrote in 1847: “The Lord [showed] me in vision, more than one year ago, that Brother Crosier had the true light, on the cleansing of the sanctuary.”² While Ellen White enriched an understanding of the heavenly sanctuary by identifying Jesus as our great high priest, it was Crosier’s biblical expositions that built the foundation.

Sabbath

The seventh-day Sabbath came to Adventists through the influence of Seventh Day Baptists. Rachel Oakes, a Seventh Day Baptist in Washington, New Hampshire, shared the Sabbath with Frederick Wheeler. Wheeler likely influenced T. M. Preble, who in turn wrote an article and tract in February and March 1845 that brought Joseph Bates to

the Sabbath.³ Bates wrote his important Sabbath tract, *Seventh Day Sabbath a Perpetual Sign*, in August 1846.⁴

Newly married, James and Ellen White studied this tract with their Bibles and became Sabbathkeepers. Ellen White did not receive a vision on the Sabbath until the next year. She had heard Bates speak of the Sabbath prior to reading his tract but “did not feel its importance.”⁵ God did not give her a vision to point her mind toward the Sabbath. Rather, He waited for her to study the Bible to settle her faith on this important doctrinal issue.

Sabbath and Sanctuary Unite

The most important theological development for Seventh-day Adventists was not the Sabbath or the heavenly sanctuary as individual doctrines, but rather the integration of the two into a final message for the world. The January 1847 second edition of Joseph Bates’s tract on the Sabbath presented the idea that the Sabbath had “present truth,” or end-time importance, based on Revelation 11:19 and 14:12.

Revelation 11:19 describes the temple opened in heaven with a view of the ark of the covenant in the Most Holy Place. In the ark are the Ten Commandments. The three angels’ messages call us to worship God as Creator and describe the saints as those who “keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus.” For Bates, the Sabbath had end-time importance because of its link to Jesus’ Most Holy Place ministry.

Ellen White read Bates’s revised tract. In April 1847 her “Sabbath halo vision” gave a visual demonstration of Revelation 11:19 and confirmed what Bates had already published. In vision she saw Jesus, in the Most Holy Place, open the ark of the covenant and pick up the Ten Commandments. As He opened the two stone tablets, she looked and saw a “halo of glory” all around the fourth commandment.⁶ Her vision added an important application for their Bible understanding. She saw that Adventists “went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully.”

This confirming vision helped anchor the eschatological importance of the Sabbath and provided an impetus for a

Beliefs

THOMAS PREBLE



JOSEPH BATES



FREDERICK WHEELER



RACHEL OAKES



O.R.L. CROSIER



new evangelistic proclamation of the gospel within the context of the Sabbath. This doctrine is integral to the three angels' messages and is the core theological foundation for the evangelistic mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Thus we see that the core foundational doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—the sanctuary, Sabbath, and the integration of the two for evangelistic mission—are not based on Ellen White's visions, but rather on careful Bible study. The visions played a complementary role in confirming, correcting, and enriching. Ellen White was always clear that Adventist faith and practice are based on the Bible, not on her visions. In her first tract in 1851 she wrote: "I recommend to you, dear reader, the Word of God as the rule of your faith and practice. By that Word we are to be judged. God has, in that Word, promised to give visions in the 'last days'; not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of His people, and to correct those who err from Bible truth."⁷

Tithing

All the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church came through Bible study and were not originated through Ellen White's visions. One further example is tithing.

In April 1858 J. N. Andrews conducted a Bible class in Battle Creek, Michigan, United States, to learn how the gospel ministry should be supported.⁸ This led to the adoption in 1859 of a giving plan called Systematic Benevolence, called for systematic giving.

The first guideline was that "brothers" should set aside from 5 to 25 cents a week and "sisters" from 2 to 10 cents a week. Additionally, those who had property were asked to set aside from 1 to 5 cents a week per \$100 of value. Tithing was not mentioned.

Ellen White supported Systematic Benevolence with these words: "God is leading His people in the plan of systematic benevolence."⁹ But God did not correct the plan to reflect the Bible teaching of the tithe through her visions.

Not until 1876- to 1879 was the Bible plan of tithing now practiced by Seventh-day Adventists implemented.¹⁰ Then God used the prophetic gift to give guidance on how best to apply the tithe to support the gospel ministry and the mission of the church.

