

# ADVENTIST REVIEW

DECEMBER 2016: WHEN WE GET SURPRISED + GRACE  
IN A DREAM + TIME TO MOVE + LET'S CELEBRATE  
SUPPORT AND SERVICE + HELPING OTHERS, HELPING  
OURSELVES + TRADITIONS + LOVING DEEPLY



PASS IT ON

ADVENTIST  
**REVIEW**



**OFFER ENDS  
DECEMBER 31**

~~\$19.99~~

12 Month Subscription For Only **\$12**

**1-800-447-7377**

AdventistReview.org/Subscriptions  
And Use Promo Code: **AR12**

Print + Digital







## FEATURES

### DISCOVER

#### 20 **LINKING ARMS INSTEAD OF POINTING FINGERS**

V. BAILEY GILLESPIE

Research about preserving faith in Adventist students

### CONNECT

#### 40 **STUCK IN SPACE** | GERALD A. KLINGBEIL

Jesus made history by coming to earth as a baby.  
But He's not a baby anymore.

### ENGAGE

#### 51 **WITH JESUS IN THE FAMILY** | STEPHEN CHAVEZ

Jane Morrison knows what keeps young families  
connected to the church.

**God's interest in our children, teenagers, and young adults cannot be topped by anything. His care knows no distraction; His love is unwavering; His persistence has no limits. That's good news for those who can't wait to finally get home.**

# 19

## ARTICLES

### DISCOVER

- 19 **THE WEB**  
GERALD A. KLINGBEIL  
The responsibility of transmitting our values belongs to all of us.
- 24 **WHEN WE GET SURPRISED**  
WILLIE AND ELAINE OLIVER  
Our kids have a keen sense of observation.
- 26 **ENGAGING YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS**  
It's time to do more than talk.
- 30 **BRIDGING THE GAP**  
JAMIE HENDERSON  
An innovative program connects old and young.
- 34 **BE AN INCREDIBLE GRANDPARENT**  
BOB AND SHERRI UHRIG  
Passing along heavenly values to a new generation
- 36 **LET'S CELEBRATE SUPPORT AND SERVICE**  
KATHLEEN KUNTARAF  
Service is not an option; it's what Christians do.

### CONNECT

- 46 **HELPING OTHERS, HELPING OURSELVES**  
GARY L. HOPKINS AND DUANE C. MCBRIDE  
Recent research proves what Christians have known for years.

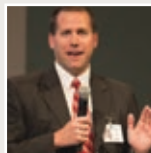


### ENGAGE

- 56 **BUILDING FAITH IN CHILDREN**  
ELLEN G. WHITE  
It's a sacred responsibility that we do well to take seriously.
- 58 **TRADITIONS**  
WILONA KARIMABADI  
Whether it's Sabbath candles or sunset worship, a tradition is one way to experience unity.
- 60 **FAITHFUL KIDS**  
LINDA MEI LIN KOH AND TANYA MUGANDA  
Eleven resources (among others) that help communicate faith
- 62 **WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR YOUR PRODIGAL CHILD OR GRANDCHILD?**  
SANDRA BLACKMER  
It's a fact: God created all of us with the power to choose.

## NEWS | OPINION

- » Educators Receive Copies of Ellen White Book
- » Attorney Challenges Adventist Schools, "Be Adventist."
- » St. Louis to Host 2015 General Conference Session
- » Young and Alone? A Weekend for You
- » Leather-clad Bikers Share Jesus in Argentina
- » New Commentary to "Squeeze the Juice" From Bible
- » Students Witness 21 Baptisms in Uganda



### EDITORIAL

- 5 **BILL KNOTT**  
THE GRACE INVESTMENT CLUB

### DEPARTMENTS

- 6 **LETTERS**
- 67 **HOUSE CALL**
- 68 **VOICES**
- 70 **CLOSER LOOK**

### COLUMNS

- 33 **TRANSFORMATION TIPS**  
DELBERT W. BAKER
- 45 **SEARCHING THE OBVIOUS**  
DIXIL RODRÍGUEZ
- 65 **JOURNEYS WITH JESUS**  
JILL MORIKONE
- 72 **IN OTHER WORDS**  
WILONA KARIMABADI

FOUNDED 1849. PUBLISHED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS®

**PUBLISHING BOARD**

Ted N. C. Wilson, *chair*  
Guillermo Biaggi, *vice chair*  
Bill Knott, *secretary*  
Lisa Beardsley-Hardy, Williams Costa, Daniel R. Jackson, Peter Landless, Robert Lemon, Geoffrey Mbwana, G. T. Ng, Daisy Orion, Juan Prestol-Puesán, Ella Simmons, Artur Stele, Ray Wahlen  
Karnik Doukmetzian, *legal advisor*

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR/DIRECTOR OF ADVENTIST REVIEW MINISTRIES** Bill Knott

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, ADVENTIST REVIEW MINISTRIES**

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS** André Brink, Lael Caesar, Gerald A. Klingbeil

**ASSISTANT EDITORS** Sandra Blackmer, Stephen Chavez, Wilona Karimabadi

**ONLINE EDITOR** Mark Kellner

**MARKETING/STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**  
Jared Thurmon

**DIGITAL EDITOR** Kristina Penny

**ART DIRECTOR/DESIGNER** Bryan Gray

**WEB DESIGN/SOCIAL MEDIA** Evan Bambrick

**LAYOUT TECHNICIAN** Fred Wuerstlin

**COPY EDITOR** James Cavil

**OPERATIONS MANAGER** Merle Poirier

**FINANCIAL MANAGER** Kimberly Brown

**EDITORIAL ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR**  
Marvene Thorpe-Baptiste

**EDITORS-AT-LARGE** Mark A. Finley, John M. Fowler

**SENIOR ADVISOR** E. Edward Zinke

**AD SALES** Glen Gohlke, Seth Hill

**CIRCULATION** Rebecca Hilde

**TO WRITERS:** Writer's guidelines are available at the *Adventist Review* Web site: [www.adventistreview.org](http://www.adventistreview.org) and click "About the Review." For a printed copy, send a self-addressed envelope to: Writer's Guidelines, *Adventist Review*, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

**E-mail:** [revieweditor@gc.adventist.org](mailto:revieweditor@gc.adventist.org).

**Web site:** [www.adventistreview.org](http://www.adventistreview.org).

Unless otherwise noted, Bible texts in this issue are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Unless otherwise noted, all prominent photos are © Thinkstock 2015.

The *Adventist Review* (ISSN 0161-1119) is the general paper of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church. It is published monthly by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904. Periodicals postage paid at Silver Spring, MD, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Adventist Review*, P.O. Box 5353, Nampa, ID 83653-5353.

Copyright ©2016, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Twelve issues of the monthly *Adventist Review*, US\$26.95 plus additional postage outside North America. Single copy US\$5.00.

To order, visit [adventistreview.org/subscriptions](http://adventistreview.org/subscriptions) or send your name, address, and payment to: *Adventist Review* subscription desk, P.O. Box 5353, Nampa, ID 83653-5353

**ADDRESS CHANGES AND SUBSCRIPTION QUERIES:**  
[adventistreview@pacificpress.com](mailto:adventistreview@pacificpress.com).

OR call 1-800-545-2449

# TRENDING

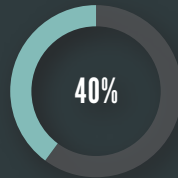
THE MOST SHARED STORIES ON ADVENTISTREVIEW.ORG LAST MONTH:



- 1 Would Desmond Doss Be Happy With 'Hacksaw Ridge'?
- 2 Updated Adventist Church Logo Approved
- 3 Recommendation on Non-Compliance to Go to Annual Council
- 4 Endangered Adventism?
- 5 Annual Council Approves Measure to Encourage Adherence to Church Policies

## THE MINISTRY OF PRESENCE

What happens when people stop attending church? In Africa, Europe, North America, and South America, 40 percent of the time, the answer is "nothing." See the breakdown for the other 60 percent (below). How does that compare with the church where you live?



"No one contacted me."



- 19% "A church member came to visit me."
- 17% "A local elder came to visit me."
- 15% "A local church member contacted me by phone."
- 10% "An Adventist relative made contact."
- 9% "The pastor came to visit me."
- 6% "The pastor contacted me by phone or email."
- 3% "An Adventist, not a local member contacted me."
- 2% "I received a letter in the mail."
- 0.3% "Printed material was mailed to me."

Source: General Conference Archives and Statistics





Make a difference in a hungry child's life.



## College Student's Recording Aids Hungry Children

It is my pleasure to donate the proceeds from my CD "*Beams of Heaven*" to help hungry children in the Backpack Lunch Program. This program provides food to be put in backpacks so children can have something to eat on the weekends.

People to People Ministries is a partner in the Backpack Lunch Program serving over 200 at-risk children in Portland, Oregon. The need is great and you are invited to make a difference in the life of a hungry child.

To purchase this CD or for more information about the Weekend Backpack Lunch Program, please visit our website at [www.PeopleToPeopleMinistries.com](http://www.PeopleToPeopleMinistries.com).

BILL KNOTT



## The Grace Investment Club

I am not a self-made man, nor have I ripped myself from the primeval rock. I have not sprung full-blown onto the stage of life, reciting lines of which I am the author.

I am the sum of all who have invested in me. And the debt, entirely unlike the man, is monumental.

I am the aggregate of songs sung sweet and low, of motherly melodies that circle through the hard, dark nights when grief and hurt and woundedness might make a man believe he was really, finally alone. I am what yields from a thousand, thousand stories told to me on long drives through the Smokies and crisp walks through the frozen Massachusetts hills.

At some receding point of memory, there was a Sabbath School teacher—no, 10 of them—who poured the gift of faith into a boy more interested in broken laces on his shoe than the love of Jesus in his heart. There were schoolteachers—brilliant, focused, and yes, some of them just average—who got up day by day to earn a subpar paycheck for the joy of firing imaginations more attentive to the recess game of “capture the flag” than a grasp on things eternal.

And then there were the friends—often older, sometimes wiser—who told me candid stories of their own: how God in love looked down on broken, drug-addicted lives like theirs and pulled them from the Slough of Despond, and set them down in places where faith had at least a fighting chance. They prayed with me; they prayed for me when I was just a bundle of adolescent insecurities, teaching me to overcome that native fear that makes us wary of telling all the truth, even to another believer.

Colleagues, pastors—Adventist and otherwise—crowd close in now as memory sorts and weeds the thicket of the past. I bless the men who gathered around me in a high-woods cabin on one frigid January day to lay their hands on me and pray, not once or twice, but for a goodly, godly hour until they were certain that the peace of God had found a lodging in my heart. I praise my God for pastors—men and women—who have understood that sharing silence is sometimes the most healing act when loss is great, or when I struggled to even hum the song.

How could I calculate what I have learned, how I have changed and grown and been

*Christ so designs the circle of  
His church that there is no  
other starting point than Him.  
And only He will close it.*

reshaped by 35 years of marriage to a godly woman? No part of who I am today could ever be without her touch, or her deep gifts for empathetic laughter and understanding tears. And which of us has not learned fully as much from our children as we have ever taught them? When faith grew up in them, it somehow became more true to us, who now admit to needing reinforcement, even from our kids.

Christ so designs the circle of His church that there is no other starting point than Him. And only He will close it. When we, at last, tell all the truth, we freely own how little of our faith is actually the result of upright choices that we made or insights owing to our genius.

*We are each a tale of mercy;*

*We are each an act of grace.*

My faith today is both my own and still the gift of all who shared it with me. And if I do not miss my guess, you know this story too. In your better moments, you too bless the many who sang the song that brought you to the One.

*Bill Knott*

I appreciate the honesty, openness, and willingness to “tell it like it is,” in Chris Blake’s article “Future Realities” (October 2016). He stepped on my toes too, but oh, how I needed it. Thank you for this article.

**DIXIE STRONG, MOORE**, SOUTH CAROLINA



The staff of *Adventist Review* magazine takes a break at a long-range planning session earlier this year (from left): Mark Kellner, Stephen Chavez, Sharon Tennyson, Wilona Karimabadi, Marvene Thorpe-Baptiste, Gaspar Colón, Kim Brown, Kristina Penny, Jared Thurmon, Andrew McChesney, Lael Caesar, Merle Poirier, Gerald Klingbeil, Sandra Blackmer (on Gerald’s smartphone), Bill Knott, Andre Brink.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I appreciate the honesty, openness, and willingness to “tell it like it is,” in Chris Blake’s article “Future Realities” (October 2016). He stepped on my toes too, but oh, how I needed it. Thank you for this article.

I also absolutely loved Bill Knott’s “Peripatea.” This is the way I want to live, putting God’s rest ahead of my restlessness. Thank you for giving me much to ponder. Bill Knott’s editorials always make me think.

**Dixie Strong**  
Moore, South Carolina

## ELLEN WHITE AND REFORM MOVEMENTS

I am thankful for Chantal Klingbeil’s article “In the World, but Not of It,” and the attempt to explain why Ellen White was part of some reform movements and not others.

I felt, though, that it fell short of giving a solid explanation. Kingdom building went on in the New Testament regardless of legalized slavery. And think of the possibility of how kingdom building could have been enhanced had Ellen White

spoken in favor of women having the vote. With a doubled-in-size voting block, temperance would have become law much earlier than the twentieth century.

With that I offer this explanation of Mrs. White’s silence on women voting. Unfortunately, in all of the reform movements of the day, women’s suffrage seemed to have spiritualism especially attached to it, actually stunting its progress. Had spiritualism not been so prominent among suffragists, women’s right to vote under the



constitution's principles may have occurred sooner, rather than so long afterward. I think spiritualism's attachment to the movement to allow women a voice and a vote moved Ellen White to stay virtually silent on the topic.

**Kevin James**

*Lawrenceville, Georgia*

#### LANDMARK

The September 2016 issue of the *Review* has to be a landmark. I was encouraged and blessed to hear several voices urging our schools to work toward the full restoration of an Adventist identity. It is a system God graciously designed for us.

I agree fully with Larry Blackmer's observation that "Not all things are negotiable, nor can Adventist colleges and universities alter their core values" (p. 21). I applaud his courage.

The editorial powerfully summarizes the challenge we face, noting that we have entered "the most important moment in the history of Adventist higher education—the short and urgent space between now and the coming of the Lord" (p. 5).

**Lee Roy Holmes**

*College Place, Washington*

## IN A FEW WORDS...

### WOULD DESMOND DOSS BE HAPPY WITH HACKSAW RIDGE?

Many of us Adventists served in the military as 1AOs, did not bear arms, and were still given various awards for good service rendered. Desmond Doss was an example and model for all of us. Standing guard with a broom instead of a weapon raised questions that gave us a chance to share our religious convictions. No one has to be reticent about standing up for their religious convictions.

**Jim Zackrison, via Web**

In these few years God has been putting us in the spotlight for a purpose: to arouse in the minds of the multitude the question, *Who are Seventh-day Adventists?* This publicity has created opportunities to witness for the truth.

**Tumo Galeragwe, via Web**

### UPDATED ADVENTIST CHURCH LOGO APPROVED

I have to agree with some of the others who still prefer the old logo with the three angels encircling the globe and the cross in the foreground. It made better sense and was so much easier to identify with. Was the world church really a part of the decision to change the logo? If so, what was the process?

**Trevor Hammond, via Web**

### WORLD CHURCH LEADERS SHARE JESUS DOOR TO DOOR IN MARYLAND

Leading by example in personal work is not always natural. I commend church leaders who demonstrate in incontrovertible terms that they are on the same level as each active member. May I do the same where I am.

**Eugene William Prewitt, via Web**

## YOUR TURN

**We welcome your letters**, noting, as always, that inclusion of a letter in this section does not imply that the ideas expressed are endorsed by either the editors of the *Adventist Review* or the General Conference. Short, specific, timely letters have the best chance at being published (please include your complete address and phone number—even with e-mail messages). Letters will be edited for space and clarity only. Send correspondence to Letters to the Editor, *Adventist Review*, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600; Internet: [letters@adventistreview.org](mailto:letters@adventistreview.org).

# Christmas with Faith



*Help your family and friends  
turn their eyes toward the manger this season.*

Check out our Family Christmas Programming available at: **FaithForToday.tv**



**Faith**  
for Today

**Engaging the Mind • Touching the Heart**

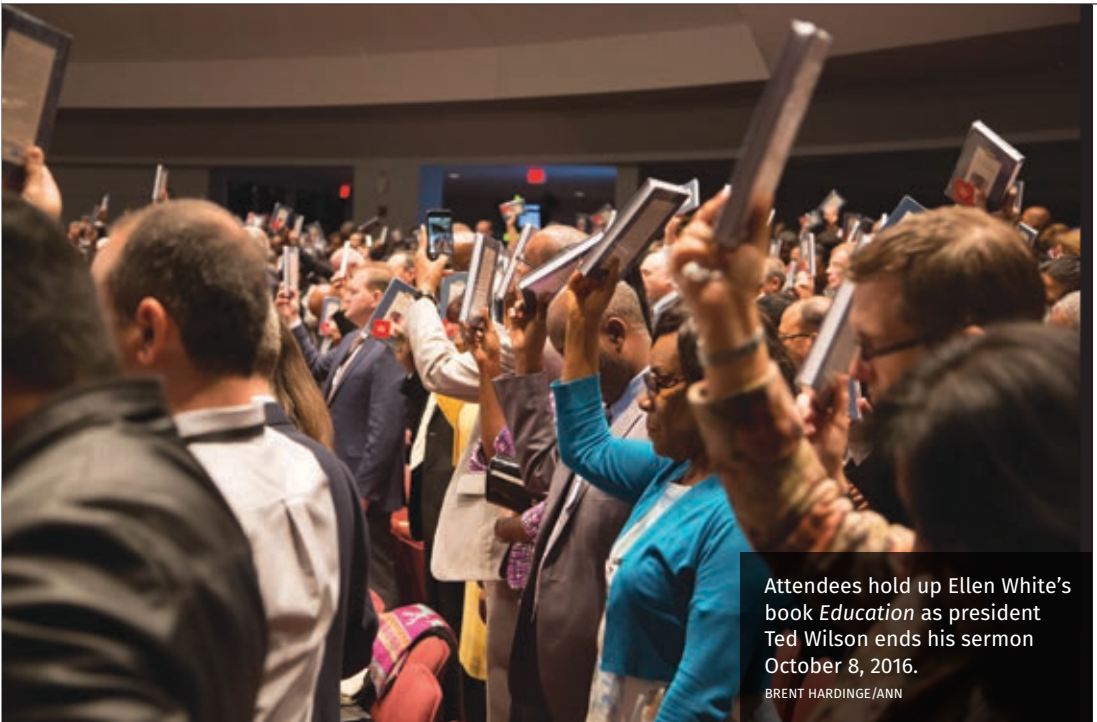
P.O. Box 7729 • Riverside, CA 92513-9804 • (888) 940-0062

[www.FaithForToday.tv](http://www.FaithForToday.tv)

Scan Here To  
Visit Site



- » ADVENTIST PASTOR RESCUES DRIVER FROM POND
- » ANDREA LUXTON INAUGURATED AS PRESIDENT OF ANDREWS UNIVERSITY
- » RAOUL DEDEREN, FORMER SEMINARY DEAN, DIES AT AGE 91
- » NAD YEAR-END MEETING DISCUSSES UNITY DOCUMENT
- » NAD ON TRACK TO PLANT 300 CHURCHES IN 2016



Attendees hold up Ellen White's book *Education* as president Ted Wilson ends his sermon October 8, 2016.

