Editorial: Different at the Expense of God's Love?
by Jose Cortes Jr.

I have been in some places, in which I almost felt as if I had to apologize for talking about God's love. I've been told that God's love is the soft food, the milk, the spiritual baby food but I am not a baby, I've been in this church for 42 years, and every time I hear a preacher or anyone say "GOD LOVES YOU" I get this feeling all over, my heart beats faster, my joy skyrockets, and my brain awakes to the deep thought that I am a sinner, I am messed up, yet GOD LOVES ME. The depth of the thought is just mysterious and immeasurable. Yes, I know we heard this before, but do we really believe it? He knows your life and He loves you. He knows my struggles and He is so good that He still loves me. He knows the thoughts in our heads and He loves us!

Not long ago, while talking about God's love, I was rebuked with the following statement: "The love of God is important but everybody talks about that, we need to talk about other things because we are different." My reply was immediate: "Really? Are we going to be different at the expense of God's love. No way! God's love is the most complete and solid teaching we have as Adventists. Anything else can be..."
milk, but God's love is by far the most important Biblical principle, and the most solid truth we have ever possessed as a church.

Read More...

Season Of Service, Fueled by Compassion
by Roger Hernandez

Far too often we have had a loud voice and invisible hands in our community. Season of Service (S.O.S.) is a 40 day service initiative that seeks to demonstrate God's love in practical ways to the city.

The plan has three simple steps:

1. A daily service activity that any one person can do. This is encouraged in the daily devotional called: My City S.O.S. There are three simple service options every day.
2. A weekend service intensive activity with multiple opportunities to serve as churches, groups, families, and individuals. This usually happens around day 20 of the 40 days.
3. A Sabbath celebration of service in local churches where we affirm and thank volunteers for their service at the end of the 40 days. We invite and pray for civic leaders at that time.

Read More...

Pastor Tacyana Nixon Baptizes 6 People, Weeks Before Giving Birth to Healthy Baby Girl
We are excited to announce that Pastor Tacyana Nixon and her husband Michael just became the happy and proud parents of baby girl Noa Elise Nixon, who was born yesterday, March 17. Tacyana is the Pastor of the Princeton Seventh-day Adventist Church in the New Jersey Conference. Just a few weeks ago, prior to the birth of her little girl, Pastor Nixon finished leading out in the remodeling of her church building and baptized six people. Yes, in what could be a "first" for Adventist Pastors in North America, she baptized six people while pregnant. To see more photos, click here

The North American Division Ministerial Team would like to congratulate Pastor Tacyana Nixon on the birth of her baby and on being an awesome and brave Pastor.

More Compassion in San Antonio
by Armando Miranda Jr.

Two years ago, as pastor Gary Blanchard and myself started working at the Youth Department of the Texas Conference, a vision for mission started to flourish under the expectations of the upcoming General Conference Session of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. We realized that there were some areas we wanted to emphasize and as we met with different members of the team at the Conference to prepare for GC San Antonio, we knew that the task at hand was huge.

To reach and make an impact on a city of over 1 million where there are "not enough" Seventh Day Adventist Churches, seemed really far fetched. But we remembered
that we are not called to count the things that could go wrong or the many challenges we may face, but we are called to trust in a mighty God who will move through His willing servants and perform mighty deeds!

Read More ...

Application and Guidelines for $120,000 Giveaway
Evangelism Shark Tank at the CALLED NAD Ministerial Convention
Application Deadline - May 28, 2015

A huge highlight of the Called Ministerial Convention in Austin is the Evangelism Shark Tank, which will take place at 9:00 PM every night of the Convention. During this late night program, Pastors from across North America, will be able to present their innovative Evangelism and Outreach initiatives for their churches, to a panel. A total of $120,000.00 will be awarded among for the top ideas and initiatives, as chosen by the panel. These funds will go to the churches for implementation of the initiatives presented by their Pastor at the Evangelism Shark Tank.

