Dear Official Witnesses,

What a privilege each of you has to represent our God in exotic places! You are the witnesses Christ talked about in Acts 1:8 who are sent to “the uttermost parts of the earth.”

“[Y]ou are the ones chosen by God, . . . chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you,” 1 Peter 2:9 (Message).

I trust that each of us remembers our “high calling.” Whether you or I are called to the Institute of World Mission, or to be a church administrator, doctor, professor, ADRA Director, or any other type of church worker, we first of all have been called to be God’s witnesses. Isn’t that the core definition of “missionary”? As we emphasized in the last issue of this paper, we have the privilege of bringing God glory by how we live and what we say about Him.

Of course, we witness primarily by being like Christ; but we need to take the opportunity to follow that up with testimony about Him. My favorite example of this is Namaan’s maid (2 Kings 5). Talk about friendship evangelism! No, Namaan wasn’t a friend; he was the enemy and her slave master. But the young maid was a friend! She lived for her God and represented Him well. And when the time was right she shared what her God could do for Namaan. Isn’t that a true witness?

May our God help us all be good witnesses for Him. Maybe some of the resources in this issue might help you share His word in a faithful way; but most importantly, we just need to be “one beggar telling another beggar” where to find Food!

Have lots of fun witnessing in your exotic places!

Lester Merklin

Joel Tompkins (standing) poses with a friend while at Zuwak, Upper Egypt. The Tompkins say that the church in Zuwak “is full of young people and children and quite active.” Kellie Tompkins is shown here sitting inside a mosque courtyard at the Citadel in Cairo, Egypt.
With Just A Tiny Bit Of Effort, You Can Win A Soul To Jesus, Too!

You are in the mission field rendering service in the capacity for which you are gifted. Have you ever wondered if what you are doing presently will result in souls won to Christ? If someone were to ask you, “How many souls have you actually led to Jesus through baptism?” how would you respond?

The obvious response for many IDEs would be, “What I am doing is considered soul winning.” And that is true to a certain degree. However, if you want the thrill of seeing a person baptized that you had a hand in drawing to Christ, let me share with you how some very busy people won thousands of souls to Jesus with minimum effort.

The 2,100,000-member Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID) recently began implementing the Quinquennial vision of the World Church, “Tell the World.” Beginning with intercessory prayer, intense Bible study, and serious discussions about their needs, leadership emerged from this process with five initiatives critical to their success. After naming these initiatives after five Bible characters, they chose a theme and a battle hymn, “Lift Up Jesus,” which was learned and sung by everyone.

It is not the goals and objectives, activities, or annual assessments that attracted my attention, but the commitment of certain members, the majority of whom had never won a single soul to Christ.

Members of the East Zimbabwe Union Conference enrolled 30,000 people in Voice of Prophecy (VOP) Bible studies. As a result, 25,000 people completed the Bible lessons and received certification during commencement services held in the National Sports Stadium in Harare, Zimbabwe on October 21, 2006. Fifty thousand people were present to witness this phenomenal event. Some 40 percent of these Bible lesson graduates have already indicated a desire to be baptized.

Here is the part that attracted me. In one local church more people were baptized than the present membership. Members who had never distributed a Bible lesson before reported that they had engaged 40 to 50 of their friends and colleagues in Bible study. One church member enrolled 800 people in the VOP lessons and is following up to see what the outcome will be. According to the 40% formula, he has the potential of being credited with 320 souls in the kingdom. And all he did was invite the people with whom he came into contact to enroll in the Bible study course. Awesome!

Why am I sharing this experience? To remind all of us that if we make the effort, God will do the rest. The man who distributed 800 lessons will only know in the kingdom the souls won from this spiritual enterprise. Also, we share this experience to encourage you to engage in a very easy soul-winning activity that will make a great impact upon your personal life. What will you do this year to win one soul to Christ?