BRENT HARDINGE/ANN

## EDUCATORS RECEIVE ELLEN WHITE BOOK

ANNUAL COUNCIL FOCUSES ON ADVENTIST EDUCATION

BY ANDREW MCCHESENEY

**T**ed N. C. Wilson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church, compared the challenges that face Adventist education to David's fight against Goliath, and presented hundreds of church leaders with Ellen G. White's book *Education* to use as "stones" in a battle against worldly influences attacking Adventist schools.

Wilson, speaking in a Sabbath sermon that serves as his annual world pastoral address, appealed to Adventist educators and schools

to always put the Bible and the writings of White, a church co-founder, at the center of Adventist education.

He invited five guests—an archaeology professor, an Ellen White researcher, two high school teachers, and a church administrator—onto the platform to share how the Bible and White's writings affect Adventist education.

But the big surprise for many gathered at the Adventist world church headquarters in Silver Spring,

Maryland, for the Annual Council business meeting on October 8, 2016, came near the end of the sermon. Wilson instructed church leaders, many of whom double as educators, and others worshipping in the 750-seat auditorium to reach into book holders affixed to their seats. Instead of the customary church hymnals, attendees found brand-new copies of the book *Education*.

"I want you to have a new copy of the book *Education*, one of the





## LOWEL BOCK DIES

Lowell Bock, a former general vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church who oversaw significant changes at Loma Linda University, has died at the age of 93. “Lowell Bock was a thought leader and active

advisor during his two decades of service on our board of trustees,” said Richard H. Hart, president of Loma Linda University Health, the parent company of the university, an associated medical center, and other entities.

most valuable ‘stones’ you will ever possess in your work, and a complement to the educational instructions in God’s Holy Word,” Wilson said. “The principles in this book, if read carefully and prayerfully, can change your life and the direction of your institution.”

A total of 1,000 copies of the book—900 in English and 100 in Spanish—were acquired for Annual Council, Wilson said in a separate interview. Extra copies will be available for delegates who may not have been in attendance at the service, and for others during and after the October 5-12 meeting.

Adventist education is on the minds of church leaders after they participated in a three-day conference on the topic immediately before Annual Council. The conference ended with participants holding hands in a large circle for group prayer.

In his 80-minute sermon Wilson drew heavily on biblical texts and passages from White’s writings to make the case that the Bible and White’s writings are the blueprint for Adventist education.

“Let’s remember to fully use God’s instructions for His educational model found in the Holy Word of God and the Spirit of Prophecy,” Wilson said. “Don’t forget where God has led us and what He wants to do in the future for Adventist education. For those of you who have gone to Adventist schools, remember what God has done for you in placing you where you are today as a leader. Don’t forget.”

## ATTORNEY TELLS SCHOOLS, “BE ADVENTIST.”

THE REASON: TO MINIMIZE LEGAL TROUBLE

BY ANDREW MCCHESENEY

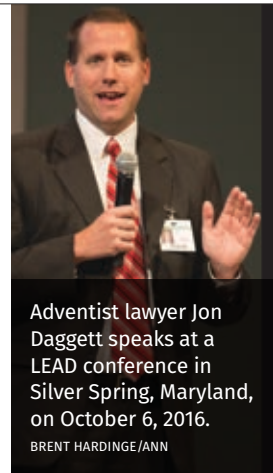
**H**iring Seventh-day Adventist teachers to work at Adventist educational institutions may not only further the church’s mission; it is also becoming a legal imperative to minimize lawsuits, a lawyer said.

Adventist schools can help shield themselves from litigation linked to homosexuality and other controversial social issues by hiring committed Adventist teachers and making sure that the views of current employees align with the church’s mission, said Jon Daggett, an Adventist lawyer with the Hiroshima Daggett law firm, who has represented the church in California courts.

“I am not telling you to go out and find these people and fire them,” Daggett told a meeting of Adventist educators at the world church’s headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. “What I am telling you is that we have to be very careful in our hiring. We need to be very careful in our supervision. And if our schools do have individuals who may not be entirely aligned with the school’s mission statement, then the school needs to get engaged in the process of working through those issues with those individuals.”

Daggett spoke as Adventist leaders gathered for an education-themed LEAD conference on October 5-7, 2016. Conference speakers emphasized that Adventist education was key to the church’s mission to share the gospel. Lisa Beardsley-Hardy, education director for the Adventist world church, and others spoke with concern about a steady decline in the number of Adventist teachers employed at the church’s 8,200 schools worldwide. Non-Adventists now account for about 29 percent of the more than 100,000 church-employed teachers.

“How are we going to achieve our purpose if the teachers are of another faith or no faith at all?” Beardsley-Hardy asked of conference attendees.



Adventist lawyer Jon Daggett speaks at a LEAD conference in Silver Spring, Maryland, on October 6, 2016.

BRENT HARDINGE/ANN



## LEADER'S HUSBAND KILLED

Lars-Erik Andersson, husband of Trans-European Division executive secretary Audrey Andersson, was killed instantly in an industrial accident near the family farm in Lindesberg, Sweden, on October 23, 2016.

Andersson would have turned 56 on October 28. "Lars loved life on the farm, loved his family, his wife, and his Savior," a spokesperson for the Trans-European Division said in a statement.

## COMMENTARY TO "SQUEEZE THE JUICE" FROM BIBLE

THE FIRST VOLUME FEATURES GENESIS.

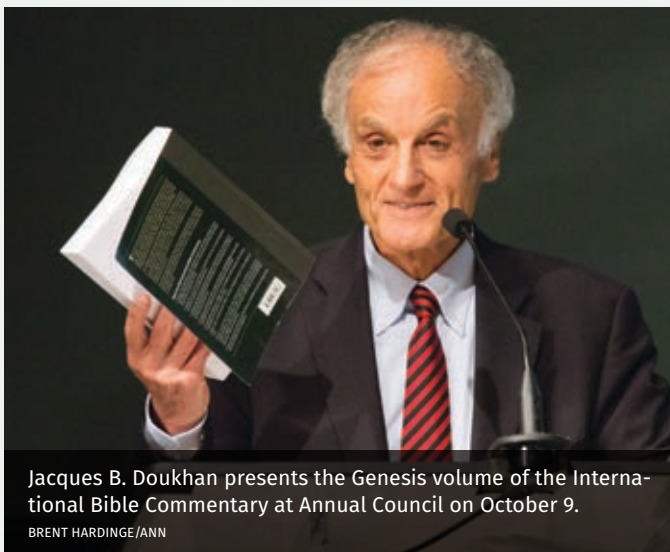
BY MARK A. KELLNER

**J**acques B. Doukhan, a professor of Hebrew and Old Testament exegesis at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan, is no stranger to the writing process. His books *Secrets of Daniel and Secrets of Revelation* are well known in Adventist and non-Adventist circles.

But in serving as general editor for the *International Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*—a new series whose first volume was introduced October 9, 2016, at the world church's 2016 Annual Council—the writing and editing processes for a commentary is more exacting than that surrounding a doctoral thesis, something Doukhan has done twice in his life.

Along with being the series' top editor, Doukhan is writing volumes as well. His 544-page commentary on Genesis, the book just released, was an education for the author as well, he said.

"The fact that you write an official *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, it's not a book that you write by yourself and give to a publisher," he said. "There is a responsibility in regard to the church, so there will be then a lot of eyes, many eyes, that are going to follow the writing."



Jacques B. Doukhan presents the Genesis volume of the *International Bible Commentary* at Annual Council on October 9.

BRENT HARDINGE/ANN

Doukhan said he and the other writers of commentary volumes are tasked to "squeeze the juice" from the Bible's book and "make that 'juice' palatable, make sure it speaks to everyone."

With his Genesis commentary, Doukhan drew applause from Annual Council delegates as he explained a question posed by Isaac to Abraham, his father, on Mount Moriah. The patriarch had been commanded by God to sacrifice Isaac. In Genesis 22:7, 8, the son asks where the lamb for the sacrifice would be found. "God . . . will provide the lamb," Abraham replies, and Doukhan explained the larger significance of the exchange.

"The lamb that is referred to here is not merely the physical animal, but God Himself, who sees Himself

as the Lamb," Doukhan said. "Beyond this sacrifice is seen the sacrifice offered by God of Himself through Jesus Christ."

That's just an example of how the commentary on Genesis, written by Doukhan over seven years, explains the centrality of the biblical book to Adventist doctrine.

Biblical scholar and philanthropist Ed Zinke, who originated the project and introduced Doukhan at the Annual Council, said that while the current *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* "has served us very well and will continue to serve us . . . there has been so much that's been understood from archaeology and languages and literary methods [that] it was time for a new one to be developed." ■



### NORWEGIAN PASTOR AWARDED

The Norwegian Bible Society has honored a Seventh-day Adventist pastor and his wife for promoting the Bible through song for more than four decades. Ingeborg Mongstad-Kvammen, secretary-general of the

Norwegian Bible Society, presented the prestigious Bible Prize 2016 to the couple, Per and Monica de Lange, during an interdenominational ceremony in the Kristiansand Cathedral in Kristiansand, Norway.



Adventist biker Marcel Matto, right, speaks with bikers at an event in Argentina in September.

RIVER PLATE ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

## LEATHER-CLAD BIKERS SHARE JESUS IN ARGENTINA

**ADVENTIST MOTORCYCLE MINISTRY MAKES INROADS.**

BY MARCOS PASEGGI

The long-haired, weather-beaten man wearing a biker's vest and boots dropped in unannounced for Sabbath worship at a newly dedicated Seventh-day Adventist church in Crespo, Argentina.

When Carlos Román returned for a second week, church member and fellow biker Marcel Matto decided to approach him.

Matto learned that Román had ended up at the Crespo North church after reading the Sabbath commandment in his Bible and seeking a church that worshipped on that day. In addition, Román

had a dream of using his love for motorcycles to share his new faith.

That informal encounter would be the first of many that engaged Román in Adventist mission even before being baptized into the Adventist Church last August. Those interactions, however, would not have come to fruition except that Matto, a carpenter, had teamed up with other motorcycle-loving Adventists to form a local chapter of the Adventist Motorcycle Ministry, a supporting church ministry.

The Adventist Motorcycle Ministry, whose motto is "Every ride is

a mission," was established in 2008 in the U.S. state of Florida.

In Argentina, Matto leads the Adventist Motorcycle Ministry's first local chapter, L.S. Martín, near Crespo, home of River Plate Adventist University and River Plate Sanitarium and Hospital. "We are passionate about motorcycles," Matto said. "But above all we are passionate about helping people and bringing them to Jesus."

The bikers attend regional events to chat and pray, share Christian literature, and offer healthy living tips. In September, they pitched a tent offering healthy posture tips, stretching exercises, and massages to bikers who had spent days riding their motorcycles to a gathering of 5,000 bikers.

Alan Orellano, a third-year physiotherapy student from the Adventist university, said he felt apprehension initially in working with the bikers. But the fears disappeared as student volunteers and Adventist bikers prayed regularly outside the tent.

"The bikers showed great appreciation for the health tips," Orellano said. "Above all, it was a superb opportunity to witness."

Román, the biker who had walked into the local Adventist church several months earlier, couldn't agree more. Román became the first direct result of the group's missionary efforts. "We have great plans for the future," Román said. "We want to increase our presence in regional events as we tour Adventist churches in the area." ■





## PROMINENT SCULPTOR DIES

Alan Collins, an Adventist sculptor featured at the headquarters of the Trans-European Division and many Adventist universities in the U.S., died October 18, 2016, at the age of 88. Collins' "silent sermons," as he called them, include *The Good*

*Samaritan* at Loma Linda University, *Sacrificial Service* at Oakwood University, and *Legacy of Leadership*, a bronze, life-size sculpture at Andrews University commemorating the departure of mission pioneer John Nevins Andrews in 1874.

## NEWS BRIEFS

1



**A TEAM OF STUDENTS** from the Bolivia Adventist University has won a top prize for quickly developing an app to support local literature evangelists at a Seventh-day Adventist Church-sponsored technology conference. The team received a prize of US\$1,000 during the first International Adventist Conference of Technology, which was attended by about 250 computer science students at Bolivia Adventist University, near Cochabamba, from October 13 to 15, 2016.

2



**HOPE CHANNEL**, the Seventh-day Adventist Church-operated television channel, has expanded its satellite reach in Southeast Asia to include the countries of Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Pakistan. Hope Channel executives joined leaders from the Adventist Church's Southern Asia-Pacific Division in celebrating the expansion of the local affiliate, Hope Channel Philippines, at a special convention in Silang, Cavite, Philippines, in October.

3



**A NEW MISSION AIRPLANE** has been inaugurated in Papua New Guinea with a traditional dance from the Asaro Mudmen and a prayer of dedication by a local Seventh-day Adventist leader. The single-engine turbine aircraft, a Pacific Aerospace Corporation P-750 XSTOL, joins a fleet of two other PAC-750 planes operated by Adventist Aviation Services (AAS) on mission, medical, passenger, and cargo flights throughout the South Pacific country.

4



**MONTHS AFTER** an unexpected plug by a popular Chinese television show sent demand for Weet-Bix soaring, the Seventh-day Adventist Church-owned producer of the breakfast cereal is expanding in China with the introduction of Nutri-Brex. Todd Saunders, general manager of the Australia-based Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing, said Nutri-Brex is different from Weet-Bix in name only, explaining that the new name had been chosen to comply with trademark restrictions.

5



**ADVENTIST LEADERS** have teamed up with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to distribute supplies and offer encouragement to thousands of families affected by Hurricane Matthew in the Caribbean Sea. Hurricane Matthew killed about 900 people in Haiti and tore through Cuba and the Bahamas, destroying hundreds of buildings, including at least seven Adventist churches.

6



**ANDREA LUXTON**, president of Andrews University, said at her inauguration ceremony October 25, 2016, that listening to God's voice would be key for the university as it embarks on a new chapter. "We now need to share a commitment to this journey ahead, that we will also sometimes stop, take time, and make sure that we listen to the still small voice of God," Luxton said.

7



**DAVID C. SMITH**, president of Southern Adventist University in the U.S. state of Tennessee, pledged during his inauguration ceremony October 13, 2016, that he would do his best to make sure that the university clings to God's promises and celebrates His power. "As God has guided us in the past, He will guide us into the future," Smith said in his inauguration speech.



Jiwan Moon, director of public campus ministries, speaks in Michigan during Global PCM Weekend.

GLOBAL PCM WEEKEND/FACEBOOK

## YOUNG AND ALONE? A WEEKEND FOR YOU

**THOUSANDS EMBRACE FIRST GLOBAL  
PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRIES WEEKEND.**

BY ANDREW MCCHESEY

**J**iwan Moon often tells young people that they face three important days in their lives: the day they were born, the day they realize why they were born, and the day they start to live their God-given mission.

Moon hopes that a new Seventh-day Adventist church event will provide one of those important days for at least one Adventist university student or young professional somewhere in the world. “We are hoping to create a venue through which we can bring back at least one lost soul,” said Moon, director of the world church’s public campus ministries, which supports Adventist students at public universities and colleges.

The inaugural Global Public Campus Ministries (PCM) Weekend took

place in October, with students doing good deeds on their campuses on Friday, worshipping and fellowshiping on Sabbath, and reaching out to their communities on Sunday. Public Campus Ministries also opened a new Web site, [pcm.adventist.org](http://pcm.adventist.org), that live-streamed youth-oriented content for 24 hours from Friday night to Saturday night.

“Our God-given mission is not to live in the biggest house or have the fanciest car, but to live a life of sacrifice and service,” Moon said. “Global PCM Weekend is a time when we become like Christ. We become like His followers and impact the world by empathizing, engaging, and being empowered rather than being entertained.”

Moon spoke with sadness about statistics that indicate the Adventist

Church is losing more than half of its young people before they reach adulthood. In some developed countries the figure is closer to 70 percent.

Moon said the way to retain young people is to mentor them, kindle their missionary spirit, and send them out into the world to serve as Jesus’ hands and feet.

“I often wonder why so many of our young people are leaving the church,” he said. “I believe that they want to be empowered rather than entertained. I believe this generation needs to be mentored. I think our approach has been to give them what they want and not really allow them to give themselves for Christ. Our young people should be fed, but we may have forgotten that they are able to feed other people as well.”

Global PCM Weekend, he said, is created for all Adventist students on public and Adventist campuses, as well as for young professionals. The church has designated the third weekend of October for this event every year, a date that falls exactly six months from Global Youth Day, an annual outreach event organized by the world church’s Youth Ministries Department on a Sabbath in March.

“We want to give young people the opportunity to engage in out-



## 2025 GC SESSION

General Conference Session will return to the U.S. city of St. Louis in 2025 after city leaders offered the Seventh-day Adventist Church free use of a convention center and heralded a multibillion-dollar upgrade of its downtown

district and airport.

