



WINTER 2011

THE MEDICAL EVANGELIST

A PUBLICATION OF ADVENTIST MEDICAL EVANGELISM NETWORK

A Light Through the Legend
Sowing a Snowy Field
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A PUBLICATION OF ADVENTIST MEDICAL EVANGELISM NETWORK

The Medical Evangelist is the official publication of the Adventist Medical Evangelism Network. The purpose of the publication is to equip physicians and dentists to be effective medical evangelists.

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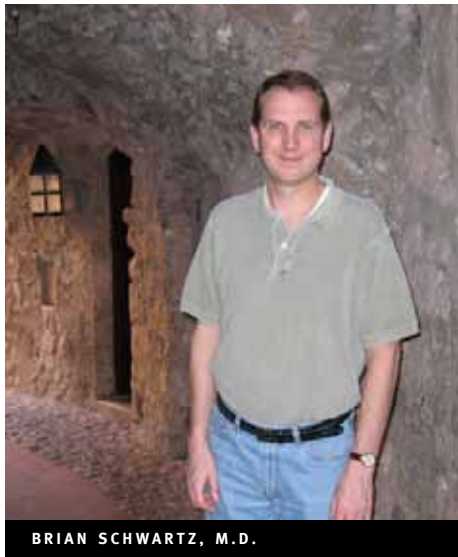
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BRIAN SCHWARTZ, M.D.

Now and again,
though, some very
influential and
affluent people pass
through our offices.
These we
mustn't forget
either.

As physicians and dentists, we are in a unique position to reach those who, otherwise, would be hard to connect with. The vast majority are poor or working-class people just scraping by; now and again, though, some very influential and affluent people pass through our offices.

These we mustn't forget, either.

In the past 3 months, for instance, I have cared for two college presidents, a chairman of a Fortune 500 company, a fire chief, several entrepreneurs (one of whom has a private jet), as well as other professionals. Several live in gated communities, and I usually don't circulate in the kind of high society that would bring us together. But, because I am a medical professional, they come to me and are often interested in spiritual conversation.

The point is this: though we should not neglect the poor and downtrodden, neither should we forget the upper class. Ellen G White says,

"We talk and write much of the neglected poor: should not some attention be given also to the neglected rich? Many look upon this class as hopeless, and they do little to open the eyes of those who, blinded and dazed by the power of Satan, have lost eternity out of their reckoning. Thousands of wealthy men have gone to their graves unwarned, because they have been judged by appearance, and passed by as hopeless subjects. But, indifferent as they may appear, I have been shown that most of this class are soul burdened. There are thousands of rich men who are starving for spiritual food. Many in official life feel their need of something which they have not. ... Shall we make no personal effort in their behalf?"--RH, May 12, 1904

We have a wonderful opportunity to reach many who would otherwise be inaccessible,

except through the media. But even media outreach, as good as it might be, does not replace the personal touch.

"In our world there are many such men as Cornelius, and for them the Lord desires his servants to make special efforts. The Lord showed Peter, the Jew, that there were Gentiles who were serving God as acceptably as he was. There are today many in the world who are nearer the kingdom of God than we suppose...Their sympathies are with the Lord's people. But the threads that bind them to the world hold them firmly. They have not the moral courage to take their position with the lowly ones. We are to make special efforts for these souls, who are in need of earnest labor because of their responsibilities and temptations." {RH, May 12, 1904}

"Let those who work for the higher classes bear themselves with true dignity, remembering that angels are their companions. Let them keep the treasure-house of mind and heart filled with 'It is written.'" RH, May 12, 1904

Not all are called to such work, and it might be easy to become beguiled by their affluence. But, as health care workers, we have a great opportunity to reach many in our daily professional and social interactions, including the rich and powerful. It's an opportunity that we shouldn't neglect.

This issue of the journal highlights several creative and unique outreach ventures when physicians or dentists integrated witnessing into their daily interactions, and even in their family recreation. As we read their stories, I hope these accounts will encourage us to expand our thinking and reach out with greater creativity and purpose to those around us, to those of all classes and walks of life.

Brian Schwartz, M.D.

Unexpected



JOHN CHUNG, M.D.

John Chung, MD is a dermatologist in Dalton, Georgia specializing in Mohs surgery. Dr. Chung is dedicated to medical evangelism; he frequently visits his patients in their homes for Bible studies and to pray with them. He also serves on the AMEN board.

It began with a Wednesday night Bible study. For years, during this midway point in the week, many gathered at my home. Tracey, a pharmacist, and an earnest, soft-spoken, sincere seeker of the truth, would come every few weeks and sit quietly in the back as we studied the Word of God.

His silent presence almost went unnoticed until, one day, concern cutting deep lines in his face, he asked for prayer. Mr. Beavers, he said, the father of a Baptist family who were Tracy's friends and regulars at his pharmacy, had been diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. After the Bible study, Tracey requested that he and I visit the Beavers that coming Friday.

After sundown, Tracey and I were at Mr. Beavers' home. A kindly gentleman in his early sixties, Mr. Beavers looked the part: emaciated, worn-out and extremely out of breath despite being on one hundred percent oxygen. He had undergone two years of unsuccessful chemo and radiation therapies. His cancer had spread, and he had tumors the size of two grapefruits in his lungs. Though he looked as if he had only days left, he was told that he had a few weeks. He was, however, incredibly hopeful.

"I have very large immediate and church

families," he said, "who love me and constantly pray for me. I am sure God is listening."

I was not so hopeful, remembering numerous anointing services and countless prayers offered on behalf of the sick and unable to recall even one prayer answered to my satisfaction. Without much faith, I started the conversation, finding Mr. Beavers surprisingly engaging, humorous, and likeable. My heart went out to him. Despite my belief that he would soon die, I prayed for his complete recovery. I also felt inspired to share numerous examples of healing in the Bible as well as modern-day miracles of God.

We then started a discussion on the relationship between diet and healing. I discovered that Mr. & Mrs. Beavers both loved pork and sweets, especially vanilla ice cream, which they ate daily. I told them that God's ideal diet did not include pork and ice cream. Offering an alternative, I explained the three diets that God gave to humans. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve ate only fruits, grains, and nuts. There was no need for anything else, for there was no disease.

In Genesis 1:29 we read, "I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food."

Recently, the amount of vegetable-derived pharmaceuticals in the United States grew close to fifty percent.



This was before the fall. Then after the fall, we read in Genesis 3:18, “...and you shall eat the herb of the field.” The clear implication of these two texts is that God added ‘herbs of the field’ without seed after the fall. This seems to indicate that root vegetables were added to the human diet at that time. Evidently God added this type of vegetable to strengthen and protect our bodies from disease due to the imperfections the fallen race would now face. Modern medicine has even proven that vegetables have healing properties: recently, the amount of vegetable-derived pharmaceuticals in the United States grew close to fifty percent. Because of this healthy diet and less degenerative genetics, I told the Beavers, people lived to almost one thousand years.

However, instead of being a blessing, their longevity became a curse. The longer they lived, the more wicked and miserable they became. So God then added clean meats to their diet, thus decreasing their life spans drastically. Counsels on Diet and Food,” p.373 states, “And He permitted that long-lived race to eat animal food to shorten their sinful lives.”

After explaining all these things to the

Beavers, I urged them to change their eating habits, emphasizing the importance of modeling God’s diet. Sensing that this was probably his last chance—they agreed.

Weeks passed, and Mr. Beavers became merely a passing thought in my prayers. I didn’t hear much from Tracey or the family. Then one day I received a phone call.

“It’s gone,” Tracey said. “The cancer completely disappeared! The doctors can’t find a single trace of it. John, this is a miracle!”

Gone, just like that. Unbelievable! Tears of joy welled in my eyes. In fact, the day Tracey called, Mr. Beavers was mowing his lawn! Only God could perform such a feat. Only God could inspire the conversation about diet. Only God could give life to one who was losing it.

This miracle would not leave my mind. The excitement of witnessing God’s

power overwhelmed me—and Tracey, too. After the next Wednesday night Bible study, Tracey approached me with vitality burning in his eyes and sincerity painted across his face.

“John,” he said, “I am going to close my pharmacy on Saturdays and join your church. But, I have one request: teach me how to keep the Sabbath.”

Mr. Beavers promised to come to one of the Bible studies and give his testimony. God alone knows what impact his healing will have upon members of his own church family. I believe that many will become Adventists (they just don’t know it yet, though).

Recently Tracey asked me, “I have a Presbyterian customer who has end-stage leukemia. Do you mind visiting her with me?”

“Of course not,” I answered, full of hope and faith.

