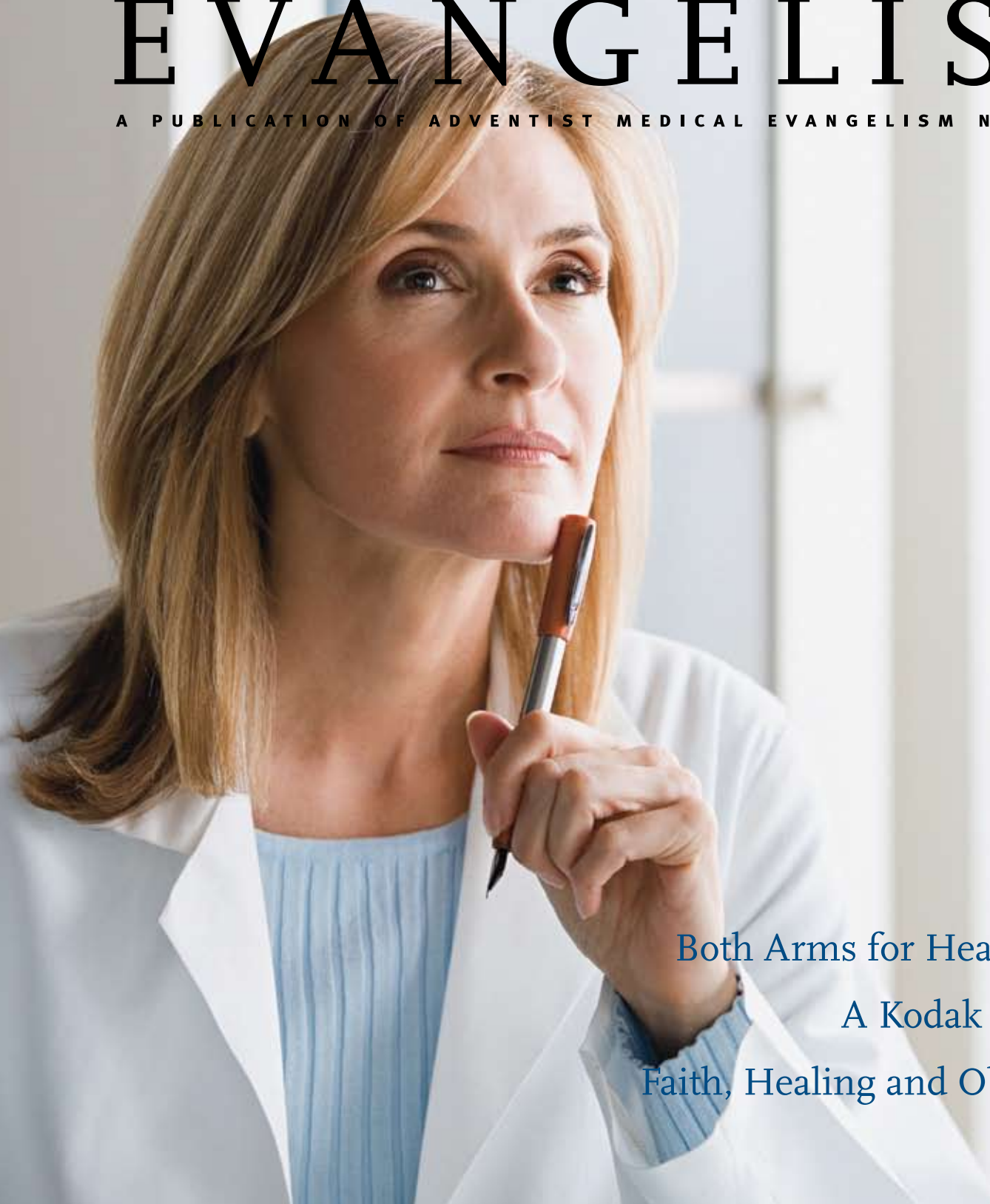


SUMMER 2009

THE MEDICAL EVANGELIST

A PUBLICATION OF ADVENTIST MEDICAL EVANGELISM NETWORK



Both Arms for Heavy Loads

A Kodak Moment

Faith, Healing and Obedience



ADVENTIST MEDICAL EVANGELISM NETWORK

5TH ANNUAL AMEN CONFERENCE

FAITH IN PRACTICE

OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 1, 2009
PARK VISTA HOTEL • GATLINBURG, TENNESSEE

SEE PAGE 47 FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION



REGISTRATION CAN ALSO BE COMPLETED ONLINE AT WWW.AMENSDA.ORG

SUMMER 2009

THE MEDICAL EVANGELIST

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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ADVENTIST MEDICAL EVANGELISM NETWORK

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BRIAN SCHWARTZ, M.D.

As Seventh Day Adventist medical ministers we have a calling that far exceeds healing and restoring those who have fallen under the effects of sin. We are called to do more than even restore the gospel principles.

As Seventh-day Adventists we live with the anticipation that these are the last days. If you are like me, you may be asking... “What is Christ waiting for?” Is it for the Gospel of the Kingdom to be preached around the world as Matthew 24:14 indicates?

As a third-grader in a one-room elementary school, I remember a conversation I had with one of the 7th graders. He was convinced that he would not see his 15th birthday before Jesus would return. I grew up with the anticipation that it would be very soon. As a 2nd year medical student I went to the Deans office to discuss putting my medical training on hold as I was convinced that surely with the state of world events I would not ever complete my training before Christ’s soon return and perhaps I could be of greater service dropping out and colporteur. It’s been 20 years since I graduated and I never dreamed that it would take this long.

Jesus asked His disciples in Luke 18:8 “when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” Jesus Christ lived by faith. The works that He did He did by faith. He said in John 14:10 “The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does the works.” For example when the great tempest arose on the seas and Christ was sleeping in the boat and His scared-to-death disciples told Him to wake up because they were perishing, He quickly assessed the situation and rebuked the wind saying “peace be still”. The servant of the Lord, Ellen White, makes it clear that when Christ awoke and rebuked the sea “He rested not in almighty power. It was not as the ‘Master of earth, sea and sky’ that He reposed in quiet. That power He had laid down, and He says, “I can of Myself do nothing” John 5:30. He trusted in the Father’s might. It was in faith—faith in God’s love and care—that Jesus rested, and the power of that word which stilled the storm was the power of God.” Jesus promised that His disciples would do even greater works than He. John 14:12: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”

Since medical ministry is the right arm of the Gospel then we have a very important role in hastening Christ’s coming. As I implement this idea into my daily practice I am convinced that the role of medical ministry isn’t to just open a door to the gospel but is an integral part of sharing the very Gospel itself. We are able to direct our patients to the only source of true healing, Christ the very heart of the gospel. We call them to experience faith in what He can and will do. They come to us with a need that is often a direct effect of sin in their life. We have the opportunity to teach them how to make a life change and in essence experience repentance. We can demonstrate compassion even when healing doesn’t seem to come on our timetable. We are essentially teaching the principles of the gospel everyday and as these are responded to, our patients and their families will also be receptive to hearing how these same principles can affect the other aspects of their lives.

As Seventh-day Adventist medical ministers we have a calling that far exceeds healing and restoring those who have fallen under the effects of sin. We are called to do more than even restore the gospel principles. We are called to do all this in the setting of the final days of earth’s history. Our message must also prepare the world for the final call to be ready for Christ’s return. By combining our unique message of restoration with God by restoring mind, body and soul with an end time message we fulfill the gospel commission to the whole world. It is time to also give the call to come out of Babylon, prepare for judgment and be ready to meet Christ when He comes. Now is the time for gospel evangelists of all types to give the final message to a dying world and be a part of the final witness to the world. In order to do that we will need the same Faith experience of Jesus Christ. The good news is that He has already given us a measure of His faith. The world is waiting for the “Greater works than these” and Rev 14:12 promises that there will be the Faith of Jesus left in the world. Why not us? Why not now?

Brian Schwartz, M.D.

Both Arms for Heavy Loads



I was seeing the usual array of patients on an ordinary day in 1962 when a lady came in who appeared particularly troubled. As she detailed her symptoms, I sensed that her need was more spiritual than anything else. At that time in my life, my spiritual tool box contained only a single item. I did the only thing I knew to do—I invited her to visit my church. She said attending was impossible because she worked at the Eastern Oregon College foodservice every Sunday. Since that was

irrelevant to me, I asked about her day off. Providentially it was Saturday, so the problem was solved. The next Sabbath she was in church.

Much to my embarrassment, however, I had forgotten her name! Immediately I called the home of our receptionist. I described the patient. The receptionist gave me name after name until she said “Wilma.” I hurried back into the church and introduced Wilma to the pastor.

I had not even thought about giving anyone Bible studies. The pastor offered to study the Bible with Wilma. Sharron, Wilma’s 15-year-old daughter, joined in. One lesson per week was not enough, so they did two. Soon Wilma and Sharron requested baptism. Wilma’s husband, Everett, saw the wonderful changes in them and he, too, was eventually baptized.

Then there was the matter of school for Sharron. The high school crowd had



different values from Sharron's new ones, so her parents were interested in hearing about Gem State Academy. The financial obligations, however, seemed overwhelming.

With help from the pastor, a plan was put in place. Wilma and her husband, Everett would do all they could. Sharron's older brother, who was in the Navy, would help out. Sharron would work at the school. The local church agreed to do what they could do to assist. Sharron attended the academy after all. Following academy, Sharron went to Walla Walla College for elementary education training.

I eventually moved to Washington state and set up practice there. Our local church school needed a teacher, Sharron applied, and we hired her. Somewhat later she found her "Mister Wonderful" and still later she was my patient for her pregnancies. The first was twins. Sharron

and Larry kept a growing spiritual life and raised their three children as Jesus' close friends. They were pillars in their church and good representatives for Jesus in their business.

Years later, tragedy struck. A mammogram and biopsy confirmed Sharron's breast cancer, which was "successfully" treated, but later was found in her brain. There were several brain surgeries but each time the cancer returned with a vengeance. Her pastor and friends did what they could. Sharron's daughter, Angela, moved home after college graduation to nurse her mother through those trying years.

Not long before Sharron's death, I visited the family. In spite of the persistent and spreading cancer, God's healing miracle was evident in the mental and spiritual areas.

It has been a few months since Sharron's

death. Now it is Angela who needs healing. And she is finding that healing in the same place where her mother and grandmother found it. She is using her physical, mental and spiritual tools well. Her spiritual life centers around her daily devotional time with Jesus and the privilege of sharing God's healing with her friends. She has just led out in her church's Vacation Bible School.

Angela tends to the physical factors that are necessary for healing. She is careful to get proper nutrition for the health of her body's cells. Adequate exercise helps her to release tension. Regular times for sleep bring physical and mental stability and renewal.

Emotional healing is also essential. Angela is beginning to establish her own personal identity. She is settling into a job and making sound economic decisions. When she has healed well, she will be ready to find her own "Mister Wonderful." This will all come with time as she continues using God's tools.

TEAM WORK: *As we look over these three generations, what can we learn?*

Wilma came seeking physical answers to spiritual problems. When given a spiritual start, she ran with it. In so doing she gained the physical and mental blessings as well. Sharron had a physical problem that we never were able to cure. However, she was healed in the mental and spiritual areas and died in faith. Angela now finds herself in need of emotional healing. She will find it using the same combination of spiritual and physical tools which have been passed on to her from her mother and grandmother.

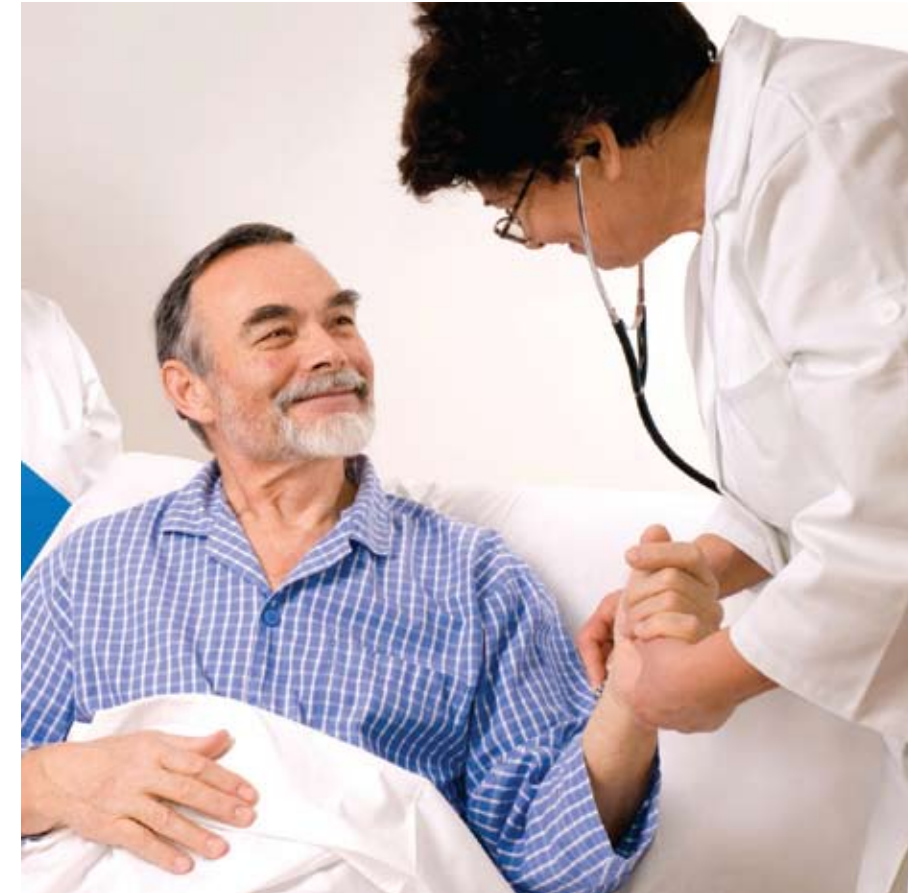
After more than forty-five years of observation, I have seen the effectiveness

of teamwork. SDA health professionals and ministers who are willing to work together place our churches in a much better position to meet the needs of the members. This kind of teamwork also makes the church more effective in outreach to the community.