World church leaders voted for St. Louis, Missouri, over Indianapolis, Indiana, after hearing presentations from representatives of both cities and a General Conference selection committee during Annual Council.

reach activities not just once but at least twice a year," Moon said.

In October several Sabbath worship services were attended by hundreds if not thousands of young people, particularly in Nairobi, Kenya, where local churches were packed to overflowing, Moon said. The largest gatherings met in Australia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, Colombia, Honduras, Kenya, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Puerto Rico, South Korea, and the United States.

On the ground, young people distributed water to hikers in mountainous Monterrey, Mexico, on Friday, prompting smiles and requests for cell phone selfies.

"It is quite impressive how a small bottle of water can break the ice and result in a conversation in which they would want to take pictures with the Public Campus Ministries ambassadors," Moon said.

Young people in the U.S. state of Florida adopted a street and cleared it of trash. In the Philippines university students conducted a concert for fellow students. In Israel two groups of youth distributed knitted hats and scarfs to people who were homeless, and passed out bottled water on a Tel Aviv beach.

The scarves and hats, which the young people knitted over the past month, were printed with the words "God Is Love" and "Hand Made," the address of the local Adventist church, and the Adventist Church logo, said Ana Filipov, a 22-year-old nursing student and youth leader at the local church.

"It was great to be able to assist

these needy people in a practical way and to evangelize those who are not cared for," Filipov told the *Adventist Review*.

Sara Cassal, 15, went to a Tel Aviv beach on Friday to hand out bottles of water with slips of paper containing the text "I am the Alpha

worship service led by young people in Michigan, said he was especially pleased about high demand for the live-stream broadcast.

"Since this was the first Global PCM Weekend, we didn't know how many people would participate," he said. "However, when we heard



A young woman hands a bottle of water to a hiker in Monterrey, Mexico, during Global PCM Weekend.

GLOBAL PCM WEEKEND/FACEBOOK

and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts" from Revelation 21:6, NKJV,\* a short message about the importance of water, and the address of the local church.

"It's pretty hot here now, so we thought of giving people bottles," Cassal said.

Moon, who spent Sabbath at a

from the Webmaster that our official Web site, [pcm.adventist.org](http://pcm.adventist.org), was having trouble handling all the traffic and we needed a secondary platform from which people could watch, we realized that we were dealing with a good problem." 📌

\*Bible Texts credited to NKJV are from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.





A man is baptized in a river after evangelistic meetings in Mpondwe, Uganda.

COURTESY OF HUDSON KIBUUKA

## STUDENTS WITNESS 21 BAPTISMS IN UGANDA

**EVANGELISTIC WORK IN PREDOMINANTLY MUSLIM CITY BOOSTS STUDENTS' FAITH.**

BY ANDREW MCCHESENEY

**A**n evangelistic series co-led by Seventh-day Adventist university students in a predominantly Muslim city in Uganda has resulted in 21 baptisms, and a city street being named in their honor.

Sixty students, mostly from public universities across the African country, participated in evangelistic meetings at two sites about three miles (five kilometers) apart in Mpondwe, a sprawling border town of 51,000 people, many of whom have fled conflict and instability in the nearby Democratic Republic of Congo. In the mornings they attended leadership workshops organized by the Adventist world church.

The outcome impressed Hudson Kibuuka, associate education director for the Adventist world church, who oversaw the initiative. "At the end of the two weeks, 21 people

gave their lives to Christ and were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church," Kibuuka said.

"Some of these are from backgrounds that threatened them with all kinds of torture, but they nevertheless decided for Jesus," he said. "Several others were deeply convicted by the love of Christ expressed through the sermons, teachings, and interactions, but were not able to make a public decision. They are studying the Bible with a local Bible worker."

Kibuuka credited prayer for quickly unifying the students, many of whom were previously unacquainted, under the banner of sharing the gospel in a city whose population is about 70 percent Muslim. Mpondwe has at least 18 mosques but only three Adventist churches.

The students—members of the Uganda University and College

Adventist Student Association, which is under the auspices of Adventist world church's Public Campus Ministries—formed a prayer group as soon as they arrived, and they prayed together regularly.

"They prayed before the meetings, during the meetings, and after, praying for the speakers and the programs," Kibuuka said. "They prayed during mealtimes, in the mornings, and at night. They fasted one day. This must have been their source of power, courage, and drive."

This was the sixth annual event of its kind in Uganda, where students gather in a city for leadership training and to help conduct an evangelistic series. Some church leaders would like to expand the program, which aims to encourage Adventist students at public universities.

The evangelistic meetings in Mpondwe started off small when the arrival of many students was delayed by last-minute changes to university class schedules. But a total of 60 students were present by the start of the second week, and outreach work began in earnest,

## “People could be seen with notebooks and pens, writing down Bible and Quran texts.”

said Kibuuka, a native of Uganda.

In the mornings students participated in leadership workshops in a local school. After lunch they teamed up with local church members, mainly young adults, to invite city residents to attend the evening meetings.

“They returned with various experiences, some of which were rather strange to most who had not lived in a Muslim community,” Kibuuka said. “They also received lots of questions from community members who had been listening to the messages during the previous week.”

Attendance grew nightly at the two sites during the final week of the meetings in late August. The meetings were led by four pastors: Kintu Bumali, Nzuki Emmanuel, and Idrisa Yaqoob Maxima, all of whom have strong Muslim backgrounds with a good understanding of the Arabic language and Islam; as well as Johnson Oloo, a theology student at Bugema University. The students provided music and skits.

“People could be seen with notebooks and pens, writing down Bible and Quran texts as they were quoted by the speakers,” Kibuuka said. “They were making notes, possibly in hope of referring to them later or asking questions.”

One morning the students decided to carry out a cleanup of several city streets and two outdoor markets. The city health department provided a tractor and a truck to assist with the collection and dis-

Hudson Kibuuka, associate education director for the Adventist world church, plants a tree on a street named after the Adventist students. COURTESY OF HUDSON KIBUUKA

posal of garbage, as well as a small pickup truck for the students’ transportation needs. The health department also gave tools and gloves to the students to use, and dispatched three public health workers to accompany them.

“The public health officers used the opportunity to inform the residents about the value of cleanliness and how they should not litter anyhow,” Kibuuka said. “They informed the residents that some of the students they were seeing included future doctors, lawyers, and accountants, but they were keen on keeping communities clean.”

The chief health officer and lawmaker representing the city district were so impressed with the students’ work that they decided to rename a road as UUCASA Street after the acronym for Uganda University and College Adventist Students’ Association. At the renaming ceremony Kibuuka planted a tree on the side of the street.

Later the students organized a visit to the local prison, where they provided a special meal to all 110 inmates. Lambert Koojo, the local church field’s youth and chaplaincy director, shared the biblical story of Joseph’s trip from prison to the palace.



Students also gathered money from donations and their own pockets to help build a new home for an elderly woman whose small hut had collapsed during a recent storm and was living on the porches of various neighbors.

Kibuuka called for prayers for those who had attended the meetings and for the students as well. “Pray that the Lord will strengthen those who made decisions and help those still in the valley of decision,” he said. “Pray for the students as well. Many of the students face gigantic challenges in their universities, but are standing firmly on Christ. Praise God, many of them testified that their visit to Mpondwe had given them extra courage to face their challenges.”

SUSTAINABLE  PLANT-BASED PROTEIN  
SINCE 1890



Coming Soon. Loma Blue by Loma Linda

*Loma Linda*



**ALSO IN THIS SECTION:**

- » WHEN WE GET SURPRISED
- » ENGAGING YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS
- » BRIDGING THE GAP
- » GRACE IN A DREAM
- » BE AN INCREDIBLE GRANDPARENT
- » LET'S CELEBRATE SUPPORT AND SERVICE

# THE WEB

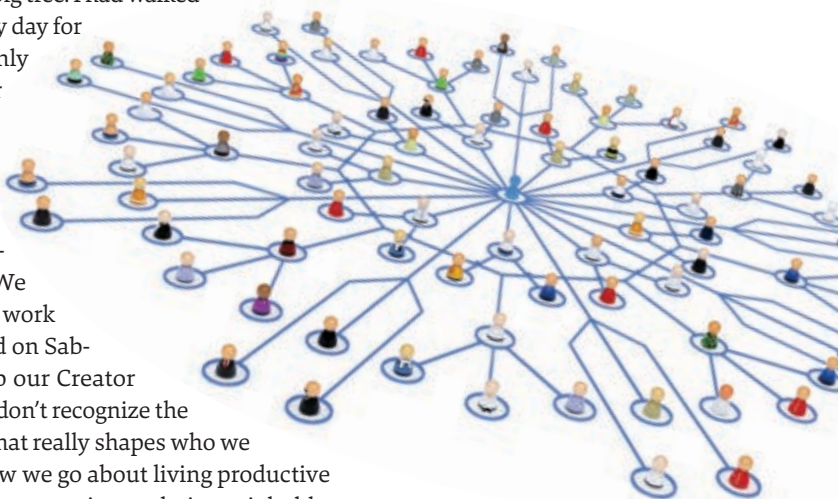
**GERALD A. KLINGBEIL**

**D**uring an early-morning walk, in the semidarkness of a new day following a long period of rain, I saw something beautiful. An industrious spider had built an impressive web, connecting a streetlight to the branch of a big tree. I had walked by the streetlight nearly every day for the past seven years—yet only the thousands of little water droplets of the early-morning mist, put in the right lighting, helped me see the spiderweb for the first time.

We often live rather isolated in our communities. We function reasonably well; we work hard to make ends meet; and on Sabbaths we meet and worship our Creator God. Too often, however, we don't recognize the web of interconnectedness that really shapes who we are, what we believe, and how we go about living productive lives. This web helps us find our way in tough times; it holds us when we stumble; it keeps us focused when we lose our vision; it surrounds us with people who care.


As we think about transmitting faith to the next generation, the spider's web is a great metaphor to recognize the interconnectedness of all who share the desire of every parent's heart. Parents, grandparents, the larger family, teachers and school administrators, pastors, Sabbath School teachers, and church members—they all play a vital role.

In the following pages we share important concepts, engaging stories, and creative ideas that should help us rediscover the important web of partnerships all working together to communicate faith to a new generation. The good news: we are not alone in this. God's interest in our children, teenagers, and young adults cannot be topped by anything. His care knows no distraction; His love is unwavering; His persistence has no limits. That's good news for those who can't wait to finally get home. 🍃



**Gerald A. Klingbeil** is an associate editor of *Adventist Review*.





*Guarding our  
investment in the future*

# LINKING ARMS INSTEAD OF POINTING FINGERS

**V. BAILEY GILLESPIE**

If you are new to the Valuegenesis research about Adventist education, this brief discussion is for you. Valuegenesis research is all about faith, values, and commitment of Seventh-day Adventist young people in grades 6 through 12 in Adventist schools.

The research team, housed in the H.M.S. Richards Divinity School at La Sierra University, had the opportunity to survey all students in Adventist schools in North America during the month of October in 1990, 2000, and again in 2010 to create one of the largest data sets available regarding young people over a period of years—generations, actually—of any religious group in America.

## **STUDYING STUDENTS**

We are often asked why this research is so crucial. The research team wanted to learn how the three venues of home, church, and school influenced the spiritual life of students. Then we wanted to



explore what might be needed to improve these contact points with Adventist youth, and discover how to assist their pastors, parents, and educators in understanding what is central to those students regarding the development of their religious and spiritual lives, and the impact made by the influence of their homes, their local churches, and the religious life of their Adventist schools. In addition, the research attempted to provide a profile of best practices for these three groups—homes,

churches, and schools—in spiritual nurture and growth.

The studies were generational in nature: We studied Gen X, Gen Y, and millennials (Gen Z) populations. Since this was a census of all of the students in Seventh-day Adventist schools, we are able to get accurate percentages of all of the students. Each study examined the same concepts, with only some updates as the years passed.

## NINE WAYS TO COMMUNICATE FAITH

Here are some of the major findings of the study as we look at best practices of the home, church, and school. If we want to build a rich and growing faith life, with loyalty to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and compassion for others, the following issues need to be priorities in each of these target venues:

- 1 It is crucial to build a warm, open, and loving climate in the home, church, and school.
- 2 Schools and churches should encourage a rich thinking climate (critical thinking skills) to be developed through honest questioning, acceptance, and non-judgmental approaches to young people. This is especially important for older young people in their later teenage years.
- 3 The church, home, and school have to be grace-oriented places. Data show that a critical, judgmental, and closed discussion model is not conducive in building a religious life. If parents, teachers, pastors, or other adults use excessive control, punitive measures, or are overstrict, the likelihood is greater that their youth will reject traditional moral standards, become involved in rebellious behavior, reject the faith of the church, and become more self-oriented.
- 4 Relevant and meaningful family worship in the home should be encouraged. Relevance is more important than regularity of worship. But making sure young people are regularly exposed to family worship together outside of church seems crucial for religious maturity.
- 5 Families should be assisted in creating home-centered helping, or service projects. Don't just let the school or church do this. Parents who model caring and inclusivity are crucial to building a growing faith in their children.
- 6 The church should grow vibrant children's, youth, and young adult ministries. If possible, split 13- and 14-year-old young people away from the youth group for their own ministry. Crucial times for making decisions about God are the transitional periods between junior high school (earliten) and high school (youth) and again after high school to college or university (young adults). These crucial times require personal ministry to be at its best.
- 7 The home is the ideal place where popular, cultural, life-affirming choices are taught. Parents are ill-advised to rely solely on the church or school to do this. Parental modeling of good values, clear standards, and mature choices is most powerful in building a rich and growing faith life in young people.
- 8 You should learn to talk to young people about their faith. For example, you can learn to "faith-talk" with young people simply by sharing what God is doing in your life, and asking them to share how they see God involved in their lives. Telling them what to believe is rarely a good way to communicate faith. Telling your own faith story, and asking young people to share their own journey with God, helps us learn together as we all grow in faith. It also implies that as long as we live, we are still learners in the school of Christ.
- 9 Christian education should be supported. We have learned that this is one of the most crucial foci for the home, church, and school.

In addition, cultural and age-related questions were added to update the survey to keep the reliability significant. Our scales over the years were perfected and overall data sets provide a look at the trends in Seventh-day Adventist youth in North America over 20 years.

### THE CHURCH CONNECTION

Special insights into post-high school youth reveal significant needs as well. We have come to the following conclusions about keeping youth in the church. This is what we believe helps this situation.

- Learn to love them, and youth will get involved in the local church.
- Have adult volunteers who are dynamic and excited about their own experience with Jesus. Young people live their lives in the middle of action and choices. People who tend to nurture this newfound faith have to be people of integrity, commitment, and dynamism.
- Create environments in which young people experience church as God- and user-friendly; environment is crucial.
- Learn how to be relevant. Research regularly reinforces the fact that relevancy is the best way to increase commitment and loyalty.
- Understand that young people have something vital to offer a local church. Organize their natural gifts for use in the church; give them responsibilities; and provide mentors to help them with those responsibilities.
- Teach young adult leaders to be disciplers rather than teachers. Think mentoring. Ask the question “Am I preparing my students to be hearers of the Word, or doers of the Word?”
- Equip young people by giving them responsibilities. Equipping others is a powerful way to ensure involvement and commitment in local churches.
- Remember: for young people, friendship is evangelism.

Our doctrine of God’s rich grace through faith demonstrates a clear need of becoming as central to the mission and message of our Lord Jesus as possible. This Jesus reason takes priority above any other belief or practice. When young people realize His gift to us, their lives change, as does the whole life and practice of the local congregation.


# For young people, friendship is evangelism.



### LOYALTY AND MATURITY

Our research shows that having quality homes, churches, and schools increases the possibility of both growing in faith and being loyal to the Seventh-day Adventist message and church.

Research indicates that the longer one is involved in Adventist education, the more loyal and mature one’s faith becomes. This means that when local Adventist churches and schools unite to provide the best possible environments, messages, actions, programs, activities, and involvement, young people are more likely to move from understanding the faith of others to practicing their own personal faith. This movement to a personal faith requires cooperation in all three environments: home, school, and church.

Our data show that faith is increased, maturity of belief increases, and loyalty to the church grows when all three settings work together. 

---

**V. Bailey Gillespie**, Ph.D., chief investigator for Valuegenesis Research in Faith, Values, and Commitment, is associate dean of the H.M.S. Richards Divinity School at La Sierra University.



# WHEN WE GET SURPRISED

*Sharing faith with our children*

## ELAINE AND WILLIE OLIVER

**T**he car didn't start after going through the car wash on Friday afternoon.

We had just arrived in Huntsville, Alabama, after driving about 20 hours, a little more than 1,100 miles, from South Lancaster, Massachusetts. We were in Huntsville to attend a relative's graduation from Oakwood University. Of course, I (Elaine) needed to stop at the mall to pick up a few things before Sabbath. And I (Willie) needed to get the car washed before Sabbath. Jessica and Julian, our children, were 6 and 3 years of age, respectively, and



decided to stay with me (Willie) as we made our way to the closest car wash.

It was one of those car wash places where one drives in, turns off the engine, and gets out of the car, which then moves automatically through the wash. Jessica, Julian, and I watched our car through the big glass window as the suds and pressurized water performed a remarkable transformation. Once our automobile had gone through the wash and the dryers, we got back in it, ready to pick up Mom from the mall.

### NOTHING GOES

I turned the key in the ignition, but the engine did not fire. After trying three times unsuccessfully, Jessica spoke up from the back seat: "Daddy, the car isn't starting."

"Yes, Jessica," I said.

"Daddy," Jessica said again.

"Yes, Jessica," I answered.

"Can we pray?" she asked.

"Of course," I said. "Would you like to pray?"

"OK, Daddy." Then she prayed one of the most beautiful prayers: "Dear Jesus, please help Daddy to start the car, so we can get Mommy from the mall so she won't be afraid. Amen."

"Amen," Julian and I reprised.

I turned the key in the ignition, and the car engine roared to life.

### MORE THAN JUST WORDS

Listen to Moses as he shares this vibrant, distinct, unequivocal, and clear command from God with the children of Israel: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates" (Deut. 6:4-9).

