Dear Dorothy,

Pastoral eNews - December 2011

Welcome: It has been our great privilege and joy to share the 2011 3ABN events with you. Thank you for allowing us to do so. Speaking of sharing, this special season of the year serves up unique opportunities to witness for Christ. We hope you will take advantage of every opportunity that God brings your way. Although we know December 25th wasn't the actual date of His birth, during the Christmas holidays people's thoughts turn toward His birth and they seem to be more receptive to conversations about Him. We encourage you to share the good news of the Gospel and Christ's soon-coming Second Advent with those around you who so desperately need Christ.

Behind the Scenes: Homecomings are so sweet! We're happy to have Ariel (3ABN Art Services Department) and Matthew Warren (Literature Evangelist) return to us after successfully completing four months of intensive study at Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism. Their passion to work on the front line has intensified, and both look forward to the next chapter in their lives. They find inspiration in this E.G.
White quote: "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.' " {MH 143.3}. Ariel and Matthew have confidence that God is in charge and has a purpose for them in His harvest field work. (photo)

**Verse of the Day:** Proverbs 27:10 "Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity: better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away." A tried friend is more likely to be of help in adversity than a brother who has not the same special interest as the good neighbor. The claims of friendship are often stronger than those of blood relationship, especially when the friends are united by a common religious hope not shared by the relatives. Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." The mark of a true friend is that he stays by in trouble as if bound by the ties of relationship. Proverbs 18:24 "A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." There are many friends who are not true friends, who exhaust our resources and will not stand by us in the day of calamity. The primary meaning of this phrase is undoubtedly that friends sometimes remain faithful even when brothers have turned away. The language of the expression may be conveniently applied to Christ, the true and faithful Friend, the One who never fails.

**Behind the Scenes:** As many of you know, our 3ABN Pastoral Department has had to say farewell to several key staff members who accepted ministry assignments in different cities. This left us understaffed and in dire need of spirit-filled volunteers. We are very excited to announce that Donna Blanton has recently joined our pastoral staff as a volunteer. She has an intimate relationship with the Lord and a fervent desire to encourage others with a promise from God's Word and a prayer. Donna is new to our department, but not new to 3ABN. She and her husband, Garland, moved to Thompsonville in 2008 to volunteer at this ministry. Garland, a 30-year veteran of the Monterey California Fire Department, stays busy assisting our production engineers. Donna has worked with MOIPTV for the past 2.5 years. We welcome Donna to the pastoral department. She loves the Lord and loves to pray for others.

**Good News:** "Christ will never abandon those for whom He has died. We may leave Him and be overwhelmed with temptation, but Christ can never turn from one for whom He has paid the ransom of His own life." Prophets and Kings, p. 176; Ellen G. White.

**Behind the Scenes:** November 2011 Tour of the Holy Land. Shelley and I, along with Joe O'Brien (pastoral department) and his wife, Nancy, were very blessed to join 115 people from across the USA and several other countries on a 10-day tour of Israel led by Jim Gilley. It was a "dream come true" for most—we walked where Jesus walked and the Bible seemed to spring to life. The tour was divided into two parts. Initially, we visited upper and lower Galilee. We took a boat out onto the Sea of Galilee, eagerly anticipating a yield of hundreds of fish as in Peter's day. We visited Tabgah, traditionally recognized as the place where Jesus fed 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish (Matthew 14:17). Touring Capernaum, we saw Jesus' second native city
that became His ministry headquarters for approximately 20 months. We walked the Mount of the Beatitudes, where Jesus shared the Beatitudes (Matthew 5), and visited Caesarea Philippi, Magdala, and the valley of Jezrell (which stretches between the mountains of Galilee in the north and the mountains of Samaria in the south). We enjoyed the lofty heights of Mount Hermon and Mount Tabor (Psalms 89:13), and visited the valley of Megiddo, located on the southern edge of the plain of Jezreel. Standing atop Mount Carmel, we revisited the historical event of the prophet Elijah who challenged the priests of Baal, confounding them when their own incantations to Baal failed and the God of Heaven sent down fire in answer to Elijah's prayer (Kings 18). I'll share more of our spectacular time in just a moment.

Answers to Difficult Questions: Acts 12:15 But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel."
ANSWER: Some religious sects believe that people become angels after they die. Did these friends of Peter believe he was dead and that he had become an angel? Not is they believed the words of Scripture. Mark these facts: (1) Angels existed before any human being died (Genesis 3:24), so the existence of angels does not depend on the death of mortals. (2) Angels belong to a different order of created beings (Psalm 8:5). (3) Children have guardian angels assigned to them (Matthew 18:10). (4) Angels witness all we say or do (Ecclesiastes 5:6). (5) They are constantly ministering to the "heirs of salvation" (Hebrews 1:14). In the text under consideration, Peter's friends were undoubtedly talking about his guardian angel.