The Remake



DAVID OTIS, DDS

A 1985 graduate of Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. Dr. Otis has a passion for medical evangelism. He specifically likes to spread the gospel with his patients. He uses good Christian literature strategically placed in his waiting room as the entering wedge. Otis has been in private practice as a general dentist for 25 years. He and his wife have four college age children and reside near Collegedale, TN.

“I can’t thank you enough,” said Kate, one of my patients, “for the literature you have in your waiting room. I have been taking several of them and have been sharing them with Alan. I am using them to introduce him to Jesus. You see, he was raised in a Jewish family, but has never attended any type of services. I especially like the one with that little blue ribbon on it. I think it will really help him understand who Jesus is.”

I glanced at the pocket of her purse and noticed several pieces of truth-filled literature protruding out the brim.

She continued, enthusiastically, “I have been reading them at home and my eyes have been opened to a whole new glimpse of Jesus. Thank you for making them available to your patients.”

Looking into the face of Kate, I noticed a deep sense of conviction and excitement in her eyes. Kate had seen Jesus and wanted to share Him with her friend.

Several weeks prior, Kate had come to my office seeking a “smile-makeover...the type you see on TV.” Sheepishly, she pulled a worn and faded photograph from her purse.

“Believe it or not,” she said, “this is a picture of me when I won the local beauty contest many years ago. Can you make my smile look like this again?”

I glanced back and forth between the picture and the aged woman sitting in my dental chair. Eager to give her hope for an improved smile, I commented on the many advances of modern dentistry and assured her that we should be able to recapture some of her former smile. Kate then began to share her recent visits to a plastic surgeon for various treatments: Botox on her lips, eye-lifts, brow-lifts, breast implants and on and on.

As she spoke, I wondered what event in Kate’s life ignited her desire for a re-creation of youth. I did not have to wait long for the answer. Her loving husband of 40 years had recently passed away. Kate was lonely and looking for renewed friendship. At a recent high school reunion, she ran into Alan. Alan was a true gentleman, good looking and kind. Striking up a conversation, she discovered that he too was alone and interested in friendship. The only problem? He lived in New Mexico, she in Tennessee. They planned to see each other in the fall, and thus Kate began the preparation, hoping that he just might be intrigued with her “new look.” What Kate was not expecting in all this,

by Matt Hartman



however, was the “whole new glimpse of Jesus” she got—and at the dentist’s office of all places!

As I listened to Kate recount her encounter with Jesus from the piece of literature in the waiting room, I attempted to appear calm and reassuring, but I was brimming with joy. The day had begun as most others, and as I drove in I was aware of my intense schedule.

“Lord, I prayed, “bring someone into my life that needs to know you better.”

I knew from experience that God never fails to answer that prayer, and now here before me was the answer. Rejoicing in her excitement, we shared a prayer, lifting up Alan, and humbly asking that he too would be excited in experiencing Jesus for the first time.

I knew from experience that God never fails to answer that prayer, and now here before me was the answer.



I do not know the end of the story; perhaps I never will. Kate had her smile restored and promptly moved to New Mexico. I do know, however, that God spoke to her through a small piece of literature, and that she was excited to share her experience with someone else.

Isn’t that how the Gospel spreads, in simple ways, by simple means, by the workings of the Holy Spirit on seeking hearts? Let each of us ask God how he may use us in his vineyard today.

“Let all be fully prepared to disseminate the light by word and pamphlet. There should be hundreds of little tracts scattered as the leaves of autumn...Light! Light! Let it shine forth everywhere. It is to be diffused in jots and tittles, here a little and there a little...Our tracts are to be distributed everywhere. The truth is to be sown beside all waters; for we know not which will prosper, this, or that. In our erring judgment we may think it unwise to give literature to the very ones who would accept the truth the most readily. We know not what may be the results of giving away a leaflet containing present truth.”

MR No. 216.



A Light Through the Legend



MATT HARTMAN

A senior biochemistry major at Southern Adventist University. He, along with 20 other undergraduate students, worked in Pucallpa Peru with A.M.O.R. projects for 10 months. During that time, they led six medical clinics, three of which were accompanied by full evangelistic campaigns, public health campaigns, and church plants. More information can be found at www.touchofloveperu.org.

Upon deciding to go on a mission trip to Peru, I was told that white protestant missionaries attempted to enter the Peruvian village known as Mario Peso two years ago. They came with their Bibles and had high hopes of spreading Christianity, but were met with fearful glances and angry threats. They were not able to give bible studies or preach sermons. The Peruvians of Mario Peso chased the missionaries out. The people were genuinely afraid, and, as I found out, they had reason to be.

The reason had its roots deep in a grisly Andean legend. According to the legend, demons with blond hair and blue eyes, (called Pishtacos in western Peru and Pelacaras in the east), travel deserted roads to find and kill native Peruvians and take their organs. The legend has permeated the cultures along the Amazon and its tributaries, and, in many places, the stories have become more reality than myth. While I lived in Peru, one of my favorite past-times was listening to stories told by weathered old grandfathers who used giant hand motions as they narrated. As the blazing Peruvian sun was setting, I would sit spellbound on their porches while they would tell of slaying giant anacondas, or of run-ins with wild natives who shot arrows. Sadly, they all had at least one story of how whites had killed Peruvians for money. I was

told that a little over two years ago, just before the protestant missionaries arrived, bodies missing organs were found in Mario Peso – slayings that were supposedly the malicious act of white foreigners.

I decided to find out the legitimacy of these claims. Some quick research on the Internet revealed that in 2009, Peruvian authorities did uncover a series of murders and organ trafficking linked to some Italian nationals. Peruvian tabloids were quick to publish the details. The legitimacy of this story, and others like it, has since been questioned, but whether foreigners have been behind murders or not doesn’t matter. Our credibility has been severely damaged and many communities live in fear of us. In certain areas of the jungle, whites aren’t welcome: children hide from them, men shout out threats, and missionaries aren’t allowed to work. As our own mission team prepared to enter a community just a few miles from Mario Peso, we knew the risks, but we were prepared. We had a time-tested strategy, which, if correctly used, would disarm fears, restore confidence, and lead to the formation of friendships.

We didn’t begin with a prophecy seminar. We didn’t start with a VBS or with Bible studies. Instead, as the Peruvian sun beat down on us that Sunday, we entered what resembled a

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deeply spiritual
and the most
hospitable people
I had ever met.



refugee camp, set up a medical clinic, and began seeing patients. The brave ones came first. They had parasites, UTI's, tumors, pneumonia, colds, TB, and they wanted contraception. Sheets sectioned off rooms, tables littered with medicines became a pharmacy, an old microscope and a centrifuge connected to our truck's battery became a laboratory, and a few college kids along with a Peruvian doctor became a team that ran the clinic with clock-like precision. Each day the amount of patients we saw increased. By Tuesday, the line for our small clinic started forming at one in the morning and stretched about a block. By the end of the week, 800 patients had received medicine and hundreds of teeth had been pulled. The physical needs had been met. The spiritual ones were next.

The next week, our team of five Bible workers set out, swords in hand, to walk the dusty streets and to find families that wanted to learn the Christian faith. I walked nervously from house to house asking if folks wanted to learn about the Bible. Often, I was met with smiles and I heard phrases like, "You're from the clinic? Come right on in!" I found Peruvians to be deeply spiritual and the most hospitable people I had ever met. More than once they insisted on serving me food, even if it meant giving up the last pieces of bread or



fish in their tiny homes. I soon had more than enough Bible study interests.

The road was not without its obstacles. Occasionally, strangers uttered racial slurs as they passed us on the streets. Our evangelistic tent was vandalized. Members from a nearby Christian church must have felt threatened by our presence as we received reports that they went door-to-door warning folks not to trust us because we were planning to kill them and take out their fat. A baby died in the community and the rumor was spread that we had poisoned him with our medicines. Sadly, we did lose a few interests to these tactics, but in the end our gains far outweighed our losses. We had helped their sons, their daughters, and their mothers overcome bacterial, viral and parasitic disease; they



trusted us. We continued to give health classes, to teach the Bible, and to hold church services. Thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit, many were baptized, and a new congregation was formed. It wasn't until we had been there for several months, that I realized the full effect our work was having.

