Odette Ferreira was presented with an Honorary Doctor of Laws at the 2013 La Sierra University (LSU) Commencement program on Sunday, June 16, in honor of her distinguished leadership in Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA). This is the first “Honoris Causa” given by an American Adventist university to a European woman.

Ferreira has overseen the dramatic development of the ACA program around the world. MORE [Photo: Dick Osborn, Odette Ferreira and Randal Wisbey]

Atlantic Union College (AUC) has been approved to offer degrees again. The Board of Higher Education of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has accorded AUC the authority to award the degrees of Bachelor of Arts in Theology/Religion and Bachelor of Science in Health Science/Biology. MORE

Gone but not Forgotten - Joe Melashenko, father of It Is Written’s former Speaker/Director Lonnie Meleshenko, passed away Friday morning, June 21, at age 91. He was bass singer with the King’s Heralds Quartet and music director for George Vandeman at It Is Written for many years as well as an evangelist with the Voice of Prophecy (VOP) radio ministry for more than 20 years. Memorial services will be held Sunday, July 21, at the Paradise, Calif. Adventist Church. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to either the Voice of Prophecy or The Quiet Hour Ministries. Tribute by Lonnie Melashenko: Joe Melashenko singing “Lead Me Gently Home; MORE

Immigrant Voices: After escaping religious persecution, Russian woman finds calling in Portland

Mike Vick Visits Milledgeville Church Service

Metroplex receives great workplace award

Glendale may give hospital special zone

Here’s why Patients are Flocking to Medical Homes

Pastor Russ conquers ironman challenge

Chestertown church re-opens after fire

June 26, 2013

Special Days and Offerings

Special Days:
July Focus: Adventist Lifestyle
July 13, Griggs University and International Academy Promotional Day

Helpful Special Day Websites and Resources: Find a full list on the NAD website

Offerings:
July 13, Women’s Ministries Sample Offertory Readings

Building Block #1

Transformational Evangelism
Specifically targeted to large cities and native-born Americans - that tap the convergent energies and collaborative talents of all.

Watch:
“Transformational Evangelism”

http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=84ac041b8b705798057dab6f2&id=ac08127d5a&c=3075540be8[6/26/2013 2:19:32 PM]
The first graduation of the Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) program is scheduled for June 30 at 10:00 a.m. at the Spanish Broadway Seventh-day Adventist Church in Manhattan, N.Y. The NETS team has been conducting classes at the church since March. MORE

Remember Prayer Call, July 11. Prayer Call is usually held on the first Thursday/Friday of the month. Because of the Independence Day holiday, it will be on the second Thursday of July. Join Prayer Call anytime between 10 p.m. Eastern Time, July 11, until 5 a.m., July 12. You do not need to be on the call all night. Dial 712-432-0031 and put in access code 435650. MORE

A new master's degree in Global Community Development is now offered at Southern Adventist University (SAU). The MS degree will combine online courses with mission projects in the field. MORE
In addition, SAU is finishing the first year of its new Global Policy and Services Studies major. This interdisciplinary major includes topics such as global politics, sustainable agriculture, global aid, global health policy, world missions, and cross-cultural service etiquette. MORE

The Office of Volunteer Ministries team is very excited that their new website is complete and fully operational. All of their services and resources are now available to you online. MORE

$2 Simple Church DVD by AdventSource. This DVD, sponsored by the North American Division, is a good way to share Simple Church with people who have a missionary heart for reaching secular and unchurched people. Simple Church is now a global network of house churches that are planted by committed missionaries who are willing to leave their comfort zone to reach people who most likely will not walk into conventional church buildings. MORE

“'The role of the shepherd is not to stick grass in the mouths of the sheep but to lead the sheep to green pastures.'

• 2014 NAD Camp Meeting Schedule
• NAD Website Calendar of Events
July 11, Prayer Call
July 23, AISFL Webinar
Aug. 1, Prayer Call
Aug. 6, PSI Executive Leadership Institute
Aug. 6-7, PSI Development Planning Workshop
Aug. 7-10, ASI International Convention
Aug. 23-24, "Love for a Lifetime" Marriage weekend (Beltsville, MD)
Sept. 5, Prayer Call
Sept. 11-14, Virtual Festival of the Laity
Sept. 15-22, Cruise with a Mission
Sept. 19-22, Retiro de parejas de la Florida
Sept. 22, Let's Move Day
Sept. 22-29, Let's Move Week
Sept. 23-26, Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program-II
Oct. 1-3, Language Arts Clinic
Oct. 3-16, GC Annual Council and pre-meetings
Oct. 24-26, Society of Adventist Communicators Convention
2014:
Jan. 9-12, NAD Prayer Conference
Jan. 12-15, NAD Ministries Convention

http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=84ac041b8b705798057dab6f2&id=ac08127d5a&c=3075540be8[6/26/2013 2:19:32 PM]
- Dave Gemmel, associate director of the NAD Ministerial Department last week at the New Hope Church in Fulton, Maryland.