This passage of Scripture, known as the Shema since Old Testament times, was the prayer every observant Hebrew knew by memory and recited twice a day, morning and evening, as part of their daily family worship. It was considered the essence of the revealed will of God.

These were, however, more than just words.

They described the reality of God and helped children of God understand what God expected them to do to be in right relationship with Him. Most important, beyond the clear commands related to seeking God was the urgent reminder to impart such learning with one's children.

Intentional repetition of God's love and our response to that love was part of the divine strategy. The text is descriptive to a fault. The activity of


## Spirituality is more often caught than taught.

sharing faith with one's children was to take place over and over: when talking casually with them, when walking with them, when getting ready for the night's rest, and when rising up in the morning. Passing on the values of God's love, care, and provision to one's children was essentially to be a full-time activity, an all-encompassing obsession.

Referencing the responsibility of parents to share their faith with their children, Ellen White offers this insight: "Our work for Christ is to begin with the family, in the home. . . . There is no missionary field more important than this."<sup>1</sup>

Our family has not been perfect. The truth is, there are no perfect families because there are no perfect people. However, before our children were born, we committed to share God's love with them. And since spirituality is more often caught than taught, it's the way we live each day that will most influence our children's lives.

That Friday afternoon at the car wash in Huntsville, dramatized as only God can, the values we had shared with our children in the course of everyday living were coming back to bless us when we least expected it.

Our hope is that parents, guardians, and others who are significant in the lives of children will purpose in their hearts to be intentional about passing on a faith in God that is vibrant and relevant. More than hope, however, we pray so. 

<sup>1</sup>Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home* (Nashville: Southern Pub. Assn., 1952), p. 35.

Elaine and Willie Oliver team-lead the Family Ministries Department at the General Conference and live in Maryland.

# ENGAGING YOUTH AND



# YOUNG ADULTS

*The secret is no secret.*



*Terry L. Johnsson is executive director of mission integration for Adventist Health in Portland, Oregon. Prior to that he was a radio chaplain for radio station WGTS-FM in Takoma Park,*

*Maryland, and before that youth pastor at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church. Before he studied at Oakwood University, Johnsson served in the United States Air Force as a member of the presidential honor guard at the White House.*

*Because of his experience working with youth and young adults, we recently spoke to Johnsson about the importance of mentoring in transmitting Christian values to younger generations.—Editors*

## **G**ive us a short list of some of the mentors you've had over the years.

One who probably stood out the most was T. Marshall Kelly. He mentored me two ways: One was by example. Just seeing him in action and how he worked with ordinary people; [he was] probably one of the humblest men I ever met. The second way was when I went to him and said, "I just want to learn from you." Since I was starting in ministry, I remember specifically asking, "If you were starting over, what would you do differently?" He spent hours talking and sharing with me.

## **When you became a pastor, was mentoring a large part of your ministry? Or was it something you grew into?**

It's something I grew into. I left Oakwood College specializing in youth ministry; that was my concentration. When I got to my first church assignment in Portland, the youth group had a total of 15 kids. I went down there with all my books and charts, and we were going to have a fantastic youth program.

In six weeks it went from 15 to three kids. I ended up going backward instead of forward. It was so bad that the conference president called me in to see how I was doing. I remember thinking, *Maybe I should have stayed in the military.*

HOUSHVAR KARIMABADI



I went with no fancy stuff and simply pulled up a chair with three kids and said, “Tell me, what’s going on in your life?” And the kids just started opening up.

I called Elder Kelly and told him what was going on. He told me, “Terry, I want you to get a box, and I want you to put all your youth ministry books, all your charts, and put them in a box.” I thought he was going to help me organize them and put them in some kind of structure.

When I called Elder Kelly the next week, he said, “I want you to take that box and put it in storage. Just go down there and be Terry and talk to those kids.”

The very next week I went with no fancy stuff and simply pulled up a chair with three kids and said, “Tell me, what’s going on in your life?” And the kids just started opening up.

I’ll never forget one girl, Nancy. When she walked out, she looked back at me and said, “That was one of the best Sabbath schools I’ve ever had.”

Fast-forward two years: that same youth group had 115 kids. One of the things I learned from that experience is that instead of it being all about me, I helped set up the program for them. Then I became more of a manager than the person up front leading out.

I met Bailey Gillespie, who was also a mentor, at La Sierra. I sat down with Bailey and told him what I wanted to do. He said, “We could have you do some child, marriage, and family programs at Loma Linda; then we could have you do some youth ministry stuff here.”

So I went from Portland to Loma Linda and La Sierra for the next three years. They allowed me to come back [to Portland] every other quarter to make sure [the program] was still going. I knew what I was doing was working when I could be gone for a semester and kids could still run the program. They had an adult in the room, but they ran it. That’s what started the whole chain of knowing that it’s not about me, it’s about me teaching the kids, then letting them lead out and run the program.

### **Did you find it easy to implement that kind of program when you went to Sligo church?**

I had written a paper at La Sierra for Bailey Gillespie titled “Designing a Youth Ministry Program,” which I still have. I wrote that if I worked on a college campus, if I would get young adults who were still at an age where they could relate to the kids, I would have them be in charge of a certain amount of kids. They would report to me, but they would be the ones who would help out those kids.

We started with a total of 12 Sligo youth directors. Each of the youth directors had 10 kids they were responsible for. Every Monday they would give me a report about their kids. If a kid missed more than two Sabbaths, they were to visit that young person and make sure everything was OK. If they didn't come back the next week, that name went to me. That meant I would make a visit.

I would go to their schools, and kids will tell you stories about me showing up at their public schools, how their youth pastor would be waiting by their lockers. That's how the Sligo youth director program started. It was me mentoring that group of 12.

### Tell us a couple success stories about your Sligo youth directors.

Pete Garza stands out. When I first met him, he was just a neighborhood young person involved with gangs. Our youth director group always allowed two (what we called) "wild cards." These were people you would never think would do it in 100,000 years.

Every year, when we had new ones come in to take the places of those who had graduated, I would say, "OK, let's pick a wild card." Pete was one of my wild cards. The youth directors said, "He's too cool; he's too whatever." But Pete was the first in his family to graduate college, and with a ministerial degree.

Another wild card was Kitty Pilli [now Sligo church associate pastor Pranitha Fielder]. She wasn't even a member of our church. She was very active at Takoma Academy. She didn't even go to church that much. She was definitely one of my successes.

Michelle Koilpillai stands out. I asked her to go on one of our mission trips. At first Michelle said, "There's no way I could go on a mission trip." But we found out that there was dental work needed, so we asked her father, a dentist, to come along. Michelle originally wanted to work with the rest of the kids, but we convinced her to work with her dad (her dad had a lot to do with that, as did her best friend, Lexi). Michelle was so influenced by helping with

dentistry that both she and Lexi went on to become dentists.

Another was Jackie Sanchez. She became a youth director [for Camp Upward Bound]. For years Sligo had a [summer day camp] called Camp Upward Bound. I was on a committee where that was going to close it down. They said its usefulness was over. I said, "What if we had a young person be the director of the camp? And let's hire youth who don't have summer jobs."

Certain people said, "That's just not going to work."

I said, "I'll be there to mentor them. But they will be the ones organizing, leading out, and we will do the same, exact concept we have for the youth program." That very first summer we cleared \$80,000 with young people leading out.

Another person was Phil Riley. We asked Phil to become one of the youth directors. Jon Mowry is another one, now one of the elders at Sligo church. Chris Lunsford, Heather Lunsford, we could go on and on.

### What lasting effect does a mentoring program leave with young people?

Just about every young person who was involved in ministry in the Sligo youth department is still in church. It's shown them that church is something to be involved with. It's not about just sitting down and being entertained. They're part of the vision.

Youth groups from around the country came to sit in on our meetings. Just about every weekend people came to see what we were doing. They would come and think: *It's going to be Terry Johnson up front telling stories and kids sitting around his feet.*

The thing that shocked them most was that the young people would give me five minutes at the end of Sabbath school to do a wrap-up. Other than that, young people led out in the entire program, from beginning to end, music and everything.

We have to allow young people to lead out, and coach them. They have questions, but let them be involved. That's the secret of mentoring. 🍀





MELISSA THOMPSON

**Collegedale Academy sophomore Sarah Joseph and her senior mentor, Anne Benefield, share a special friendship.**

notion that family does not end with blood.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, Southern Adventist University has created the programs whose aim is to decrease elderly isolation and bridge the ever-widening gap between generations. PFE and ASSIST pair a student with a senior mentor to meet with on a regular basis. Participating K-12 students are able to cultivate a meaningful relationship alongside senior adults, while also defraying the cost of a Seventh-day Adventist education. Eighty percent of the overall program funding comes from Southern Adventist University; the other 20 percent is thanks to Greater Collegedale School System (GCSS) fund-raising.

## BRIDGING THE GAP

*Mentoring for eternity*

Somebody once said, “Family is the soil in which we grow the next generation.” In a world with increasingly dysfunctional families, do these wise words continue to be relevant today?

Students in the Greater Collegedale School System—comprised of A. W. Spalding Elementary, Collegedale Adventist Middle School, and Collegedale Academy—participate in the nationwide Partnering for Eternity (PFE) and ASSIST programs. These programs highlight the

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

The PFE program is a scholarship opportunity available to A. W. Spalding Elementary and Collegedale Adventist Middle School students. Participating students visit their senior mentor, along with their parents, one hour each week, the date and time of which are arranged according to the preferences of children and their mentors. After each visit students submit a reflection, a time sheet of sorts, briefly journaling the visit. The PFE program then grants the student \$25 per one-hour visit toward their school bill, up to \$100 each month.

Likewise, the ASSIST program operates more like a job for

**JAMIE HENDERSON**



Collegedale Academy students. Students participating in the ASSIST program are required to visit two to four hours each week. Similar to the PFE program, students must turn in a reflection sheet at the end of each senior visit. They then earn \$10 an hour, credited to their Collegedale Academy school bill. Additionally, academy students are eligible for a scholarship to Southern Adventist University, up to \$1,000—\$250 for each semester they participate in the program.

These programs are designed to strengthen multigenerational relationships, and there are many ways to do just that. Students often interact with their mentors by completing chores or engaging in other companionship activities, such as reading, playing games, having worship together, or completing projects together.

#### YOUNG AND OLD TOGETHER

Collegedale Academy junior Thomas Thompson has been visiting his senior mentor Martha Holman for two years. When Miss Holman had a house fire this summer, Thomas supported her and helped her get her home back in order. “I like to sit down and talk with her,” Thomas said, “she always has something interesting [to say], and I can talk to her about religion. She loves it too.” Thomas considers Miss Holman to be the grandmother he never had.

Sarah Joseph, a sophomore at Collegedale Academy, visits weekly with her mentor Anne Benefield. Miss Benefield was reluctant to join the program at first, but now she and Sarah both look forward to their visits. Sarah has become an important part of Anne’s family, and joins her extended family for holiday dinners.

Even elementary-age students form strong bonds with their mentors. Nate Joy, a first grader at A. W. Spalding, loves his afternoons spent with Esther Tyler and her cat, Susie. They color, talk about their days, and admire her beautiful seashell collection. Nate also likes that sometimes Miss Tyler has treats for him, such as Popsicles, activity books, or puzzles.

The GCSS is intentional about giving as many opportunities for spiritual growth as possible, as well as fostering relationships with Jesus Christ. “The PFE and ASSIST programs give our GCSS campuses an opportunity for students to practice service to others, in addition to experiencing a

**First grader Nate Joy loves his senior mentor Esther Tyler and her cat Susie.**

**Collegedale Academy junior Thomas Thompson considers senior mentor Martha Holman the grandmother he never had.**



JENNIFER JOY



MELISSA THOMPSON

tangible aspect of spiritual life,” says GCSS, PFE, and ASSIST program administrator Angi Howell.

PFE and ASSIST are not just available to GCSS schools. They are nationwide programs of which all North American Division schools are eligible to participate in through Southern Adventist University. They help to bridge generational gaps; they represent a way to make Adventist education more affordable; they offer an opportunity for spiritual growth. Beyond all these wonderful benefits, however, they help those participating to learn from one another, thus creating an education and lasting relationships that span generations. 🌱

**Jamie Henderson** is a junior at Collegedale Academy in Collegedale, Tennessee.

---

---

# TELL THE REST OF THE STORY



Share the faith of Desmond Doss—the Adventist medic whose bravery inspired the movie *Hacksaw Ridge*. New resources from It Is Written build on Doss’ story to introduce the beliefs and values that motivated him.

Visit [itiswritten.com/doss](https://itiswritten.com/doss) to learn more.

Or call **888-664-5573**.



1-844-WRITTEN / [itiswritten.com](https://itiswritten.com)

# GRACE IN A DREAM

**T**he verse has only 38 words in the King James Version of the Bible: “When [Pilate] was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him” (Matt. 27:19).

Pilate is in a terrible dilemma: He doesn't know what to do with Jesus. He is typical of people who want to do right but are tempted to do wrong.

It's early Friday morning. Christ has been illegally tried before the Jewish authorities. Ellen White describes the scene: “When the Savior was brought into the judgment hall,” “[Pilate] had been called from his bedchamber. . . . He was prepared to deal with the prisoner with magisterial severity.”\* But time is running out for Pilate as he deliberates about how to pass judgment on Jesus.

Dramatically, at the very time Pilate is hesitating concerning the verdict he will render about Jesus, he receives a message from his wife, who, according to Christian tradition, later became a follower of Christ. Some believe Pilate's wife is the Claudia of church history, and may have been referred to by Paul in 2 Timothy 4:21.

The dream passage—Matthew 27:19—contains five principles that reveal grace and offer insight about how God provides escape from temptation.

First, we see the timing of providence: “When he was set down on the judgment seat . . .” God has divine sympathy for persons subject to temptation. At the right time He uses providence to interrupt their descent into error and sin.

Second, the rationale for right: “his wife . . .” God sought to provide Pilate an escape through his wife's challenge to avoid implementing a gross injustice. Today God uses the Bible, family, friends, memories, and events to arrest wrongdoing.

Third, the appeal of logic: “Have thou nothing to do with that just man . . .” Pilate's wife doesn't simply say, “Don't do wrong”; she gives a definite reason he should do right. She knows, as Pilate does, that Jesus has done no wrong. Like Joseph with Potiphar's wife, sin is wrong done against others and God (Gen. 39:7-10).

Fourth, the impact of sin: “For I have suffered many things this day in a dream . . .” Doing wrong always has negative consequences. Unrighteousness is never an isolated act; whenever there is sowing there will be reaping (Gal. 6:7). The antidote is confession, repentance, and submission to God's will.

Fifth, the inevitability of judgment: “Because of him.” The end of all things is judgment (Heb. 9:27). How Christ is treated will be the cause for the rising and falling of many (Luke 2:34). In her dream Pilate's wife saw the Crucifixion, Second Coming, and final judgment.

Pilate didn't accept his wife's warning, and, as far as we know, never made peace with God. According to some traditions he was later exiled and committed suicide. His life is a tragic example of spurning grace. May we be the wiser for it. 🍀

\*Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1898), pp. 723, 724.

**Delbert W. Baker** is vice chancellor of the Adventist University of Africa, near Nairobi, Kenya.

TRANSFORMATION TIPS  
DELBERT W. BAKER



WHEREVER THERE IS  
SOWING, THERE  
WILL BE REAPING.





## BE AN INCREDIBLE GRANDPARENT

**W**hat's the role of a grandparent? That varies greatly from uninvolved to over-involved. For caring Christian grandparents perhaps the better question is What could be the role of a grandparent, and what influence can they have in the character development of their grandchildren and their eternal destiny? Listed are four ways to get us started being an incredible grandparent.

### 1 BE INTENTIONAL

We remember the day we were told that we would be adding a new member to our family.

We were about to be Grandma and Grandpa, or Grammy and Papa in our case. We weren't part of the decision; we were simply informed. However, once we knew there was a baby on the way, we were part of the plans and preparations for its arrival. And soon our new role began.

It's easy just to flow with what comes, but more often flowing with the current leads to drifting apart rather than coming together. It's too easy to be engrossed in our own worlds and fail to be a part of theirs if we are not intentional. Intentional means to mark the calendar with dates and times for the grandchild. Those dates may include planned activities together or maybe a phone call, or better yet, face time. It means remembering birth dates, church programs, school programs, and holiday plans.

*By the way—did you know?* As a grandparent, you are a powerful role model; and you carry enormous influence in your family. That's why it is extremely important to be intentional. You are helping to shape a life.

### 2 LOVE FREELY

God is love. If we grandparents want to be successful in reaching and influencing the hearts of our grandchildren, we too must *be* love—unconditional love. Children who know they are loved develop confidence and healthy self-esteem. Unconditional love does not mean letting children get away with anything. That's not what children really want. But it does mean never withholding love because of a choice that was made, no matter how poor.

Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter observed, “Because [grandparents] are usually free to love and guide and befriend the young without having to take daily responsibility for them, they can often reach out past pride and fear of failure and close the space between generations.” That’s so true. Our son has a very special bond with his nana—that’s what he calls my husband’s mother. From the time our son can remember, Nana would always hug and snuggle with him and sing, “I love you a bushel and a peck and a hug around the neck.” When he had his own family, he passed on that feeling of being loved through that little song to his children hugging and snuggling with them as he put them to bed with “I love you a bushel and a peck and a hug around the neck.”

### 3 SPEND TIME

Children want the attention of adults. Spending time with our grandchildren tells them they are important to us. Sing to them and later with them. Reading to them is a wonderful use of time. Studies show that a child who is regularly read to will be considerably more successful in school and future life attainments than they would have done otherwise. Aside from being smarter at school there is nothing more fulfilling than a little head leaned up against your shoulder whispering with a sleepy voice, “Read more, Grammy—just one more book!”

*By the way—did you know?* As grandparents we have an incredible powerful influence. Here’s an important fact: we are right there behind the parents in influencing our grandchildren with spiritual truths. Nurture your relationship with your grandchildren *and* your children! Our values, attitudes, lifestyle, the words we speak, and our actions are extremely influential. We will have the opportunity to nurture a budding faith in our grandchildren and model a strong faith for our children.