Rosa Banks

Australia Institute Participants
January 11-27, 2007
Left to right: Amanda Hepworth & two helpers (seated),
Standing at Back: David Potter, Ray Coombe, Clifton Maberly, Andrew Kingston, Janette Kingston, Sussan Okesene, Neone Okesene, Kay Humble, Brett Saville, Graeme Humble, Pat Gustin, Raul Schneider, June Maxi, Emile Maxi,
Seated in front: Jean-Noel Adeline, Chantel Adeline with baby Elikiel, Nicole Maxi, Makushla Kontaxis with infant Joshua Adeline, Gisela Schneider with infant Emily, Juneile Maxi.
GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

A message from the Venn Family

“Thanks to the prayers, support and leadership from the Upper Columbia Conference, and the NAD Church Planting Center, my church planting colleagues and I learned to advance the Three Angels’ Message, no matter the cost. So with more than words, I now advance the Gospel to those who have never heard it before. I am blown away to see that the dream God placed in my heart to reach the cities is now a reality. I am humbled to serve as the church planting director for the Hope for Bangkok Church Planting Initiative with the Thailand Adventist Mission. We covet your prayers as we serve.”

A message from the Bezerra Family

“Dear Friends!

We are in South Africa since September 28 and we praise God for our ministry here... We are learning to love this continent and we are very happy!”

A Message from the Taer Family

“Billy Roger Taer graduated with two degrees in one graduation ceremony last 7 May 2006. He has both the Bachelor in Business Administration with emphasis in accounting (summa cum laude) and Master in Business Administration degree with a GPA of 4.0 in all his subjects. This is the first time in the history of SWAU, Texas that a student graduated simultaneously with a BBA and MBA through the school’s 5-year Accounting program. . . . He accepted a job offer to work at the Florida Adventist Hospital as financial analyst.”

Australia Re-Entry Participants

January 2 - 6, 2007

Back Row: David Potter, Douw Venter, Warren Hassen, Dean Morton, Leah Piez, Kym Piez & Baby Madison

Middle Row: Masouw Venter, Maralinda Venter, Linda Hassen, Nicholas and Mitchel Hassen, Pat Gustin, Sandy Morton, Ruth Tame, Dennis Tame

Help on Sharing your Faith and Bible teaching
Out of the Saltshaker & into the World: Evangelism As a Way of Life
Rebecca Manely Pippert
InterVarsity Press; Rev Ed edition (July 1999) ISBN: 0830822208. Revised and extended version is a must, includes more on sharing the Bible and reaping.

Finding Them, Keeping Them: Effective Strategies for Evangelism and Assimilation in the Local Church
Gary McIntosh & Glenn Martin

Preparing for Giving Bible Studies: The Basics.
Wherley, Melissa, ed.
http://www.adventistmission.org/article.php?id=382

The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert E. Coleman


MK Corner

THE WORD OF GOD: THE BIBLE
We can know for sure that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. The prophet Isaiah said that the earth was round (Isaiah 40:22) long before man believed it to be true. Man thought the world was flat! And not too long ago a young shepherd boy found scrolls that were over 2000 years old. What was written on the scrolls was almost exactly like what we can find today in the book of Isaiah. Numerous archaeological discoveries are proving that from an historical perspective, the Bible is true. But, the Bible is more than just facts and history. The Bible brings us to a saving faith in God through his son Jesus.

The Bible is truly a miracle. There are a total of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The Bible was written by over 36 different people, and over a period of about 1500 years. The authors came from many different backgrounds and professions. There were fishermen, farmers, politicians, teachers, doctors, tentmakers and even kings. It would be mathematically impossible for so many different people over so many years to write with such harmony and accuracy, if it were not for the Holy Spirit. God told these people what to write. The Bible is the Word of God.

The underlined & boldfaced words in the paragraph below are hidden in the puzzle. Words can be across, down or diagonal. Can you find them all?

B H O L Y S P I R I T Q T
P N K O O H A R M O N Y E
T T O B C A P Y I C K O A
V E I F I S H E R M E N C
O N S E K B Y E A R S U H
X T C T W I L D C A H Q E
B M B O A E N E L R F O R
D A O U I M G G E O Y A S
N K F A R M E R S X O P O
J E T R G X O N S E I K K Q
V R W L W D O C T O R S B
C S W O R D O F G O D T Z

You Know You’re an MK When: . . .

You own appliances with 3 types of plugs, know the difference between 110 and 220 volts, 50 and 60 cycle currents, and realize that a transformer isn’t always enough to make your appliance work.