When I was a pastor, I had several Bible studies with different people each week. But a few years after we moved I found myself without any ongoing Bible studies. I realized I was making no saving difference to any of my neighbors or inquirers who did not know our wonderful message so one Sabbath morning I pleaded with God to give me another opportunity to witness to someone not of my faith, to put me in contact with someone who might be interested in studying the Bible as I had done in the past. The Lord did not delay an answer… MORE (from Dr. Ron E. M. Clouzet, Director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute)

For more church growth and faith sharing stories, helps, news, subscribe to NADEI News.
Daily Prayer Guide

June 30 - July 6: Please pray for the Washington Conference, with 85 churches and 21,377 members.

Share This Newsletter
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists® : 6-25-13
Odette Ferreira presented with an Honorary Doctor of Laws

6-25-13 Odette Ferreira presented with an Honorary Doctor of Laws

First “Honoris Causa” given by an American Adventist university to a European woman

Odette Ferreira was presented with an Honorary Doctor of Laws at the 2013 La Sierra University (LSU) Commencement program on Sunday, June 16, in honor of her distinguished leadership in Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA). This is the first “Honoris Causa” given by an American Adventist university to a European woman.

Ferreira has overseen the dramatic development of the ACA program around the world. She is well known and loved at all NAD colleges and universities, and is a remarkable proponent of language and cultural education. She is fluent in French, Portuguese, Spanish, German, Italian, English, Hebrew, and Latin.

"She beautifully represents what we long for our students to achieve as they depart our campus for lives of service," said LSU President Randal Wisbey.

Nearly 3,000 people were present and almost 400 students received their diplomas, many of them from the Zapara School of Business, now considered the largest school of business in the whole country (in and outside of the Adventist system). Odette was very pleased to see a very large group of ACA students present, many graduating now with the ACA sashes and many others who had just come back from abroad.
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists® : 6-20-13 AUC Approved to Offer Degrees

6-20-13 AUC Approved to Offer Degrees

Update Regarding Degree Granting Authority at Atlantic Union College

The Board of Higher Education of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Mass BHE) has accorded Atlantic Union College the authority to award the degrees of Bachelor of Arts in Theology/Religion and Bachelor of Science in Health Science/Biology.

We are delighted with this decision and will be working over the coming months to develop faculty and staff, to seek accreditation, and develop plans for recruitment.

Further and ongoing information will be forthcoming as soon as it is available. We thank all who have been praying and patiently waiting for this positive outcome from the Mass BHE.

Duane Cady, Interim President Donald King, Chairman of the Board of Trustees   Atlantic Union College   Inquiries:
If you have inquiries regarding this notice or other Atlantic Union College related questions, please contact Premila Willmott, administrative secretary at the Atlantic Union Conference, via e-mail: pwillmott@atlanticunion.org or call (978) 368-8333.
Singer and Evangelist Joe Melashenko is Dead at 91

Submitted: Jun 22, 2013

By AT News Team

In 1948 the Canadian son of immigrants from Russia joined the King’s Heralds quartet as their bass. He was music director for George Vandeman for many years and an evangelist with the Voice of Prophecy media ministry for more than two decades. H. M. S. Richards called him the “basso profundo in excelsis.” He passed away Friday morning (June 21) at age 91, his son Lonnie Melashenko, retired director of the Voice of Prophecy, has told Adventist Today.

"He left like he lived," Pastor Melashenko said of his father. "Quietly. Graciously. With gentle dignity. Without demands or harsh words or even a frown, he surrendered himself, a tired, frail, humble gentleman; into the waiting arms of his Savior."

Growing up on a farm in Saskatchewan, Joe milked a dozen cows by hand twice a day and would sing to pass the time. By his early 20s, he had won numerous amateur hours and talent show awards. He was heard on coast-to-coast radio in Canada as the "Voice of the Deep."