Here are a few ideas that will help us mentor and disciple this generation of children:

Go for walks together, taking time to explore. This will open the door to conversations beyond what you could have ever planned. Bonds with each other and with nature will also be formed.

Pray for them—and with them! You are their connection with a God they cannot see.

Do service projects together. Working side by side helping others is one of the best educational experiences there is.

Share fun and memorable worship experiences with them.

Play games with your grandchildren, games from peekaboo to hide and seek, to the alphabet game when riding together in a car, and even table games. One game that continues to be a favorite with our grandchildren is hiding a plastic lizard that’s about six inches long. We would take turns hiding and then hunting for it. The game grew into the grandkids hiding the lizard before they left and we would find it later in strange places like the refrigerator or under our pillow. Then we would hide it to be found on their return.

*By the way—did you know?* If we want to pray with our grandchildren, we must first play with them.

### 4 BE AN EXAMPLE

Grandchildren are quick to see who we are and what is important to us. Let them see our consistent walk with God and our unfailing trust in Him. Let them know our confidence in the stories and promises of the Bible. Let them see our life reflecting Jesus in the way we interact with others, in the comments we make, in the things we do, and the books we read for our own pleasure. They’ll figure out what is important to us.

Our grandchildren know where we will be every Sabbath. Church is a constant they can rely on. That’s where we are when we visit them; that’s where we are when they visit us. Even when we are camping, family church is on the schedule, and they look forward to it because they are included in an active and joyful worship service.

We don’t need to point out that our bond with God is built on our relationship with Him. That’s what our grandchildren need to see. If we are to pass on our faith, it must be by letting them catch the vision, seeing our joy in Jesus and how important that relationship is to us.

As grandparents we have so much to offer: our unconditional love, our spiritual example, our wisdom and, most important, our time. Our grandchildren need us. Our children need us to be present and involved with their children.

*By the way—did you know?* Grandparents Day was September 11! 📅

---

**Bob Uhrig** serves as Bible teacher and assistant chaplain at Spencerville Adventist Academy in Maryland. His wife, **Sherri**, is children’s ministries director of the North American Division.

# CELEBRATIONS

## LET'S CELEBRATE SUPPORT AND SERVICE

S  
is for the social side  
of our health.

### KATHLEEN KUNTARAF

Communicating well with others is a vital part of the work and ministry of Julia Neuberger, a rabbi of South London Liberal Synagogue. In the January 1, 2010, issue of *The Guardian*, however, she wrote, “One change I’d like to see in the coming year is a move away from social networking sites. . . . Many of us [are] now using the Web to make ‘friends’ and meet possible partners. There is nothing wrong with that in principle, provided they realize that the Internet, however much it has transformed our lives for the better, is no substitute for meeting people, getting out there and making friends. . . . Those sites can only make initial connections; they cannot begin to develop the depth of real friendships, of real connectedness.”<sup>1</sup>

Social support is a vital factor in the health of individuals and society. Regardless of our diversity, we are all one by creation, and we should respect the dignity of others in all societies. Such unity encourages a willingness to provide service to one another. As psychologist Abraham Maslow observed, love is as essential to the growth of a human being as is food.<sup>2</sup>

Supporting one another helps us cope with stress. It’s important to realize that we can be our own worst enemies by refusing the support of others.

Supportive friends build self-esteem and self-efficacy, as well as strengthen our coping abilities and reduce our stress. Some friends, however, subtly undermine and depreciate us. Criticism and negative attitudes affect our health, possibly through the effect on the immune or cardiovascular system.

### SUPPORT OF ADOLESCENTS

Adolescents in particular have high expectations of parents, and inadequate parental support increases the risk of adolescent depression. They become disappointed and confused when the anticipated help and positive reinforcement from parents are missing. The support of friends is also very important for adolescents.

### SUPPORT IN THE SCHOOL

School influence is probably second only to that of the home. Students in supportive settings enjoy school more, are more academically motivated, and are far less involved in disruptive and delinquent behaviors and drug use. If students sense “community”—opportunities to engage with



others in school and other social groups and participate in community activities—they flourish.

### SUPPORT IN THE FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY

Religious faith and practice appear to have a sizable and consistent relationship with improved health and longevity, including less hypertension and depression, a lower risk of suicide, less criminal activity, and less use of drugs and alcohol.<sup>3</sup>

### DISEASE RECOVERY

In a study among 2,230 breast cancer survivors, women who scored highest on a social well-being quality-of-life scale had a 48 percent reduction in their risk of dying from cancer or having a cancer recurrence.<sup>4</sup> Social well-being in the first year after cancer diagnosis is also an important prognostic factor for breast cancer recurrence or death.

A strong social support network can be critical in helping us through the stress of tough times, whether we've had a bad day at work or a year filled with loss or chronic illness.

### CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIA SUPPRESSION TRIAL

Ellen White wrote that “doing good is a work that benefits both giver and receiver.”<sup>5</sup> Science today agrees. Several studies, for example, show that when a person provides love to their pets they are healthier.

*The American Journal of Cardiology* published an interesting study in the 1990s known as the Cardiac Arrhythmia Suppression Trial (CAST).<sup>6</sup> Doctors studied men and women who had sustained a heart attack and had irregular heartbeats. The results were surprising. More than six times as many non-dog owners died compared to dog owners, which seems to indicate that dog owners benefit from providing loving support to their pets.

### SOCIAL SUPPORT AT WORK

In the workplace, colleagues can help to build a warm and caring climate by being genuinely interested in their coworkers' well-being. Some of the most helpful support skills are very simple: listen to colleagues attentively, respect the other person's privacy and dignity, choose words wisely, be gentle and kind, keep a positive attitude, and avoid criticism.


### SOCIAL SUPPORT NETWORKS

A social support network comprises friends, family, and peers. Rather than formal meetings with an official leader, a social support group can simply be friends eating lunch together, neighbors chatting together, and even church fellowships. These are all ways to develop and foster lasting relationships with the people close to us.



### THE BOTTOM LINE

Those who enjoy high levels of social support stay healthier and live longer than those who don't. Whether we are receiving the support or providing encouragement, we will reap a plethora of rewards.

Let us therefore live a life of praise to God by genuinely caring about the welfare of others and giving thanks for all things to Him who made us. 

*This article is a condensed version of a chapter taken from the General Conference Health Ministries book CELEBRATIONS (healthministries.com).*

<sup>1</sup> Julia Neuberger, “Face to Faith,” *The Guardian*, Jan. 1, 2010, [www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/jan/02/social-networking-real-world-online](http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/jan/02/social-networking-real-world-online). Accessed Apr. 5, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Abraham Maslow, “Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs: The Motivation Theory and Hierarchy of Needs From Abraham Maslow,” Mar. 3, 2011, [www.maslowshierarchyofneeds.net/maslows-love-and-belonging-needs](http://www.maslowshierarchyofneeds.net/maslows-love-and-belonging-needs). Accessed Apr. 12, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> See W. J. Strawbridge et al., “Frequent Attendance at Religious Services and Mortality Over 28 Years,” *American Journal of Public Health* 87, no. 6 (1997): 957-961. See also H. G. Koenig et al., “Does Religious Attendance Prolong Survival? A Six-Year Follow-up Study of 3,968 Older Adults,” *Journal of Gerontology* 54A (1999): M370-377.

<sup>4</sup> Rick Nauert, “Social Support Helps Women Beat Breast Cancer,” *PsychCentral*, Jan. 21, 2011, <http://psychcentral.com/news/2011/01/21/social-support-helps-women-beat-breast-cancer>. Accessed Apr. 13, 2012.

<sup>5</sup> Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1948), vol. 2, p. 534.

<sup>6</sup> E. Friedmann, S. A. Thomas, “Pet Ownership, Social Support, and One-Year Survival After Acute Myocardial Infarction in the Cardiac Arrhythmia Suppression Trial (CAST),” *American Journal of Cardiology* 76 (1995): 1213-1217.

**Kathleen Kuntaraf**, now retired, was an associate director of the General Conference Health Ministries Department.



shareHim

**Where:** Kenya

**When:** Feb 27 - Mar 20 2017

**How:** [www.ShareHim.org](http://www.ShareHim.org)

JOIN US FOR THE  
**TRIP OF A  
LIFETIME**  
THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE  
**FOREVER**

Come. Preach the Word.

Join ShareHim as we partner in evangelism with fellow Adventist brothers and sisters in the beautiful East African nation of Kenya. There, YOU will have the privilege of being the guest speaker for a sixteen-day evangelistic campaign held by a local church.

Join our upcoming Evangelistic series in Kenya. To find out more information contact us today at -

1-844-SHAREHIM  
1-844-742-7344





**ALSO IN THIS SECTION:**

- » TIME TO MOVE
- » HELPING OTHERS, HELPING OURSELVES



**VOLUNTEER**

SCHOOL SUSPENSION **42%**

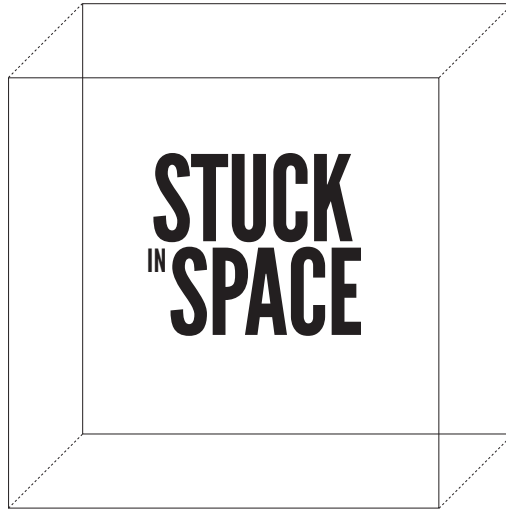
COURSE FAILURE **39%**

TEEN PREGNANCY **41%**

According to one study, teens who participate in community service projects are less likely to experience these at-risk behaviors.

**See Helping Others, Helping Ourselves, P. 46**





**GERALD A. KLINGBEIL**

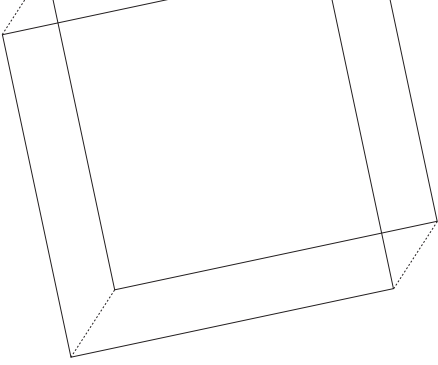

**F**eeling stuck is not a good sensation.

Leo Wan just wanted to see the sunrise after a long night celebrating a birthday with his friends. So he chose to get the best seat: right on top of the chimney, with his legs dangling inside.

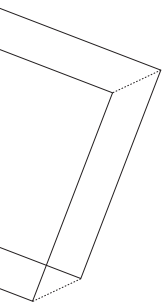
In hindsight, that was his first mistake. As he tried to climb out of the chimney he slipped and finally stopped seven feet down at the bottom of the flue. No amount of shouting and yelling was able to catch the attention of his friends, who, soon after, left to saunter home.

Leo was left in the tight space of a sooty chimney, unable to move up or down. Fortunately, his





The battle  
for the heart  
of humanity  
is hand-to-  
hand combat,  
not remotely  
controlled  
drone warfare.



cell phone still showed coverage, and he was able to call for help. The fire brigade arrived 45 minutes later, and, with the help of a rope, Leo was finally able to squeeze his way back up. After more than seven hours stuck in space he once again enjoyed the sunlight of an English late-autumn day.<sup>1</sup>

#### **“I FEEL STUCK”**

Feeling “stuck” is an awful sensation. Whether it’s a self-destructive habit, a disastrous relationship, or an unsatisfying job—we don’t like feeling “stuck.” In fact, judging from the comments of members of the recent graduating class of my oldest daughter, “being stuck” (in an office, a job, a relationship or something they just don’t like) rates high on the list of things high school graduates want to avoid. People all around us send clear (and sometimes less clear) SOS signals as they tell us, “I feel stuck; I don’t know how to get out of this.”

#### **STUCK IN A MANGER**

Nativity scenes attract many spectators during the festive season. That’s why churches put them outside the main door, or in a prominent place in the entrance or in the main sanctuary. We feel something special when we look at the tranquil scene of Mary, often sitting next to a trough, with Baby Jesus lying on hay. Joseph usually stands close by, hovering protectively over Mary and Jesus. If animals could smile, all the animals surrounding that special couple would be smiling benevolently. There may even be some shepherds or Wise Men kneeling and beaming at the Baby.

We recognize, of course, that in reality the story of the birth of Jesus lacked serendipity, tranquillity, and harmony.<sup>2</sup> The biblical text describing the birth of Jesus seems to ooze uncertainty, fear, selfishness, and, ultimately, death. Yet we can also see hope, catch a tiny glimpse of heaven, and appreciate the beginning of something new in a story that has been told millions of times. Baby Jesus, lying in the manger, has become an icon of good news shared on dark nights and is often equivalent to Christianity per se. When we see the Baby, we know *all will be well*.

All-will-be-well, however, forgets about Herod and his deadly fantasies. All-will-be-well does not anticipate the torture of Jesus and a crude cross



on a barren hill outside of Jerusalem. All-will-be-well is Jesus stuck in a manger.

### BEFORE ALL ETERNITY

Bethlehem's manger, however, was not the first act of God's grand scheme we call the "plan of salvation." Sin did not surprise the Godhead, nor did it confound the Maker of the universe. Its entrance had shaken heaven to its foundation—so much so that one third of heaven's inhabitants decided to change allegiance (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7-9). Yet God was not caught unprepared, like a deer being caught in the headlights of a car, unable to move or act. Ephesians 3:11 talks about God's mystery, His plan of salvation in Christ, which was manifested "according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord." The Greek used here could also be translated as "God did just as He had always planned to" or "what God did was according to the way He had planned it right from the beginning."<sup>3</sup>

"The meaning is not so much that God's purpose runs through the ages," writes New Testament scholar Andrew Lincoln, "as that it is before all time and eternal."<sup>4</sup> Satan, the cunning serpent turned dragon, was eager to ruin God's plans and disrupt the divine effort to save humanity. Whether by force or by craftiness, whether through compliments or threats, he was eagerly waiting for an opportunity to destroy the Son of God.

### GETTING UNSTUCK

We know very little about Jesus' childhood and youth. Doctor Luke offers the only scant hints to this formative period. Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and humanity (Luke 2:40, 52). He returned to the most public stage of the universe only when He turned 30. Yet every day, every moment, every minute He faced the tempter whispering into His ears that He would fail and that the creation would reject the Creator. Ellen White describes this battle for the minds of people in these words: "Satan was exulting that he had succeeded in debasing the image of God in humanity. Then Jesus came to restore in man the image of his Maker. None but Christ can fashion anew the character that has been ruined by sin. He came to expel the demons that had controlled the will. He came to lift us up from the dust, to reshape the marred character after the pattern

of His divine character, and to make it beautiful with His own glory."<sup>5</sup>

By now we have realized that the manger is empty, that the Baby has become a Man, and that the battle for the heart of humanity is hand-to-hand combat, not remotely controlled drone warfare. Jesus, the God-man, was right in the midst of it: in the carpenter's shop in Nazareth, in His home with Mary and His family, on the road to Capernaum, in the Temple in Jerusalem. Every day of the three and half years of public ministry was spent in battle. Finally, Satan thought he had the Son of God where he wanted Him: stuck on a cross and suspended between heaven and earth.

Yet not even death could hold the One who had breathed life into humanity. Raised from the dead, triumphantly exalted, He finally ascended to heaven to prepare homes for us so that we too could go home.

And here the circle closes. The Baby stuck in a manger, the Youth stuck in a carpenter's shop, the Man stuck on the cross, cannot be held in space and time. His kingdom is eternal; His domain is intergalactic; His love is stellar; His grace is all-encompassing. We catch a glimpse of this on resurrection morning; we see a hint of His glory on the Mount of Transfiguration; we experience a foretaste of eternal salvation when His Spirit whispers to our hearts: "Don't be afraid—just believe."

That's when walls bust open, chains come off, and we realize that we aren't stuck in time and space—we're free. Free to start running into His outstretched arms. 🌟

<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/dec/19/experience-i-fell-down-a-chimney-for-the-full-story>.

<sup>2</sup> I have written before about the darker side of the manger in "The Darker Side of the Manger: Manger Halos Are a Beautiful, Sad, and Awkward Fiction," *Adventist Review*, Dec. 22, 2011, pp. 18-21. Online: <http://archives.adventistreview.org/article/4992/archives/issue-2011-1536/the-darker-side-of-the-manger>.

<sup>3</sup> Robert G. Bratcher and Eugene Albert Nida, *A Handbook on Paul's Letter to the Ephesians*, UBS Handbook Series (New York: United Bible Societies, 1993), p. 79. See also Romans 16:25 and note Ellen White's statement: "The plan for our redemption was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall of Adam. It was a revelation of 'the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal'" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages* [Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1898], p. 22).

<sup>4</sup> Andrew T. Lincoln, *Ephesians*, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, 1990), vol. 42, p. 189.

<sup>5</sup> E. G. White, pp. 37, 38.

---

**Gerald A. Klingbeil** is an associate editor of the *Adventist Review* who marvels at the power of the Baby who is not stuck in space.



# TIME TO MOVE

I check the map again. This week I am speaking at an academic conference. At a red light I am between two worlds. On my right a street leads to tall, beautiful buildings and commerce. To the left a small community of tents is perched under an overpass: a community of homeless people under a bridge. A dwindling fire provides light for shadows cast by the tents. I neglect to observe the traffic light, and the vehicle behind me honks, anxiously reminding me the light is green. Time to move.

Throughout the day the memory of the bridge fades. As I set out on my journey home I see my unopened lunch packed early this morning. I did not need it. As I get closer to the exit I see it again: the bridge, the tents. A man stands at the corner with a cardboard sign.

I look around the car, and my eyes lock on the lunch bag. As cars move slowly under the bridge I open my window. The man runs to my vehicle. I hope it will feed him tonight. I am not ready for what happens. Tears run down his face. "God bless you!" he says.