I was walking down a dirt road, squinting in the afternoon sun. A man in his mid 30's motioned for me to come over to his home. I entered and met a beautiful young family of four who gave me warm smiles, handshakes, and a cold Peruvian drink. We chatted late into the afternoon—I about my homeland, and they about their fishing adventures in the rivers of the North. I stood to leave and the man thanked me for all the work our team was doing, then

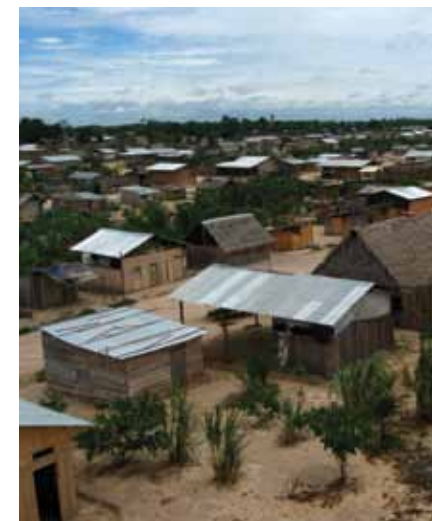


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sheepishly admitted they had first thought we were Pelacaras bent on killing them. The family burst into laughter as if to show me they now thought this notion was ridiculous. They told me that we had made a positive difference in their community, and asked if they could receive Bible studies.

Medical missions work. In many parts of the world, medical work is the only catalyst that can overcome cultural and



political barriers, allowing the Word of God to penetrate deeper than it would by any other method. There is something to be said for meeting the practical needs of people first. It calms fears, opens hearts, and dispels even the darkest of legends and most deeply ingrained of lies. Christ knew this. And now there is a group of American college kids who know it too. And if we're ever tempted to forget, we'll remember those communities in Peru that embraced us, then the Word of God, and



as a result contain many new Seventh-Day-Adventist Christians. These are places that are a testament to the power of the Gospel, and the power of actions over words. These are places that will now always have their doors open to the kind of people who want to make a difference, no matter their nationality or the color of their skin.

Common Witnessing Mistakes



DAVID ASSCHERICK
Bio to go here.

In ten years of evangelism, I have discovered many common mistakes that people make in personal evangelistic ministry. I want to share them because they are easily remediable—the kinds of things that, if dealt with and addressed, could put you a year or two ahead in your own personal witness.

The Mistake of Not Making Mistakes

The first mistake, ironically enough, is that many of our rank-and-file laity just are not making enough mistakes. What do I mean? You are not going to succeed in anything worth succeeding in without some failure. I would like to see some of our laity making mistakes: giving the wrong Bible study, saying the wrong thing, knocking on the door too many times, etc. In other words, if we were doing more personal witnessing we'd be making more mistakes, and if we were making more mistakes, we would be learning from those mistakes and, as a result, becoming more effective evangelists.

In whatever your role, even as medical professionals, if you are not making mistakes it might be because you are not extending yourself to the cutting edge of outreach and evangelism. I know a doctor who in 40 years of medical practice had made a commitment to pray with every patient. And in those 40

years, only two refused. Only two. You do the math.

Whether we are MD's or any other rank-and-file laity, when we stay safely ensconced in only what we can do, we will do nothing. If you're not failing in evangelism, you're probably not doing evangelism at all.

In ten years now, I have given hundreds of Bible studies on the Mark of the Beast, all of which were initiated by me. I've never had anyone knock on my door and ask, "Hey, would you please give me a Bible study on the Mark of the Beast?"

What I'm saying is that if you want to get down the road a distance, you are going to have to take an initial step. You're going to have to take a second step. You're going to have to take a third step. And you might be afraid of what it looks like down there, but start making mistakes here, closer to home, and you'll just start learning.

So, the number one mistake that I think many of our laity are making, and this would go, I assume, for many medical professionals as well, is that we're just not making enough mistakes. We're not pushing the envelope. If we were pushing the envelope more – falling on our face a bit more – we would be learning



I can trust
my neighbor.

theological and biblical knowledge and apply it to daily situations, to people in their personal needs.

Not long ago, a girl in our neighborhood was talking with my wife. The girl started crying, talking about how she had broken up with her boyfriend. Then, out of the blue, she asked, "Can I go to church with you sometime?"

Violetta was speechless. "Yes! That's actually quite a good idea! Glad you suggested it!"

Here's the point: the reason that she knew to ask if she could go to church with us is because she knows that her neighbors are spiritual people who go to church, and they go on Saturday. And she probably thought: these are the kinds of people that I can trust when I am in a tough situation. I can trust my neighbor.

In short, we need to take the theory, the doctrines and the teachings that we are learning in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy and make them scratch where people are itching. And, as we all know, people are itching—and worse!

Priorities

Another mistake: our rank-and-file laity are just not living with evangelistic potentiality. How many wake up and their first thought is, "Lord, today I want to be Your evangelist." Instead, you've got a hundred things on your mind: you've got to go to the hospital, you've got to go to the office, you have a variety of things you've got to do that day. That's fine. That's

and we would actually be increasing in the ministry that God has for us.

Devotional Lives (Or the Lack Thereof)

The second mistake is that most people, I think, have very poor personal devotional lives. How do I know? I just look at church on Sabbath morning and I am not seeing people dreaming dreams for God, or seeing visions from God, or making mistakes for God, or gaining victories for God. If we are not seeing that in our church, it is because that's not happening in the closet.

To use a simple analogy: if you asked to borrow ten dollars, I will lend you ten dollars. But if you ask me for a hundred thousand, I'm going to have to turn you somewhere else because I don't have that. In other words, don't expect to be able to share what you, yourself, don't have.

Of course, we are all busy. But I am personally very thankful that Jesus took time out of His busy schedule to condescend to come to earth and save humanity. I have to believe that even the busiest among us can carve some time to meet with our Lord on a daily, consistent basis. That's the key, daily and consistent.

If you are not having consistent personal devotions, I implore you on behalf of Christ to re-establish and re-acquaint yourself with your Maker and your Redeemer.

Too Cerebral

Another mistake comes from a rather strange source: the internal intellectual coherency of the three angels' messages. To me, this is the truth and it is so obviously the truth because of the internal coherency as well as the external and experiential consistency. The thing fits together. It fits, almost air-tight.

But there is a mild danger in this, and that is—because our message is so wonderfully logical—we can have a very cerebral, very intellectual view of religion. Sure, it needs to make sense, and it does; it makes wonderful sense. But as we study for ourselves, it shouldn't be just to learn for ourselves but also to share, to be able to teach others with more than just the facts and figures and dates and charts that we know. As you are having your personal devotions, as you are studying, as you are reading through the Sabbath School lesson, are you asking yourself: "How could this impact my neighbor?" In other words, you have to be able to take all this



Just the skill of listening alone can make a big difference in our witness.

life. But somewhere, sometime in your experience you are going to have to get on that list, “Lord, there’s a soul today that you want me to try to win.”

Notice I did not say there’s a soul today that you want me to win, because that success is up to the Lord Jesus. But you need to be engaged in trying. Living with the evangelistic intentionality is having the eyesalve of the Spirit applied to your eyes so that you see people all around you that are looking for Jesus.

But if you are not looking for it, you won’t see it. Remember, too, that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. The lost need to be sought; the tricky part about being lost is that they don’t know they are lost.

Get out of the Ghetto

Here’s another problem: many of us just don’t have many people to witness to. And that’s because we don’t have many, or even any, non-SDA friends. I’ll never forget speaking at a large gathering, and when I asked people if all their neighbors were SDAs, almost all their hands went up. I was stunned. They were living in what we term an “Adventist ghetto.” I asked them, “Are you trying to tell me that all of your

neighbors are Seventh-day Adventist?” They said, “Yes.” My advice was succinct and precise.

“Move.”

Now, I have a lot of hobbies. I love surfing. I love rock climbing. I’m a keen bird-watcher. I love fly-fishing. In these various recreational pursuits, I come into contact with many non-SDAs. I enjoy these things for my own personal edification and enjoyment. But one of the main reasons that I am involved in some of these things is because it puts me into contact with a group of people that I have something in common with, people with whom I can now salt with the good news of the gospel.

People Skills

Another mistake: many people, even doctors (though I would hope not), have poor-to-average people skills. Another way of saying this frankly is that many people don’t make the religion of Christ very attractive.

We have at ARISE a three-hour class on how not to make a fool of yourself in one-to-one conversations. Things like, how to listen. There is an art and a skill to

listening. And not just to listening, but to communicate that you are listening. I want the person that’s talking to me to feel as if I am totally and completely zoned in, that I am hanging on their every word. Sometimes this is tough because not everybody communicates like that. I have a brother-in-law who I have to finish all of his sentences. And I love him dearly. But he tries my patience. And I praise God that He put my brother-in-law into my life because it helps me with other people like him that I meet. Just the skill of listening alone can make a big difference in our witness.

Also, remembering people’s name can be so important. I remember my first evangelistic series. It was in Shingle Springs, California. There were maybe 37 guests the opening night. I prayed hard. I was a brand new Seventh-day Adventist. A year and a half, and I don’t know what I was doing but the Lord in His sovereign mercy saw fit for me to do this series. And I prayed that God would help me to remember everyone’s name.