IT TAKES ALL THREE. *The mental, spiritual, and physical areas of healing must be integrated. What if I, as a physician, had not thought to address Wilma's spiritual needs? What if the pastor had left her spiritual care to me since I had been her initial contact person? What if the church had not joined together to help Sharron get the education she needed?*

First, ministers and physicians should recognize the need to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those who come to them for help. As Adventists, we reject the idea of a separate conscious immortal soul that purportedly exists in its own eternal metaphysical realm. We know better than that. Therefore, as physicians, we need to team with the pastors, and they with us. Without both arms we will never manage the heavy loads well.

Many studies show that purpose in life and spirituality are positively correlated. In HIV-positive patients this is certainly true. Other studies of alcohol abuse show that total sobriety maintenance for those with spiritual involvement and beliefs was greater than for those who had no spiritual anchor. In another area there is support for belief that spirituality can significantly improve healing from cancer "Total health is possible only when the body and spirit are integrated into one reality" according to Dr. van der Poel. These researchers confirm our understanding of humanity and human nature. That is why the ministers and the health professionals



need each other. None can do it alone; together, they can minister effectively to the needy people they encounter on a daily basis.

Ministers and physicians need to work together on a personal basis. We must ask for help from each other as we need it. We need to do it in the church and in our community outreach programs. Often the pastor's only role in a cooking school is that of asking God's blessing on the food. On the other hand, a physician's symbolic role at an evangelistic meeting is often a personal introduction, or a three minute "Health Nugget". Much more needs to be done. Time and again we have been told that the medical work is the "right arm of the third angel's message" (MM 188).

Many people who would not come to a Revelation Seminar or an evangelistic series will attend an integrated physical, mental, spiritual health series. Many are

members today who came looking for healing in one area alone, not knowing how much more the Lord had in store for them.

A MORE EFFECTIVE MINISTRY: *Our local church has made great strides in recent years. Some of the medical professionals started meeting weekly with the pastor for Bible study and prayer. In these early morning meetings differences were worked out, and a spirit of trust developed. We learned to depend on each other – to refer the more complex problems to those whose areas of expertise best qualified them to meet the need. As a team we are exponentially more effective than working solo.*

Currently our church is holding weekly community health classes in which the time is divided roughly into three parts. The health professionals deal with the scientific data about health, others address social



Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people.

health professionals are only the tools in God's hand. God is the Healer, God is the Comforter, God is the Savior, not us. We can do none of these things. We can, instead, choose to cooperate with Him and others of His servants in seeking to reach out to the hurting, the lost, and the suffering who are always all around us. I saw this first with Wilma, then with Sharron and now I'm seeing it with Wilma's granddaughter, Angela.

Our work is not finished until that day when "the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 4:16 & 17)

1. Litwinczuk, Groh; *Assoc Nurses AIDS Care* 2007 May-Jun; 18(3):13-22
2. Brown, Pavlik, Shegog, Whitney; *Am J Drug Alcohol Abuse*. 2007;33(4) :611-7
3. Torosian, Biddle; *Semin Oncol*. 2005 Apr;32(2):232-6
4. van der Poel; *Hosp Prog*. 1980 Jun;61(6)50-5

and emotional issues affecting attendees, and the pastor uses his portion of the time to bring it all together by sharing healing stories from scripture.

The pastor understands how much of Jesus' time was spent healing the sick. He seeks to follow the Master's example by involving medical professionals in his work. On the other side, physicians do well to involve the pastor in their ministry for the sick. Those to whom they minister will then have the benefit of his expertise in the areas of spiritual and emotional healing.

Team building is the best answer I know to this long standing problem. When we are working as a team, God's healing message—grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the hope of eternal life—has new luster and power. A minister can talk all day long about "present truth," but if a person is hurting, physically or mentally,

their own pain will be their first priority. They will have a hard time caring about the nature of the Trinity, the prophecies of Daniel, or what happens during the millennium. On the same note, the physician's anxiolytic agents will never meet the needs or calm the deep fears of one whose spiritual life is in chaos. People are truly spiritual beings; they are mental and physical as well. Every physician's practice; every pastor's ministry will be most effective when we can help them with all three together.

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me'" (MH 143).

NOBODY CAN DO IT ALONE. "I am the Lord who heals you" (Ex 17:26). Ministers and

A Kodak Moment



Each of us, whether physician or dentist, has need of nurturing and healing in various aspects of our lives. In this article, I will be addressing some aspects that may need healing as we try to reach out spiritually to patients.

Let's begin with the experience of Peter when he walked on the water. Spirit of Prophecy says in *Desire of Ages* page 381: "But as in self satisfaction he glances back toward his peers in the boat, his eyes are turned from the Savior". It was a boisterous sea – the waves were high and

rough. Probably while Peter was walking on one of the high waves it felt like he was walking on solid cement and he turned his eyes away from the Savior and looked back at his frightened, and astonished peers in the shaky little boat... Hey! Camera anyone? I once heard this called Peter's Kodak moment. Spirit of Prophecy says, "At that moment death and the waves had dialogue over his life and he sank. Frightened he cried out 'Lord, help me!'" You know the rest of the story. "He then walked hand-in-hand with his Master into the boat. Peter was subdued and silent,

no more reason to boast over his fellows, for through unbelief and self exaltation he had nearly lost his life!" As I pondered this passage, I thought to myself, what do our Kodak moments look like as physicians and dentists? Who is it that does the dialogue during those moments? Death and the high waves? Or is it Christ and our guardian angel?

YOUR FIRST LOVE

I was born in an Adventist home. My father was a minister. However, despite attending church all my life, I did not truly



know my Savior. A few years ago my only begotten son introduced me to The only begotten Son of the Father and my life has never been the same. I have been on fire, a fire that I love, and a fire that I pray will never die down! I recall a conversation that took place with an esteemed theology professor from one of our universities when he sensed my excitement about the Lord. I was shocked when I heard him say, "This is what usually happens at early conversion when you first find Christ". I did not dispute what he said, but I was pained inside and thought to myself, "Oh no. Will this fire go away?" A couple years later the fire is still going. Recently I had a conversation with a colleague. I was expressing with excitement my love for God and my involvement in spiritual activities and witnessing to patients, family and friends. He said, "No one has so much energy. This cannot last forever". Once again I was hurt and said, "You know brother, it all depends on what you feed yourself daily!"

What do you feed a fire to keep it burning? Fuel, right? So what constitutes fuel for spiritual fire? What will keep your love for Christ burning? The answer can be found in three articles of furniture in the holy place of the sanctuary:

- 1) The shew bread, the bread of life... Christ...the Word (John 1:1, 14). Studying the Word daily and loving it. (John 5:39).
- 2) The alter of incense...your prayers...and don't hang up so soon. Jesus wants to help you with your downs and show you how to handle the ups.
- 3) The candlesticks...the menorah if you please, burning with freshly squeezed olive oil lighting the sanctuary, representing Jesus the light of the world, and representing the light that you cast as you witness to others.

The Lord Jesus, in Revelation 2:2-5, tells John to write to the church of Ephesus, first praising their good works, but then in verse 4 he adds, "Nevertheless I have

somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." Then he says to "repent and do the first works, or else I will come unto thee quickly and I will remove thy candlestick out of His place – except thou repent".

Patriarchs and Prophets page 85 says, "Enoch's faith waxed the stronger, his love became more ardent with the lapse of centuries." Webster's dictionary defines ardent as: intensely enthusiastic, glowing, radiant, burning, aflame. Brothers and sisters, we do not even live one whole century and we have the audacity during such a short life span to allow our fire to die down? Let's review:

1) Studying the Bible daily, 2) A consistent prayer life, 3) Witnessing to others. These will surely keep your fire aflame. Expect to receive manifold blessings and spiritual power!

TIME

Another aspect of our lives that I will address is time. Pastor Randolph Skeete addressed this subject and what he said was ingrained on my mind. "Time spent is life lived; time equals life." Our life belongs to God and so does our time. As physicians and dentists we spend most of our waking hours at work, interacting with patients, employees, and colleagues. At home we interact with our family. I was recently introduced to a novel idea that I believe requires serious thought. I would like to share it with you.

As we breathe our life away, we expend moments that we cannot retrieve for other use. Each one of you takes part of your patients' lives on a daily basis. What are you, Christian doctor, filling that time with? And as you interact with your family, are they being blessed as they give away

Prayer moves the arm of God on behalf of His people.

part of their lives to you? Will they end up thanking God for you? Then turn the tables and examine yourself, as you interact with others, you are also giving part of your own life away. So who is it that you interact with on a regular basis? And do they give you back a blessing in return? Are you accumulating blessings as you go? What will the Kodak moments of some of these interactions look like as your guardian angel shows them to Christ? Will you be proud? That book, that TV program, that thing on the internet, that special social event, as it takes part of your life away, what does it leave you with? Contrast that with the refreshing, nurturing feeling of a prayer meeting. I receive a wonderful blessing from associating with God's people at such meetings!

PRAYER

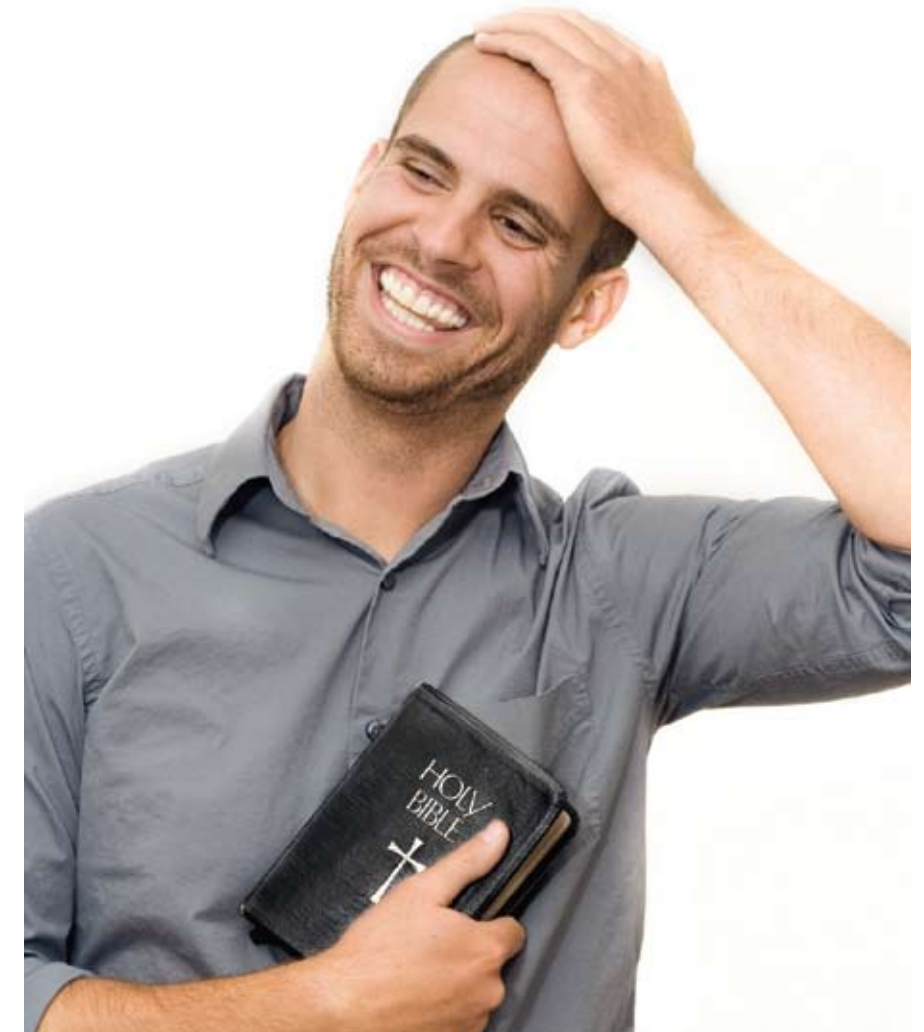
Pastor Dennis Smith says in his book, Spirit, Baptism and Prayer, "The devil flees when you pray. Prayer is the most powerful force on earth! Prayer moves the arm of God on behalf of His people. Every Christian is a warrior. We war against the supernatural." So I ask, Christian doctor, how is your prayer life?