For Guidelines and to fill out the application to participate in the Evangelism Shark Tank, please click here

Seeds Church Planting Conferences
Coming to a City Near You

Our North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI) leads SEEDS Church Planting Conferences throughout North America every year. These Conferences are very empowering to existing or potential Church Planters. If you are interested in holding a Seeds Church Planting Conference in your city, please contact Tom Evans, tevans@andrews.edu

Upcoming SEEDS Church Planting Conferences:

Ontario SEEDS - March 27-28, 2015
Vancouver SEEDS - April 10-11, 2015
Manitoba-Saskatchewan SEEDS - April 17-18
Kentucky-Tennessee SEEDS - April 17-19, 2015

For more info, you can also visit the new SEEDS Church Planting Conferences Facebook Page or visit the North American Division Evangelism Institute website

Transformational Evangelism Funds - Up to 50,000.00
Transformational Evangelism
Funding is available for innovative, grace-oriented, and incarnational initiatives which take into account the needs of the community and involve ways to address them with the Compassion of Jesus. The funding is for initiatives proposing a sustainable cycle, and a tangible transformation of lives, rather than a one-time evangelism event. Project proposals will need to be submitted through the local Union. Applications will be accepted by NAD as long as funds are available.

For more info on Transformational Evangelism and to access grant application, please click here: Transformational Evangelism

Get Funding for Church Plant
Begin Applying now for 2016 Church Planting Funds

Church Planting Funding, also known as Global Mission Funding is available for the sole purpose of planting new churches in unentered communities. The funding could also
apply to a different language or culture group church plant in an area where there may be other established churches. For more info and to access the application, click on this link: **Global Mission Funding**

**North America Wants Your Articles, Photos, & Videos**

In the months to come we would like to publish, celebrate, pray for, and spread what God is doing through you. North America would love to see your evangelism and outreach stories, photos, and videos.

Send us articles, photos, and videos of your Best Practices in Evangelism & Outreach (traditional & innovative):

[Read More...]
Stay connected through Facebook and up to date with what is happening in Evangelism, Outreach, and Church Planting across North America. Like our Pages and share Posts, Videos, & Photos of your Best Practices on Best Practices for Adventist Evangelism and NAD Evangelism.

Read More...

Let's connect and interact on Twitter. This tool can be helpful to your ministry when sharing Jesus. It will also help to influence your community, and the world. Please tag us @NADEvangelism or @ReachNAmerica when posting your Best Practices photos. Remember to use the following hashtag #nadevangelism #nadministerial #compassion among others you may have chosen to highlight your local church or ministry

Read More...

Through Instagram we get to highlight our Evangelism, Outreach, and Church Growth Best Practices through photo and very short videos. Please tag us @NADEvangelism when posting your Best Practices photos. Remember to use the following hashtags #nadevangelism #nadministerial #compassion among others you may have chosen to highlight your local church or ministry.

Read More...
Best Practices for Adventist Evangelism is published by NAD Ministerial.
Editor: José Cortés Jr.; Managing Editor: Dave Gemmell.

NAD Ministerial | 301-680-6699 | jose.cortesjr@nad.adventist.org | http://www.nadministerial.org
12501 Old Columbia Pike. Silver Spring, MD 20904

2014 © North American Division Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists. v(301) 680-6418
Ministry Partners

Different at the Expense of God’s Love? - by Jose Cortes Jr.

GOD LOVES YOU!

I have been in some places, in which I almost felt as if I had to apologize for talking about God’s love. I’ve been told that God’s love is the soft food, the milk, the spiritual baby food but I am not a baby, I’ve been in this church for 42 years, and every time I hear a preacher or anyone say “GOD LOVES YOU” I get this feeling all over, my heart beats faster, my joy skyrockets, and my brain awakes to the deep thought that I am a sinner, I am messed up, yet GOD LOVES ME. The depth of the thought is just mysterious and immeasurable. Yes, I know we heard this before, but do we really believe it? He knows your life and He loves you. He knows my struggles and He is so good that He still loves me. He knows the thoughts in our heads and He loves us!