Again the visions confirmed, corrected, and enriched; they did not originate. God waited until His church studied the matter from the Bible. It is more important for Adventists to build their faith on a Bible foundation than to come quickly to a right view through prophetic visions.

We can be grateful for the way the prophetic ministry of Ellen White interacted with Adventist doctrinal development. One of the signs that she is a true prophet is her orientation toward Scripture. God used the prophetic gift to encourage, confirm, correct, and enrich Seventh-day Adventist fundamental beliefs. The Bible remains the source of all doctrine. It was through careful study and not through visions that God brought Seventh-day Adventists to the fundamental beliefs we now cherish and share with the world. ■

¹ O.R.L. Crosier and F. B. Hahn, *Day-Dawn* published on last page of *Ontario Messenger*, Mar. 26, 1845; O.R.L. Crosier, "The Law of Moses," *Day-Star Extra*, Feb. 7, 1846.

² Ellen G. White to Eli Curtis, Apr. 21, 1847, in [James White], *A Word to the "Little Flock"* (Brunswick, Maine: James White, 1847), p. 12.

³ Thomas M. Preble, "The Sabbath," *Review and Herald*, Aug. 23, 1870, reprinted from the *Hope of Israel*, Feb. 28, 1845; *Tract, Showing That the Seventh Day Should be Observed as the Sabbath, Instead of the First Day; "According to the Commandment"* (Nashua, N.H.: Murray and Kimball, 1845).

⁴ Joseph Bates, *The Seventh Day Sabbath, A Perpetual Sign, From the Beginning to the Entering Into the Gates of the Holy City, According to the Commandment* (New Bedford, Mass.: Benjamin Lindsey, 1846).

⁵ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1948), vol. 1, pp. 75, 76.

⁶ Ellen G. White, *Early Writings* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1882), p. 33.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 78.

⁸ John N. Loughborough, *The Church, Its Order, Organization, and Discipline*, p. 107.

⁹ E. G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 19.

¹⁰ D. M. Canright, "Systematic Benevolence, or the Bible Plan of Supporting the Ministry," *Review and Herald*, Feb. 17, 1876; "Systematic Benevolence," *Review and Herald*, Dec. 12, 1878.



Merlin D. Burt is director of the Ellen G. White Estate branch office located at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, United States.

Learning From the Law

What does **Paul** mean when he says “the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ” (Gal. 3:24)?

This is a question about the role of the law. I will provide a brief summary of the law in Galatians, then look at a couple illustrations used by Paul, including the one you mentioned, to clarify the role of the law.

1. The Law: False teachers in Galatia were requiring believers to be circumcised in order to be part of God’s people. According to Paul, such teaching went against the concept of salvation through Christ (Gal. 1:6-9). He interprets this imposition as an attempt to use the law as a contributing element in our search for divine acceptance. For Paul, divine acceptance is exclusively through Christ, not on the grounds of the works of the law (Gal. 2:16). His critical point seems to be quite clear: The law cannot give us what we desperately needed, namely, life (Gal. 3:20), which is accessible only through Christ. If the law can give life, then Christ’s death was unnecessary.

The apostle would even argue that far from giving life, the law sentences us to death! He states: “Through the law I died to the law” (Gal. 2:19). The law can only pronounce a curse against us because sinful human beings cannot obey it (Gal. 3:10; cf. Rom. 8:6-8). Christ gives life because He took upon Himself the curse of the law, dying in our place, and redeemed us from that deadly curse (Gal. 3:13): “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me” (Gal. 2:20). When it comes to our justification, the law has nothing to contribute. In Christ the law’s death sentence against me was executed, and I now enjoy life through Him.

2. Law and the Prison of Sin: Using the illustration of a prison, Paul asks: “What purpose then does the law serve?” (Gal. 3:19). He then states that the law was given to Israel “because of transgressions.” Although the phrase could be interpreted in several ways, the best interpretation within this context is that the law reveals sin; it makes us aware of our sinfulness, our brokenness (Rom. 3:20), but it cannot resolve the problem.