Ephesians 6:12: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." When we

are at war with the supernatural we need to connect and team up with a stronger supernatural power. The devil is petrified when we pray because by prayer we are accessing the most powerful being in the universe—the Almighty supernatural Father, of whom the devil is terrified! Is the time that you spend talking to God prime energy time? Or is it the time of day you yourself barely know what you are talking about?

When you pray, focus like a heat-seeking missile locked on its target. Listen to the

still small voice as Christ talks with you. Remember when Elijah escaped from Jezebel without waiting for a prompting from God, contrary to prior experiences? He had just experienced great victory over all the priests of Baal, fire was summoned from heaven. It devoured the sacrifice, the altar, and the water around the altar. There was room for a great revival in Israel, but he did not wait! He escaped and hid in a cave as Jezebel threatened his life. A great whirlwind appeared before him, then an earthquake and then fire, but God was not in any of them. Then a very still small





voice that was God speaking to Elijah. Be still; be patient. Wait to hear that small voice of God speaking to you.

Do you pray for your children? I mean do you really pray for your children? Children are the most at risk population of mankind. They are fiercely attacked by the devil in their formative years. They are constantly bombarded with polluted media, music, TV, drugs, things on the internet, books and movies. Does Harry Potter ring a bell? White magic power (WICCA) is the fastest growing religion in the U.S. among teenagers. WICCA witches are slick, fit, and beautiful. They are forming youth groups and those who become involved do not really know what they are getting into until it is too late and they cannot get out.

Deborah Harris, Ph.D., a college professor for 18 years, was directed by God to pray and ask her audience to pray for her straying college age children instead

of using other means of control. Her willingness to serve led God to choose her to carry out a powerful world wide ministry: Praying For Our Children...Are You? She says, "Prayer is the most powerful tool we have to protect our children and lead them through challenging and often life-changing experiences". Do you pray for your children?

I have heard numerous stories about men and women who stray into crime, drugs, total dissipation, and then were finally converted. They recalled mom and dad on their knees praying, tears running down their faces, for their salvation. Do your children see you pray? Do they know you pray for them?

Summary

- 1) Is your first love still on fire?
- 2) Do you spend your time to His glory?
- 3) Do you pray effectively? Do you pray for your children to follow Christ?

LEADING STRAYED BROTHERS AND SISTERS BACK TO CHRIST

Ezekiel 3:18-21 says: "When I say unto the wicked, 'Thou shalt surely die,' and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet, if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. Again, when a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at your hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man that the righteous sin not and he doth not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also thou has delivered thy soul."

I noticed that a nurse who used to attend our church was missing for a few Sabbaths; I called to check on her and found out that she had experienced very trying circumstances with other fellow believers, at work. She said she switched jobs and now she is scheduled to work ER all night each Friday making it impossible to attend church Sabbath mornings. She said, "But don't worry Raja, I still study the Sabbath school lesson". I invited her to attend the bible studies that I give every Tuesday night. She attended a few and enjoyed them very much. On the last one she attended I spoke about my trip to Nigeria. She was so moved. Then she stopped coming to Bible study. I called and she said, "Raja, I changed my schedule. I am working Tuesday nights instead of Friday nights so I can go to church Sabbath mornings." She thanked me so much for being such a blessing in her life, for bringing her back to God. Another sister started skipping church. I found out that she had developed an unspecified autoimmune disease, where her parotid gland would swell up to an unsightly extent intermittently. Things were not going well with her Ph.D. program either and she blamed God for all this. She was losing her faith. I continued to call consistently to encourage her, citing Bible promises and experiences of other people, as well as experiences of Bible characters and constantly reminding her that God loves her so much. Finally, one Sabbath she attended church during a time that her face was okay. She told my cousin who stood next to me, "I love her very much. She is a great woman. It is because of her that I haven't lost my faith! We should have many people like her". I said, "My sister, this is my duty! I would want someone to reach out to me if I were in your shoes!" I praise the Lord for this experience.



Does your guardian angel catch you in a Kodak moment; picking up a phone, checking on a missing church member or leading some brother or sister, with loving words, back to Christ? Ezekiel 3:18 & 19 "but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet, if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." Jesus said in John 13:34, 35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this will the world know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another."

SABBATH KEEPING

Isaiah 58:13, 14: "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord honorable, And shalt honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words, Then shalt

thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

Exodus 20:8, 10: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it thou shalt not do any work; thou nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy man servant, nor thy maid servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Wherefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."

Ezekiel 20:12: "Moreover also I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them."

Isaiah 66:23: "... from one Sabbath to

another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the Lord.”

Mark 2:27, 28: And He (Jesus) said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is Lord also for the Sabbath.”

So doctor, how do you keep the Sabbath day of the Lord? How does everyone around you, including family, see that you keep the Sabbath? Do you do thine own ways? Do you find thine own pleasure? Do you speak thine own words?

Sitting in my parents’ family room one Sabbath afternoon were my two Adventist brothers, their wives, my sister, and myself. The conversation started to become worldly. Then my older brother extended an invitation to all of us to join him and his wife at the theatre that night. He went on raving about the play they were going to see. I turned to him and said in a kind voice, “It’s Sabbath,” and oh my! I became the target of an onslaught of sharp darts! Adventism was attacked and the Spirit of Prophecy. I was accused of being a fanatic, “I had no business telling anyone how to keep the Sabbath” and that Adventists must not discuss this matter with non-Adventists because this is not what’s going to save people. They know so many non-Adventist Christians whose character is far better than so many Adventists that they know (Alas, but this is true), and that those



Christians are so genuine to where they don’t need the Sabbath to be saved...and on and on... All the while I was lifting earnest prayers in my heart to the Lord to give me meekness, patience, grace, wisdom and compassion. The Lord helped me continue with a kind low tone and a smile, which can only be described as ‘angelic’. Finally, little by little everyone settled down. Afterwards my older brother and I had an hour long conversation about how I approach my patients. About how they receive me and that in most circumstances it does not touch on the Sabbath. He became quite understanding, while at the same time massaging the toes of his wife, who was the most fervent antagonist. At the end of my conversation with him he eagerly accepted 12 copies of the book, 10 Commandments Twice Removed, to distribute to each of his 12 non-Adventist Bible study group. He also mentioned that he was considering presenting the Sabbath and the state of the dead to his group. About a year later,

he did present the subject of the 7th day Sabbath to his study group. Every one of them agreed that this is the truth, and that it cannot be refuted!

So are you doctor, a good witness for the Sabbath of your Lord, or are you ashamed of it?

“Remember, the Sabbath day to keep it Holy.” In this day, prominent Protestant leaders are stretching their arms way across the chasm winking at the major doctrinal differences. I believe the Sunday law with a death decree will be passed in our lifetime.

So are you ready to stand up tall in the face of fire, like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Or will you bow to the image, pretending you are tying your shoe laces? The Bible warns us: Jeremiah 12:5 says: “If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou



“But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God, for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth.”

contend with horses? And if in the land of peace wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?” “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy!”

MONEY

Let’s talk about money.

Deuteronomy 8:18: “But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God, for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth.” Haggai 2:8: “The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,” saith the Lord of hosts”. Malachi 3:10: “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove me now there with, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out such a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” Oh my, do I believe this promise!

I took over the leadership of our 14-doctor 100-employee company in August 2001.

The company was one million in the hole at the time and ready to shut its’ doors. The previous president/CEO, administrator, and management company had ruined it. Six years later we have recovered the deficit and are quite prosperous. It was in the middle of my tenure that I gave my life fully to the Lord and it is a daily growth experience. A couple of years ago, I sold my house in an affluent area and bought a humble home in Loma Linda, which I am much happier living in. From the proceeds of the sale, as well as my income and other resources, I have been giving not only tithe, but a lot more to God’s work to where I don’t keep track of the donations. When I received a call from Elder Bob Folkenberg to personally thank me for the generous donation, I asked myself: when? How much? In my extremely busy schedule I forgot I had already made the intended donation.

God has done so much more for me than

this money of His that I am giving back! He has blessed me not only with the ability to earn money, to cause our company to recover and prosper, but He has given me wisdom in my decisions, peace and deep joy that I had never dreamed possible, and that no one can take away from me. In addition, He has caused all my relationships to improve; patients, employees, doctors, family, friends and Him above all! He has blessed me with unlimited opportunities to witness. To make Adventist Christian literature available free of charge to thousands of patients, and distribute Bibles to the ones who do not have them. The amazing truth is that when I do that, I feel like I am the one being blessed! The Lord has blessed me with influence too. My dad, who is an 86-year-old retired minister, is a revived minister because of all the experiences that I share with him. He seizes every opportunity to witness and to give to the Lord.

“The silver and the gold is Mine”, saith the Lord. Give it to me and I will pour all Heaven’s blessing out on to you!

Last but certainly not least, I would like to discuss pride.



Faith, Healing, and Obedience



PRIDE

Ezekiel 28:17: “Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty; thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness, I will cast thee to the ground...”

Your profession, your title of ‘Doctor’, lends itself to respect, admiration, influence, power and wealth. The more prominent you are in your field, the more publishing you do, positions you hold, the taller you stand, even among your peers. You spend hours of life/breath expanding your knowledge. Then an air of arrogance seems to sneak in, on, and around you, and temptation tries to weigh you down. The question is, “Will you succumb?”

1 Corinthians 1:19 & 20: “For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of

the prudent’. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world?...”

Verses 26 & 27: “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.” Verse 29-31: “that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him, are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption: That according as it is written, “he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”

Psalm 18:36: “Thou hath enlarged my step under me that my feet did not slip.”

In martial arts, the artist watches his position, his stance. With wide steps, bent knees, keeping the center of gravity down, it is difficult to tip him over. With a lowly, meek spirit, a low center of gravity, and a wide step, you are safe. Temptation strikes when you are high. It struck Peter at his Kodak moment; walking on water on top of a high wave, he was about to lose his life! Keep your center of gravity down and temptation will have no power over you. Follow the humble lamb and your Kodak moments will be the prettiest they’ve ever been!

In conclusion, “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief.” 1 Timothy 1:15 *God Bless you!*

In the early 1970’s, I had the privilege of teaching soul winning and pastoring at Wildwood Lifestyle Center & Hospital in Northwest Georgia. Often I traveled up into the hills to give Bible studies.

On one occasion I was studying the Bible with a family in a very primitive log cabin. It had a dirt floor, no running water and an outhouse in the back. During our Bible study a man walked in smoking a big cigar. The first words out of his mouth were,

“Praise God, I’m healed!” He took a big puff on his big cigar and exclaimed again, “Praise God, I’m healed!”

I looked at the big cigar man, and I said, “What are you healed of, Sir?”

He said, “I’m healed of cancer!”

I responded, “That’s amazing! What do you mean?”

He said, “Several months ago I went to my physician for a lung x-ray. He discovered a malignant spot on my lungs. I went back today, six months later. They x-rayed me again (puff, puff on the cigar), and now there’s no spot on my lungs. I’m healed!”

I was young in those days, and not quite as diplomatic as I am today. I looked at the Big Cigar Man, and I said, “Sir, what about that big cigar?”



I am crying. Faith is trusting God when I am sick, and when I am well. Faith is trusting God as a Friend, knowing that God will never do me any harm or wrong.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF FAITH?

Hebrews, chapter eleven gives us Biblical illustrations of faith. In this chapter we find some surprises. Mining the depths of Hebrews chapter eleven changed my thinking regarding faith. I've read this chapter many times, but God has recently blessed me with new insights.

Let's review Hebrews eleven and discover together fascinating insights in Biblical Faith. "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous. God testifying of his gifts, and through it, he, being dead, still speaks" (Hebrews 11:4).

Abel's faith was so good that it got him killed.

Isn't it curious that the first example of faith that we have in Hebrews eleven is not one who was healed, but one who died. If Abel did not have faith, he would have lived. Since he had faith, he died. If Abel had brought an offering like his brother, Cain, of fruits and grains, he would have lived. So, disobedience would have caused him to live, but faith caused him to die. The idea that having enough faith will get you healed is contrary to Hebrews eleven, because the first example of faith is not of one who lives; it is of one who dies.