And so, after the first night, as I was shaking hands, I said, “And what’s your name?”

“My name is Randy.”

And I would just look them in the eye, and

I would say, “Raaaandeey! Nice to meet you.”

And then I would see somebody else and say, “Whom do we have here?”

“Susie.”

“Nice to meet you, Susie!”

I prayed that night: “God, when Jesus looked up into that tree, the first word that short tax collector heard was ‘Zacchaeus.’ It must have meant something to him.” And so I said, “Lord, by Your grace, tomorrow when these people come, I want to be able to look them in the eye and say, ‘Randy, it is so good to have you back tonight!’ I want to be able to say, “Hi, Susie, so glad you came again!”

Just the skill of remembering people’s names is a powerful tool. I have had people tell me that they stopped going to a church because the new pastor said to them, over and over, “I’m sorry, what is your name again?” That can fly once or twice, but not ten times.

This might sound a bit crude, but another basic people skill is not to have bad breath. Now you think, this is a small thing. It’s not. The devil will cause people to hang up on anything, and bad breath works almost as good as not remembering people’s names after the tenth time you meet.

Use the Resources

Many of us are just not making use of available resources and opportunities. The Adventist Church makes resources and resources upon resources and then resources upon resources upon resources. We have resources coming out of our ears. My fear is that many of them are underutilized. Find out what is available,

what fits your needs, and make use of them. They are there for you!

A Safe Place for Visitors

Another crucial mistake is that many of us don’t labor to ensure that their local church is a safe and Christ-centered place to bring friends. That is to say that many of us are not comfortable inviting our friends or contacts to the church in its present condition.

Now, you might think that gets you off the hook, but it actually gets you on the hook. Because if you are able to discern in your own local church conditions that make it difficult for you to invite your professional colleagues or your patients, then the question ricocheting back on you is: What are you doing to alleviate the present malady that your church is in? And if you feel as if that malady is absolutely, completely non-curable-- then go to another church!

That’s one of the great things about the Seventh-day Adventist church. There’s lots of them (at least in many localities, anyway). If you don’t have a church that you are comfortable inviting people to, you either, a) do what it takes to make that church what it could be in Christ b) go to another church where you would be comfortable inviting your associates, your colleagues, your clients, etc. It does not get you off the hook to say, “I wouldn’t feel comfortable inviting Dr. so-and-so even though he has expressed somewhat of an interest spiritually numerous times around me. I just would be afraid that Sister X would stand up in front and tell one of those 25 minute long children’s stories, and it would just be game over!”

I’m sorry; it just doesn’t cut it.

A Pastor who Trains Soul-Winners

This is sensitive, but needs to be said. Many church members don’t insist upon relevant soul-winning training from their pastor. This is crucial. You go to your pastor, and you ask him to teach you how to be a winner of souls. Ask him to conduct training classes. Ask him to give you personal training or personal instruction. And if he won’t, then report him to the Conference.

Many ministers would not be comfortable doing this kind of training because, frankly, they themselves need the training that you’re asking them to give you. But here’s the point. Insist upon getting that training and keep insisting until you get it.

We may think that there are so many people in the world, and it’s all so difficult, etc., etc. But, really, the numbers are not very intimidating. There are approximately 6.5 billion people alive today, and approximately 16 million of them are Seventh-day Adventists. The ratio is 1: 406.25. For every Seventh-day Adventist in the world, there are only 406 non-Seventh-day Adventists.

I find that ratio to be underwhelming! One to four hundred? I can tell four hundred people in a weekend about Jesus. If our churches were filled with soul-winners, and every church member was winning one soul, conservatively, just every two years, we would see incredible growth.

Your pastor is a professional. At least he is paid to be. And if he is not doing his professional duty, then that needs to be reported. And if he refuses or is unable or unwilling to do his professional duty, he needs to be replaced with one of the thousands who will do it.



Taking the Time

Here's another problem, another mistake: many people do not devote consistent time to soul-winning. They have consistent time for every other thing in their lives. If we are going to take a nap, we make a time for it. Between these hours, I'm going to go to the hospital. During these other hours, I am going to go to the church. On these hours I am going to go play racquetball. But what if you were to carve out a two-hour block once a month and just put on it, "Soul winning"? You might say, "What would I do during that time?" Ask your pastor. Or go read one of the marvelous available resources that the church has produced.

We spend plenty of time advancing our own kingdom. Maybe we could just spend a little paltry amount of time advancing God's instead. I'm talking about carving out specific time. Many people are just waiting for these vast swaths of time to open up on their schedules. It's not going to happen. If the Devil can't make you bad, he will make you busy.

Good Bible Studies

Many people don't mark their Bibles for the evangelistic studies. Many of us do not have photographic encyclopedic

memories. That's not an excuse. Get yourself an excellent set of Bible studies. There are many. The "It is Written" series of studies is fantastic. "Amazing Facts" makes some good studies, too. If you want the studies that I personally use, email me at davidasscherick@mac.com and I will send you what I use.

Mark your Bible so that at any moment you could give a Bible study on XYZ. It's amazing what God will do through you when you start making yourself available to God.

I've got a good friend right now who is looking for a home for his German Shepherd. This is a quality dog. A hundred and five pounds, a beautiful animal. He's looking for a home where he can place this German Shepherd because the man is going to go into the mission field. But he's not going to put this German Shepherd just anywhere. He's going to look for evidences that he can trust the owner with this quality dog.

God's not going to send you just anybody if you are not giving evidences that God can trust you with the people that He wants to send to you.

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

Now, another mistake, a big one too: many people just don't ask for decisions. They think that, if they just present the information, people automatically make decisions for Christ. The main reason people do not make decisions in the context of personal Bible studies is that they are not asked to. If you ask somebody to make a decision—they often will.

Years ago, Mark Finley wrote a book called *Persuasion*, published by the Ministerial Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I highly recommend it. He talks about the fact that when you bring a person right to the point of a decision, don't put it off. Don't bring to the edge and then back down. Ask them to make a decision. You have to pose the question yourself. They shouldn't have to volunteer to make a decision.

The Importance of Soul Winning

Amazingly enough, many people do not believe that soul-winning is necessary. Many have failed to grasp the intimate, symbiotic, inexorable connection between the only two things that you can take to heaven: character and converts. Everything else remains to get burned and destroyed forever. But many people have failed to grasp the interrelatedness and the interconnectedness of character and converts.

There is a causal relationship here. If we do not have a heart that, at some fundamental level, beats with the heart of God, then we are not prepared to spend eternity with Him. You might have a great SDA lifestyle, but that in and of itself does not develop between your heart and the heart of God a connection that is strong enough to prepare you for an eternity with Him.

Jesus was saying,
"I would rather
see them saved
even at the
expense of my
own eternal
existence."

What causes the heart of God to beat? (I'm speaking anthropomorphically, of course.) What makes God tick? If we could get past the omnipotence, the omnibenevolence, the omnipresence, and the omniscience, and all the other attributes of God and just get down into the heart of God--what would we find? We would find a heart that insists upon blessing others, even at significant expense, difficulty, and inconvenience to one's self.

There is a principle that exists in the heart of God that says others are more important than the self. When Jesus Christ was crying out on the cross, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani,"—He was showing us the depths of the heart of God. Jesus was saying, "I would rather see them saved even at the expense of my own eternal existence." That is God. That's what makes the heart of God tick. That's Who and What God is and, at some level, if that same principle isn't causing my heart to beat, what do I really have in common with God?

How do we, with our carnal and wicked hearts, get the heart of God? There's only one way. You're going to get it by faith. You are going to get it by accepting Jesus as your personal Savior. But that is not the end of the Christian experience. That is just the beginning. Every true disciple, Ellen White says, "is born into

the kingdom of God as a missionary."

What that means is that you must get involved in the work of Christ. Do you want the mind of Christ? Then you must get involved in the work of Christ. We think that soul-winning is optional, an addendum. It's not. Listen to this quote from *Desire of Ages*, page 142: "It was possible for God to reach sinners without our aid." It was possible; that was an option. He could have done it through angels; He could have done it through chickens; He could have done it through whales. He could have done it through donkeys. He could have done it through rocks. But look at what she says next: "It was possible for God to reach sinners without our aid, but in order for us to develop a character like Christ's, we must participate in His labors. In order for us to enter into His joy, the joy of seeing souls redeemed by His sacrifice, we must participate in His labors for their redemption."

The phrase, "in order for" in this statement means exactly that—"in order for." In other words, you can't get there from here any other way. You can't get there without going through here. You want a character like Christ's, then you have to participate in the work of Christ. If you want a share in the joy of Christ, you have to work for the redemption of souls.