With his wife Anne, Joe had five sons – Lonnie, Joedy, Dallas, Eugene and Rudy – and taught them to sing at an early age. The family has performed together countless times and the sons have become Seventh-day Adventist ministers. Joe spoke both Russian and Ukrainian fluently and one of the great thrills of his life was returning to the former Soviet Union to preach in an evangelism campaign.

"Jeannie and I are weeping, but we thank God for 'The Blessed Hope' without which we would be most miserable," stated Pastor Melashenko. He thanked God for his father's long life in testimony to this hope. Memorial services for Elder Joseph Melashenko will be held at the Paradise Seventh-day Adventist Church in northern California on Sunday, July 21, at 4 p.m.

_________________________Share your thoughts about this article:

Log In to Post a Comment. Log In | Register
Immigrant Voices: After escaping religious persecution, Russian woman finds calling in Portland

Lilya Yevseyeva smiles in her office at Russian Oregon Social Services, where she works as a breast health advocate for Russian speaking immigrants. (Mike Lloyd/ The Oregonian)
I was born the youngest of seven children in Tajikistan, a country that belonged to the former Soviet Union. From childhood, I experienced religious persecution.

I am Seventh Day Adventist, but practicing religion was frowned upon in the Soviet Union. We did not have churches. We hid our bibles in a hole we dug beneath a neighbor's basement. I still remember opening the hiding spot, and finding the bibles wet and yellowed, destroyed from storage.

I also remember being late for school in the springtime because my family did not have a television, so we did not know to set our clocks ahead.

When I came in late, my teacher said, "Oh those stupid religious people don't even know when the time has changed."

I wanted to be a gynecologist, but I wasn't allowed to attend university because I wasn't a member of the Komsomol, the Soviet Union's communist youth party.

After the Soviet Union collapsed, civil war broke out in Tajikistan between liberal reformers and Islamic groups. The main railroad line was bombed, and we were worried we would lose our only route to the big world -- to Russia and other countries. I was 21 and was afraid my husband would be drafted to the military. It was no longer safe to live there, so we immigrated to Russia in 1992 and were granted refugee status. We couldn't sell our house, so we took with us only clothes and essentials, and traveled for three days with my 8-month-old baby.

We lived with my uncle for a time, then built a tiny house in a village near the city of Samara.
Life there was good enough, but we struggled. My husband became a welder and I became a nurse in a dentist's office. Since Russia was a communist country, we rarely got a salary. The hardest year was 1998, when I went the whole year without a paycheck. There were stories on the news of families who couldn't afford milk for their children. We had many cows in our village, so we were all right. But we still couldn't practice our beliefs freely.

We never said anything about our religion in public. We didn't have big beautiful churches like the ones here in Portland. We would go from house to house and hold mass around the kitchen table. People who passed by would think we were making tea.

When my work supervisor found out I am Seventh Day Adventist, he ran to the library and read government books about how we were dangerous for the community. He was always watching me after that.

They called us "sect" and told people we were evil and would try to seduce them into sharing our religious beliefs.

We decided to leave the country after my father was almost put in jail. My husband, son and I went to Moscow, and Russian immigration officials drew our blood and checked our health. They made us prove we were religiously oppressed. When we left for Portland, we were allowed to take two suitcases. No gold or jewelry, no books or paintings came with us from Russia. People asked "Why are you doing this? They will make you a slave over there."

They had called me a traitor. Ha! In Tajikistan, they told me to go away. In Russia, they told me, "You are religious, you are not like us." And now they wanted me to stay?

Even in America, sometimes people say "Why have you come here?" I came here for freedom, of course. In Portland there are 40 Russian speaking churches. In the 1990s, Soviet Union immigrants were the biggest wave coming into Portland.

When I got here I didn't know English, except for a few words. I wondered how in the world I would get a job, but my family encouraged me. My first American job was at Goodwill. After work I attended nighttime English classes, but I was too tired to study. So I started taking morning classes and working nights as a janitor.

I think I was born to help people. When I came here, I thought "How can I be helpful? Americans don't need my help."

I got my green card, then my citizenship, and after six years here I got a job at Russian Oregon Social Services, helping other immigrants to succeed. I am a breast health specialist. I teach women about the need for exams. I schedule their appointments, bring them to the clinic, and provide interpretation services for the doctor. I have found my role.