The next morning I pack a bigger lunch. That afternoon I see him on the corner, no sign, holding my lunch bag from yesterday. He recognizes my car. The light turns red. Time to move. He quickly runs toward my car, thanks me, and is surprised when I hand him a larger lunch bag. "My wife and I shared your meal," he says. Inside the returned lunch bag I find a note: "Thank you for this food. It fed our souls. Leaving community soon. It is time to move. Thank you for your

kindness." This routine goes on for four days.

On Thursday I have no peace, conscious that today I offer a last meal to someone who needs a daily meal. I reach out to a pastor in the area who provides resources, phone numbers, and a generous offer to help this couple, no questions asked. The pastor says it's the work of the Holy Spirit: "People may get lost in tragedy. Sometimes it is time for us to move and help them." I place the information inside the lunch bag. Come, Holy Spirit.

At the light a woman dressed in a local factory uniform waves at me. His wife? I pull over, ignoring drivers yelling I am going the wrong way. I am moving in the right direction. From her apron pocket she takes out a small Bible, hands it to me, thanking me for help. I hand her the care package. She smiles, asks if she may pray with me, and we do, right on the side of the road.

Back in my car, I hold her Bible. On the front cover: "To my daughter. I love you—Mom." I run after her. I want her to have her Bible. I don't want her to forget. It's time to move, but they are not alone. As I drive away I am the one in tears. I wave, wondering, moving forward, trusting God to see this through. 🌱

---

**Dixil Rodríguez**, a university professor and volunteer hospital chaplain, lives in Texas.



TEARS RUN  
DOWN HIS FACE.  
"GOD BLESS YOU!"  
HE SAYS.

*The straight and narrow path leads to service.*

**GARY L. HOPKINS AND DUANE C. McBRIDE**

**T**here are a number of judgment scenes in the Bible. One of the most interesting is the scene in Matthew 25. In this story Jesus divides people into two groups: those who will enter the kingdom and those who will not.

Those who are prepared to enter the kingdom are described in terms of what they did for others. They visited those in prison; they provided food and clothing; they made a difference in the lives of others. The story clearly shows that as we make a difference in the lives of others—especially those who have the least—we do it for Jesus.

#### **THE BENEFITS**

Historically, Christianity has been characterized by a commitment to service. Even secular society recognizes the importance of service to others. The Peace Corps and AmeriCorps are examples of this reality.

Social science researchers have also begun to pay attention to the role of service, not just for those who receive help, but for those who provide it.

Much of this focus has been on the impact of engaging in community service on pro-social and risk behaviors. Among the risk behaviors examined are teen pregnancy, substance use and abuse, and poor grades. Service

# HELPING OTHERS,



# HELPING OURSELVES



learning is the term often used by schools in their programs and, by definition, is an extension of the concept of community service. When schools design community service programs for their students, and connect the service activities to academic learning, we refer to this as service learning.

Service learning connects meaningful community service with academic learning, and to civic responsibility and personal growth. It enables students to study community issues in depth, to get involved in community action, and to work toward making a difference in their communities.

Researchers have exhaustively examined evaluations of teen pregnancy programs and reported what they refer to as “best practices” that clearly relate to lowering teen pregnancy rates. One finding emerges consistently: youth who engage in service learning/community service are less likely to be involved in a teen pregnancy.<sup>1</sup>

The United States has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy among developed countries,<sup>2</sup> where the cost of teen pregnancy has been estimated at \$9 billion per year.<sup>3</sup> We would hope that designing effective strategies to prevent teen pregnancy would be an interest of all community-based organizations, including faith communities.

An article published in 1997 described the impact of Teen Outreach, a program that focused on reducing teen pregnancy, as well as reducing academic failure. The study investigated the impact of the program on 342 students in grades 9 through 12, and compared participants to a control group that did not participate in the program. Teen Outreach consisted of three elements: 20 hours of supervised community service, classroom-based discussions of the students’ service experiences, and classroom-based discussions and activities that were

**Those who engaged in one hour or more of community service per week were 50 percent less likely to earn D’s and F’s.**



related to the social-developmental tasks of adolescents.<sup>4</sup>

The community service component allowed for students to select their own supervised sites within the community. Students worked in settings such as hospitals and nursing homes, as tutors, as well as participating in walkathons and other community-based activities.

The classroom component included discussions, role playing, and guest speakers, and engaged students as they shared and discussed their experiences. Topics and themes were self-confidence, social skills, self-discipline, values, and how to deal with family stress, development, and the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

In the Teen Outreach study, participants in the program had less than half the risk (42 percent) of school suspension compared to the control group. Course failure was 39 percent less than the control group.<sup>5</sup> Teen pregnancy in the Teen Outreach group was 41 percent less than in the control group.

## LEARN AND SERVE

The late Doug Kirby<sup>6</sup> was at the forefront of reviewing programs for effectiveness in delaying the initiation of sexual activity and in identifying features related to successful and unsuccessful interventions. He reported that service learning programs among young people are effective in reducing adolescent pregnancy and childbearing. Other researchers confirm Kirby's findings.

Melchior evaluated Learn and Serve programs throughout the United States.<sup>7</sup> Students in these programs spent an average of 77 hours providing various community services. Pregnancy rates among participants during the year in which they participated were lower than among nonparticipants.

O'Donnell and colleagues evaluated the Reach for Health community youth service learning program. Student participants in the service learning program delayed initiation of sexual intercourse, reduced the frequency of sexual intercourse. Those with suicidal thoughts were more likely to talk to an adult than were nonparticipants.<sup>8</sup>

Although it is not clear why service learning has such positive effects, Kirby speculated that it may be because participants develop sustained relationships with program facilitators, which may encourage resilience, enhanced feelings of competency, and greater autonomy, along with the positive feeling that come from making a difference in the lives of others. Participating in service activities also reduced opportunities to engage in problem behavior, especially during after-school hours.<sup>9</sup>

## AN HOUR A WEEK

In our<sup>10</sup> analysis of data from Alaska high school students between the ages of 12 through 18 years from the Center for Disease Control's 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), we found that students who engaged in volunteer activities for at least one hour per week were less likely to have been sexually experienced, to have been involved in binge drinking, to have ever used marijuana or prescription drugs that were not prescribed for them by a physician.

Children and teens who engage in service tend to earn better grades.<sup>11</sup> In a nationally representative study involving more than 4,000 high school students,<sup>12</sup> those who participated in any type of service improved their academic performance.



Students' grades increased by 12 percent, and their civic knowledge increased by 16 percent. Although 27 percent of the students performed service as a requirement, and the number of hours spent in service varied, the results remained significant.

A report from the National Service Knowledge Network cites many examples of how service engagement by youth has been related to benefits, including higher grades in school.<sup>13</sup>

Two of these examples include reports from alternative schools: In Michigan,<sup>14</sup> students who participated in Literacy Corps, a service-learning option in one alternative school, scored higher than their nonparticipating peers on the Michigan state assessment. In Kansas,<sup>15</sup> alternative school students who participated in service-learning showed strong gains over time on measures of attitude toward school, on writing scores on a six-trait writing assessment, and in grade-point averages.

In our analysis of the previously noted YRBS Alaska data, we found that those who engaged in one hour or more of community service per week were 50 percent less likely to earn D's and F's in school. Academic performance is one of the best predictors of future success and lower rates of delinquency and substance abuse.

## SERVICE GOES TO CHURCH

The data cited so far relates to general society. It's also important to note that studies conducted among Adventist youth for the past three decades have shown the same positive impact of service. We found that overall, about one third of Adventist students used alcohol during the past year. But those who engaged in community service as part of their relationship to Christ were significantly less likely ever to use alcohol, to use during the past year, or to be drunk at any time in the past two weeks.

These relationships exist for all other types of substance use. These kind of findings are why many Adventist academies and colleges have attempted to integrate service into their curriculum generally, and into general education specifically.<sup>16</sup>

There is profound religious truth in the words in Matthew 25; and there is considerable scientific validity in the impact of acting on the words of Jesus in each of our lives and in the lives of our youth. Making a difference in the lives of others changes who we are, how we think, and how we

act. Service to others has to be a part of Adventist education and local church programs. It not only prepares us for the kingdom of God—it prepares us to live fuller, more abundant lives now! 🍌

<sup>1</sup> University of California Cooperative Extension (April 2003). Report from: *Best Practices in Teen Pregnancy Prevention Practitioner Handbook*. Retrieved on Oct. 8, 2016, from <https://joe.org/joe/2003april/tt1.php>.

<sup>2</sup> S. Singh and J. Darroch, "Adolescent Pregnancy and Childbearing: Levels and Trends in Developed Countries," *Family Planning Perspectives* 32, no. 1 (2000): 14-23.

<sup>3</sup> The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, "Counting It Up: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing." Retrieved on Oct. 8, 2016, from <https://thenationalcampaign.org/why-it-matters/public-cost>.

<sup>4</sup> J. Allen, S. Philliber, S. Herrling, and G. P. Kuperminc, "Preventing Teen Pregnancy and Academic Failure: Experimental Evaluation of a Developmentally Based Approach," *Child Development* 68, no. 4 (1997): 729-742.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> D. Kirby, "Understanding What Works and What Doesn't in Reducing Adolescent Sexual Risk-taking," *Family Planning Perspectives* 33, no. 6 (2001): 276-281; "Antecedents of Adolescent Initiation of Sex, Contraceptive use and Pregnancy," *American Journal of Health Behavior* 26, no. 6 (2002): 473-485; *Emerging Answers 2007: Research Finding on Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases* (Washington, D.C.: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, 2007); "The Impact of Abstinence and Comprehensive Sex and STD/HIV Education Programs on Adolescent Sexual Behavior," *Sexuality Research and Social Policy* 5, no. 3 (2008): 6-17.

<sup>7</sup> A. Melchior, project director, "National evaluation of Learn and Serve America School and Community-based Programs: Final Report." Retrieved on Oct. 8, 2016, from <http://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1004&context=sleack12>.

<sup>8</sup> L. O'Donnell, A. Stueve, D. Wardlaw, and C. O'Donnell, "Adolescent Suicidality and Adult Support: The Reach for Health Study of Urban Youth," *American Journal of Health Behavior* 27, no. 6 (2003): 633-644.

<sup>9</sup> Kirby, *Emerging Answers 2007*.

<sup>10</sup> G. L. Hopkins, D. C. McBride, B. C. Featherston, P. C. Gleason, and J. Moreno, "Benefits to Adolescents Who Perform Community Service: A Perspective From Adolescent Health Researchers," *Montana Lawyer* 39, no. 7 (2014): 8-11.

<sup>11</sup> J. A. Schmidt, L. Shumow, and H. Kackar, "Adolescents' Participation in Service Activities and Its Impact on Academic, Behavioral, and Civic Outcomes," *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* 36, no. 2 (2007): 127-140.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> National Service Knowledge Network, "Impacts of Service-Learning on Participating K-12 Students" (2007). Retrieved on Oct. 8, 2016, from [https://leduccenter.files.wordpress.com/2015/02/sl\\_impacts-on-k12\\_students.pdf](https://leduccenter.files.wordpress.com/2015/02/sl_impacts-on-k12_students.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> M. Laird and S. Black, "Service-Learning Evaluation Project: Program Effects for at-Risk Students" (presentation at Second International Service Learning Research Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, 2002).

<sup>15</sup> N. Kraft and J. Wheeler, "Service-Learning and Resilience in Disaffected Youth: A Research Study," in S. H. Billig and J. Eyler, eds., *Deconstructing Service-Learning: Research Exploring Context, Participation, and Impacts*, vol. 3 of *Advances in Service-Learning Research* (Greenwich, Conn.: Information Age, 2003), pp. 213-238.

<sup>16</sup> G. Hopkins, L. Ulery, D. McBride, E. Simmons, D. P. Gaede, and H. J. Knight, "Service Learning and Community Service: An Essential Part of True Education," *Journal of Adventist Education* 71, no. 2 (2009): 20-25.

**Gary L. Hopkins, M.D., Dr.P.H.**, is an associate director of Health Ministries for the General Conference, a research professor in the Department of Behavioral Science at Andrews University, and an adjunct associate professor in the School of Public Health, Loma Linda University.

**Duane C. McBride, Ph.D.**, is executive director of the Institute for Prevention of Addictions and a professor of behavioral science at Andrews University.



# HOPE FOR A WORLD IN CRISIS

DISCOVER  
PROPHECY SEMINAR

This DVD series is perfect for personal Bible study, small groups, and sharing with others about . . .

## Jesus as the Center of all prophecy. **VIDEO SERIES**



The same series as  
shown on 3ABN Proclaim!

DVD set of 24 sermons

Price: \$74.95

(Shipping and Handling \$7.00)

**ORDER ONLINE AT**  
**DISCOVERPROPHECYSEMINAR.NET**

or send check to  
Discover Prophecy Seminar  
PO Box 4173

Chesterfield, MO 63006

For more information,  
call 402-304-5603

Hear the Adventist  
Message Presented  
in a Christ-Centered,  
Positive,  
Relational Way.

## EXPLORE BIBLE PROPHECY

**Pastor David Klinedinst** is the evangelist for the Iowa Missouri Conference in the St. Louis metro area and speaker for the Discover Prophecy Seminar. He has served in full time ministry for 20 years as a pastor, personal ministries director, and conference evangelist.





**ALSO IN THIS SECTION:**

- » BUILDING FAITH IN CHILDREN
- » WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR YOUR PRODIGAL CHILD OR GRANDCHILD?
- » LOVING DEEPLY
- » EATING HEALTHFULLY AT CHRISTMAS
- » WHAT MADE YOU STAY?
- » FIVE LESSONS FROM A MISSION TRIP

# ENGAGE



## WITH JESUS IN THE FAMILY

*Leading children to Christ begins early*

It's 5:30 on a Friday evening at the Spencerville, Maryland, Seventh-day Adventist Church, not far from Washington, D.C. In the parking lot moms and dads park SUVs and minivans and escort their small kids, wearing pajamas and carrying toothbrushes, into the church fellowship hall.

**STEPHEN CHAVEZ**



They're there for Jammie Night, a semiregular special event designed for kids and their parents to welcome the Sabbath. Jammie Night is the brainchild of Jane Morrison, until she retired and moved to Florida, one of the leaders of Spencerville's beginner Sabbath School class.

The format is simple: kids and their parents enjoy a simple supper of finger foods. Then Jane, wearing her jammies, lights a Sabbath candle to welcome the Sabbath, and invites them to brush their teeth in the bathrooms. When they return, Jane sings some songs with motions and props (stuffed animals, rollout "sleeping mats," etc.). Then Jane's husband, Pat, one of the pastors at Spencerville, shares a short Bible story. By 7:00, after a closing prayer, parents bundle up their kids, strap them into car seats, take them home, and put them to bed. In about 14 hours they'll be back for Sabbath School and the worship service.

#### PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Jane and Pat Morrison have been involved in ministry to children and their parents for most of their adult lives. It started when Pat, then a seminary student, was involved in an evangelistic field school. The evangelist's wife approached Jane and asked, "Would you be willing to go downstairs and help with the children?"

**"We went down there to find 80 children in the huge, empty room. It had only a piano. We were it."**

Jane remembers, "We went down there to find 80 children in the huge, empty room. It had only a piano. We were it." She and another seminarian's wife went to a box factory, created a stage for puppet shows, and borrowed material from the local church so they could stage stories adapted from *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories*.

Since then Jane and Pat, often serving on college/university campuses, used their love of children to create a safe, wholesome, entertaining climate for children, as well as for their parents.

"Beginner Sabbath School is unique," says Jane, "in that their parents are in there with them. The parents learn the basic Bible stories and concepts."

"Part of my role was to help include their parents," says Pat. "I'd say, 'Dad, if you don't learn the song here, you can't sing it with them during the week.'"

Throughout their careers as pastoral leaders the Morrisons have taken a time-honored tradition—Sabbath School—and expanded it to minister to families throughout the week and break down barriers of age and membership.

#### THE AUTHENTIC LIFE

Amy DeMartino, a longtime friend of the Morrisons, remembers bringing her three small children—all under the age of 4—to Jane's Sabbath School at the College church in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. "They started out ministering to the kids, but through their actions, how loving and wonderful they are, you just develop this love for them. And before you know it, you're at their house on Sundays eating pancakes."

"Teacher Jane taught all my kids at beginner Sabbath School," says another friend, Selena Trott. The lessons Trott learned all those years ago are now on display at the Colledale church at Southern Adventist University.

"When I moved here to Colledale, a woman spoke to me after I taught Sabbath school one day. She said to me, 'You remind me of the best Sabbath school teacher I've ever seen in my life.'"

"I said, 'You must be talking about Jane Morrison.'"

"She burst into a huge smile and said, 'How did you know?'"

"I said, 'Because Teacher Jane is the best Sabbath School teacher there is.'"

That's probably because the Morrisons' min-







PHOTOS BY MERLE POIRIER

istry to children didn't end when Sabbath School was over. "We had Baby Welcomes for all our new babies," says Jane. The Morrises invited church families to their home to welcome new babies. "We wanted them to be welcomed by their whole church family, regardless of age. A lot of those Baby Welcomes were for babies whose daddies weren't Adventist. It was a comfortable way for them to come to something. It wasn't at the church; it was at our house. They really got into it."

### THE BETTER TO SERVE

At the College church in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, Jane had a play group for small kids every Wednesday. Taking over the fellowship hall on the lower level, she had age-appropriate toys for kids of different ages. After free play she did a story, an activity, a little craft followed by a simple meal of beans and rice with toppings, and dismissed the group at noon, just in time for the kids' afternoon naps.

"She would get right down on the floor and play with the kids," says DeMartino. "She would take her shoes off, roll around on the floor with the kids, come down to their level, and meet them where they were. It was just wonderful."

Trott remembers, "It was an outlet for young moms who were either working or staying at home and were looking for fellowship and a chance to get out of the house. A lot of community people came to it. Because if you're a stay-at-home mom without a huge budget, it gave you something to do with your kids, especially in winter in the Northeast, where it's cold and you can't take the kids outside."

### KIDS FIRST

Jane and Pat Morrison have sculpted a ministry to children over several decades based on their ability to see things from the perspective of those they're trying to reach: small children and their parents. While most adults are addicted to their schedules, families with small children, for a variety of reasons, are unable to keep strict schedules.