Then you go to the second example of faith in verse five. "By faith Enoch was translated so that he did not see death." This is getting interesting. Abel has faith and he dies. Enoch has faith and he lives. Whose faith was greater, Abel's or Enoch's?

Faith is trusting God as a Friend, knowing that God will never do me any harm or wrong.

We proceed to verse seven. "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became an heir of righteousness which is according to faith."

Noah has so much faith that when everything around him tells him to go, he stays. He works for a hundred and twenty years to build an ark. Noah's faith is so good that he will not move, though he is enticed to do it. He stays on the specific task that God assigned him, because he knows that running from the task God assigned is not faith, but presumption. He stays right on the task that God gave him for a hundred and twenty years.

The next verse says, "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he would afterwards receive as an inheritance" (Hebrews 11:8).

By faith, Noah stays; by faith Abraham goes. By faith Abel dies, and by faith Enoch lives.

Now read verse eleven: "By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed."

Sarah was ninety years old when she conceived! She received the child of promise by faith. But now, in verse seventeen you read of this same faith child, "By faith Abraham offered up Isaac." God gave a child by faith, and Sarah nurtured that child, and watched Isaac grow, but the same child that was given by faith, had to be given up by faith.

Is it easier to bear a child by faith, or to give up a child by faith? Doesn't it seem a contradiction that the child of promise who came by faith to Sarah, was given up by Abraham into God's hands, by faith? By faith Abel dies, and by faith, Enoch lives.

By faith Noah stays and works for a hundred and twenty years on the same task and is content to keep banging nails when there is no evidence that there is a flood. He does it simply because God told him to do it. Then, by faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a land that he knew nothing about, went out.

By faith Sarah receives a child, and by faith Abraham walks up that long mountain and trusts God when he takes the knife to slay the child.

For some this may be a very confusing chapter. But there is a golden thread that runs through it, illustrating what true faith is all about. Then there is the story of Joseph. "By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones" (Hebrews 11:22).

What do we know about Joseph? By faith Joseph was sent into Egypt. If you want to talk about a dysfunctional family, that would be Joseph's family. Here is sibling rivalry at its worst. Jealousy and pride are

so intense that Joseph is sold into Egyptian bondage. He goes from the pit to the prison to the palace, and becomes one of the most powerful men in the world.

By faith, Joseph is entrusted with wealth. He eventually becomes an administrator in Egypt with enormous potential power. But the next illustration, in verse twenty-four, is Moses. "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents." Then, "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward" (Hebrews 11:25-28). Moses left the power and riches of Egypt to guide Israel through the wilderness to the Promised Land.

By faith Joseph becomes a very rich man in Egypt. By faith Moses becomes a poor man, and leaves Egypt. Hebrews eleven is a chapter of contradiction. By faith Abel dies, and by faith Enoch lives. By faith Noah stays, and by faith Abraham goes. By faith Sarah conceives, and by faith Abraham gives up the child of promise. By faith Joseph becomes a wealthy man, prestigious in Egypt, and by faith Moses leaves Egypt and herds sheep out in the desert. By faith the shepherd Joseph becomes rich and powerful, and by faith educated and powerful Moses becomes a poor shepherd.

Hebrews 11:34 adds, "By faith they quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword." Now, just imagine some of these embattled worthies of faith. The enemy approaches with the sun shimmering off the razor sharp edge of a sword; the angel stays the hands of the

He said, "Young man, it makes no difference if you smoke big cigars, as long as you have faith. If you have enough faith, it will turn back all the poisons in the big cigars, and the poisons can't touch you." Was the Big Cigar Man right or wrong? How strong is your faith? Is it strong enough to smoke a big cigar and not get cancer?

WHAT IS FAITH?

Faith is so important that, in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?" Evidently, before Jesus comes, faith will be in very short supply. So, just what is faith?

In Hebrews we read: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

That word "substance" is an interesting word. A "submarine" is a boat that travels under the sea. "Sub" is under;

marine, of course, has to do with the sea. Subterranean is something that is under the earth. When you undermine the plans of another, that's subterfuge. "Sub" is something that's under.

"Stance" is the essence of a thing. It is what it really is. So faith is the essence of our relationship with God that stands under everything else. Faith is that immovable quality that anchors you to God. Faith supports everything else in my Christian life. When up seems down and down seems up, faith is trusting that God is going to make everything turn out right in the end. Faith is the absolute confidence that no matter what happens to me, God is much bigger than what's going on in my life.

Faith is trusting God. Faith is trusting God when the days are good, and when the days are bad. Faith is trusting God when I have joy, and when I have sorrow. Faith is trusting God when I can laugh, and when

slayer. The sword trembled in his hands and drops to the ground. By faith God's children escaped the edge of the sword. Yet in verse thirty-seven it says "they were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were slain with the sword" (Hebrews 11:37).

In verse thirty-four these people were protected from the razor edge of the sword, and in verse thirty-seven they are slain with the sword. Does it take more faith to be protected from the sword, or to be slain by the sword? What is Hebrews eleven all about?

The contrasts of Hebrews eleven reveal that faith does not have to do with what is going on around me. Faith has everything to do with what is going on inside me. Faith is trusting God in whatever experience in life I am going through. God gave us Hebrews eleven to show us that faith is not telling God what I believe I want Him to do and believing that He's going to do it. The circumstances of life may vary, but the constancy is trusting God. Like Abel, I may die, or like Enoch, I may live. Like Noah, I may stay on the task that God has given me, and never move, and be faithful, or like Abraham, I may be called to go out from that place to someplace else. Like Sarah, my wife may conceive. Like Abraham, I may have to give up the child. Like Joseph, I may at times be rich; and like Moses, at times I may be poor. My life may be ended with the sword, or my life may be protected from the sword.

What is faith? Faith is falling on my knees, weeping my eyes out because I don't know what is going on in my life, but still trusting God. Faith is knowing that He loves me. He cares. My life is in His hands. Nothing that happens to me can take me out of His hands.



FAITH'S APPLICATION

How do you, as a physician, apply that faith to a person who is dying? How do you apply faith in a medical practice? Does God still work miracles today? Can we expect to see miracles today? Or are miracles of healing a thing of the past?

Miraculous cures can occur in a variety of ways. God can use modern medicine for a miraculous cure. God can use natural remedies for a miraculous cure. But should we expect supernatural results that are incredibly unbelievable? Sometimes when a patient is dying, and we don't have this quality of inner trust in God we might be frightened to put our lives on the line with God. We may be tempted to say, "Well, whatever God's will is, for the patient, that's going to happen. They may live or they may die but it's all in God's will."

How do you balance submissive trust in God; this bedrock faith, with miracles? Should you expect miracles, or shouldn't you? When you anoint somebody, do you find yourself praying, "Well, Lord, if it's your will, heal this person?" Then, if the person is not healed, he may think, "It must not be God's will for me to be healed. It must be God's will that I'm sick. It must be His will I have cancer. It must be God's will that I suffer."

Where is the balance between this absolute trust in God that made Abel willing to die, or trust in God like Enoch, who was empowered to live? Where is there a rational approach to faith and healing?

MIRACULOUS HEALINGS IN SDA HISTORY

In early Advent history there were miraculous healings. You may remember the story of Hiram Edson, told in Pioneer Stories Retold. In 1859, Edson was in his



By faith they would heal all kinds of sickness, and all kinds of disease.

There was a revival in the church. They met each evening for three weeks praising God.

Where are those miracles today? Do we see them happening? Should we expect such things to happen? Will they always happen if we have enough faith?

JESUS HEALING COMMISSION

When you look at the commission that Jesus gave to His disciples, He sent them forth with unusual healing power. "And when he had called unto [him] his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease" (Matthew 10:1).

You notice the scripture says that when Jesus sent out His disciples, they were to have a healing ministry. By faith they would heal all kinds of sickness, and all kinds of disease. Was that commission only for the disciples then, or should medical missionaries expect God to work miracles today?

In the book, Ministry of Healing, page 226, Ellen White quotes the Lord's promise, "And they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall be healed." In Mark 16:18 it says, "And they shall lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." Mark 16:18 is

home on a chilly winter evening. He had just put wood in the fireplace when he was impressed, "Go heal your sick neighbor." Hiram Edson thought, "I can't do that!" But the Lord impressed him again, "Hiram, go in to your sick neighbor's house. I'm calling you to go in there, and you're going to be an instrument of healing."

Hiram Edson slogged through the snow to his sick neighbor's house. In those days you didn't have locks on the doors. Everybody knew everybody else in these small villages. Hiram Edson went into the sick neighbor's house. All the lights were out, and everyone was asleep. He walked in to the sick neighbor's room. He took his neighbor by the hand, and he shook him a little bit, and he said, "Sick Neighbor, rise up and be healed!"

I cannot explain exactly what happened, but according to the story, the Spirit of

God worked in an unusual way. The sick neighbor woke up, sat up, and Hiram Edson said again, "Sick Neighbor, by the grace of God, rise up and be healed." And that man rose up. The fever left him. He was healed instantly. His family gathered around, rejoicing and praising God. Read the story for yourself in Pioneer Stories Retold.

The next day, the healed man was out chopping wood by the side of the road when the doctor came by. He saw the man that was lying in the house near death the day before, and said, "What are you doing out here?" The man exclaimed, "I'm healed!" The doctor said, "It cannot be!" The man replied, "I'm healed! Hiram Edson came over and prayed for me."

The next evening Hiram Edson brought the healed man to prayer meeting at the church. The man gave his testimony.

just as trustworthy now as in the days of the apostles. The passage continues, “It presents the privilege of God’s children, and our faith should lay hold of all that it embraces. Christ’s servants are the channel of His working, and through them He desires to exercise His healing power. It is our work to present the sick and suffering to God in the arms of our faith. We should teach them to believe in the Great Healer.” Now, I’ve struggled with these promises. I’ve said to myself, “Where is there a balanced, rational approach that says, I can trust God in sickness, and I can trust God in health,” while at the same time saying, “I believe God for healing.” How do you put those things together?

Have you ever struggled with these issues? Have you ever wondered why the church seems to be so powerless in the face of sickness? Does it seem inconsistent that, even as we use so many rational approaches, so many of God’s people still die? Have you ever come to the conclusion that it must be God’s will that they die?

Is it? Really? Is this the best we can offer?

QUESTIONS THAT DEMAND ANSWERS

There are some pressing questions that demand answers. Does God still heal the sick today? Why does God heal some people and not others? Are healings a

thing of the past? What role does faith play in miraculous healing? If you have enough faith, will you always be healed? Can the Devil heal the sick? If he can, how can you tell the difference between divine healings and satanic healings? What relation does divine healing have to obedience to natural law? What role does the anointing service play in healing?

These are questions that committed Christians who are serious about scripture, struggle with. This is an infinite subject that we will continue to study. But I would like to point you in a direction that, at least in my mind, makes sense.

In James five we may not find complete answers to all of our questions, but we do begin to gain some practical understanding. Let us take it word by word; phrase by phrase, and seek an answer to some of these questions. We begin our study with James 5:14. “Is anyone sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”

Let us read that first part again: “Let him call for the elders of the church.” Now, God’s prescription is a million miles from the cheap hype and imitations that we see in the popular healing services of our day. The only spirit that I want is the Spirit that comes from the Sanctuary, and flows in healing grace to God’s people. There may be another spirit that can make people sick, and can withdraw his hand, and claim that they are healed. I’m not interested in that spirit at all.

The principles found in James, chapter five show a contrast between true and false healing that is remarkable. Where, in verse fourteen, do you find the initiative? Is it on the one who is the channel of God’s

grace for healing, or is it upon the one who is to be healed? Look again at what it says: “Let him call for the elders of the church.” This is vital. This picture is not of a supposed healer, in a mass meeting, who points out the disease of some individual. This is, rather, the Spirit of God, coming upon somebody that is sick, impressing that sick person to seek the Lord for healing.

Why is the initiative on the one to be healed, rather than the one who is the channel of God’s grace? It is because God respects human freedom. God respects the freedom of will. In Romans 10:13 Paul says, “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” We see here someone who acknowledges, under the influence of the Spirit, that they need God’s help. This person recognizes that they cannot heal themselves. This person, without pressure from any human, calls for the elders of the church as an acknowledgment that they are hopeless. They are helpless unless God does something. The initiative is on the part of the believer, who reaches out to God, who grasps the hand of the living God in a crisis in their life.

Further, you will notice that this is not a public service. It is a private one. It is a service in which God’s grace works in a humble, private way. “Let him call for the elders of the church,” The text says, “Let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”

I’d like you to meditate with me upon the different symbols of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. One of those symbols is rain. The Bible talks about the day of the “latter rain.” Water is a symbol of the Spirit. Fire is another Old Testament symbol of the Spirit. But why does God use oil in our passage on healing in James 5?