Unlike me, my son doesn't worry about religion affecting his chance to pursue his dream job. He is in law school at Eastern Oregon University. I'm so proud of him.
I like it in Portland. All of my family is here, I have a good job and all the resources of a city. I can attend beautiful musical performances or go to the ballet. We have local television and so many magazines. We are spoiled, but I don't like the rain.

I dream of someday moving to Southern Oregon to live on a farm with chickens. I would have raspberries growing in my yard.

I have lived my life in three different cultures -- a Muslim state in Tajikistan, secularism in Russia, and now religious freedom in America. It has made me a well-rounded person, but I am still learning. All our lives, we are learning.

--Kelly House

Copied from: http://www.oregonlive.com/living/index.ssf/2013/06/post_44.html
The Ebenezer Seven Days Adventist Church in Milledgeville hosted a night of praise and worship that rallied quite a few football fans. That's because the guest speaker Friday night was former Falcon turned Philadelphia Eagle, Mike Vick. The theme for the service was, "I still have hope". The quarterback talked to the crowd about his faith and the lessons he's learned after serving time in prison for dog fighting charges.

Newly appointed Pastor John T Boston reached out to Vick so he could share his testimony with the people here in Central Georgia.

Boston adds, "He's coming to express that he did have hope. When a lot of people think that when he was incarcerated that there was just going to be a contract out there waiting on him, that wasn't the case. He needed somebody to come along beside him and let him know you're going to make it through this. And that's what we want his story to be tonight, we want people to know they have the same thing. We're to come along side you and help you get where you need to be."

Vick spoke for about 20 minutes to more than 3,000 people who attended tonight's service.
Metroplex receives great workplace award

Sarah Rafique | Herald staff writer | Posted: Thursday, June 20, 2013 4:30 am

Metroplex Adventist Hospital is among the 44 Adventist Health System hospitals in the U.S. that received the Gallup’s Great Workplace Award.

This is the Killeen hospital’s third year in a row to be recognized as having one of the best-performing and most productive and engaged workforces in the world.

“We are so proud to be part of this recognition” said Carlyle Walton, CEO of Metroplex Health System. “The mission of our organization to provide a healing and compassionate environment begins with each employee. ... This award shows that (Metroplex) employees have a deep connection to the mission of the organization as well as a strong commitment to their colleagues.”
Plan would make it easier for medical facilities to expand their campuses.

By Daniel Siegal, daniel.siegel@latimes.com

4:19 PM PDT, June 20, 2013

City officials want to make it easier for Glendale Adventist Medical Center to expand, so they took the first step earlier this week in creating a special Medical Services Zone to surround the facility.

The City Council passed a motion on Tuesday to have city staff initiate the new zone and related General Plan amendment in what Mayor Dave Weaver said is a first step toward establishing a more streamlined process for the expansion and further development of all three hospitals in Glendale.

"This is similar to what we did in the downtown with an overlay zone. ... I would like to look at all three hospitals to eventually do it," Weaver said. "Glendale Memorial [Hospital] is going to be growing even more."

City Manager Scott Ochoa said that a special zoning overlay would give the city a cohesive and thoughtful approach as the hospital further develops its campus.

"[Glendale Adventist has] purchased and redeveloped properties over the years, and to avoid spot zoning, staff would concur that it makes sense to have one comprehensive zone that overlays the entire area," he said.

The proposed Medical Services Zone would be split into three sections, with varying building heights allowed in each.

The zone would also streamline shared parking requests and allow for more signage, which hospitals are required to have in place.

Also, assisted-living facilities would no longer require discretionary approval in the new zone.

Overall, the zone would extend to the Ventura (134) Freeway to the south, Sinclair Avenue to the west, Harvey Drive and Merrill Avenue to the east, and Chevy Chase Drive to the north.

Alicia Gonzalez, spokesperson for Glendale Adventist, said via email that the hospital has no proposed...
projects in the pipeline at this time, but would support the effort to put into code certain variances that have previously been granted to the hospital for height limits and signage.

"This action makes for a friendlier zone for healthcare business in the future," she said.

Kris Hons, representing the owner of an apartment building in the proposed zone, asked how the changes would impact residential units.

City planner Laura Stotler said the zone would have no effect.