To clarify, Paul indicates that according to the Scripture the whole world is a prisoner “under sin” (Gal. 3:22) and that the warden of that the prison was the law (verse 23; cf. Rom. 11:32). He restates the idea that we were under the curse of the law until the coming of Christ. The human race was imprisoned, waiting for the execution of the sentence. The only escape from this prison was faith in Christ. He came, was “born under the law” (Gal. 4:4), entered the prison of sin to redeem those who were “under the law,” and made them children of God (verse 5). The curse of the law makes salvation through Christ indispensable.

3. Law as a Tutor: The Greek word translated “tutor” (Gal. 3:24; *paidagōgos*) has no English equivalent. It was commonly used to designate a slave or freeman hired to protect the child of the master from harm, to instruct him in moral matters and in the use of language and speech, and to apply discipline whenever needed. When the child reached adulthood the control of the *paidagōgos* ended. The term combines the ideas of strict discipline, submission, and instruction.

Paul uses this illustration to indicate that before the coming of Christ we lacked freedom and were, like slaves, under submission to a power over which we had no control. The law instructed and disciplined us, but it did not have any redeeming power. Although the emphasis is not on the law as pointing toward or leading to Christ, the idea is not totally absent. The child looked forward to adulthood to enjoy freedom, and for Paul our childhood ended with the coming of Christ. Now obedience to the law is an expression of love and gratitude (see Gal. 5:6, 13, 14, 19-24; Rom. 8:3, 4). For those who are in Christ the condemnatory function of the law has ended. ■



Angel Manuel Rodríguez lives in active retirement after serving the church as a pastor, professor, and theologian.

Longing for Eternity

By MARK A. FINLEY

Deep within our hearts is a longing for eternity. As we witness gruesome acts of terror and violence, and the endless suffering on our planet, we know that this world is not our home. Our hearts tell us that we were created for something better. We were not made for sorrow, suffering, and death. We were made to be happy, healthy, and holy. In this month's Bible lesson we will explore God's amazing plan for each of us, and discover that God's plans are better than we can imagine.

1 Read Revelation 21:1 and 2 Peter 3:13. What words do both John and Peter use to describe God's eternal future? What expression do they use to emphasize the reality of what God has in mind for us?

The Bible writers pictured God's eternal world as a real place. They describe it as "new heavens and a new earth." God's world of tomorrow is not pie in the sky; it is not some make-believe fairy tale. All that has been lost by sin will be restored. God will re-create this world more fantastic than we can imagine. Eden will return more glorious than before, in all its magnificent beauty.

2 Will we have real bodies, or will we be some kind of spirits? Compare Philippians 3:20, 21 with 1 Corinthians 15:51-57. See also Isaiah 35:5, 6.

The disciples recognized Jesus when He appeared to them after His resurrection by His physical features. Although He had a glorious, immortal body, He was still recognizable. An immortal body is not some kind of invisible spirit. If the new heavens and the new earth are real, we will have real bodies to live in this real place.

3 Read Isaiah 65:17, 21, 22. What are just a few of the activities we will participate in throughout eternity?

Eden restored will be a place of incredible joy. The image "They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit" is rich with the symbolism of perfect peace, inner contentment, and eternal happiness. According to Isaiah's prophecy we will actually build

PHOTO BY JESSIE EASTMAN



houses and inhabit them. We will plant gardens and enjoy the natural products they produce. But there is something more here than is on the surface: We will be eternally content, without fear, anxiety, and worry.

4 How does the Bible describe our relationships in heaven? Read Matthew 8:11 and notice particularly the expression "sit down with Abraham, Issac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven." What does this phrase imply? Rephrase it in your own words.

5 Read Revelation 21:2, 3; 22:3, 4. What will be our greatest joy in the earth made new? Which relationship above all others will be most precious to us?

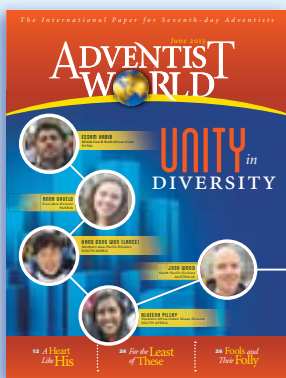
6 Read Revelation 21:4; Isaiah 35:10; Isaiah 65:24, 25. What rock-solid promises does our Lord give regarding eternity?

7 Compare Micah 4:8 with Acts 3:19-21. What concept is key in getting a glimpse of God's new world?

The prophet Micah speaks about the return of the "former dominion." Peter used the expression "restoration of all things" in Acts. These expressions are key to understanding God's magnificent plan for us throughout all eternity because they point us back to God's original creation in the Garden of Eden.