Not long ago, while talking about God’s love, I was rebuked with the following statement: “The love of God is important but everybody talks about that, we need to talk about other things because we are different.” My reply was immediate: “Really? Are we going to be different at the expense of God’s love. No way! God’s love is the most complete and solid teaching we have as Adventists. Anything else can be milk, but God’s love is by far the most important Biblical principle, and the most solid truth we have ever possessed as a church.

Think about it:

- without God’s love there is no Creation,
- without God’s love there is no Cross,
- without God’s love there is no Resurrection,
- without God’s love there is no Sanctuary, no Second Coming, no Health Message, no Commandments
- without God’s Love there is no Church,
- without God’s Love there is NOTHING.

God’s love is the greatest and the major Present Truth of the Bible. Anything else can be the milk or the baby food, but God’s love is the most solid and complete teaching that we, as Adventists, can find in all of Scripture. It must be our central preaching subject and our biggest selling point, as a Church.

Dear Church leader, Pastor, Outreach Leader, Evangelist, and School of Evangelism Instructor, in the name of Jesus: Do not dare to run an outreach program, an evangelism initiative, or anything in your church or school, without making God’s Love front and center. If anything else is occupying the center or the front of your mission and
programs, you are just creating the XXI Century Club of Pharisees, and remember, Pharisees were good at killing Jesus and not very good at evangelism.

Never forget, GOD LOVES YOU! Please, tell them, with your actions and your words!

Pastor Jose Cortes Jr., is an Associate Ministerial Director and Leads Evangelism for the Adventist Church in North America.
Season Of Service, Fueled by Compassion by Roger Hernandez

Far too often we have had a loud voice and invisible hands in our community. Season of Service (S.O.S.) is a 40 day service initiative that seeks to demonstrate God’s love in practical ways to the city.

The plan has three simple steps:

1. A **daily** service activity that any one person can do. This is encouraged in the daily devotional called: My City S.O.S. There are three simple service options every day.

2. A **weekend** service intensive activity with multiple opportunities to serve as churches, groups, families, and individuals. This usually happens around day 20 of the 40 days.

3. A **Sabbath** celebration of service in local churches where we affirm and thank volunteers for their service at the **end** of the 40 days. We invite and pray for civic leaders at that time.

Over the last year, SOS has been tried and tested in churches and cities across North America. Stories like the ones in Jackson MS and West Palm Beach, FL show the blessing churches can be when they are intentional in reaching their community. For example:

- In West Palm Beach, FL the church painted four houses of their neighbors. The main radio station did a feature presentation on them. As a result, more people are aware that there are congregations in the city that care. See news report here: https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=871411599584753&fref=nf

- In Knoxville, TN service providers were given a commemorative pen and thanked for their service. The tears in their eyes was all the reward we needed.

- In Jackson TN, Christmas in March was a program for kids that brought toys, games and a spiritual lesson. See news report here: *Season of Service* in Jackson, MS http://www.msnewsnow.com/story/28290070/metro-churches-come-together-for-christmas-in-march

These are just some examples of what God can do through the church, when the church shows compassion to the city in which it resides.
Why do it?

- Involves more of your church. Youth especially are excited to serve.
- It’s inexpensive. The books are just $2, but you can also access it through a free app.
- It’s practical. People get their hands dirty. That’s a good thing.
- It works.

For more information? http://www.mycitysos.com/ or email rhernandez@southernunion.com.

Because both Christianity and compassion are best shown than explained.

*Pastor Roger Hernandez is the Ministerial and Evangelism Director of the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists*
Ministry Partners

More Compassion in San Antonio by Armando Miranda Jr.

Two years ago, as pastor Gary Blanchard and myself started working at the Youth Department of the Texas Conference, a vision for mission started to flourish under the expectations of the upcoming General Conference Session of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. We realized that there were some areas we wanted to emphasize and as we met with different members of the team at the Conference to prepare for GC San Antonio, we knew that the task at hand was huge.