Another question that must be asked is this: “What kind of oil is used?”

The answer is olive oil.

Why olive oil?

If you have ever been to Israel, you may have seen the olive presses—large, heavy stones. The olives were placed between two of the stones. As the stones were turned the olives were crushed. The olive oil flowed out into vats.

“With His stripes, we are healed” Isaiah 53:5. Jesus was bruised and crushed on the cross, like the olive is crushed between the stones. Our healing comes from the divine grace of Jesus Christ. There is no power in us. There is no strength in us. As His life was crushed out for us, so from Him there flows the grace for healing.

After probing the depths of this passage, I have learned to spend some time with

those who request anointing. We use that time to study the meaning of olive oil. We ask the question, “Why olive oil?”

BIBLICAL USES OF OLIVE OIL

In Exodus 29:7 olive oil is used in the consecration of the priest. When the priest was set aside for his sacred work in the sanctuary he was anointed with oil.

Olive oil was also used to consecrate the Old Testament Sanctuary – to set it aside entirely for God’s use. When oil is used in the anointing of the sick it is a symbol that they are set aside consecrated to God. We anoint with oil, because it’s a symbol of the complete consecration of the believer to the purpose and will of God. This person is consecrated to the service of God, to glorify His name. Again, looking at Exodus 29:7, “You shall take the anointing oil, and pour it on his head, and anoint him.”

When someone is sick, they call for the elders of the church, and the elders anoint with olive oil, symbolizing the broken,





bruised body of Christ. The oil of His grace is poured out, setting aside that sick person for the glory of His name. Now we do not pray, “If it is your will, Lord, heal.” We pray, “Lord, if it is to your glory, heal.” There is a difference. It is always God’s will to heal, as I will show you, but it may not always be for His glory. God’s ultimate will is always to heal.

There are three things, however, that I do not know. I don’t know (1) whether it is for God’s glory to heal the person right now. And (2) I’m not wise enough, so I don’t know the timing of God. Neither do I know (3) the method of God.

It may be that the person will be healed immediately. It may be that they will be healed gradually, over time. Or it may be that God will wait until resurrection morning to heal them. I have learned to

pray, “Lord, I know it’s your will to heal this person, but I’m not just sure when. If it is to Your glory heal them now. If it is to Your glory to help them trust you and in this sickness witness to the doctors, nurses, and their loved ones, in this sickness keep them faithful. If it is to your glory to lead them to deeper faith as they are gradually healed bless them with divine trust in you. If it is to Your glory to allow them to go to sleep, and to heal them in the resurrection, hold them in Your hand. Give them courage. I know that not one sparrow falls without Your taking notice. I know that You weep even when the leaves fall off the trees and the fruit rots, because it represents death. I know You weep at every hungry child. I know You are weeping over the sickness of this loved one. Lord, the only thing I’m not sure of, is what is Your primary will right now. Whether, like Abel, they will glorify you by dying in faith, or like Enoch,

they will glorify you by living. I am not wise enough to know when the healing of this dear one will bring the greatest glory to You so I leave them in Your hands with absolute confidence that You are good and do good.

When I was a little boy, I wanted a bicycle. My dad got me one for Christmas. He hid it in the closet. I peeked occasionally, and oh how I wanted that bicycle before Christmas! I could imagine myself riding it. There were times I almost went down and jumped on it and took a ride at night. But my father was much wiser than I, and he knew that I would miss a great deal of joy if I didn’t come down on Christmas morning and see that bike, leaning against the wall by the Christmas tree. He knew that would be the very best Christmas of my life.



“But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God, for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth.”

a time in the New Testament when oil was used? There was a man that was beaten up on the Jericho road. I’ve traveled the Jericho road more than once. It is still a road of rough turns, and sharp curves today. It is about twenty-one miles from Jericho to Jerusalem. The elevation descends thirty-six hundred feet in twenty-one miles. In the fifth century, the Jericho Road was called “The Bloody Way” by Jerome. Many people were robbed there, and many died. Jesus told of a man who was left broken, bruised, and bloody along that road.

When the Good Samaritan found the bloody, wounded traveler, he put healing oil on his wounds. Why did he do that? Because oil is always a symbol of restoration. In the Bible, oil represents the totality of healing – physically, mentally and spiritually. In Zechariah, chapter four, the oil coming through the pipes represents the Spirit of God which completely restores.

When oil is placed on the forehead it represents an attitude of mind which says, “Lord, I really want to be healed – not only of my physical illness, Lord, but I want to be healed deep in the recesses of my mind, from bitterness, from anger, from resentment, from guilt.” The oil symbolizes complete physical, mental, and emotional healing. Recently, at an ASI convention, I was

I am still a little child before God. I want the loved ones that I pray for to be instantly healed. But I don’t know if it’s for His glory or not. I do know that I may trust my heavenly Father like a little child. He will always accomplish His best will. If it is for His best glory to raise this person up before the whole universe when He raises the dead, and ten thousand times ten thousand come right out of the tomb, and there’s a panoply of glory before the universe, I am willing to trust Him completely.

I do not know when it is for God’s best glory to heal, but I do know that it is His will to heal. I do not know the method He will use to heal. He may heal instantaneously, supernaturally. He may use natural remedies. He may use water treatments and diet. He may have some discovery of modern medicine that He uses to heal. I don’t know how God’s going to do it.

God may heal instantly, He may heal gradually, or He may heal in the resurrection. But I know that it is His will to heal.

When we anoint, the individual calls, and we come. It is a private service. The Elder places oil on their head, symbolizing consecration. Just as the priest was set aside for God’s will, the individual is set aside for God’s use – for God’s glory. As I anoint the sick I say, “I place this olive oil upon your head as a symbol that, deep within your mind you choose to glorify God.”

Is that the goal of your life? To please God? The priest was set aside with the oil as a symbol of bringing glory to God.

OIL—A SYMBOL OF RESTORATION

Now there’s a second thing about this oil that is fascinating to me. Can you think of

I sensed the moving of God in that room. I sensed the presence of God's grace.

called to anoint a woman. Her husband was there. Her three adult children were there. The woman had been diagnosed with a Melanoma. The doctors had given her six months to live. We read James, the fifth chapter. We talked about consecration – the oil of consecration. We talked about the glory of God. We talked about the fact that we don't know the timing of God's healing. It could be instant, it could be gradual, it could be at the resurrection. We talked, as well, about the oil of healing – restoration; and before we anointed the woman, I looked at the group, and I said, "Now, Is there anything you want to share together? We've talked about the different aspects of healing. Is there any healing that needs to take place here tonight?"

The man spoke up, and he said, "I'm a Seventh-day Adventist, I'm an officer in my church, but I'm not a Christian at home." He began to cry. He looked at his wife, and said, "I haven't led out in family worship – I haven't led out in prayer – I'm just an Adventist in name, but I'm not a Christian. But tonight I want the oil of God's grace to heal all my bitterness and anger and by God's power I want Him to make me the man He wants me to be." He went over to his wife, and put his arms around her, and said, "I'm so sorry for not being the help that I should have been. I'm so sorry for

not being the godly husband to you that I should have been."

She put her arms around him, and they held each other as we anointed her with oil, symbolizing the total healing that God wanted to give to her and her family. We got up off our knees, and we prayed. Six months later, I got a letter. It said, "Pastor Mark, you are not going to believe this, we went home, and my wife was miraculously healed. Now, time has gone on, and as far as we know, there is no evidence of that cancer!"

At that same ASI meeting, I anointed another woman. In that instance, we talked about healing. We talked about the fact that God may not always heal instantly.



It may be gradually, or in the resurrection. We had a precious, precious time. I sensed the moving of God in that room. I sensed the presence of God's grace. A couple weeks later, I got a letter saying that she was back in the hospital. A few months later, I got word that she had died.

Did God work any less in the second meeting than He did in the first? Did I have any less faith in the second meeting than I did in the first? Not at all. In one instance, God chose to manifest His hand to bring glory to His name. In the other instance, God equally received glory, because the woman who died, died trusting and believing that God would raise her from the dead.



Oil is a symbol of consecration; oil is a symbol of restoration; oil is a symbol of illumination.

is anointing? Anointing is a service of restoration: physically, mentally, and spiritually into the image of Christ. What is anointing? It is a service where we dedicate ourselves to witness for Christ in every aspect of life.

But now we must go back again to the text of James, chapter five. As you study this chapter, and as you go over the aspects of consecration and restoration and illumination, you will see the Spirit of God work in a mighty, powerful way in that sickroom. Sometimes you will see miraculous healings, other times you will not. But in each instance, you will see the grace of God manifested.

James 5:14 & 15 says, "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church", notice the initiative is on the sick person to do the calling, "and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord..."

Consider that phrase, "In the name of the Lord." If you take every reference to "In the name of the Lord" in the Old Testament, and every reference in the New Testament, and you trace it through, what are you going to find out about "the name of the Lord"?

This is why all spectacular, sensational manifestations of healing are false healings misunderstanding the true purpose for healing. They demand that God conform to my will. They put God to the test based on what they think God should do. And they fail to minister to the heart, mind and soul, to produce the inner healing that only Jesus can give.

There are three aspects of this oil. The first aspect of this oil is consecration. The second is restoration. The third aspect of the oil is seen in a New Testament parable that Jesus told about ten virgins. Five of these virgins did not have enough oil. During the long delay as they waited for the coming of the bridegroom their lamps went out.

Oil is a symbol of consecration; oil is a symbol of restoration; oil is a symbol of illumination. When we anoint with oil, we say to the person, "We use oil because

you are willing to be consecrated to the glory of God. We use oil because God longs for a restoration physically, mentally, spiritually." And the third reason we use oil is because God wants you to be a witness in sickness, or in health. He wants to share His illuminating grace through your life. You can be a testimony to others. You can be a light to the world, in sickness or in health."

I have seen person after person give glory to God, and illuminate an entire room of physicians and nurses who have been attending to them with God's love. Time after time, in cases where God has chosen to delay healing, He has allowed the oil of His grace to illuminate the mind of a husband, of a wife, of a son, a daughter, who has been drawn closer to Christ, even in the death of the one anointed.

What is anointing? Anointing is a service of consecration to the glory of God. What



In Exodus: “Let His Name pass before me...” (Exodus 33:18). You will remember that Moses said to God, “Please, now, show me your glory!” and then God said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and I will proclaim the name of the Lord.”

When Moses said, “Show me Your glory,” then God said, “I will proclaim my name.” The glory of God, the name of God, and the character of God are all related in the Bible.

Revelation 18:1 says, “I saw another angel come down from heaven...and the earth was filled with his glory...” Filled with His name, filled with His character. When we anoint with oil in the name of the Lord, what we are really doing is consecrating the sick individual, as a priest of God, to the Most High. We are consecrating them

to be restored mentally, physically, and spiritually, so that they can illuminate the world with their witness for one purpose; so that the name of God will be proclaimed in all the earth, for His glory, through their character.

This is what anointing is about. It is proclaiming the glory of God by declaring His name as good through the character of the one who is anointed. This is a million miles from the cheap, selfish sentimentalism of the world that says, “Lord, heal me, or else You are not coming through and I cannot trust You.” This is saying, “Lord, I’m offering up my body as a living sacrifice. I know Your will is not for me to be sick, it’s for me to be well. But, Lord, if for some reason, in the conflict between good and evil, I can bring glory to You, in whatever state I am,

I’m going to trust You, and never give up. Now, Lord, I sure hope it’s Your will to heal me instantly. It may be Your will to heal me gradually; it may be Your will to heal me in the resurrection. But whatever Your will is, let the name of the Lord be glorified in my life.

A number of years ago, in 1857, Pop Warner was an extremely well-to-do businessman in the Midwest of America. During that time, women did not have much of an opportunity to have an education in the United States, but his two daughters, Susan and Anna got the best education possible. Their mom had died in their early life, and so Pop Warner put all his emphasis on his girls. This wealthy family had never known poverty. In 1857 there was a great depression in the United States – Pop Warner lost all of his fortune – everything.



He became so worried and stressed that he eventually died of emotional, mental, and physical exhaustion. He left his two girls alone in their late twenties.

These girls needed some way to support themselves, so they began to write. They wrote many books that became best-sellers in America. One of those books, written in the mid-eighteen hundreds was *Wide, Wide World*.

Another of the books Anna and Susan wrote was a book called, *Say and Seal*. In this book, there’s a little boy whose name is Johnny Fax. Nine-year-old Johnny Fax is dying. He has a fever – beads of perspiration stand out on his face. He’s about to breathe his last. Mr. Linden, the key character in the book, comes over, and he sits by Johnny Fax’s bed, and the little boy looks up into Mr. Linden’s eyes.