Heaven is a real place for real people who will participate in real activities. The shame of a world lost in sin and the agony of a planet in rebellion will be restored through the sacrifice of Christ. In Eden made new we will worship the Christ who redeemed us forever. The entire universe will gather about God's throne and sing, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" (Rev. 5:12).

This is the greatest joy of heaven, and a reason to praise God through all eternity. ■



Letters

Unity in Diversity

I am writing about Sandra Blackmer's cover story "Unity in Diversity" (June 2013). I liked it very much. She speaks to a problem we are dealing with in German communities as well. Unfortunately, it is often harder to deal with diversity here.

For two years I have read *Adventist World* in German. Until now my impression was that everything is very conservative. The trend seemed downright scary in recent times and has raised fears in me. But this report about 14 young Adventists seems to be downright liberating.

WILFRIED KRAUSE
Germany

Who Are We?

I love receiving and reading *Adventist World*. I'm so thankful for the articles you print by our General Conference president Ted N. C. Wilson.

Thank you for printing "Who Are We?" (May 2013). Many of us have forgotten, or have never known, these important messages. It is possible that some of us have become Adventists but have never studied the three angels' messages. Some are teaching that all that's important to become an Adventist is to love Jesus. It is true that we need to love Jesus first, but as Wilson writes, "The giving of the three angels' messages is the reason God raised up the Seventh-day Adventist movement."

We have a mandate from heaven to give it to the world, and, of course, we must give it in the spirit of Jesus.

DARLENE CYR
Berkeley Springs, West Virginia,
United States



Adventist World on the iPad

Thank you for making *Adventist World* magazine available on smart gadgets (phones, computer tablets, etc.) through apps. This way it is much easier for us to learn so much about what's going on and how much God has blessed Seventh-day Adventists with wisdom, love, and accessibility to so many resources. Thank you. God bless you.

LAI ROLDAN
Davao City, Philippines

For interested readers: To connect for free to *Adventist World* through our application (app) for portable electronic devices such as smartphones and tablets, visit your device's "app store."

—EDITORS

“We have a **mandate** from heaven to give the three angels' messages to the world.”

—DARLENE CYR, West Virginia, United States

Prayer & PRAISE

I have huge university fees that have prevented me from taking my exams for the past two semesters. Please pray that God opens doors for me to continue my education.

NIXON, Kenya

Please pray for the Colatina Adventist school. We need land, or a building, for the school to stay open—it has been operating on the premises of a church and does not meet the state board of education requirements.

ECINUE, Brazil

I urgently need your prayers because I think I'm "losing it." I have been facing serious challenges, and it has reached a point where I can't even pray because I feel that God has abandoned me. Going to church has become a problem, and I honestly don't feel good about it. Also pray for me to get a job. Thank you.

JULTA, Denmark

More Wanted

I love the articles in *Adventist World*. How can I get copies of the magazine regularly. I am not an Adventist.

SONEYE OLADAPO
Lagos, Nigeria

Adventist World is a magazine produced by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is distributed to members free of charge. You can also access the magazine for free on the Internet at www.adventistworld.org. We are gratified that the magazine is filling this need.

—EDITORS

In Appreciation

I am touched each time I come across *Adventist World*. My spiritual life is edified, and I can't wait for our Lord to come!

BONGANIH BONDERAH
Zomba, Malawi

I am a Seventh-day Adventist university student. I love reading about how God is helping people around the world, using His church through magazines such as *Adventist World*. Thank you.

ABRAHAM KEMBOI
Kenya

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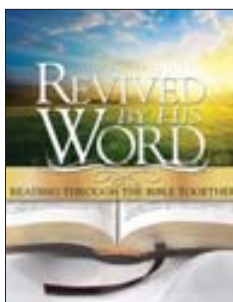
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Global tourism generates about US\$1.3 trillion a year (9 percent of the global gross domestic product). The top tourist destinations by geographical area are:

- 1 **Europe** (52 percent)
- 2 **Asia-Pacific** (22 percent)
- 3 **the Americas** (16 percent)
- 4 **the Middle East** (5 percent)
- 5 **Africa** (5 percent)

Source: Hemispheres/UNWTO Tourism Highlights



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OCTOBER 1, 2013 • Psalm 55

My cousin has been diagnosed with cancer that has metastasized into the bone. Please pray that God will lead in all their decisions and give them wisdom and guidance. Also pray for the medical people they consult with. Thank you.