No Fear

Another mistake is embracing unfounded fears about the ministry. Most people are more receptive than you would think. "God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). Reject fear and embrace God's gift of power to go out and do His work.

Too Much, Too Fast

The final mistake, number fifteen, is putting too much on people too quickly. We need discernment from Jesus to know what to share, and when to share it. We must meet people where they are. Speak in a language that they can understand. Don't go on and on about a bunch of things that, however important or true, are not relevant at that time. Forty-five minutes to an hour is more than enough for a study. Leave them hungry for more.

Conclusion

Of all the things of which I have spoken, this is the sum: get involved in personal evangelistic ministry in and outside your practice. Get involved in saving souls for eternity. Take evangelism seriously, if for no other reason than for your own soul's sake. Take it seriously for the sake of those for whom Christ died.

I want to go back to the first mistake I talked about, the mistake of failing to make mistakes. Our citizenship in God's kingdom is tied to our heart's resonance with God. Some of us need to repent and reprioritize. We need to confess in the quietness of our hearts that there is something that makes our heart beat – something that encapsulates the essence of our hearts, but that might not be the same thing that is in the heart of God. We long to spend eternity with God. We long to bring to Him the character that He wants to develop in us, by His grace and strength. If we would have the mind of Christ, we must participate in the work of Christ. The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.

We can, in our own way, in our own sphere, seek to do the same.

What a mistake not to.

“And He Shall Guide Your Paths”



WENDELL HEIDINGER
Bio to go here.

Have you ever wished you could hear God speak to you? Have you ever wished you knew what God wanted you to do? Have you ever wished you knew what your calling was?

Of course. I can't imagine any child of God not wrestling with these questions at some point in their walk with the Lord.

This article tells of my own experience with how the Lord first became real to me, then prepared me for His work, and finally called me to be a medical evangelist.

How God Became Real to Me

A primary component of knowing God personally involves knowing how God talks to you and how you can talk to God. I had to learn to recognize God's voice to my soul. This step for me was crucial; I would never have left my comfortable, well paying job had I not been able to hear God calling me to something different.

Once I began to communicate with God, I started recognizing more clearly what He wanted me to do. At that juncture I had to make some difficult decisions. Was I going to follow God, or continue doing what I wanted?

This point leads me to a second primary component of how to make God real, and that is—deciding to follow God and work with Him. Ever since I made the decision to follow God, my relationship with Him has been much different and His presence in my life so real.

Being Prepared for God's Work

When we decide to work with God, He helps and asks us to follow these priorities. The first three look like this: God first, family second, and work third. As I began to follow God, He reiterated my calling as priest of my home. I learned that in order for me to be effective in outreach, I must be an effective leader in my home. To help accomplish this in reality, I accepted a part time position in Klamath Falls but took no church positions. My dedication was to my family. At this time I still had no idea God was preparing me for medical missionary work.

Another area of preparation was to verify my calling as a physician. My satisfaction with medicine had always been low and, after moving to Klamath Falls, it fell even lower. Though, after much prayer, I was convinced the Lord wanted me to stay in medicine.

The last area of preparation was for God to

teach me principles of medical missionary work, best expressed by these words:

“The object of our mission is the same as the object of Christ's mission. Why did God send His Son to the fallen world? To make known and to demonstrate to mankind His love for them. Christ came as a Redeemer. Throughout His ministry He was to keep prominent His mission to save sinners. . . .” {MM 24.4}

This truth hit me hard during my encounters with “Jane”. Jane (name changed for privacy) was a patient of mine with many problems, both physical and spiritual. I worked with her on both, and she made great progress. In fact, Jane stated that I had done more for her than any other doctor, mostly because, she said, “It seems like you care.”

I had to learn to
recognize God's
voice to my soul.

A second principle of medical missionary work is pastors and physicians are to work together, as closely as “the arm is attached to the body.” I worked with a retired pastor, who told me to include anointing as part of my outreach. It made a difference: I have a patient who had severe spinal stenosis and SIADH. The SIADH was particularly difficult to manage and was requiring frequent testing and close monitoring. At one point, I suggested that she consider an anointing, and she agreed. The retired pastor led out and, much to my amazement, she has never had serious hyponatremia since, though the spinal stenosis did not abate.



A third principle of medical missionary work is that it combines education and healing:

“We must educate, educate, educate, pleasantly and intelligently. We must preach the truth, pray the truth, and live the truth, bringing it with its gracious, health-giving influences within the reach of those who know it not. As the sick are brought into touch with the Life-giver their faculties of mind and body will be renewed. But in order for this to be, they must practice self-denial, and be temperate in all things. Thus only can they be saved from physical and spiritual death and restored to health. {MM 262.3}

A fourth principle of medical missionary work is that it is to be a living example of righteousness by faith:

“Medical missionary work is in no case to be divorced from the gospel ministry. The Lord has specified that the two shall be as closely connected as the arm is with the body. Without this union neither part of the work is complete. The medical missionary work is the gospel in illustration. {CH 524.2}

I have a very dysfunctional patient (married

four times!). As I have worked with her over the last 5-7 years, her trust in me has grown. Because of this, she finally decided to accept my offer for spiritual help and now would like to join the Seventh-day Adventist church. This has taught me that patients learn to trust by virtue of the physical healing and improvement. Physicians can then ask patients to trust God in the same way that they trust us thus teaching righteousness by faith.

Becoming a Medical Missionary: How I Revolutionized my Practice

With a better and broader understanding of medical missionary work, I started dreaming about the potential of a pastor/physician team. I imagined a private practice where I would be free to invite my pastors into my office to counsel my patients. Yet I realized that I couldn't possibly help all the people that need help who come to me. Thus, the vision expanded to include the local church as an extension of my office. Gradually, I began to see that every aspect of my practice needed to be evaluated as a possible avenue to win souls for the kingdom.

As the fuller meaning of being a medical missionary became clear, the conviction that I needed to be a medical missionary



How does a person trust God implicitly yet demonstrate faith through action?

everything that I could and I knew I had to trust God.

At that point in time there were three options that seemed reasonable. Therefore, I would pursue all three and pray the whole time. And I did. And God did. I prayed and pursued. And God led and directed. In the end it became clear that I should stay in Klamath Falls.

And so began the process of setting up private practice out of conviction that God wanted me to be a true medical missionary. One critical area was staffing. Obviously, I didn't want just any medical assistant or receptionist. I needed staff with a passion for outreach. I was also very set on finding SDA staff. So I started praying. One day an elderly patient came to my office with her caretaker. As I began to discuss spiritual things with my patient, my patient turned to her caretaker, whose name was Jan, and said, "See, Jan, you ought to work for him. You are always trying to read the Bible to me."

What was truly amazing was that Jan had been impressed by God months before that she should work for me. The idea seemed ridiculous to Jan, but it would not go away. The morning she came in with my elderly patient, she had prayed that if God really wanted her to work for me that He would open the door because she had

grew stronger. It was the summer of 2007 and I was wrestling with the idea of quitting my regular practice. I studied and prayed and finally discussed the issue with an acquaintance who has operated a faith-based ministry for 25 years. Finally, on faith, I decided that I had to quit my job and open my own private practice to be a medical missionary in the fullest sense. Soon after, I found myself at work telling my colleagues I was resigning effective in a year.

Active Waiting

Over time, the Lord taught me a principle about how to work with Him. I have named it the "Active Waiting Principle." How does a person trust God implicitly yet demonstrate faith through action? How is an individual to do everything in their human power and at the same time trust God with the rest and move forward in faith?

In my specific situation, how was I to find a pastor to work with? Was I to wait until God placed a pastor in my lap? Was I to do

everything I could to find a pastor and then wait? Was I to pray earnestly but make no phone calls?

I went to Scripture and read about Elijah, who prayed earnestly and did nothing else (of course, a human can't do anything else about bringing rain, anyway). So I needed other examples. Daniel recognized that the 70 years were up so he started to pray about going back to Jerusalem. And it seems there was nothing else he could do. Moses tried to act and killed the Egyptian, not the best result (he made the mistake of not waiting).

E. G. White says we should do everything in our power while cooperating with God and relying on Him. I reviewed "trust" in the topical index to EGW. There I found the Israelites had faith because they believed Moses and walked toward the Red Sea when told to. If they had never walked, the sea would never have parted. God was teaching me how to work with Him. I knew I was to work with pastors. I had no idea which one. I knew I had to do

no idea how to do it. The time for the interview came and I became aware that Jan had some medical background as a dental assistant.

Though I also knew that she was not a SDA, she loved the Lord and had a passion for outreach. So I went home and prayed about hiring her. God seemed to tell me, "Of course!" So I offered, and she accepted.