To reach and make an impact on a city of over 1 million where there are “not enough” Seventh Day Adventist Churches, seemed really far fetched. But we remembered that we are not called to count the things that could go wrong or the many challenges we may face, but we are called to trust in a mighty God who will move through His willing servants and perform mighty deeds!

The idea of the mission seemed prevalent in my mind and at first it did not have much other than wishes and dreams. This is where connecting with Pastor Jose Cortes Jr., at that time with the Atlantic Union, was an act of God. With his emphasis on “Compassion”, I started to see the possibility of “duplicating” the program and put a Texas spin on it. The more time passed and the more committees and planning sessions passed, the reality of pushing for something like this was laid upon my heart by God. For more than a year, we have been planning this event together with the whole team at the Texas Conference.

We planned the More Compassion Mission for the 2015 Spring Break and after many months of planning, March arrived and with it the expectation of what God was going to do in San Antonio.

The experiences of the last week (March 7-14, 2015) have been amazing. The simple concept of helping people seems to get lost in our churches with so much “church” work that we get carried away by it. One of the best things that I have heard from participants and pastors alike is the aspect of service without the intention of getting something in return. People seem interested to know why we are mowing their lawns at no charge, why we are picking up trash and giving them food for free. This brings up to my mind a quote from EGW found in Ministry of Healing: “Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour 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” As simple as showing compassion, caring and just simply serving others...who would have thought it!!!

One of the most important aspects of this initiative is the team work between the Youth Department and the San Antonio pastors. Their support from the very beginning, rallying their churches, encouraging their members of all ages, and their leading out in the projects that are making a difference in their communities and in their city has been monumental. God is definitely leading and blessing them with stories and miracles they were not expecting.
These are some of the things they are saying:

Pastor Robin Lopez: “In my almost 20 years of ministry, I had not connected with the community the way that I have this past week. And it is as simple as just sharing our blessings and caring enough to get out of our church to show we care…”

Pastor Sergio Ochaeta: “We were working on a street with our spanking cool shirts when someone approached us and asked where could he get a shirt like that. I asked him why did he want a shirt? His response: Because I want to belong to something and it seems that you all do”

#MoreCompassion Reports

#MoreCommunity: 625 hours of compassion to the community (lawn mowing, house clean up, and neighborhood trash pick up), 2 Bible Studies and 10 new interests.

#MOREfood: 600 hours of compassion to the community, 475 families served with boxes of food, 2 Bible Studies and 15 new interests for Bible studies

#MOREreach: 75 hours of outreach, reached 300 families with invitations for Pathways to Health which will happen in the Alamo Dome in April.

#MOREsupport: 180 hours of compassionate ministry, fed, hugged, prayed, and spent time with over 100 homeless men and women in the streets of San Antonio

MoreCompassion continues through this week. For updates and more info on this local mission trip #MoreCompassion, please visit facebook.com/texasyouthandyoungadults or YoungTexasAdventist.org

Pastor Armando Miranda Jr., is the Associate Director of Adventist Youth Ministries Department of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
North America Wants Your Articles, Photos, & Videos

By Jose Cortes, Jr., North America Wants Your Articles, Photos, & Videos

In the months to come we would like to publish, celebrate, pray for, and spread what God is doing through you. North America would love to see your evangelism and outreach stories, photos, and videos.

Send us articles, photos, and videos of your Best Practices in Evangelism & Outreach (traditional & innovative): Small Groups, Compassion initiatives, Church Planting, Public Evangelism, outreach in public university campuses, life-changing stories of churches who love people and grow organically, youth and young adult outreach, health fairs, community outreach initiatives, and anything that has to do with Reaching, Retaining, and Reclaiming North America with a lifestyle and a message of Compassion, Hope, and Wholeness.

When writing, keep in mind that we are looking for practice more than theory. The Why, the What, the Who, and the How to, are vital for Pastors and Churches who will want to adapt and duplicate your initiatives and plans in their setting (keep articles between 300-700 words).