Johnny wants some hope. He wants something to hang on to at the time of death. He wants some word that things will be all right. Mr. Linden looks down, and he takes the boy’s hand. There is a tear in the old man’s eyes, because he knows the little boy is going to die.

Mr. Linden begins to recite a poem. Anna and Susan Warner wrote this poem for the book, and they put it in the mouth of Mr. Linden. He recites the poem to this little, dying boy. It’s a child’s poem, and it goes like this:

*Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
they are weak, but He is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.
Jesus loves me, loves me still, though I’m very
weak and ill.
That I might from sin be free, bled and died
upon the tree.*

*Jesus loves me, He Who died, Heaven’s gates
to open wide.
He will wash away my sin, let His little child
come in.*

*Jesus loves me, He will stay, close beside me
all the way.
Thou hast bled and died for me, I will
henceforth live for Thee.*

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me...

I would rather know that Jesus loves me, and trust Him, and die, than be healed by the Devil, and live.

Those are the last words that Johnny Fax hears. He dies, holding the hand of Mr. Linden.

I would rather know that Jesus loves me, and trust Him, and die, than be healed by the Devil, and live. The most important thing for that patient, wavering between life and death, is not physical healing. It is to know that Jesus loves them. Though I’m weak and ill, Jesus loves me still!

In these last days of earth’s history, we can expect miraculous healings, for the glory of God. We can also expect that some of our patients are going to die for the glory of God. The most important thing in life is to take those patients and put them in the hands of a loving God. Then we can know for certain that God’s love is at work in the miraculous healing of a patient, as well as in the death of a patient who is empowered to trust a loving God, who will raise them up in the resurrection to see His glory forever.

by Camille Clark
MEDICAL STUDENT

AMEN Launches Student Chapter at Loma Linda University



Have you ever sensed a deficit in your life, which created a deep yearning for something beyond the ordinary – something that would breathe freshness into your being? How wonderful it is when this “something” takes the form of God’s personal intervention to fulfill the deep longings of the soul. It matters not whether those needs are met immediately following or preceding an intense week of exams. No, for the over eighty exhausted medical and

dental students, not including spouses and children, who attended the AMEN conference in Cathedral City, California last October, this common need was met. No doubt, all eighty student attendees would agree that one word summarizes the weekend’s activities – inspirational.

One medical student in his first year at Loma Linda University (LLU) summarized his experience thus: “If ever I had forgotten the reason why I am a medical student,

this weekend would have reawakened my consciousness of duty and re-inspired a zeal for the medical ministry.”

And how could it not? Thought-provoking devotionals by thought leaders encouraged attendees to shun influences that tend toward “Egyptian” attitudes and methodologies in the practice of medicine, and to return to the basics – the Biblical blueprint. During workshops and featured presentations, an attentive

audience listened to testimonies of God’s blessings through personal efforts to serve Him. All were challenged to answer in the affirmative to Jesus’ call to medical evangelism, and to experience the joy that witnessing in the workplace has to offer.

Following the Sabbath program, student attendees gathered to brainstorm ideas for the formation of a student chapter of AMEN. Within only a couple weeks of this initial brainstorming session, the first official meeting was held at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine. Officers were appointed and the mission, vision and objectives of the newly formed AMEN student chapter were well on their way.

The values of the student chapter are an adaptation of those of the parent AMEN, with emphasis on promoting medical evangelism within the student context. Indeed, our focus on the study of scriptural counsel, and on advancing the medical ministry through developing student relationships, makes this chapter unique.

Accordingly, the AMEN LLU student chapter decided to devote initial times and energies to gaining a better understanding of the medical missionary blueprint as outlined in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. This objective guided the initial Bible studies, which focused on the Three Angels Messages of Revelation 14, and in particular, the third angel’s message. This strictly biblical study, facilitated by Eric Turner, a first year medical student, was conducted for the purpose of personally drawing the members to Jesus, and laying the foundation for a deeper understanding of the original medical missionary model. According to 2 SAT 141.7, “There is to be no division between the medical missionary work and the gospel ministry. Medical missionary work is to be to the third angel’s

message as the right arm to the body. Both are to work in harmony. Then the salvation of the Lord will be revealed.”

Realizing the importance of promulgating this vision beyond the walls of LLU, the student chapter of AMEN is also committed to encouraging the study and practice of medical evangelism by Adventist medical and dental students on other university campuses. In keeping with this goal, AMEN sponsored a booth at the Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) this past December in San Jose, CA. There, students and professionals were given an opportunity to learn about the organization and to become involved in its initiatives.

The future of the chapter looks very promising and the student-leaders are very excited about the activities and programs planned for the year 2009. Following the studies of the Three Angels Messages, the AMEN student chapter will begin the new year with a student-led study of the

“But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God, for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth.”

medical missionary mandate outlined in the book, *The Ministry of Healing*. This series of studies will conclude prior to the summer recess.

In addition, a student conference is scheduled for the spring of 2009, to supplement the studies of *The Ministry of Healing*. We will focus primarily on the areas of “Care for the Sick” and “Health Principles.” The conference will enhance our understanding of the medical missionary model and will feature workshops on natural remedies that can be used in the treatment of patients, both locally and abroad.

United in heart and in the Spirit, one aim drives the members of the AMEN LLU student chapter. We are not content to merely “hasten” the Second Coming of Jesus. Nay, our blessed hope is to see Jesus return in our generation. So, together we’ll study; together we’ll pray; together we’ll equip ourselves and others for effective ministry; and together we’ll serve, advancing the gospel of the kingdom through the potent right arm of medical ministry. Thank you, AMEN, for providing the inspiration that has given birth to this new and exciting ministry.



AMEN Student Chapter Conference: Making Man Whole through the Ministry of Healing

On April 9 to 12, 2009, the AMEN Student Chapter hosted their inaugural conference at Loma Linda University. The theme was “Making Man Whole through the Ministry of Healing”. This was chosen in keeping with the students’ study of Ellen White’s “Ministry of Healing” that commenced following the Student Chapter’s inception in October 2008.

The conference hosted many fantastic and inspiring speakers. Dr. Mary Ann McNeilus shared a testimony of how God lead her to foreign missionary work and later to a specialty in ‘Natural Remedies’. Dr. Neil Nedley, an LLU alumnus and President of Weimar Center of Health & Education, was the featured speaker for the weekend program. He has worked extensively all around the world in both lifestyle medicine and mental health. Nedley gave a presentation on depression and later on shared an overview of the “Ministry of Healing”, which focused on several of the counsels given by Ellen White that is now validated by modern scientific research. Dr. Chester Clark, an alumnus

of Loma Linda School of Dentistry, shared how God had lead him in his ‘Ministry of Dentistry’ to start both a school and church congregation out of his practice in a formerly ‘dark county’.

Seminars were also conducted including: “The Application of True Holistic Lifestyle Medicine”, “Prayer for the Sick”, “Modern Day Manifestations of Miraculous Healing”, “Ministry of Dentistry”, “Essential Knowledge” and “Mind Cure”.

Students from the School of Medicine and the School of Dentistry shared testimonies from their mission experiences and their visions for adopting a foreign underserved hospital as a class project. The conference ended with a closing devotional by Dr. Nedley followed by an interactive session on Natural Remedies by Dr. McNeilus.

Over 200 individuals from the university and surrounding community attended the Student Conference. Attendees left the weekend’s presentation inspired and encouraged to fulfill their part in the final work of Medical Ministry.



Blessings in Bangladesh



Paul Yoo wanted to go on a mission trip to Guyana but he had no intention of going by himself. For three months he kept asking me to go with him. Lacking any strong desire to go to Guyana, I’d tell him to ask me again in a few weeks.

In the summer of 2007, Advent Hope Sabbath School, on the campus of Loma Linda University, hosted a special Mission Spotlight with a missionary from

Bangladesh. The missionary’s name was Paul Moskala, a dentist from the Czech Republic. For two hours this weathered missionary shared stories of persecution, miracles, and a beautiful people under the banner of Allah. His pictures were gripping; the description of his encounters captivating.

After the presentation, Paul and I looked at each other. Without a word we both knew that the mission trip we had scheduled for

September that year was no longer a trip to Guyana. It was a trip to Bangladesh to support this lone soldier. On September 19, 2007, a group of 22 physicians, dentists, dental and dental hygiene students, nurses, and undergraduate students traveled to Dhaka, and then to Jalchatra, Bangladesh where we would break ground. The daunting task of sharing the gospel in the 10/40 window became real on our layover in Hong Kong. That airport was a city in its own right. The mass of travelers was

overwhelming. We wondered how we could make a difference when the task was so great. Thank God for the promise of the Holy Spirit!

Someone told us that equipment and medications might be confiscated in customs, we carried only the bare essentials. Our fears were not realized. Bangladeshi customs officials were so happy to see tourists they waved us through with no hassles and no searches. We made a mental note to bring more meds the next year.

Jalchatra is four hours north of Dakha by car. The four buildings comprising the small SDA church and school there were built years ago by the McNeilus family. Here we set up our clinics.

A mission trip to Bangladesh is quite different from a mission trip to Fiji, Roatan or Honduras. In those places you can treat patients in the morning and go to the beach in the afternoon. In Bangladesh, "discomfort" takes on a whole new meaning. Every day the temperatures rose to a sweltering 100 degrees, with humidity at 100%. The drinking water was at ambient temperature. There were no refrigerators, no freezers, no coolers. The only thing that was cool in our camp in Jalchatra was the bathing water, and you couldn't drink that!

In spite of the heat and humidity, our optometry, ophthalmology, dental, and medical clinics consulted and treated approximately sixteen hundred patients in four days. The great need of the people was embodied in the spirit of a seven-year old boy who ran alone for five miles to get to the dental clinic one morning. The youngster showed us a painful, decayed tooth and gladly took the Lidocaine

injection. He gave a great sigh of relief when the molar was extracted.

Another case etched in my memory is that of a young man who was carried to our site by family members. They laid him down on the grass in the middle of our campus. This man was groaning in excruciating pain. His right leg was almost twice its normal size. He was sweating profusely, gasping for air, and dripping pus from an infected surgical incision. We had no medications to offer this sufferer. All we had was prayer. But how could we pray with a Muslim patient and his family? Would they be offended if I prayed in the name of Jesus?

Stepping aside, I prayed with my friend Sunny. Then we explained the grave situation to the family. We formed a circle around our patient, laid hands on him, and asked the interpreter to be very precise in translating the prayer. With my heart in my mouth, I prayed through the entire gospel: creation, redemption, restoration, and salvation through Jesus Christ. As I prayed for healing I peeked with one eye, hoping to see this man's wound healed and his leg restored. I wanted the gathering crowd of Muslim onlookers to see a miracle. But it didn't happen, at least not at that moment. We gave the man an IM injection of Ketorolac (a far cry from what he really needed), and sent him post haste to the hospital. I had so many mixed



AMEN is working with the Quiet Hour, Maranatha, and other ministry partners to bolster short term medical mission trips in these challenging financial times. Funds are available for motivated AMEN members who are willing to lead for at least a week on one of the following trips--dentistry or medical. Transportation and accommodation costs will be covered for the one leading a medical or dental trip. All you have to do is take the vacation time or get coverage.

Here are some of the opportunities to get involved in with the skill set and gift of caring that God has blessed you with.

Fiji – July 30 to August 9, 2009

Zambia -- Aug 14 - 29, 2009

Brazil – October 9 – 24, 2009

Thailand – October 9 – 24, 2009

Vietnam – Fall: exact dates TBA

Jamaica – November 6 – 21, 2009

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EMAIL

RICKY KEARNS (missions@amensda.org) for more details on any of the above trips or if you need assistance in locating resources (medication, travel, and ophthalmic equipment) for leading one of the above mission trips. Please visit the mission site at www.amensda.org/mission-trips/ for other opportunities.

If you have gone on a medical mission trip this past year (2009) we would love to give you the opportunity to share your experience in Gatlinburg and invite others to join in your next trip, but please contact Ricky Kearns at the above email address as soon as possible since our mission sharing slots are fast filling up. *Thank you.*



emotions about that encounter. I resolved to expand our services the following year, both medical and spiritual.

As I walked to the bus at the end of our week in Jalchatra, it was impossible to hold back the tears. The children who came to the clinics every day had become our friends. They cried uncontrollably. They repeatedly touched our feet, then grabbed our hands and placed them on their foreheads in a sign of respect and appreciation.

For most of us the trip was a mind boggling experience. I had never seen this much love and emotion poured out after any other mission trip. The people mourned our leaving as though someone had just died. The memories left such a deep impression on me that I could not control my emotions when I shared the experience in various churches after the trip.