"With my support [Jane] would say, 'Bring your kids to church,'" says Pat. "'Sit near the front so there's not much to distract them. Stay as long as it's comfortable. If that means you stay until the



children's story and leave, we're comfortable with that. Just so the kids know they're part of our church family."

That attitude was noticed and appreciated by the members with young children. "She would always encourage us to come to church," says DeMartino. "It was a lot for me to juggle then. I would get nervous and think, *The kids are going to make noise*. And sometimes [Jane] would come right down from off the platform, or from off to the side, and come sit with me and help me. She would do this for everyone."

Pat says, "When I was very young, my dad said, 'Pat, if you take care of little kids, their parents are going to be comfortable.'"

Trott agrees: "The way to reach young families is to love their kids. A lot of people loved going to church because Jane was there, and Jane loved their kids."

#### HIGH PRAISE

Just as Jesus modeled love and acceptance to children and everyone else, people still use children's ministries to model that type of inclusion.

Amy DeMartino's testimony: "I've been an Adventist my whole life; I was raised that way. But my husband's a [non-practicing] Catholic. When we got married, I started taking our kids to church.

"I grew up in a small church, and I could feel—you could just tell—that some people didn't fit in. I think that's why people leave the church. They feel that they're not part of it, that they don't fit in.

"When I had kids, I made a special effort to go [to church] every week. I was nervous: *They're not going to accept my husband because he's not an Adventist*.

"But no, [Jane] never, never once acted as if we were any different than anyone else. They never treated my husband, Peter, different than anyone else. They just loved him and were a witness for who Christ is. That was illustrated by her taking off her shoes and coming down on the floor with our kids. She never stood above you; she was always beside you. She's like the epitome of Christ. To this day I still think to myself, *Try to be like Jane.*"



PHOTO BY AMY DEMARTINO

**Pat and Jane Morrison pose with three of the children Jane taught in Beginners Sabbath School: Bella (left), Emma, and Mia DeMartino.**



## BUILDING FAITH IN CHILDREN

---

*They're young now, but they won't be young for long.*

*James and Ellen White had four sons. One died as an infant, and another died at the age of 16. Still, Ellen White regarded child raising as a sacred responsibility. Using her counsel recorded in The Adventist Home, we imagined how she might respond to the following questions.—Editors.*

### **At what age should children be introduced to Christ?**

“Children and youth should begin early to seek God; for early habits and impressions will frequently exert a powerful influence upon the life and character. Therefore the youth who would be like Samuel, John, and especially like Christ, must be faith-

ful in the things which are least. . . . When the Lord sees you are faithful in that which is least, He will entrust you with larger responsibilities.”

### **The Bible says, “Give me thine heart” (Prov. 23:26). How does this relate to sharing faith with our children?**

“The Savior of the world loves to have children and youth give their hearts to Him. There may be a large army of children who shall be found faithful to God, because they walk in the light as Christ is in the light. They will love the Lord Jesus, and it will be their delight to please Him. They will not be impatient if reproved, but will make glad the heart of father and mother by their kindness, their patience, their willingness to do all they can in helping to bear the burdens of daily life. Through childhood and youth they will be found faithful disciples of our Lord.”

### **You've written that young people are responsible for their own choices. What should our young people take away from that counsel?**

“Your parents may teach you, they may try to guide your feet into safe paths; but it is impossible for them to change your heart. You must give your heart to Jesus and walk in the precious light of truth that He has given you. Faithfully take up your duties in the home life, and, through the grace of God, you may grow up unto the full stature of what Christ would have a child grow to be in Him. The fact that your parents keep the Sabbath, and obey the truth, will not insure your salvation. . . .

“In childhood and youth you may have an experience in the service of God. Do the things that you know to be right. Be obedient to your parents. Listen to their counsels; for if they love and fear God, upon them will be laid the responsibility of educating, disciplining, and training your soul for the immortal life. Thankfully receive the help they want to give you, and make their hearts glad by cheerfully submitting yourselves to the dictates of their wiser judgments. In this way you will honor your parents, glorify God, and become a blessing to those with whom you associate.”

“Fight the battle, children; remember every victory places you above the enemy.”

### **Give us some specific insight on our children's prayer lives; how should they pray?**

“Children should pray for grace to resist the temptations which will come to them—temptations to have their own way and to do their own selfish pleasure. As they ask Christ to help them in their life service to be truthful, kind, obedient, and to bear their responsibilities in the family circle, He will hear their simple prayer.”

“Jesus would have the children and the youth come to Him with the same confidence with which they go to their parents. As a child asks his mother or father for bread when he is hungry, so the Lord would have you ask Him for the things which you need. . . .

“Let the children shut out the world and everything that would attract the thoughts from God; and let them feel that they are alone with God, that His eye looks into the inmost heart and reads the desire of the soul, and that they may talk with God. . . .

“Then, children, ask God to do for you those things that you cannot do for yourselves. Tell Jesus everything. Lay open before Him the secrets of your heart; for His eye searches the inmost recesses of the soul, and He reads your thoughts as an open book. When you have asked for the things that are necessary for your soul's good, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them.”


### **How can children manifest faithfulness in the home?**

“Children and youth should be missionaries at home by doing those things that need to be done

## **Jesus would have the children and the youth come to Him with the same confidence with which they go to their parents.**

and that someone must do. . . . You can prove by faithful performance of the little things that seem to you unimportant that you have a true missionary spirit. It is the willingness to do the duties that lie in your path . . . that will prove you worthy of being entrusted with larger responsibilities. You do not think that washing dishes is pleasant work, yet you would not like to be denied the privilege of eating food that has been placed on those dishes. . . . There is sweeping to be done, there are rugs to take up and shake, and the rooms are to be put in order; and while you are neglecting to do these things, is it consistent for you to desire larger responsibilities?”

“Many children go about their home duties as though they were disagreeable tasks, and their faces plainly show the disagreeable. They find fault and murmur, and nothing is done willingly. This is not Christlike; it is the spirit of Satan, and if you cherish it, you will be like him. You will be miserable yourselves and will make all about you miserable. Do not complain of how much you have to do and how little time you have for amusement, but be thoughtful and care-taking.

“By employing your time in some useful work, you will be closing a door against Satan's temptations. Remember that Jesus lived not to please Himself, and you must be like Him. Make this matter one of religious principle, and ask Jesus to help you. By exercising your mind in this direction, you will be preparing to become burden bearers in the cause of God as you have been caretakers in the home circle. You will have a good influence upon others and may win them to the service of Christ.” 

---

These excerpts were taken from *The Adventist Home* (Nashville: Southern Pub. Assn., 1952), pages 297-301. Seventh-day Adventists believe that **Ellen G. White** (1827-1915) exercised the biblical gift of prophecy during more than 70 years of public ministry.

# TRADITIONS

*The holidays and Sabbath bring out the best in us.*

BY WILONA KARIMABADI

**W**hen I was growing up, welcoming the Sabbath on Friday evening felt like exhaling after six days of holding it in. In our house it also meant the meal was going to depart from our normal fare of Indian food. For this, as a dual-cultured kid, I was very grateful. That special Friday night meal of “American food” (some kind of potato casserole and a roast), prepared because it was much easier than Indian food, was our tradition. And throughout Adventist homes all over the world, traditions in many forms remind us of our many commonalities amid our diversity. What are yours?



## CHRISTMAS BAKLAVA

**S**eth Shaeffer from Tennessee has enjoyed Christmas Eve with his family by attending Collegedale church’s annual Christmas Eve service. Additionally, making homemade baklava is something he has looked forward to every year since 2009. But why baklava? “Dr. Michael Hasel from Southern Adventist University brought baklava to class one December day as a treat before we wrapped up the semester,” he says. “I was hooked, and after that asked my folks if we could have it for Christmas that year. We did, and have every year since. It’s a nice family activity as all three of us join in the process of making the dessert.” Additionally, the Shaeffer family loved Collegedale’s Christmas service since they first attended in 1993. “My family and I have enjoyed the subdued atmosphere of the service, the carols and readings, and watching different families get up to perform songs on their instruments or sing. But the part that made this event memorable for me as a child was when everyone in the audience would light small candles. Seeing the sanctuary lit by dozens of candles and hearing the singing just blew my mind!”



## BIRTHDAY CAKE AT CHRISTMAS

**W**hile we are all aware that we have no way of knowing December 25 as the exact date of Christ’s birth, the celebration of the season boils down to our joyful acknowledgment of His birth in a stable in Bethlehem. For the Martin family in Texas, one way to help their daughter Alexa (now in her 20s) understand the significance of Christ’s birth and the season we remember it was to have a birthday cake. “Dee and I would always make a point to get a birthday cake and celebrate with our then toddler daughter, Alexa,” says Allan. “This would always include singing the birthday song and even blowing out candles. Even now Alexa looks forward to this cherished family holiday tradition.”





### BIG FAMILY DINNER

**H**arold Chandler from Maryland says his wife's family has a great Sabbath tradition that he just adores. Friday nights are usually the only nights the entire extended family is free, so it naturally became a great time to gather. This tradition started in the midnineties, around the time he and his wife, Swinitha, were married. Over the years the group rotates homes, with the host deciding the theme and menu, and making potluck assignments to round out the feast. "Now with e-mail and texting, plans are made with the hashtag #FND," says Harold. "The group ranges from 10 to 20 every week, and various friends and other extended family attend from time to time. The amazing factor in all this is not just family dinner, but a concerted effort of four to six families from four generations and multiple households that are committed to get together every week for more than 20 years now. We all enjoy getting together, and the food is always wonderful. It is a wonderful celebration of bringing in the Sabbath and sharing together."

### MUSIC AND THREE SPECIAL GIFTS

**S**outhern California mom and teacher Stacy Stuart Doyle remembers a specific atmosphere in her home on Sabbath morning, and music had a lot to do with that. "My mom would always have music playing through the house while we were getting ready for church and while she was cooking lunch for later. Usually it was good ol' Sandi Patty or the Gaither Trio," she says. "I still play music throughout the house while we get ready for church." The holiday season holds a special place in the Doyle family for the way they choose to give gifts. "Since our oldest was little, we've stuck to only three gifts from us at Christmas, the number Jesus received from the Wise Men."



### CORN CHOWDER AND CORN BREAD WITH HONEY

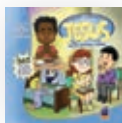
**A**ndrews Academy teacher David Vandenburg grew up a pastor's kid and remembers Sabbath lunches as being spent frequently at different homes or at the church's potluck. However, Friday evening in the Vandenburg home brought in Sabbath in a special way. "Friday supper was always a formal family supper—without fail," says David. The meal was corn chowder and corn bread with honey, sometimes accompanied by Martinelli's Sparkling Cider. "Day Is Dying in the West" was typically sung both Friday and Sabbath evenings. Though David confesses to not being a fan of corn chowder or Martinelli's, he says he learned to deal with it. While he was a teenager, the tradition sometimes brought a small level of resentment. "But I always loved my parents and enjoyed being with them, despite my attitude. Beyond that, they instilled a deep reverence for the Sabbath, so I wasn't as inclined to hang with friends and indulge in not-so-"sabbathy" pursuits. "

# FAITHFUL KIDS

*Resources for parents in building faith in the next generation.*

**LINDA MEI LIN KOH  
AND TANYA MUGANDA**

**R**aising children is challenging. Raising children with faith can be even more so. It is so important to instill a faith that informs a Christ-centered worldview and helps children make the best choices in life. Consider the following resources for help in that endeavor.  
—Editors



## My Quiet Time With Jesus Prayer Calendar and Journal

Karen Holford and Linda Koh  
Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2014



## Family Faith, a Devotional on Family Dynamics

Claudio and Pamela Consuegra  
Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2016



## Bible Adventures for Young Readers

Charles Mills  
Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2013



## Faith Shaper

Amanda Bews and Brendon Pratt  
South Pacific Division, 2013  
<http://children.adventist.org.au/faith-shaper>



## 100 Creative Ways to Learn Memory Verses

Karen Holford  
Autumn House Publishing, 2010



## 10 Christian Values Every Kid Should Know

Donna J. Habenicht  
Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2000



## Table Talk

SPD Children's Ministries  
South Pacific Division, 2011  
<http://children.adventist.org.au>



## 100 Creative Prayer Ideas for Kids

Karen Holford  
Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2003



## Step by Step

Jerry D. Thomas  
Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2008



## Learn About God's Love

Adriana Femopase  
Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2006



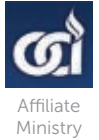
## God Loves Me 28 Ways

Charles Mills and Linda Koh  
Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2006



AdVENTURE  
FUND Global

(FORMERLY ICC AUSTRALIA)



Child Sponsorship  
changed my world...  
but Jesus  
changed my life.

Ariyon,  
Thailand

GET INVOLVED  
SPONSOR A CHILD  
[www.avfg.org/ar](http://www.avfg.org/ar)

AdVenture Fund Global (formally ICC Australia) is a recognized supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the SPD, SSD, NAD and is a member of ASI and OCI. AdVenture Fund Global funds 134 staff in six countries and ministers to more than 6,000 children annually. Ariyon is an orphan, attends Chiang Mai Adventist Academy, dreams of being a teacher, and helping others.

Sponsoring a child is a wonderful way of providing an uncompromising level of care and safety, a loving home and empowering future to a vulnerable child like Lilly who will benefit from getting to know the hope in Jesus, be granted an education, nutritious food and bright future.

[www.avfg.org/ar](http://www.avfg.org/ar)







**WHAT CAN YOU DO  
FOR YOUR **PRODIGAL**  
**CHILD** OR  
**GRANDCHILD?****

**SANDRA BLACKMER**

**T**he heart's desire of Adventist Christian parents—as well as parents of other faith groups—is for their children to have a growing relationship with the Lord and to become strong members of the church. To the dismay and bafflement of many, however, children don't always follow the path that parents lay out for them. They too have a free will, and when grown, they may choose to join a different denomination, or reject God altogether.

I spoke with parents who have either a prodigal child (or grandchild) or a child who at one point had left the church but has now returned, and asked what counsel they would give other struggling parents. Here is what they said:<sup>1</sup>

**Christine:** “Unconditional love is probably the most important thing that parents of wayward children can give, regardless of what behavior they may be exhibiting. Showing that you are upset with their choices is not likely to change them. Instead, showing them the happiness and peace that you are enjoying because of your relationship with the Lord speaks volumes. I have found that at times silence is golden.”

**Jonathan:** “Keep the lines of communication open and try not to be judgmental. Spend time doing things with them that you both enjoy, and not only talk to your child but listen as well. Let them know by your words and actions that you love them no matter what.”


**Phyllis:** “Never give up on them. Be as patient with them as the Lord has been with you.

Never quit praying for them. The Lord promises that He ‘will contend with those who contend with you, and your children [He] will save’ [Isa. 49:25].”

**Joanne:** “If your child is open to it, continue to invite them to church events that might interest them and where they could connect with someone their own age—perhaps a music festival or a game night. Don't push them; just invite them. If they say no, let it go at that and maybe try again another time. Helping them keep even a loose connection to the church could eventually lead to a desire to find their way back to God.”

**George:** “Find opportunities to connect or reconnect them to Adventist friends. The Lord can use such friends to draw your child back to Him.”

All the parents said they find comfort and encouragement from reading the Bible, the writings of Ellen G. White, and books by other Christian authors—as well as from prayer. Christine shared a quote that has been particularly inspirational to her: “While it is true that God will not force the will, yet through our intercessions that claim the blood of Christ, His spirit can overrule the forces of darkness and control events in such a way that the ones we are praying for will be helped to decide for right.”<sup>2</sup>

The Lord loves our children even more than we do, and He longs to save them. We can trust Him with their care. 

<sup>1</sup> All parents' names are pseudonyms.

<sup>2</sup> Roger J. Morneau, *The Incredible Power of Prayer* (Hagerstown, Md.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1997, 2001), p. 61.

**Sandra Blackmer** is an assistant editor of *Adventist Review*.



## Be part of something big

**Adventist Health's deep roots in faith and wellness serve as our foundation as we transform modern health care.**

Big changes are happening in the American health care industry. At Adventist Health, we are pushing beyond traditional boundaries as we live our mission in more than 75 communities throughout California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.

Our health system includes:

- Workforce of 32,700 with more than 23,400 employees, nearly 5,000 medical staff physicians and 4,300 volunteers
- 260+ clinics and outpatient facilities
- 20 hospitals with more than 2,900 beds
- 15 home health and seven hospice agencies
- And one mission you can believe in

**With so many ways to serve, we're certain to have the right position for you. Visit [AdventistHealth.org/careers](https://www.adventisthealth.org/careers) to learn more.**





# LOVING DEEPLY

**A**untie Jill?" His little boy's voice came plaintively over the phone.

I smiled. That would be Caleb, my sister's third son. "Yes, Caleb?"

"When am I going to see you again? I miss you!"

My heart melted. "Yes, sweetheart. I miss you too! But we'll be seeing you again soon."

Our busy schedule, plus the distance between our home and my sister's, makes it difficult to get together as often as we'd like. Greg and I had an upcoming speaking appointment in North Carolina, so we planned to rent a cabin a few days before and spend some time together.

All four boys were waiting at the door of the cabin when we pulled up, eagerly jumping up and down. "Auntie Jill and Uncle Greg!"

We rushed in to give them hugs. When Caleb's turn came, he said, "Auntie Jill, I'm so glad you're here."

I ruffled his hair. "Me too, buddy. Me too."

Our two days together passed quickly. Climbing rocks along the creek, skipping stones across the water, chasing after a soccer ball, and finding the best places to play hide-and-seek—each activity was done with a little boy by my side, sticky fingers curled around mine.

The next afternoon my sister and I sat on the back deck, breathing in the mountain air and thankful for a brief moment of quiet to talk. She looked at me. "You know, Caleb really loves you."

I smiled. "Yes, he's precious."

She shook her head. "Sometimes when he goes to bed at night he lies there and cries because he misses you so much."

I felt a tightening in my chest. "Are you serious?"

"Yes," she nodded. "He says he just cries because he loves you and misses you."