Behind the Scenes: Tour of the Holy Land-continued. While in Israel, we visited Caesarea-the beautiful city Herod the Great rebuilt on the Mediterranean coast. Pontius Pilate lived in Caesarea and traveled from there to Jerusalem for the Passover, during which time he condemned Jesus to be crucified. We had a memorable time at the River Jordan, where 53 members of our group were baptized (a few for the first time; most in an act of rededication to the Lord). It was truly inspiring. We visited Qumran (where, in 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered by "accident"-actually, by providence) and toured the Shrine of the Book, which houses the famous Dead Sea Scrolls, as well as scrolls found at Massada. Traveling to Massada, we witnessed the remains of the magnificent fortress Herod the Great built atop the mountain. It was here that 960 Jewish men, women, and children chose to die by their own hand rather than surrender to their Roman enemies. We concluded this half of the trip by visiting the Dead Sea. Many of our group changed into bathing suits and enjoyed the water which is so salt-saturated that you cannot sink. The Dead Sea is the lowest point on the earth's surface-1300 feet below sea level! It was a beautiful time in the sun. More of my report coming up!

Fundamental Beliefs: Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental beliefs to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. These 28 fundamental beliefs constitute the Church's understanding of the teaching of the Scripture. Today's belief number two is THE TRINITY. There is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-
revelation. He is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 14:7).

**Behind the Scenes:** Tour of the Holy Land-continued. For many of us, our tour of Jerusalem and its immediate vicinity was the highlight of our trip. From the Mount of Olives, where Christ often came for meditation and prayer, we saw the magnificent view of the Old City. At the foot of the Mount, we walked through the Garden of Gethsemane, a favorite place of Christ to retreat for prayer (Luke 22:39)—the place where He uttered, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me, nevertheless not my will, but thine be done" Luke 22:42. We visited The Tomb of King David and ventured forward to the upper room of the Last Supper (rebuilt in the 12th century), where Christ celebrated the first communion with His disciples (Luke 22:7-13) and where the disciples later received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). We saw the incredible Muslim shrine, the Dome of the Rock, constructed on the site of the second Jewish Temple (destroyed in A.D. 70 by the Romans). The Dome is built atop the Foundation Stone, where the Most Holy Place was located—considered the holiest site in Judaism. In absence of the Temple, the Western Wall (Wailing Wall) has become the holiest shrine of today's Jewish world. It is revered as the last relic of the last Temple—a place from which the Jews believe God's presence has never been withdrawn. The Western Wall is a portion of the retaining wall that Herod built around the 2nd Temple in 20BC. (photo) We visited the Pool of Bethesda, the ancient meeting place for invalids who believed its water was given healing properties. We walked the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrows), traditionally believed to be the path on which Christ carried His cross from Pontius Pilate's judgment hall (where He was condemned to death) to Calvary (where He was crucified). As we ventured forth to Golgotha, where Christ was believed to be crucified, we saw its stone outcropping that resembles a human skull. At the Garden Tomb (north of the Damascus Gate and believed by many to be the burial place of Jesus Christ) our group enjoyed a special Sabbath communion service. Stopping at the Second Temple Period, we saw a huge and detailed model of the city of Jerusalem of Herod's time. It was amazing to see how the city looked at that time before it was destroyed by Titus in A.D. 70. When we visited Bethlehem (the original house of the family of David), many of us were surprised to learn it lies only 5 miles south of Jerusalem. It was here that Mary took the Christ child and "wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn" Luke 2:1-20. The historicists believe the "manger" was a grotto (cave or cavern). In Bethlehem we visited the Church of the Nativity, which sits atop the only historical site approved by all religious groups as the birthplace of Christ. A silver star commemorates the "Nativity," the spot where Christ was born. We visited Herodium, a conical summit Herod the Great built (about 5 miles southeast of Bethlehem) as a fortified palace. And we toured Nazareth, where Jesus grew to manhood (Luke 1:26-35). The question was posed, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" John 1:46. Christ say, "Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country" Luke 4:24. I've given you only a few highlights. It would take volumes to share the wonders of this magnificent journey. If you ever get a chance to visit the Holy Land, I highly recommend you do it!
Thoughts for the Day: "When God's people take their eyes off the things of this world and place them on heaven and heavenly things they will be a peculiar people, because they will see the mercy and goodness and compassion that God has shown to the children of men. His love will call forth a response from them, and their lives will show to those around them that the Spirit of God is controlling them, that they are setting their affections of things above, not on the things of the earth." Maranatha-The Lord is Coming; November 10th; Ellen G. White.