"The only changes you'll see will be ones that will benefit the hospital … or medical-related use," she said. "Residential units would still be allowed."

--

Follow Daniel Siegal on Google+ and on Twitter: @Daniel_Siegel.

ALSO:

Glendale man pleads not-guilty in rape case

Glendale police to conduct DUI checkpoint overnight Saturday

Los Angeles man charged with indecent exposure
Here's why Patients are Flocking to Medical Homes

June 20, 2013 – The Oregon Health Authority recently added four Adventist Health Medical Group clinics to their list of Tier-3 Patient-Centered Primary Care Homes. Not to be confused with skilled nursing homes, a Medical Home gives patients needing primary care greater access to their doctor’s office through convenient office visits, follow up email and home monitoring systems, access to a broader team of professionals to help them live well and the opportunity to reduce future healthcare costs.

June 20, 2013 – The Oregon Health Authority recently added four Adventist Health Medical Group clinics to their list of Tier-3 Patient-Centered Primary Care Homes. Not to be confused with skilled nursing homes, a Medical Home gives patients needing primary care greater access to their doctor’s office through convenient office visits, follow up email and home monitoring systems, access to a broader team of professionals to help them live well and the opportunity to reduce future healthcare costs.

As healthcare costs are continuing to increase, the Medical Home model offers a method of transforming the health care delivery system by improving quality and efficiency for each patient. “The Medical Home is not a place, but a philosophy of health that encourages physicians and care providers to be proactive in addressing the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of patients by helping them reduce stress, embrace prevention of disease and manage chronic illness,” states Dr. Leonard Bertheau, DO, the Family Practice physician spearheading this initiative for Adventist Health. “It is a model of care that feels like a healthy home because it fosters continued communication, respect, dignity, and compassion.”

The following Adventist Health Medical Group clinics are being recognized among the highest quality coordinated primary care clinics in Oregon: Eastside Internal Medicine, Ventura Park, Hazelwood and Internal Medicine Associates join Cherry Park Family Practice. Tier-3 PatientCentered Primary Care Homes is the highest level of recognition for patient-centered primary care homes in the nation.


Source URL: http://www.thelundreport.org/resource/here%E2%80%99s_why_patients_are_flocking_to_medical_homes

Links:
Pastor Russ conquers ironman challenge

Jorge Branco | 19th Jun 2013 11:22 AM

CABOOLTURE’S Russ Willcocks had his very own Cinderella story last weekend.

He was in Cairns contesting his first ever ironman event, a gruelling 4km swim, 180km bike ride and 42.2km run, when disaster struck.

The Caboolture Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor powered through the swim leg and felt “great” on the bike but hit a roadblock in transition from the bike to the run.

His bag was gone.

The 41-year-old had no nutrition, no hat, no fresh socks and most of all no shoes to finish the race.

“We (Russ and volunteers) spent probably eight to 10 minutes just frantically searching,” he said.

“Ten to 15 minutes had gone past with no bag, no nothing and you sort of realise your race is over.”

But it was far from over thanks to the quick-thinking announcer who called out for someone to lend a pair of shoes.

Before long Singapore-based business manager Mat Lock came out of the crowd with Russ’s perfect fit, size 13 with pronation support.

"When I heard the call I thought, ‘Poor guy, he’s already had a very long day’,” Mat said.

"I thought what a shame to come this far and through no fault of their own have to call it a day.

"I actually assumed there was every likelihood I would never see them (the shoes) again.”

It was then up to the Caboolture pastor to wrestle his mind and body into tackling the remaining 42km run.

"I was really hungry to finish this race because I was doing so well up to that point,” he said.

When Russ hit the 8km mark he had another surprise; volunteers at the transition had found his bag and he was given an express delivery of everything he needed.

Despite the setback he finished comfortably within his goal time of 11 hours, 169th out of about 1400 competitors.

Russ was raising money for a church mission to Mongolia to build a community centre, run kids' programs and give hygiene lectures. The church has raised $15,200.00 so far.

You can help out by calling 38662789 or visiting www.cabsda.org.
CHESTERTOWN — When the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Chestertown caught fire Feb. 21, 2012, the congregation could have had little notion of what would rise from the ashes.

The Rev. Kevin McDaniel, the church's pastor, said June 7 that the fire took the sanctuary “down to the bare bones,” leaving little beyond the exterior walls of the worship space. The offices, meeting rooms and school of the church on North Kent Street had smoke and water damage, as well.