One year later we returned to Jalchatra. This time we were much better equipped. We traveled with a team of 42 medical, dental, and auxiliary medical professionals and students. Our numerous supplies and medications were whisked through customs without so much as a question. We added an ER department and a Vacation Bible School for the children. Word had spread fast in just two years. So many people came that local law enforcement was needed for crowd control. The Lord blessed mightily on this second trip.

The little SDA church and school was now becoming a yearly beacon of hope. Our clinics logged approximately 2,000 patient

consult and treatment encounters in just 4 days. Some of these were from the nearby Catholic school and orphanage. The Vacation Bible School had an average of approximately 60-80 children daily. Most of the children were Muslim, and some were reciting Scripture in English by the end of the week. This time our departure was surrounded with hope rather than with sadness.

Our plan for 2009 is to return yet again to Jalchatra. We hope to add a barber shop and an operating room for minor procedures to our list of offered services.

With established relationships and a growing rapport in the Muslim, Hindu, and Garo community, yet another small part of the 10/40 window is being claimed for Christ. But the rapport must be nourished. It must be consistent. Eventually, through medical missionary work, the truth of the gospel will spread throughout this part of the world, helping to prepare the way for Jesus to return and claim His own.

I had never seen this much love and emotion poured out after any other mission trip.

The Battle is the Lord's What to do in a (financial) Crisis



The current global financial crisis has sent shock waves throughout virtually every sector of the economy. If this crisis was not enough to worry about, it seems that scam artists are flourishing everywhere as well. For example, Bernard Madoff, scammed some 5,000 otherwise intelligent people and institutional administrators out of an estimated \$60 billion dollars. It was the largest investor fraud ever committed by a single person. Business leaders, church leaders, and individual families are

understandably very concerned. What is the appropriate Christian response to all of this? The Bible has some answers.

An interesting and amazing story is recorded in the Old Testament (2 Chron. 20) whose principles would apply well to our current economic crisis. Our crisis, like the one faced by the kingdom of Judah, has the very real potential to harm God's church on earth, and our own individual lives.

Toward the close of Jehoshaphat's reign, the kingdom of Judah was invaded by an army before whose approach the inhabitants of the land had reason to tremble. Jehoshaphat was a man of courage and valor. For years he had been strengthening his armies and his fortified cities. He was well prepared to meet almost any enemy; yet in this crisis he did not put his confidence in his own strength, but in the power of God. He set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. The people all gathered together

in the court of the temple, as Solomon had prayed that they would when faced by danger. All the men of Judah stood before the Lord with their wives and children. They prayed that God would confuse their enemies that His name might be glorified. Then the king prayed, "We have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us, nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

After they committed themselves to God in this manner, the Spirit of the Lord came upon a man of God who said, "Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's...You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord" (2 Chron. 20:15, 17). So, early the next morning the king assembled the people, with the Levitical choir in the front, to sing the praises to God. Then he admonished the people, "Believe the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper" (vs. 20). The choir began to sing, and their enemies "destroyed one another and no one escaped." It took the men of Judah three days just to collect the spoils of the battle and on the fourth day they returned to Jerusalem, singing as they went.

The Current Application

No one ever trusted God in vain. He never disappoints those who put their dependence on Him. Whenever you do battle for the Lord, prepare yourself. Prepare well. Then recognize your weakness and depend 100% on the power of God for your deliverance. It is very tempting to trust in the power of the government or in our retirement accounts, but in every crisis (ours is a real crisis too) mentioned in the Bible, when the people

trusted in God He honored their trust and provided for them.

In another Bible example the giant Goliath trusted in his armor. He terrified the armies of Israel by his defiant, savage boastings, while he made a most imposing display of his armor. In response to his boasting David said to him, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand...Then all the assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear, for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands" (1 Sam. 17:45-47).

I am not trying to minimize the severity of our problems. Just the opposite is true! Our only and best hope is to trust in God and be faithful to our covenant with Him. "He who gave His only-begotten Son to die for you, has made a covenant with you. He gives you His blessings, and in return He requires you to bring Him your tithes and offerings" (CS 75). One of my favorite statements from the Desire of Ages is on page 173: "No one sees the hand that lifts the burden, or beholds the light descend from the courts above. The blessing comes when by faith the soul surrenders itself to God. Then that power which no human eye can see creates a new being in the image of God." The same unseen power that brings about conversion is evident in God's providential leadings in our everyday lives!

CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES OF FINANCE

The principles for Christian money management do not change with the times. They are always the same. By analogy, there is not a special diet for treatment for

"If we ever needed the Lord before, we sure do need Him now."

each of the chronic diseases. If you want a recommendation for a healthy diet, it is the same no matter what your current health condition. Eat a wide variety of unrefined fruits, grains, nuts, and vegetables in sufficient quantity to maintain your ideal weight. This will produce better results than changing your diet for every health concern that comes along. This analogy also works for financial management.

THE "RECIPE" FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS

The principles for sound financial management are as simple as a good diet. If you are not following them, your financial security is at risk. The primary principles are:

1. **Put God first.** The wise man's counsel is still valid. "Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9, 10). And Jesus Himself said, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things (food, clothing, and shelter) shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). Current economic conditions bring to mind the words of an old song, "If we ever needed the Lord before, we sure do need Him now." Now is the time to trust that God will sustain us and provide for our needs. (See also Deuteronomy 28:1-14.)

2. Spend less than you earn. We decry the government's debt of over \$11 trillion and the bailout of the banks at \$700 billion, but American consumers are equally guilty of overspending. The outstanding credit card balances – the amount that is unpaid and carried over from month to month – is now over \$915 billion in the United States. The principle here is to be content with what we have and learn to live within our income. (See 1 Timothy 6:6-10) Presently about 43% of American families spend more than they earn each year. Don't be one of them.

3. Save some every pay period. Those who have followed this principle and have at least 6-months worth of living expenses in cash savings in the bank are in much better shape than those who are in debt. A savings account provides protection when there is a job loss, car breakdown, health concern, or other occurrence that could hurt your financial security. A nice little nest-egg can help you weather an economic storm. It makes good sense. "You might today have had a capital of means to use in case of emergency and to aid the cause of God, if you had economized as you should. Every week a portion of your wages should be reserved and in no case touched unless suffering actual want, or to render back to the Giver in offerings to God" (Adventist Home, p. 396).

4. Do everything you can to keep your job. The Bible says, "Do you see a man who excels in his work?"

He will stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men" (Proverbs 22:29). There is much said about work and integrity in the Bible. Ask God for wisdom to do your work efficiently so that you will be able to continue to work in these hard times. If you should lose your job, be

willing to work at whatever job is available that would not violate your conscience.

5. Be conservative with your investments. Remember that there is no more secure investment than investing in your own debt! Beyond paying off your debts, during times of uncertainty, the better part of wisdom suggests that investments be on the conservative side. This means FDIC insured accounts. If you have a surplus of means it is a good time to "invest" in the cause of God. The needs of the work of God continue even in hard times.

The financial stresses of our economy can be greatly reduced or eliminated by following these seven principles.

6. Ask God for wisdom to make good earning, saving, and spending decisions. Again, God's Word directs us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5, 6). See also Philippians 4:19 and Isaiah 26:3. As Creator and Owner of everything, God has the unique ability to guide us in life. We must trust Him explicitly in this area of our lives. Enjoy the blessings of God by living prudently and helping others who are less fortunate.

7. Don't lose sight of the goal. Our real home is in heaven. The events of this

earth will grow strangely dim in the light of God's glory and grace. Someday soon everything on this earth will be burned up. The Bible says, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). This will not be a great disappointment to the true Christian. His treasures will be laid up securely in heaven.

The financial stresses of our economy can be greatly reduced or eliminated by following these seven principles. They have been given to us by our God, in His love, for our best good. In looking back on his life, David said, "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread" (Psalm 37:25). Surely each of us can likewise see the blessing and hand of God in our lives.



Hope and Healing in Haiti



Standing in worn shirt and shorts outside his family's tin and plywood shack, the man gazed over the shanty-covered flatland leading down toward the murky bay. In the distant haze across the water was the capital, some 50 km distant. The sun rose slowly from the smoggy horizon, and still he stood motionless, personifying thousands of his fellows, looking for some glimmer of purpose, of hope.

Observing through the louvers of my guest room window on this first morning in Haiti, I realized that this man faced recurring questions: Where would he find food today? Would his family survive? Why did God allow them to suffer day after day?

Dr. Raja Tooma and I, along with other physicians representing AMEN, came to Haiti at the suggestion of 3 Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN). Our

purpose was to dedicate and briefly staff a new medical clinic near the town of La Digue. Haiti ranks among the three countries in the world with the worst daily caloric deficit per inhabitant. Malnutrition and diarrhea kill 48 percent of the children 0 - 5 years of age. However, families with children at the local mission need not fear for their health. Children's International Lifeline, a non-denominational project, feeds 1500 children five nutritious meals per week, greatly reducing the number

of starving, orange-haired, pot-bellied children. Many of these children attend Christian schools, preparing to be witnesses for Christ as teachers or preachers.

Before our trip we were told that customs officials often extort an exorbitant “fee” for medicines brought in by humanitarian teams. Our group carried large quantities of donated medications and supplies in our luggage. The customs forms asked about medications. Trusting the Lord to overrule the situation if I answered the questions honestly, I prayed for a miracle. God heard. Upon deplaning we headed down a long hallway to baggage claim, with the uniformed customs agents staring at us from the far end. A small door opened to our left and a young Haitian woman asked, in perfect English, “Are you the doctors from AMEN?” Local Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) representatives had heard of our mission and came to help us get through customs. Like dignitaries, we simply passed our claim tags to the ADRA team. In no time, we were escorted outside where 2 mission trucks were waiting—with our luggage safe and sound.

Outside the airport, we were caught up in the throngs of pedestrians and honking vehicles. Blue-capped UN peacekeepers with machine guns were often visible. Once out of town, we sped past piles of burning garbage, their gray smoke filtering the rays of the setting sun. Rough pavement gave way to rutted gravel, and then packed dust. The silver-and-brown coastal mountains no longer wore lush, towering canopies of rain forest. The forests have been sacrificed to make charcoal—the tiny nation’s primary fuel source. Slowly but steadily the once-fertile soil is washing into the murky sea. In hurricane season, livestock, homes, and people often wash away in a wall of mud.

At last our headlights revealed a large metal gate, and with two chirps of the horn, we entered the Children’s International Lifeline’s main compound. This is said to be one of the safest places in the country due to its remote location and the popularity of the nutrition and mission programs. Now, after much hard work, they will be able to provide basic medical care, as well. We were thrilled to bring the healing ‘Right Arm of the Message’ which gave us an audience of hundreds for our health classes and sermons.

Sabbath morning we visited one of the three Adventist churches in the region. Huge inroads have been made in this superstitious nation where it is often joked that 70% are Christian but nearly 100% are Voodoo. One in twenty-five people are SDA’s. Elder C.A. Murray spoke to a responsive crowd of tidily-dressed worshipers who meet each week in the roofless church. After the message, we advertised our medical clinics and encouraged the congregation to invite their friends.

Sunday morning the mission pastors gave out numbers to organize the crowd of anxious patients assembling before dawn. By 9 AM the din of French Kreyol from the growing crowd was audible blocks away, punctuated by the occasional call of street merchants who couldn’t miss this chance for profit. We held medical clinics in the daytime and health classes with evangelism in the evenings. The generous contributions of a single small congregation in southern Illinois had raised thousands of dollars for medicines we carried. Other contributions were from Florida Hospital and the St. Bernardine Medical Center in Loma Linda, California. Our pharmacy was amazingly well-stocked.

BEHIND THE SCENES IN HAITI

Raja Tooma, M.D.

Haitians suffer with immense poverty; a constant state of hunger is the norm for most. However, perhaps the saddest problem of all is the spiritual warfare going on. Although there are many Christians in Haiti, voodoo practice is widespread. Throughout the trip I prayed fervently that the Lord would bless our efforts and bring spiritual food to our hearers. I praise God that my ‘health presentations’ (on sexually transmitted infections, AIDS, and the benefits of charcoal) touched numerous hearts. Many marveled at the spiritual direction the talks had taken.

Several months later, Pastor Donald Curtis, President of Children’s International Lifeline told me, “After your talks, two voodoo priests came forward giving their lives to Christ! One of them brought in all his voodoo trinkets and said, ‘Here, burn them! I want Christ.’ Now his face reflects Christian smiles to replace the mysterious demonic frowns he wore previously.” I so look forward to meeting these two new Christian brothers, if not here on this earth then in a better home where we will spend eternity with our Lord and Savior. I praise God for His mercy, and for the privilege of allowing me to serve as His instrument. I wish you the Lord’s richest blessings as He leads you to mission service, right where you are, or abroad and together we strive to bring His children back into the fold.