*How could one little 5-year-old heart hold so much love?*

Our time together soon came to a close, but my sister's words lingered in my mind. As I hugged the boys goodbye, Caleb spoke. "I want to be with you, Auntie Jill."


I smiled through my tears. "I know, Caleb, but we'll just look forward to the times we do have together." It sounded lame, even as I spoke it, but the truth is, I didn't know what to say.

Later, as Greg and I drove home, I thought of our nephews. Four boys. Alike, yet so different. I loved them all the same, yet they responded to me differently. My mind traveled to the disciple John. The one whom Jesus loved.

Did Jesus love him more than the others? Of course not.

What, then, made the difference? Perhaps John loved more deeply than the others.

Sometimes I imagine what Jesus thinks of us, as His children, and of me in particular. Do I passionately love Him? Do I cry because I miss Him so much? Do I long to be with Him always?

His answer will never be "Let's just look forward to the times we do have together." It will always be—I'm taking you home to live with Me. We'll be together forever! 

---

**Jill Morikone** is administrative assistant to the president of 3ABN, a supporting Adventist television network. She and her husband, Greg, live in southern Illinois and enjoy ministering together for Jesus.

JOURNEYS  
WITH JESUS  
JILL  
MORIKONE



SOMETIMES I  
IMAGINE WHAT  
JESUS THINKS  
OF US, AS HIS  
CHILDREN, AND OF  
ME IN PARTICULAR.



Revolutionize  
your health  
ministry with

diabetes  
**UNDONE**  
GROUP EDITION

*Outsmart diabetes  
or pre diabetes in  
9 simple steps!*

**Join Dr Wes Youngberg,**  
author of Goodbye Diabetes,  
and Brenda Davis, registered  
dietitian and bestselling author,  
as they guide your group  
through a hope-filled journey  
to reclaim their health.

**Participants will:**

- ✓ Learn how the cause of diabetes determines its cure
- ✓ Outsmart genetic risk through the power of epigenetics
- ✓ Hack blood sugar with this one after-meal secret

**What is included:**

**Coordinator**

8 sessions of expert-driven, dynamic video content  
Facilitator manual and training resources  
Marketing materials

**Participants**

Course Workbook  
Diabetes Edition Cookbook with 92+ recipes  
Workshop code for homework & review



**Only \$99 to register your group today!**  
**[diabetesundone.com/groups](https://diabetesundone.com/groups)**  
Spanish subtitles included for the course



PETER N. LANDLESS ZENO L. CHARLES-MARCEL

## EATING HEALTHFULLY AT CHRISTMAS

*Do we really have to?*

**Q:** Christmas comes once a year. Is it so bad to eat more of the “goodies” and, really, of everything at this time of celebration? It is so difficult to be controlled.

**A:** You are so right. Overindulgence over the holiday seasons is a reality for many. Fellowship and food go together so well!

Your question about the “goodies” got me thinking: many of the confectionaries and foods prepared for times of celebration are unhealthy—“baddies,” in fact.

When I was a child, it seemed to take ages for Christmas to come. I was brought up in an Adventist Christian home, which, throughout the year and Sabbath to Sabbath and especially on Sabbath, was in all ways a “taste of heaven.” Mother was an excellent cook, and Sabbath lunches were especially memorable when church friends, and especially missionaries, were guests. I vividly remember my father saying after the substantial Christmas and New Year’s meals: “These times come but once a year; and when they come, they bring good cheer!” With the years I observed that with each festive season came an intensifying “battle of the bulge”!

Medical school brought exposure to the many “lifestyle” diseases that, since that time, have burgeoned into the pandemic of the noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). One of my many outstanding teachers (NCDs) made an indelible impression on my thinking and practice of medicine. His eloquence matched his sense of humor. He termed the prevailing dietary habits, lack of exercise, and excessive caloric intake as “death-style, not lifestyle”! He posited that the then-affluent society and emerging middle classes were victims of the “twin evils of gluttony and sloth,” doomed to early death and addicted to “saccharine abominations” (including any refined foods, especially those containing sugar). His words were prophetic.

In the 1970s type 2 diabetes was termed “maturity-onset diabetes”—seldom, if ever, seen in anyone under the age of 55. Patients with this diagnosis are now filling adolescent and pediatric clinics. We are living in a society that is very “unfriendly” to diabetics; it is so difficult for diabetic friends and family to stick with healthful foods when confronted by the plethora of unhealthy delicacies and “treats.” Give the gift of healthful nutrition to yourself and to others *every day*.

### PRACTICAL TIPS:

Drink adequate pure water; avoid sugary drinks; and limit pure fruit juice, which is full of fruit sugar (but sugar nevertheless!).

Don’t skip breakfast; eat at regular intervals.

Fill up on salads, and choose fresh fruit as dessert.

Order salad dressing on the side.

Keep portion sizes small.

Avoid processed, refined, salt-laden, and fatty foods, especially animal fats.

Take time over meals; allow the satiety center of the brain to sense fullness after eating, and limit overeating.

Continue regular exercise at least 30 minutes daily.

Careful planning, wise choices, considerate cooking, and thoughtful sharing can keep periods of celebration just that, and help to avoid the regrets of overindulgence.

Celebrate Emmanuel—“God with us”—every day, by living each day, each holiday, thoughtfully and to the full, because He *is* with us and will empower us! 🍎

**Peter N. Landless**, a board-certified nuclear cardiologist, is director of the General Conference Health Ministries Department.

**Zeno L. Charles-Marcel**, a board-certified internist, is an associate director of Adventist Health Ministries at the General Conference.



## WHAT MADE YOU STAY (WITH THE CHURCH)?

I struggled with teenage doubts. Was this wonderful idea, that Jesus was coming to rescue me, true or a coping mechanism for dealing with our painful existence? I realized that rather than look at fellow church members, I needed to keep my eyes on Jesus.

**KARA**, MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

Born and raised in New York, I was inundated with Judaism. My neighbor was a Catholic, and I went to Mass with her. I walked on Jamaica Avenue and talked to Muslims for hours. After learning about Buddhism, I said to God, “God, I want to know You for myself, and if You really are small enough to fit within my heart.” The one thing that has kept me going is that I am sure why I am here. Church is not a habit for me; it is an intentional choice and a welcome responsibility.

**JOLENE**, EDUCATOR

“I needed to keep my eyes on Jesus.”

The ritual of going to church every Sabbath [since birth] helps me to put down an anchor in the swift current of daily life, and mark off a sacred time that gives a sense of rhythm and continuity to my life. In my travels I treasure the experience of finding a local Seventh-day Adventist church and participating in worship as it is shared by people very different from me, yet with so much in common.

**ALICIA**, TRANSITIONING MISSIONARY

The church has been a part of my life. In good and bad it has been my community, and I have never looked for a way out, never considered leaving. I’ve always seen myself as being part of the church, and have worked for change from that place.

**RICARDO**, FIELD DIRECTOR, AFM.

I’m a Seventh-day Adventist because this church gives me a worldwide family; assures me of a healthier lifestyle; makes me happier, less stressful, more humble, God-centered; makes me a better father and husband; gives me a mission to share—Jesus, who loves me and died for me; and is simply where God wants me to be.

**CARL**, TRAVEL AGENT

I do not imagine myself outside the church. As Peter answered Jesus: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” I learned the truth in the church; I grow in my faith in the church; and I need to spread the message with my church.

**OKSANA**, ACCOUNTANT, AUDITOR

I was 12 years old when I made the commitment to give my life to Jesus. I knew that day this monumental decision would catapult me into a greater dimension, and my life would never again be the same.

**DAPHNEE**, MINISTRY LEADER



**T**he miracle of prophecy fulfilled and the realization that God desperately wants us to understand what's going on behind the scenes washed away my doubts. Whenever I was tempted to leave, I couldn't give up the conviction that God is real, and that He has a plan that includes me.

**TONI-MARIE**, HUMAN RESOURCES

---

**I** believe the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant church of the last days.

**TANYA**, NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

---

**I** stay because of the church's commitment to *sola scriptura* and, accordingly, the truth no matter the consequences.

**LENNY** GOVERNMENT FINANCE

---

**“I left, and the Holy Spirit brought me back.”**

**I** stay because Seventh-day Adventists keep searching the Bible for truth. Every belief is based on the Bible, which teaches us how to live in wholeness and balance. Making a difference in ourselves, in others, and in society; working as a team until Jesus comes back!

**NOZOMI**, MISSIONARY SPOUSE

---

**I**'m still in the church because of my strong Christian mother, who gave me a great foundation and set me the true example.

**DOROTHY**, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

---

**T**he sound doctrinal beliefs and the untested “truth” found in the Word of God is the one thing that has kept me in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. And a deep sense of belonging that no social or professional group has engendered.

**PAULINE**, REGISTERED NURSE

---

**G**od has been faithful to me even though many times I have let Him down. Why leave?

**NILITSA**, INSURANCE SALES ADVISOR

---

**T**he ability to learn and develop on both a spiritual and personal level.

**MICHELLE**, OFFICE MANAGER

---

**F**act is, I left, and the Holy Spirit brought me back. Now I stay in this church because it's the family of God I was placed into. It has huge dysfunctions, like every family; but it's mine, and I'm not leaving again.

**STEPHANIE ANN**, CHAPLAIN

---

# CLOSER LOOK



## SILENT TEARS

BY FRANK CAMPBELL

*Silent Tears: Growing Up Albino*, self-published by Sonia Kennedy-Brown, available from Ken Health Publishing, 2016, 264 pages, US\$19.99 (C\$20.99). Reviewed by Frank Campbell, president, ARISE!

**S**onia Kennedy-Brown tells her audience that when she was born, her mother cried. Her mother knew what a neighboring brother and sister had experienced growing up as persons with albinism. Two years after Sonia's birth another Kennedy child, a son, was born with albinism. Their mother screamed. She had lived through her own daughter's early experience.

In *Silent Tears: Growing up Albino*, Kennedy-Brown recounts her childhood, teenage years, and adulthood as one of the world's half million or so persons with albinism, and one of the billion (15 percent of the world's people) with a disability.

A girl with albinism in Jamaica is not killed or dismembered, as persons with

## REACHING THE HURTING

*Reaching the Hurting: A Biblical Guide for Helping Abuse Victims*, Samantha Nelson, College Press, Tenn., 2016, 105 pages, US\$14.95 (hardcover), US\$11.99 (softcover). Reviewed by Jennifer Jill Schwirzer, certified mental health counselor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

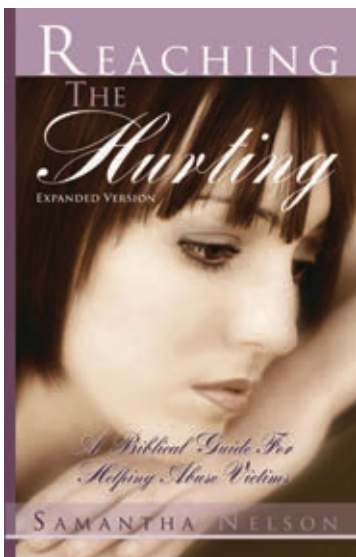
**A**s a struggling young woman, Samantha Nelson sought counsel from her pastor. He raped her.

Many such stories would have ended here—literally through suicide, or figuratively through the numbing effect of addictions and escapes promising emotional amnesia. But Nelson instead experienced healing, then joined forces with her husband, Steve, to build a ministry for victims of clergy sexual misconduct (CSM) called The Hope of Survivors (THOS). THOS reaches across denomina-

albinism in some other countries often are. But the Jamaican girl with albinism confronts circumstances others in her community do not. She endures such challenges as bumps or sores, even skin cancer, and poor vision. Then there are the emotional questions that plague her in the daytime and explain the silent tears falling on her pillow at night.

How will schoolmates treat her? Will they play with her? Will she have dates during and after her college years? Will the new teacher understand that her albinism makes it difficult for her to see the blackboard? Or will he also think she's cheating because she seeks help from a classmate? Does God love her? Does He really?





tions and demographics to provide a unique but desperately needed service to a greatly underserved population.

The book *Reaching the Hurting* flowed out of Samantha's experience of countless hours of counseling victims, coaching them along to become survivors and thrivers.

I've met the thrivers—the pretty, engaging woman who shows up at conferences to help run the THOS booth, and the man who read Nelson's book with hunger after a lifetime of abuse by his

church-leader father. These and scores more have understood and applied the simple counsel in her book and, like her, have received help to recover from unthinkable trauma.

Nelson wields a capable pen as she tackles the difficult questions surrounding abuse. How does one determine responsibility if abuse between adults occurs? Where is God when abuse occurs? Needless to say, we don't often chat about these things around the potluck table; they're typically left to lurk in the swamp of hush-hush church secrets. But Samantha dredges them up one by one, defines and describes them frankly, and ends each chapter with an upward- and forward-focused Bible study.

We need more of what this book offers, and of the honesty and clarity Samantha Nelson brings to this issue. 🍷

I was among the first to read *Silent Tears* when the book was still a manuscript. Although I wanted to, and did, become the editor, I wrote to the author: "Honesty requires that I say your book will be a great book, with or without me."

Eventually I learned that because her story is so personal, the author originally intended to be much more selective about its content, and to share the text only with family members. But she eventually morphed into a true writer, determined to tell her entire story to the whole world.

This submission to candor and vulnerability is what makes *Silent Tears* a truly powerful read. This

is why one who reviewed the manuscript warned readers to approach *Silent Tears* "not as a fiction or romance book but as the authentic experience of someone who is convinced that other hurting people may regain courage as they read it." In other words, it was almost too real to be true.

I have two warnings for readers: First, don't be surprised if, like other readers before, you stay up late into the night because you can't put the book down. Second, don't be embarrassed if, like the author and other readers, you shed silent tears of your own. 🍷

## Five Lessons From a Mission Trip

In my 41 years as a lifelong Adventist I had never gone on a mission trip until this past summer. It's not that I'm opposed to serving humanity, but rather, I've always felt there are plenty of ways to serve right around you. However, my rookie experience on this trip taught me a few things only a project out of your comfort zone can.

### 1 Getting out of your comfort zone is key.

In the filthy, cramped abode we dwelled in (roaches, broken everything, etc.) with 26 people in a house made for five, no one bickered, got on each other's nerves (at least outwardly), or went hungry or dehydrated. The biggest health concerns were a few headaches and some heat fatigue, which we easily overcame. We were also safe the entire time, and that was no small feat, given the neighborhood. It taught me that when God pulls you out of comfort, He doesn't leave you comfortless.

### 2 He provides what you need.

I don't do well in extreme heat/humidity. Yet this trip involved us building fences, pruning overgrown bamboo, painting, and using power tools in 97°F July Atlanta heat. But just when the sun was merciless, our foreman dragged fans outside for us, or some clouds showed up and gave us shade for a few minutes. And sometimes, out of nowhere, there was a breeze!

### 3 Close, cramped quarters can make you love your roommates—and that's a miracle.

Everything wasn't peachy at every moment, but I found myself growing attached to the kids and fellow chaperones

in a way I hadn't planned on. What easily could have become a situation where everyone was at each other's throats became one where we were literally bathed in peace. It's unexplainable, and I can chalk that up only to the Holy Spirit.

### 4 If you want to strengthen your marriage, serve together.

When presented with the opportunity, my husband felt called to lead the collegiate Sabbath School of our church. He believed God was calling us to it. I said I didn't recall receiving that memo. Chaperoning the mission trip was part of that gig. God helped me with my attitude, turning me into a morning smoothie-making, construction-working sidekick to my husband. It helped us show the kids what marital teamwork could look like. In finding myself loving these kids, I found strength, which was a strength to him. And because of that, we both really believe God took our marriage to another level of blessings this summer. We've felt it.

### 5 Serving God angers Satan, but he never wins.

At the tail end of the trip, some difficult events unfolded and continued for weeks to follow. But God provided ways to work through them. God is still leading and because our personal peace was attacked, I am convinced we are on the right track.

It's amazing how God gets our attention in multifaceted ways, layered in opportunities for learning, strength, protection, and love. So I need to do a better job of remembering that going forward. If He brings something to me, my answer needs to be "I'm here. You can send me. I know You have my back." 🏹

**Wilona Karimabadi** is an assistant editor of *Adventist Review* and editor of *KidsView*.

IF HE BRINGS  
SOMETHING TO  
ME, MY ANSWER  
NEEDS TO BE  
"I'M HERE. YOU  
CAN SEND ME.  
I KNOW YOU HAVE  
MY BACK."



**ARtv**

Now available on:

**Roku** | **Apple TV**

Samsung **SMART TV**

[ARtv.AdventistReview.org](http://ARtv.AdventistReview.org)

INNOVATIVE • CREATIVE • INSPIRING • **VIDEOS**



# IMPACT YOUR WORLD

# HELP YOUR BOTTOM LINE



*With an IRA charitable rollover gift you can help the work of our organization this year and enjoy valuable tax and income benefits. If you are 70 or older, you can roll over up to \$100,000 from your IRA to the Seventh-day Adventist Church without paying federal income tax. Even better, your gift qualifies for your required minimum distribution (RMD).*

**HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS YOU CAN BENEFIT FROM AN IRA ROLLOVER GIFT THIS YEAR:**

**NONITEMIZERS: ENJOY CHARITABLE GIFT BENEFITS!**

*If you do not itemize your deductions, you can still benefit from the reduction in income and tax resulting from an IRA rollover gift.*

**A NEW SOURCE FOR MAJOR GIFTS!**

*If you wish to make a larger gift to a campaign or special cause, you can make that gift from your IRA rather than tapping into your bank account this year.*

**REDUCE YOUR TAXABLE INCOME.**

*By rolling over some or all of your RMD from your IRA to charity, you can reduce your taxable income this year.*

**LOWER YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY TAX.**

*Reducing your taxable income with an IRA rollover gift may also reduce the tax due on your social security payments.*

**AVOID IRS TAX LIMITS.**

*IRA rollover gifts may be made over and above the normal cash gift limit (50% of your adjusted gross income).*



301-680-5002

MAKE AN IRA ROLLOVER GIFT TODAY OR LEARN MORE BY VISITING  
OUR WEB SITE AT: [WWW.WILLPLAN.ORG](http://WWW.WILLPLAN.ORG)