Affirmation: "As I am tested in the furnace of affliction, I praise God for the refining work He is accomplishing in my life. I can count on this-the fiery trials through which God permits me to pass result in my eternal benefit (or else He would not allow them). I have a living hope in the inheritance God has reserved for me in heaven. I know I am kept by His power through faith for eternal life with Him. The Lord tests my heart through the crucible of adversity, but He preserves my life and keeps my feet from slipping. By His grace, this testing will cause me to come forth as pure gold." (Isaiah 48:10; 1 Peter 4: 12,13; 1 Peter 1: 3-9; Malachi 3:3; Psalm 66: 9,10) Life Affirmations from Scripture, pg. 76, Shelley Quinn.

Behind the Scenes: Romance and commitment continues to surge at 3ABN. We've had a record number of weddings in the past couple of years, to the glory of God. On December 18, Hernando Cruz (a 3ABN engineer) married Clotty Matarranz in a beautiful church ceremony held at our Thompsonville SDA Church. Pastor John Lomacang officiated. The lovely bride and stately groom beamed with joy. I know both of them are very happy.

Become a 3ABN Prayer Warrior: http://www.3abn.org/prayer_warrior.cfm
If the Holy Spirit convicts you that intercessory prayer be your calling, please visit our website and follow directions, submitting the necessary information. Being a Prayer Warrior is one of the most rewarding ministries there is. When we walk the streets of gold, only then will we know the extent of our cooperative efforts with the Lord. We continually receive input from our Prayer Warriors stating how satisfying it is to work in the Lord's vineyard. What we intend to be a blessing for others is a greater blessing for us. God gets all the glory.

Thought for the Day: "Our heavenly Father measures and weighs every trial before He permits it to come upon the believer. He considers the circumstances and the strength of the one who is to stand under the proving and test of God, and He never permits the temptations to be greater than the capacity of resistance. If the soul is overborne, the person overpowered, this can never be charged to God, as failing to give strength in grace, but the one tempted was not vigilant and prayerful and did not appropriate by faith the provisions God had abundantly in store for him. Christ never failed a believer in his of combat. The believer must claim the promise and meet the foe in the name of the Lord, and he will not
Behind the Scenes: The students of Thompsonville Christian School treated our local Adventist Church with a Christmas concert on December 10th. The concert featured the famous Handel's Messiah. It was a blessed evening as students from many grades shared their talents. Many students had short solos, while others introduced the musical selections. Chimes, guitars, and melodious voices filled the sanctuary, drawing the attention to the grandest event of all history—the incarnation of Christ. (photo)

Behind the Scenes: UPDATE ON ANDREWS STUDY BIBLE PROJECT FOR INMATES

Behind prison walls there are many sincere individuals who search for a better way of life. Earlier this year we were very blessed with significant donations that allowed us to purchase 100 Bibles for our prison ministry. These Bibles went like "hot cakes." God has again blessed, and we were able to secure another shipment of 200 Bibles. When inmates receive their Bible from 3ABN, they send notes of heartfelt thanks. Below is a sample of the gratefulness they express.

"I want to thank you for the Andrews Study Bible that 3ABN sent to me. I started reading it as soon as it landed in my hand. I really like how it breaks the scriptures down and explains it better for me to understand the scriptures. Thank you once again and keep up the good work of reaching out to people who believe. God bless everybody at 3ABN for the good work they do."

In turn, our thanks go out to our faithful supporters.

Need special prayer? http://www.3abn.org/prayer_request.cfm

Your 3ABN Pastoral staff is here to assist you. Every member of our team is sensitive to those in pain. I believe, over the years, we have encountered callers in just about every topic or situation one could imagine. It is only by the aid and power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to successfully do that which He has called us to do. We are eager to share words of hope and encouragement. To God be the glory!

"Pastor's Page"

3ABN's Trauma Center

Many of today's modern hospitals have what are known as trauma centers. These units are staffed with professionals trained to handle emergency room patients that are facing life and death situations. These teams are ready at a moments notice to provide life saving techniques saving countless lives because of their commitment and dedication to each patient's survival. Through the years, the pastoral staff at 3ABN has encountered many similar circumstances from our callers. In addition, 3ABN's Pastoral Staff not only ministers through prayer for the caller's physical requests, but also their spiritual and emotional traumas as well. Here are but a few we have received lately. Please keep our callers and pastoral staff in your prayers.