One of the few things that came through without serious damage was the Bible. It's on the communion table, open to the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew, the same page as on the day of the fire. Other than a slightly smoky color to the pages, it appears untouched: “the fireproof book,” as McDaniel called it.

But the church was going to have to restore the rest of the sanctuary from the ground up. In the process, it took advantage of the opportunity to bring the 1944 building into the 21st century. The overall bill came to “well over $1 million,” McDaniel said.

The changes extend from the roof to the basement, and include insulation, heating and air conditioning, as well as woodwork, furniture, and decorations. The entire building has been rewired and fitted with new plumbing.

Other changes were made to bring the old building into compliance with the American Disabilities Act, providing access for handicapped parishioners or visitors. The church's retired pastor used the new ramps when he visited the restored building, shortly before his death. “He couldn't stop talking about it,” McDaniel said.

The stained glass windows in the sanctuary also are new, crafted by a Pennsylvania company to replace those damaged in the fire. In addition to illustrating the life of Christ, they provide another layer of insulation to keep the building comfortable.

The source of the fire, pinpointed by two investigators, was the church organ – an outdated electronic model with tube circuitry. That instrument has been replaced by a Yamaha Clavinova, which can reproduce the sound of not just an organ, but a whole orchestra's worth of instruments. There also is a grand piano on the other side of the sanctuary. McDaniel said the church has several other Clavinovas in rooms where music could be needed.

The modernization has gone beyond the musical equipment. The entire building is wired for Internet and video, with large screens available for display of instructional videos or other material to enhance the activities. There is a video camera mounted at the back of the sanctuary to allow parishioners who are too ill to attend to take part in the service from home.

While there are still a few loose ends being taken care of, the church is ready to return to normal activities. McDaniel said the church has received the approvals to start a school for up to 12 students, and...
has hired a teacher for the fall. He said the school would be for students in grades 1-8.

McDaniel said the overall contractor, Paul Davis Restoration, used almost all local contractors for the rebuilding, at the church's request.

He praised the community's support for the congregation while it was displaced. “This is a very loving community,” he said. “We're proud to be a part of it.”
The Bible’s Formula for Effective Outreach

"And He said, 'The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come!’ (Mark 4:26-29).

According to the Bible, there are only three steps involving outreach: sowing, growing, and reaping.

Sowing—connecting with people, making friends, “bridging” them to God—is the responsibility of the church, of each Christian, just like sowing is the responsibility of the farmer. What it takes to do that is not ability or money or even time. What it takes to do it is faithfulness, a steady willingness to be used of the Lord for the sake of others.

Growing—developing spiritually—is God’s responsibility, not ours. We cannot make people grow. Trying to do so would be like a farmer pulling on a plant to try to speed up its growth. He’d end up killing the plant! What does it take for people to grow spiritually? Nothing less than a sustained miracle, it takes power, God’s power.

Reaping—leading people to make decisions for Christ and His church—is a responsibility the church shares with God. It is all about the right timing. The more Christ’s followers understand how God works, the better able they are to perceive the “golden moment”—in the words of Ellen White—when people should be invited to surrender all to the Lord. Accepting Bible teachings and joining God’s remnant church calls for special timing in each individual.

But the key to a large harvest is faithful sowing. Will you allow the Holy Spirit to use you to “sow” the field, to make friends for Christ?

A Personal Testimony by Dr. Clouzet

When I was a pastor, I had several Bible studies with different people each week. But a few years after we moved to teach at Southern Adventist University, I found myself without any ongoing Bible studies. Although I was making a tangible difference to the collegiates I taught, I realized I was making no saving difference to any of my neighbors or inquirers who did not know our wonderful message.

So, one Sabbath morning, I knelt before God with a great longing in my heart. I pleaded with Him to give me another opportunity to witness to someone not of my faith. “Lord,” I cried, “please forgive me for allowing my busyness to be my excuse not to lead people to You any longer.” I asked Him to put me in contact with someone who might be interested in studying the Bible, such as I had in the past.

The Lord did not delay an answer. As our family went to church that morning, Lisa and I sat in the back of a Sabbath School class I had not previously attended. Before it started, the associate pastor approached me to ask if I could teach the lesson, since the teacher would not be there that morning. Although I did not have a quarterly, providentially, I had studied that very lesson on the sanctuary a few weeks before, for a television program where I was a participant. As I stood up to teach, a finely dressed lady, not an Adventist, came in the sanctuary and sat next to my wife. She was riveted to everything she heard that morning.