Another challenge for me was office space. I searched and searched for suitable office space but to no avail. My date to quit work was fast coming and I had nowhere to go. With time pressing upon me, I finally went to my employers and asked for an extension. They granted it but, in retrospect, I realize that it was the wrong decision. My faith had faltered a bit and I didn't trust God to find space for me in due time. I learned a good lesson.

I have now been in private practice for 2 years. We have had blessings, challenges and a learning curve. I would like to share with you one or two of them.

Soon after opening we had a number of individuals interested in Bible studies. On four different occasions exactly none of those commitments showed up for Bible Studies. That set me back. It really made me question. And though it shouldn't happen, I got discouraged. Finally I stumbled across the topic of success. I began to see how God's definition was quite different than mine:

"We shall understand that the value of our work does not consist in making a show and noise in the world, and in being active and zealous in our own strength. The value of our work is in proportion to the impartation of the Holy Spirit. {DA 330.4}



"Success does not depend upon numbers. God can deliver by few as well as by many. He is honored not so much by the great numbers as by the character of those who serve Him." {PP 549.3}

"Success depends not so much on talent as on energy and willingness. It is not the possession of splendid talents that enables us to render acceptable service, but the conscientious performance of daily duties, the contented spirit, the unaffected, sincere interest in the welfare of others. In the humblest lot true excellence may be found. The commonest tasks, wrought with loving faithfulness, are beautiful in God's sight. {PK 219.2}

And so God taught me and continues to teach me to work and look from His perspective. God also showed me that I had some spiritual pride. I wanted lots of numbers so I could crow about what a great worker for God I was. But God couldn't bless that. Humility is what God prizes. In time, God sent additional individuals to help me with Bible Studies. We have never

had large numbers. At the same time our labors have not been completely in vain. Two of my patients have been baptized and two more are considering it.

In closing, as I have shared with you some of my experience, I challenge you to do the following:

1. Do your own study of medical evangelism and identify the principles for yourself.
2. Wrestle with God to identify how He would have you apply those principles.
3. Consider approaching your pastor and explore how you might work together more closely.
4. Pray that God will help you surrender anything that would keep you from being a medical evangelist: pride, need for security, finances, reputation or anything else.

You won't regret it.

by Naren James, M.D.

by Patti Guthrie

AMEN Media *the Life+Health Network*

Four years ago at the AMEN Conference we were challenged to use broadcast media to strengthen the health message as the “right arm”, the proclamation of the everlasting gospel of Revelation 14. God has invited us to enter into partnership with the Angel of Revelation 18, whose light is to strengthen our trusting relationship with Him, so that He might accomplish great things for the world.

In light of the counsel to “work in a humble way, enlarging [our] business slowly and refusing to go into debt,” (MM 157), we have moved judiciously as we “counsel with experienced brethren regarding the best plans to follow.” (MM 153). Last year the AMEN board formed a media committee which became the AMEN media board: Naren James, M.D., Chair, Todd Guthrie, M.D., Secretary, Donn LaTour, M.D., Treasurer, and at large members: Lorayne Barton, M.D. and Brian Schwartz, M.D. Since that time:

- AMEN Media was incorporated in the State of California under the name Life+Health Network and hired Al Trace as their administrative director. His email is: altrace@lifeandhealthnetwork.org; phone: 423-710-4873.
- A 24/7 presence on Galaxy 19 satellite was launched in July 2010 to initially target a predominantly Seventh-day Adventist audience and build awareness of public presentation of the health message.
- A high-impact promotional video was prepared for the ASI luncheon in August (be sure to watch it on the Life+Health website!)
- Currently we are live-streaming on the internet at www.lifeandhealthnetwork.org
- Broadcast of all the plenary sessions at AMEN this year was live on the network so that a wider audience could view the conference.
- Development of our mobile app for iPhone

and iPod allows users to access all of the programming from the Life+ Health Network, which is a great tool for Seventh-day Adventist health professionals to use in sharing God’s wonderful health message in church and/or their office.

- Life+Health Network programming is now available by broadband via the Roku digital video player. Currently we are the only Seventh-day Adventist ministry delivering programming by the Roku as well as the only dedicated health channel.

The Life+Health Network can have a real impact in the office setting.

Life+Health
NETWORK

The Life+Health Network can have a real impact in the office setting. Soon after the launching of the Life+Health Network on the Galaxy 19 Satellite, we installed it in both of our office locations in Stanford and Liberty, Kentucky. One morning, I had an unusual encounter with a long-standing patient having lupus, fibromyalgia, chronic pain and subsequent depression and anxiety. Before we could get through the usual preliminaries in the encounter, she excitedly asked: “Where can I get the program I was watching in your waiting room?” After talking to her for a few more minutes, it occurred to me that she was looking at an interview conducted by Don Mackintosh with Skip McCarthy. It was a program dealing with stress from a biblical perspective, which was fresh and exciting to her. In that brief encounter that she had with the Life+Health Network in our waiting room, her perspective on her own health situation had been transformed,

particularly from a spiritual standpoint.

I am confident that these encounters will continue to happen every day in my office setting. This impact can multiply across North America as AMEN members use the Life+Health Network as a tool for ministry within their medical and dental practices. This can be through satellite, the Roku system, or the mobile app.

Life+Health Network seeks to support AMEN’s mission to equip and train SDA physicians and dentists to be effective medical evangelists. Our goal is to provide you with tools to compliment your efforts to advance medical evangelism in your professional setting, your church and community as we work together to proclaim the everlasting gospel hand in hand with the health message, reaching the hearts of the world’s unreached. As doors are opened we envision reaching a wider audience such as the secular world on DISH and cable networks and partnering with local access TV networks. We look forward to expanding beyond the boundaries of North America to areas of the world where it is difficult, if not impossible, for the gospel to be preached. Such as the 10/40 window which includes 1.2 billion people in China, a similar number in India and all of the Islamic world who have yet to hear the gospel, but are interested in health.

We appreciate all the support of AMEN members who have helped with the initial startup of this project through various ways including: your financial support, prayers and time given to produce high quality programming.

Please continue to pray for medical media ministry as we partner with AMEN and the church to reach our world.

Sowing a Snowy Field *How a family turned their ski vacation into a mission opportunity*



PATTI GUTHRIE

Patti Guthrie lives in Mt. Shasta, California, with her husband Todd, who serves on the AMEN board. Together with their four children, they enjoy exploring the great out-of-doors throughout the year.

“Hello, Patti, Neil Nedley here. How would your family like to go on a ski-mission trip to Colorado over the holidays?”

The call took me by surprise. Our friendship with the Nedleys dates back to medical school days at Loma Linda University, when my husband Todd and Neil were classmates. But a ski vacation combined with a mission trip?

Dr. Nedley continued: “Our family has been on several ski trips to Colorado, but we have never made an effort to reach other skiers with the gospel. When I ride the chair- lift with these people, I think about the message we have that they need to hear. Many people who ski at these resorts are wealthy. Erica and I are thinking it might actually be a good time to reach these people when they are away from work and responsibilities. We would like to hold a series of three evening meetings at the ski resort. We could have fliers printed up announcing the meetings and distribute them to people we meet on the chair lift.”

Dr. Nedley then described an almost-forgotten approach to soul-winning:

“Back in the 1800s, when the Adventist church was growing in California, evangelists tried a new method. They would go into a

town and present a series of three meetings on the Second Coming of Jesus, law and grace, and the Sabbath. It worked, and people were converted. I want to try this in Colorado. Would you and Todd and your family consider joining us?”

Weighing the Decision

That evening, we discussed the idea. We like to ski and we have a burden for souls. It wouldn’t take any effort to convince our children. We counted the cost (Colorado ski vacations aren’t cheap), and questioned our motives: did we really want to reach souls, or were we looking for a way to justify an expensive vacation?

During my morning devotions I’ve been reading through the Testimonies. The next morning (we were still undecided), I opened my book to the place I had marked the day before and read these words:

“We talk and write much of the neglected poor: should not some attention be given also to the neglected rich? . . . Thousands of wealthy men have gone to their graves unwarned because they have been judged by appearance and passed by as hopeless subjects. But, indifferent as they may appear, I have been shown that most of this class are soul-burdened. There are thousands of

Christ worked to obtain access to souls in the higher classes who knew not God and did not keep Him commandments.

rich men who are starving for spiritual food. Many in official life feel their need of something which they have not. Few among them go to church, for they feel that they receive no benefit. The teaching they hear does not touch the soul. Shall we make no personal effort in their behalf?