"Oh God, oh thank God, you answered, thank God you answered. No, I'm not all right! No, my husband is having chest pains; I think he's having a heart attack. Yes, I've called 911.
Yes, they're on their way, but I need help--I need help right now, please pray for my husband, his name is Ray, please pray.; I need help now, right now, please pray-I need all of you to pray, now, pray now, right now. Ray, oh God Ray. Pastor pray, please pray-he's my life. Ray, Ray!

"I have a gun to my head; my wife has been unfaithful and I don't want to live anymore. No, I don't want prayer, I just want someone to know why I'm gonna blow my brains out. That's why I called. When she gets home, she'll be sorry, she'll be sorry she did this when she finds me dead. Why did she do this? I love her with all my heart; I can't believe she could do this to me. I love her. I really love her-with all my heart--I don't want to die but I don't want to live without her. Why in God's name did she do this? Yes, you can pray, but it won't do any good because I'm a dead man-no don't pray, I don't want you to pray--I'm outta here, I'm a dead man. Why, why should I wait-why should I listen to you? There's nothing you can say to stop me. I don't know why I called you anyway; you're all a bunch of Jesus freak idiots-why did I call? I called because your 800 number is on the television, that's why; I don't know why--I don't want to die but I can't stand to live. Yeah pray, okay, okay pray, but it won't do any good."

"This is Donna, I need prayer. 3ABN is my home church. You're my only pastors. You are the only ones I know to call when the pain gets unbearable. It's bad today, I'm sorry, but I hurt so badly. Will you pray that God will put me to sleep-now, right now, please, the pain from this cancer is so bad? How did Jesus do it, how did He stand the pain? How can He expect me to do it? I can't do it. Okay, pray--okay, but hurry, hurry and pray-please pastor, don't forget to pray for my husband; I don't know what he'll do without me. There won't be anyone to take care of him when I'm gone. What will he do? Please pray for him too pastor."

"Please pray for my sister and her husband pastor; they're out of their minds trying to figure out what happened. I told them, it wasn't their fault--sometimes these things just happen. They didn't believe that, so they're still searching for answers. They have her baby pictures and her high school pictures scattered all over the kitchen table. I don't think that's going to do them any good, but what can I say. Kelley was my sister's only child, so she was like my own daughter. They can't stop crying. I want to cry too, but I need to be strong for my sister. Please pray for me too pastor, I didn't know who else to call. I know you get call after call from people that are wounded and bleeding. I don't know how you do it-I don't know how any of you do it after day. Thank God for 3ABN-thank God for all of you. Please don't put their names on the screen or Kelley's name either. Just pray, please pray for them Pastor. Pastor, do you think Kelly will be in heaven? We don't know why she did it. We just don't know why-why did she do it. Maybe, I failed her too. Please pray pastor."

"I know that I call too much, I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry; I promise I won't keep you long. You're the only contact I have with my Christian family. I know you tell me, "its okay to call Annie," and you all love me no matter how many times I call. But I won't keep you long--I called you pastor, because I was making a little pot of green beans and potatoes in my pressure cooker-I use the pressure cooker because my mama taught me to just pressure cook the vegetables for a little while and they will be better for me. It was all I had to eat-my son comes by once a week in his new truck and goes to the grocery store for me. All I had left for groceries this week was $12.00, but he got me some bread, potatoes, milk and a few other little things; it was more than twelve dollars-but he let me sign an IOU for the other $2.60 extra that he spent. I'll be able to pay him next month when my check comes in. Please, please pastor, pray for my arm. I went to move the pressure cooker off the stove-it's just a little one
and the lid blew off. It burned my hand and arm and I'm afraid to call my son because he'll think I done it on purpose just to get attention. It hurts so bad. It's swollen and really red-I hope he doesn't come over. I'll tell him that I did it while I was pulling weeds. I don't have a good lawn mower so I have to pull some of the weeds around the trees in the yard. I'll tell him I scraped it on a tree. I'm sorry; I've kept you too long pastor, but please pray for me. I don't have anyone else to call. I picked the green beans and potatoes up off the floor and put them in the refrigerator. They weren't ruined and they're all I have to eat. I'm sorry pastor, I've kept you too long-I'm sorry pastor."

Pray for me Pastor, I'm sorry to bother you; I didn't know who else to call--I'm sorry
Pastor, pray, please pray for me!

All names have been changed to protect the individual's privacy

3ABN's Pastoral Staff

Our sincere prayer is that God will richly bless you in all areas of your life. You are precious to us and we love you as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Your loving Pastoral Staff: Grace Yost, Colleen Hauser, Iris Giguere, Donna Blanton, Larry Welch, Joe O'Brien, Kevin Hart, Hal Steenson and JD Quinn.

J.D. Quinn
Three Angels Broadcasting
Network
618-627-4651