At the end, we met, and she shared her eagerness to learn such wonderful things from the Bible. Then she asked, “Do you ever have time to meet with people to study the Bible?” How about that for answered prayer! This was the first time she’d attended an Adventist church, and that morning she had an overwhelming impression that she needed to attend one!

Isn’t God wonderful? He heard my heart-felt prayer and answered it so clearly! We began Bible studies, and a few...
months later she and her husband were baptized. She immediately got involved in ministry and became a blessing to many in the name of Jesus.

Could God answer your prayer as well? Would you ask Him, earnestly and sincerely ask Him, to put you in the path of someone looking for Jesus and His truth? Maybe you too can be a powerful instrument of grace over the next few months.

---

**Missional Groups Can Make a Life-Saving Difference**

In *Ministry of Healing*, page 143, we read about Christ’s own formula for outreach success: "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.’” Here is how this works in small groups:

**Step One:** A team of two or three can start getting acquainted with neighbors just by going for a Sabbath afternoon walk every week and praying for God’s blessings on the homes they walk by, and stopping by just to say hello to those in their front yards (that’s mingling with people as you desire their good). As you develop friends you can build relationships by inviting them to your house for a watermelon feed, afternoon hike or even a campout.

**Step Two:** As your team grows (you now have a small group) and gets acquainted with the different needs of your friends you will have a chance to meet those needs through DVD’s, bridge-building seminars, and other ministries (you are now showing sympathy for them and ministering to their needs).

**Step Three:** Some will now share an interest in reading a book you may offer or taking Bible studies because you have become friends (they now have confidence in you).

**Step Four:** You and your group will be pleasantly surprised that some will be ready for you to invite and take them to church, or an evangelistic series in your area (take them to Jesus). You have just followed the simple plan that Jesus used in reaching out to others.

*Dr. Don James, Associate Director, Consultant for Discipleship and Small Group Ministries*

---

**Servant Evangelism: A New Way to Reach Out**

What if you got a team of church friends, and on the first Sunday of every week were to go to the neighborhood and make a real difference?

For example, you could host a car wash (warmer weather permitting) but not for fund raising purposes but genuinely for free. You’d simply wash cars as they come in, whistling as you go. When you are done and the driver hands you a $5 bill, you put your hand up and say, “Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness, but today we just want to show God’s love in a practical way.” And just smile.

The best thing would be to print a special business card. On it, you can quote “Showing God’s love in a practical way.” Then (or on the other side), you can name your church, the address, phone number, and website. That’s it.
If you do this regularly (monthly, every two weeks, or weekly), it will take but a few times and people will finally get that you’re doing ministry for the community with no strings attached—servant evangelism. Eventually, a number of these folk will be interested to know what church you are from and why people from that church are so very nice.

Other things you could do? Give away water bottles near a high school on warm days, or put quarters on washing machines for older people or single moms, or provide umbrella escort services, or drive or shop for older people in the neighborhood. The key is ministering with a smile, and doing so in the same spot consistently.

Try it for three months. You’ll start to make a real difference. For more ideas, check out the book *Conspiracy of Kindness: A Unique Approach to Sharing the Love of Jesus* by Steve Sjorgen.

*Dr. Eduard Schmidt, Associate Director, Personal Ministries*

---

**What is Bridge-Building, and Why Does it Matter?**

The best way for a church to make friends for heaven is to follow a bridge-building plan of community-oriented offerings every year. Bridge-building, you say? That’s a common term used when churches offer various ministries to the community with the purpose of making friends with them. Here are a few examples:

- Stop-Smoking Clinics
- Weekly Homeless Feeding
- Vegetarian Cooking Schools
- Weekly Community Services
- Health-Assessment Fairs
- Parenting or Finance Seminars

You get the idea. When a church schedules these months in advance, they can issue a schedule and publish it in local newsletters or post them around town. If done well, little by little, people in the community get used to the various services provided by the local church, and the door of friendship opportunities begins to swing wide open. It is through these services, plus individual Bible studies and personal evangelism, that “sowing” is effectively done that will yield a “reaping” when evangelistic meetings are offered.

*Dr. Eduard Schmidt, Associate Director, Personal Ministries*