“Some will ask: Can we not reach them with publications? There are many who cannot be reached in this way. It is personal effort that they need. Are they to perish without a special warning? It was not so in ancient times. God’s servants were sent to tell those in high places that they could find peace and rest only in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“... Ingenuously [Christ] worked to obtain access to souls in the higher classes who knew not God and did not keep His commandments.

“... There are many who are represented to me as being like Cornelius, men whom God desires to connect with His church. Their sympathies are with the Lord’s commandment-keeping people. But the threads that bind them to the world hold them firmly. They have not the moral courage to take their position with the lowly ones. We are to make special efforts for these souls, who are in need of special labor because of their responsibilities and



temptations” (6T pp. 78, 79).

That evening, when Todd came home from work, I showed him the quote. After more prayer, we felt at peace about the Colorado opportunity. We would go.

Developing the Strategy

Not long after, Dr. Nedley decided to change strategy: instead of addressing overtly spiritual topics, he developed a three-night series on brain function and health, hoping to use them as a wedge into present truth.

Over the next few months, Erica made arrangements with the Ritz-Carlton for Dr. Nedley to speak in the hotel conference room on Tuesday and Wednesday nights before Christmas. On Thursday night, we planned to shift the meeting to the house where we were staying, for a class

on nutrition and the brain. Following the lecture, we would serve guests a meal of brain-healthy foods. Friday night was Christmas Eve. We decided we would invite participants from the nutrition class back to our house on Friday night for a night of “music therapy” and a “frontal lobe strengthening activity,” i.e. Bible study.

Meanwhile, locating a Bible working team for the week prior to the meetings proved difficult, but at last a capable and willing group was found. They distributed announcements and posters all over town, passed out fliers to skiers on chair-lifts, arranged for local radio and TV interviews with Dr. Nedley, made sure that the local newspaper ran an article and that the radio station broadcast public service announcements.

The Adventure Begins

By the time the families arrived, much groundwork had already been set. On the morning of the first ski day, Dr. Nedley explained the plan to the team of 25 family members, friends and Bible workers:

“Today, when we ski, we’re all going to get in the singles line,” he said. “We won’t be skiing together. The goal will be to meet people on the chair-lift, invite them to the meetings, and share a flier with them.”

After prayer, we fanned out across the slopes and the adventure was underway. The Nedleys titled the series, “Optimize Your Brain,” which made our job pretty easy. We folded the fliers into business card-size tracts and zipped them into our jacket pockets.

One of the first men I met on the lift was from Russia. When I told him about the meetings, he said, “No thanks, I’m not interested. I optimize my brain with coffee every morning and Ambien every night.”

Not too encouraging, I must admit.

Tuesday night’s meeting at the Ritz was scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. Our team arrived early. Some of the students in our group put together a double string quartet and played music that Dr. Nedley described as “good for the frontal lobe of the brain” before the meeting began.

Would anyone show up?

Several of our group stationed themselves in the lobby area of the Ritz in order to direct people to the hotel conference room.



We were thrilled to welcome more than 40 guests at the first lecture on brain health and IQ that night.

“I was standing in the lobby,” said Erica, “when I looked at my watch and saw it was almost 6 o’clock. The thought struck me that perhaps someone would come in at the hotel’s shuttle entrance and not know where to go, so I quickly made my way to the other entrance and stood by the door holding the ‘Optimize Your Brain’ poster. Just then a mother with three teenage children saw the poster in my hands and came over to read it. She asked me a few questions about the meeting and said to her children, ‘Emotional intelligence. That’s just what we need. Let’s go.’”

Combining Health, the Gospel, and the Sabbath

We were thrilled to welcome more than 40 guests at the first lecture on brain health and IQ that night. Dr. Nedley addressed many areas related to the topic, including the little-known scientific field of chronobiology, which documents the seven-day cycle throughout the natural world. Through this avenue, Dr. Nedley introduced the Sabbath rest, also needful for optimal brain health.

Following his one and a half hour presentation, Dr. Nedley opened the floor for questions, allowing those who needed to leave to go. No one budged. For half an hour, or more, an enthusiastic audience peppered Dr. Nedley with questions. Much to our astonishment, the topic that drew the most interest was the seventh-day



Sabbath. I have never heard the Sabbath presented in this way before (purely from the evidence of nature), and it was powerful.

After the meeting many lingered with more questions. I had a chance to get acquainted with the mom and her three teens that Erica had chanced to invite previously. Her husband is an orthopedic surgeon, and the family is from North Carolina, which was also our home for many years. At least two of her children are considering medicine as a career.

The next day our team of 25 again hit the slopes. We skied all day and had more interesting chair-lift contacts. Todd and I met a 25-year old 7th grade math teacher from Denver named Megan. As soon as she heard about the meetings, she responded enthusiastically, “I’m going to come!” She lamented the deterioration in mental health among many of her students, and said she has already been reading up on the brain and its functions.

Meeting Two

The second night the turnout for the seminar (this time on emotional intelligence) was even greater than was the first night. We had 46 guests, including the North Carolina family.

Our 16-year-old daughter said, “Mom, I’m so excited. Two of the people I invited on the chair lift are here tonight!”

Just as the meeting began, a young woman with blond curly hair took a seat next to me, smiled broadly, and said, “Hi, Patti! I made it!” It was Megan, whom Todd and I had met earlier on the chair-lift. She took copious notes during Dr. Nedley’s lecture and expressed great appreciation for everything when it was over.

The topic of emotional intelligence (EQ) generated much interest, as not only physical and lifestyle factors were addressed, but spiritual ones as well. Dr. Nedley explained how pride, in its many forms, undermines emotional intelligence, while thoughts and acts of selflessness—such as giving with no hope of reward—strengthen EQ. In this talk I could see how Dr. Nedley was actually describing “in code” the two competing systems of worship: the false system, which is self-focused and emotionally crippling, and true worship, which is based on self-giving love. Altruism develops emotional intelligence and reflects the mind of Christ.

How did people find out about the meeting? All methods seemed to work: some had heard through radio or TV; other found out

The topic of emotional intelligence generated much interest, as not only physical and lifestyle factors were addressed, but spiritual ones as well.

through the newspaper or received a flier; and some had been personally invited on the chair-lift or at some other location.

The first night we arrived in Colorado, we stayed at a hotel near where the meetings would be held. Todd met a family in the parking lot as he was unloading the car. He invited them, and we were delighted that they came all three nights.

From the Ritz to Home

We invited the Ritz attendees to the class on nutrition and brain health, which was at the house where we were staying, about a mile from the seminar site. We requested that people RSVP, and the next evening more than 20 guests came to our rented home, including the North Carolina mom and her three teens, a ski instructor, several business people, a retired business couple who had been through Nathan Pritikin’s program years ago, a businessman from Dubai, and three physicians.

After Dr. Nedley’s presentation, we invited them to the kitchen, where brain-healthy foods were served buffet style. It was



apparent that Dr. Nedley was addressing a very well read, knowledgeable group of people who were already aware of many lifestyle-health connections.

It went very well; we made personal contacts and the people seemed genuinely interested and appreciative. Instead of passing out copies of recipes that night, we asked people who desired the recipes to sign up with their e-mail addresses so the recipes could be e-mailed later. This would serve as another means of following up with the attendees.

The Christmas Eve Meeting

As an added bonus, we offered an additional meeting on Friday night. It was Christmas Eve, so we didn’t expect many to attend. We had invited the Thursday night group to join us again as we welcomed the “seventh-day rest.” Only three came, but these three got to hear Dr. Nedley’s final message, which included a biblical study of the Christmas story as well as our hope in Jesus’ Second Advent.

Like the early California evangelists, Dr. Nedley had actually managed to present the three major topics—the seventh day Sabbath, the law and gospel, and the second coming, in less than one week, and in the context of the health message as well.

On Sabbath, our ski-mission group worshipped at the Copper Mountain church. Barbara Taylor, a local resident, invited our group to share testimonies during Sabbath School. That afternoon, the church had put on a holiday music concert, featuring the young people in

We made personal contacts and the people seemed genuinely interested and appreciative.

our ski-mission group. Again, more community people attended which gave us yet another opportunity to share.

Looking Back

All in all, we felt blessed. We worked a bit harder than we would have had our trip been a vacation-only opportunity but everyone agreed the extra work and effort were well worth it.

We praise God for blessing our efforts to reach “the neglected rich” and pray He will continue to water the seeds sown. Recipes have now been sent to all those on the e-mail list, and several have already responded with more questions.

The take-home message for us and for our AMEN colleagues is to prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to make your next vacation a seed-sowing venture for His kingdom. The joy that comes from soul-winning is more thrilling than any activity or entertainment to be found in this world.