The team, nearly 20 in all, huddled for prayer, recognizing our need for God’s wisdom and guidance. We asked the Great Physician to bring spiritual healing to the hearts and lives of these patients, and dedicated the humble clinic to His service. Our four medical teams consisted of a care provider and interpreter. Pastors managed the crowd. There were two “pharmacists”, and a cashier. At the mission’s request we charged 1 Haitian dollar (about 20 cents U.S.) as the clinic would be continuing that fee into the future. The locals feel that free medical care is not worth much.

One of our first patients was a barefoot young man who had sliced his foot open, then packed the wound with mud as an anticoagulant. Dr. Tooma cleaned and sutured his wound with the instruments on hand. It was gratifying to see the

patient later in the week attending the evening meetings.

We treated wounds, worms, and STD’s, counseling as we went. Nearly every child received chewable vitamins; many also received medication for worms. Each patient received personal consideration, with hands-on attention that we hoped demonstrated the compassion of Christ. Our offer to pray with each patient was eagerly accepted. Our translators were vital—rarely did a patient speak enough English to understand us. We learned to recognize their grateful “mesi!” Their prescriptions went out with Kreyol instructions.

Unfortunately, the Lifeline mission can only feed children. When adult patients were asked, “When did you last eat?” the

reply was often, “Yesterday, I ate a piece of bread and a pop...” The chemical reaction of these two “foods” causes enough swelling to quiet a hungry stomach when a real meal is out of financial reach. We did what we could, and prayed for them.

Evenings were for health lectures. We covered cleanliness and worms, healthy diet, and caring for teeth. We gave frank explanations of AIDS and other STD’s. The lectures gave us the opportunity to hold up a Bible and point them to life-saving principles in scripture. Their attention captured and trust gained, leading them to the Great Physician was quite natural. This is the essence of practical medical evangelism.

The four American care providers saw hundreds of adults in the clinic. Then, as the adult patient load waned, we treated children from the local mission school, often dressed in their brightly-colored uniforms, shy and respectful. The memory of their plight is hard to shake.

Elder Murray closed the final meeting by asking the people to invite Jesus into their hearts. Many stood. Each attendee received a French Kreyol New Testament, courtesy of the Lifeline Mission. We agreed to meet in Heaven, if not before; some of us are hoping to return next year, as God leads.

Please consider a trip with AMEN as God provides. Or, let us help you with your own mission trip. If you cannot spare the time for such a mission right now, please pray about helping to sponsor someone else who can. It is an opportunity to show Christ to some of the neediest souls on earth.

SDA Health Ministry in China



At the 2007 annual AMEN Conference, Gospel Outreach's president, Ron Fleck, MD, presented an outline for a proposed fact-finding trip to explore opportunities for evangelism in China. Gospel Outreach is a funding organization involved in equipping, training, and supporting indigenous workers in difficult territories, particularly in the 10/40 window. After the

Conference, I contacted Ron, expressing my interest in the fact-finding trip.

My purpose for joining the team was similar to that of Gospel Outreach, with one significant addition. From an AMEN perspective, I was motivated to research the status of the health ministry in China. I wanted to learn how AMEN can be engaged in health evangelism in this

country at a time when overt evangelism is quite restricted.

China is a country of 1.3 billion people, occupying approximately the same land area as the United States. This means that China has four times the population density of the US. The Seventh-day Adventist Church had a vibrant presence in China before Mao's Revolution in the 1940's and



1950's. At that time the organized work essentially ceased to exist.

Religious liberty was restricted until about twenty years ago, when the Chinese Communist party decided to allow a limited "religious freedom" for all religious groups, including Christianity. The resulting Three Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) provided a closely monitored and managed "freedom of religion" for Christians who were self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating, within the framework of the politically correct positions of the TSPM. One Chinese leader told me that the government clearly wishes for the Christian Church to exist, but not to grow.

The world church of Seventh-day Adventists, along with the many other denominations, cannot function in China except under the TSPM. As a result, no organized Seventh-day Adventist churches exist beyond local church level. The closest organizational contact the Chinese SDA's have with their worldwide church family is located in Hong Kong, where the Chinese Union Mission (CHUM) benefits from the religious and civil liberties negotiated in the handover of Hong Kong by the British over ten years ago. The CHUM seeks to

maintain contact with the brethren in China, to the extent permitted by law. The brethren in China recognize the worldwide nature of their denomination, and long to be engaged with the rest of their SDA brethren around the world. Yet the SDA work in China is very much on a congregational level. What other country could be in greater need of the health message as an "entering wedge"? In April of 2008 Ron Fleck and I arrived in Hong Kong. Our team included several members of Gospel Outreach who speak Chinese fluently, and are familiar with the territory and customs of the Chinese. At the CHUM office, we were oriented to the spiritual landscape in China. We learned the "do's" and "don'ts" with regard to what we could safely say and how we must behave during our time in China. Our next stop was in the city of Xiamen on the southeastern seaboard of China. Bear in mind that we went into China just before the Beijing Olympics when things were a bit more "open" than usual. With this consideration, we may note that what I report here may not fully reflect current conditions.

On Friday afternoon, Ron Fleck and I had the opportunity to speak to a group

of church members on various aspects of health. We gave a brief training session on limited health ministry from a layperson's perspective. The following day (Sabbath) we were invited to a church to speak to a large group composed of all Protestant Christians. About three hundred people listened as we covered health topics including coronary artery disease, hypertension, depression, and the care of the elderly. Ron and I spoke with the assistance of an interpreter. The "New Beginnings" DVD prepared by ASI in collaboration with "It Is Written" was very helpful. I am confident that the well-received presentations did much to distinguish Seventh-day Adventists as a people of health amongst the other Christian brethren in the area.

After the presentations, we sat down to eat with a ninety-two year old pastor who had spent time in a Chinese labor camp before the opening of limited religious freedom in China. It was an emotional moment for us. We recognized that religious freedom has made progress in China, and at the same time we saw how far we have yet to go.

Before leaving the Xiamen area, we visited the Mai Wah Lifestyle Center where our church was able to do a limited "New Start" program. Prior to being taken over by the government during the Revolution, the Mai Wah center operated as an SDA outreach project. It was recently handed back over to us for limited use.

Next we visited the city of Hangzhou, also in the eastern seaboard region of China. In that area there is an official SDA presence in the form of a hospital. A wealthy Chinese businessman from Hong Kong donated funds for the establishment of this hospital with the stipulation that

his preferred entity run the hospital for a specified length of time before it could be turned over to the Chinese government for continued management. The eight hundred and sixty-eight bed hospital provides a wide range of services including prenatal care, obstetrics, and cardiac care. At the time of our visit they were adding three hundred beds. Even with this addition, there is expected to be a waiting list for admission to the hospital.



The president of the hospital, a Chinese trained colorectal surgeon, was very gracious in giving us a presentation on the quality services provided by the institution. He expressed gratitude for the support the hospital has received from Loma Linda University, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He looks forward to continued collaboration. The Chinese government and its health ministries have gained a positive impression of Seventh-day Adventists because of this hospital. I believe that there is great potential for capitalizing on this good will as we seek to establish further health ministry in other areas of China.

Besides the traditional hospital based health ministry, there is another vibrant opportunity in the form of lifestyle medicine. In the eastern regions of China, the church is actually operating a lifestyle center which can accommodate fifty-four residents. The training of the staff appears to be rather limited, but they do what they can, and their success has been so amazing that the local government has offered to allow them to expand their facility's capacity from fifty-four to a projected one thousand two hundred. Currently, the center has no visible means of raising funds for this ambitious project. Nevertheless, the governmental permission speaks to the enormous impact this lifestyle center has had on the

local community and the governmental authorities. This particular location has great potential for collaboration with AMEN since they need training as well as funding for their ongoing work. Such collaboration would be a beacon of light for lifestyle type intervention throughout China.

The final site I will mention is in the reclusive southeastern part of China. Here we found an organic farm operating with the intention of sharing lifestyle training for church members. The project is sensitive because local authorities are not as friendly as those mentioned previously. Nevertheless, this is where I met the only formally trained Chinese SDA physician we encountered in our travels. Dr. Lee's conversion to Christianity, and his subsequent acceptance of the Seventh-day Adventist message, is a story in itself. Dr. Lee's life reflects the miracle working power of God. He is very knowledgeable about the place of our health work in the end-time gospel commission. He is eager to learn even more.

Much more could be said about the current status of the health ministry in China. As I flew back from Hong Kong to Detroit, I could not help but think of the potential that we have in AMEN to make a

difference in the proclamation of the Three Angels Messages in this part of the Lord's vineyard. This large swath of territory is in its infancy, both in terms of the organized Seventh-day Adventist work, and with regard to the health ministry that must be the right arm of evangelism, especially in China.

Numerous opportunities beckon. The door is ajar toward health ministries which would give us opportunity to establish an institutional framework from which the gospel can spread quickly when China does open up to further liberties.

I hope, after reading this article, you will give serious thought to how you can be involved in this work. Please do not hesitate to contact me with specific questions or areas of interest.

Naren James, MD
admin@AMENSDA.org

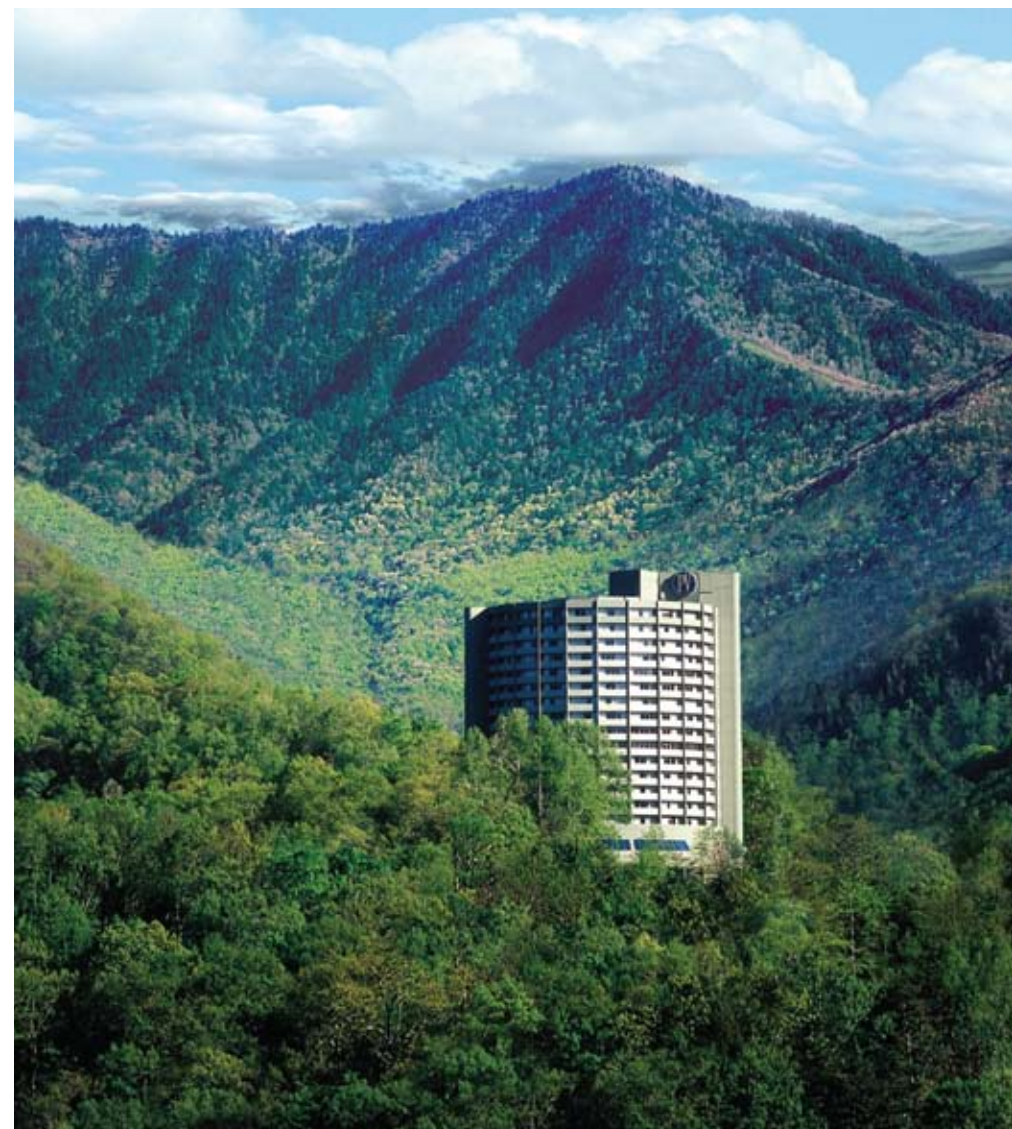
Note: Names of individuals and locations mentioned in this article are purposely vague. We wish to protect the fragile freedoms under which our indigenous medical missionaries operate in the delicately balanced religious environment which exists in China.

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