CAROL, *United States*

My cousin has lived with cancer for 10 years. It has now metastasized to the spine. She has a tumor on her spine, causing paralysis of the lower limbs. Our financial resources to take her for treatment are limited. Please remember us in your prayers.

EVANS, *Zambia*

The Place of Prayer: Send prayer requests and praise (thanks for answered prayer) to prayer@adventistworld.org. Keep entries short and concise, 50-words or less. Items will be edited for space and clarity. Not all submissions will be printed. Please include your name and your country's name. You may also fax requests to: 1-301-680-6638; or mail them to *Adventist World*, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 U.S.A.



GENERAL CONFERENCE ARCHIVES

115 YEARS AGO

River Plate Adventist University was founded on September 26, 1898, at a meeting of the South America Mission in Crespo, Entre Ríos, Argentina. Nelson Z. Town was named its first director, and in early 1899 he began teaching six students in his home.

The school was founded thanks to the insistence of Luis Ernst (1874-1952), who arrived at the meeting with suitcase in hand asking to attend classes in a school that did not yet exist. Even though there was no school to attend, Ernst stayed in Entre Ríos and helped dig a well and build the school's first building. Trained as a pastor, Ernst went on to serve the church in Paraguay, Argentina, and Uruguay.

Now, with nearly 3,000 students, the university operates Schools of Health Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Theology, and Medicine.



Called by God

George Muchiri lives in Nairobi, Kenya. Trained as an auto mechanic, he felt God's call as an adult and began a preaching ministry, sharing messages about the love of God and the gift of salvation.

As part of his ministry, he hands out up to 300 copies of *Adventist World* each week. He estimates that since 2005 he has distributed more than 45,000 magazines door to door in his neighborhood, in markets, in cafés, and to strangers he meets on the street and on public transportation.

By the way, did we mention that George is blind? A medical misdiagnosis caused him to lose his sight in 2001.

But that doesn't slow him down. George started a small business, and he is a "chaplain" in Nairobi's Jericho Seventh-day Adventist Church. "God can use anyone to do His work," he says. And he should know.

To read his testimony, visit thedayibecameblind.com.

Women who eat two or more servings of walnuts per week reduce their risk of developing type 2 diabetes by 20 percent.



Source: *Journal of Nutrition*



Number of pounds people gain in five days when they sleep only **five hours** a night.

Source: *Men's Health*/University of Colorado

“Behold, I come quickly...”

Our mission is to uplift Jesus Christ, uniting Seventh-day Adventists everywhere in beliefs, mission, life, and hope.

50 WORDS OR LESS

My Favorite... Bible Character

■ Paul felt passion for souls. Maybe it was because he never forgot what God had done in his life (see 2 Cor. 12:10). If every day we remember where the Lord found us, we will not risk losing that passion.

—ARTURO VISCOUNT, *Juliaca, Peru*

■ My favorite character is the woman who suffered a terrible disease and consulted many doctors who only took her money. Although the woman had no strength, she remained steadfast, and Jesus healed her.

—MICHELLE GONZALEZ, *Villavicencio, Colombia*

■ My favorite Bible character is Tychicus (Eph. 6:21, 22; Col. 4:7, 8). He served faithfully as a messenger between Paul and the church, just as we represent the Holy Spirit to those we meet today.

—NQOBILE I. MUTIMUKULU, *Gwanda, Zimbabwe*

■ Shortly after my baptism, I was asked to read the book of Job. In chapter 1 God honored Job, thus making him a target for Satan’s attacks. But through it all Job maintained his integrity. I hope God will make me worthy of the trust He has in me.

—ANTONIO CAMILO DE OLIVEIRA, *via e-mail*

Next time, tell us in 50 words or less about your favorite Bible promise. Send your response to **letters@AdventistWorld.org**. Put in the subject line “50 Words or Less.” Be sure to include the city and country from which you are writing.

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To Writers: We welcome unsolicited manuscripts. Address all editorial correspondence to 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600, U.S.A. Editorial office fax number: (301) 680-6638

E-mail: worldeditor@gc.adventist.org

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