Weimar – for Such a Time as This

WEIMAR COLLEGE

Weimar College has a bold new vision that encapsulates holistic training in the health sciences - A blend of academics and evangelism. Our students are involved in health outreach programs such as - Reversing Diabetes, Peak Mental Performance, health fairs, and even practical one-on-one health evangelism. We believe what we are doing is both challenging and unique in the world –training students in pre med and the health sciences, while at the same time applying the principles in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy in a modern day ‘School of the Prophets’.

Weimar is incorporating what we call the ‘core of four’ in its program- academic excellence, evangelistic emphasis, health education and practical training. Achieving this goal can only result through earnest prayer and following God’s leading.

I’ve never met her in person, but Talisa Jackson had my full and undivided attention at “Hello!” This articulate, nineteen year old Pre-Med student with the vibrant voice is a veteran of many outreach projects. Her passionate love affair with medical missionary evangelism was contagious even though thousands of miles separated us.

“Talisa, how much education does a person need in order to be effective at medical missionary evangelism?” I asked her.

Her answer set me back. “There is no class or degree that can prepare you for this work,” she said. “It’s actually simple,” Talisa continued. “In reality, outreach work is the education that makes the rest of your medical education significant.” There was a moment’s pause, and then she added, “It makes your whole life significant.”

Talisa went on to tell me how she and her Weimar classmates were challenged to start making a difference after just a few NEWSTART classes and some basic information about the eight laws of health. She was amazed at the great changes she saw in the lives of people who had diabetes, chronic pain, heart disease, depression, and other miseries.

Then the vibrant voice became almost pensive. “I began to see that we don’t realize how much we have until we start to share with those who have nothing. Last semester I went to a shelter for battered women. We did basic health presentations for the women, and for the children. Soon the ladies themselves turned the discussion to spiritual topics. They had been through so much, and somehow they recognized that these simple health improvements had something to do with God. They were so open and eager to trust this God who really cares about them and their children. It is incredibly rewarding.”

The conversation drifted to foreign missions. Talisa’s voice grew vibrant again. “When we went to the Philippines, I had no idea what to do or say. I really learned the power of prayer. I was assigned to give the evangelistic sermons at one of the two locations. It was my very first time to preach. I prayed so much. God got me through the talks, and then it was time to make a call. Of course we passed out decision cards. I prayed some more, and did my best with the call. Only three people responded. I was grateful, of course, for those three, but I was really disappointed, too, that there were only three.

“Then came the Baptismal Sabbath. I went along to see my three baptisms, but there

were not three any more. Between the two locations there were one hundred and one baptisms, and quite a number of those came from my location. I learned that many people were afraid to stand up and come forward in the meeting because of unbelieving relatives or other threats. But when it came right down to it, they made their decision for Jesus and came to be baptized. God did answer my prayer. He used simple little me, with no training or experience. He can use anybody. My own spiritual walk is so much better now because of that experience! Mission service is so full of blessings. I want to go back. Once you get started with outreach, at home or abroad, you just can’t stay away. I can’t wait to go back!”

Talisa’s experience is by no means unique. Lindsey Longo, another Weimar student, brought her own perspective to the discussion. “You don’t have to know everything,” she assured me. “You just have to be willing. If nothing else, be an organizer. Get things rolling and bring in somebody who does know how to teach it – how to help the people. Learn by being an assistant. Every time I get out of my comfort zone to do something for the Lord it is hard. I’m not an extrovert. I hate trying to push my agenda on someone. But the Lord says ‘Go!’ and when I obey I am always overwhelmed at how eager the Lord is to make me a part of His team. He helps people through me, and when I get back I realize that He has helped me more than I helped anybody out there. I realize how blessed I have been. I realize that I have a purpose in life. I am not here to gain education and money for myself. I am here to share with others, for Jesus’ sake.”

Like Talisa, Lindsey’s voice took on a more somber tone when I asked her what



outreach experience had affected her life the most deeply. “We went to a village in Tanzania where a girl had been murdered by her own father because she became a Christian.” Lindsey said. “After we left the area, a small church started up, and the people in the village became more receptive to the gospel. It’s cool to see God working like that. We can make a difference if we will let Him use us.”

I asked the girls what they would like to say to the medical students and physicians that read The Medical Evangelist. Although they had no expectation that this question was coming, both girls answered without hesitation:

Lindsey: “We are pilgrims on this earth. Our dwelling place is in heaven. Just like Abraham, we should be willing to go out into a place we don’t know, even though we have no idea where it will take us; even if it might not be comfortable. I know that when we seek His direction He will reveal it to us.”

Talisa: “One of the girls who was overseas with me died in a car accident a few months after we got back. She was only sixteen years old. I realized that nobody has any guarantees about the future. God has called us all to ‘go ye’ and my friend had gone before it was too late. God has

used her life to change mine. I pray every day that I won’t get too caught up in the things of this world. Education and work are important, but there are still souls to be won now. Lives cannot just be put on hold. Maybe they will die before anybody gets there to tell them. What if you had an opportunity to reach someone and you didn’t do anything and they died? For the doctors, there is no excuse. Some of them still think that they don’t know enough. If that’s not an excuse for me, it surely can’t be one for them.

“Doctors, you don’t know how much you know until you share with someone who knows nothing. Just pray with someone today. Many people will say yes. Sometimes they are just looking for someone to listen to them and share with them. Trust that God will give you the power to do something for Him. If I were in your patient’s shoes, I would want someone to pray with me. If I were in the shoes of the poor people in the mission field, I would wish that you would come and help me to get well, and teach me how to care for myself and my children, and tell me about Jesus!”

“We have such a simple, beautiful message. Just try it! You won’t want to stop!”

by Phil Mills, MD

A Little Part in a Big World Church



A few days ago I visited a patient just before lunch. When I left the exam room, a distinguished looking gentleman greeted me. He asked me if I was the dermatologist that had just examined his wife. Because of HI-PAA restraints I gave a friendly but equivocal answer, then chatted with him for a moment.

He inquired whether I had attended Loma Linda University. He wondered if I was a Seventh-day Adventist. When I assured him I was, He began to freely discuss his own background.

He is a retired Methodist minister. He pastored a church for years in Orlando and regularly visited parishioners at Florida Hospital. As a result of his positive experiences with Florida Hospital, he told me how much respect he had developed for Seventh-day Adventists. He told me that the Adventist philosophy of health had greatly impacted his life.

He then asked me if I had heard of a healthy lifestyle program called, "CREATION

Health." I replied that my brother-in-law, Dr. George Guthrie, had been actively involved in its development with Florida Hospital.

He then told me he had helped his large Protestant church here in Blue Ridge, Georgia develop a center for health. He was excited to be using Florida Hospital's CREATION Health as one of their kick-off programs to launch their health initiative. He then asked if I would be willing to be one of their speakers on healthy life-styles. Why did this retired Methodist minister ask a Seventh-day Adventist to speak at his church? Due to past positive encounters with two Adventist health institutions: Loma Linda University and Florida Hospital.

I have seen it again and again, the advantage of being a part of a worldwide, God-given organization—supported by many hospitals and other institutions large and small.

Some years ago there was a hospital that was part of the Adventist Health System in Ellijay, Georgia. This hospital was less than 20 miles from my present medical office. My nurse worked there and told me it was the best experience she ever had working at a hospital. It was one reason she wanted to work for a Seventh-day Adventist doctor. My billing clerk once worked for a local Seventh-day Adventist chiropractor, it was a good experience for her, giving her a favorable impression of Seventh-day Adventists.

Each of us in our own practices are a small part of a much larger whole. For better or

for worse, our lives influence the view that our patients and staff have of Seventh-day Adventists.

One of my very first patients here in Blue Ridge, Georgia insisted that I perform a skin cancer surgery rather than going elsewhere, even though I had just opened my office and had no track record in the city. He also asked one question, "Didn't you go to Loma Linda University?" When I responded affirmatively, he asked, "Aren't you a Seventh-day Adventist?" When I nodded, "Yes," his wife told me that they had learned to trust Adventist physicians—and she told me why they had this trust.

She had grown up in a poor home in the Atlanta, Georgia area. A Seventh-day Adventist dentist had provided free orthodontic care to her during her teen years. This made an impression on her life, not just her teeth. When she grew up and was married, she took her children to this same dentist for regular appointments. She and her husband regularly listen to Southern Adventist University's FM station and donate to it.

Due to many experiences like these, I have learned the real value of being a part of a worldwide church. Each day as I drive to work, I pray that in a small way, God will use me to extend His work in my little corner of the world. I pray that in my practice there will be such kindness, cheerfulness, courtesy, carefulness, and competence that it will make friends for God and prove to be an entering wedge for end-time truths. I thank God daily that He has let me serve a small part in God's big whole.



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