

CYBERFLASHES

Keeping MVC Alumni & Friends In Touch



Aug 25, 2017 | Editor: Lily Escara Lare | Nairobi, Kenya. East Africa

Soul Winning

Devotional: "Sufficiency" Ardys Joy Caballero-Gadia
Editor's Thoughts: "Prayer Matters" Lily Escara Lare

Featured Items about Soul Winning

- TMI Evangelism: A Life-Changing Experience Elnorie Claveria Caballero
- God Changes Hearts Tom Ongaro
- Church Revival in Doña Telesfora Romy Mahinay

SULADS Corner "Who Will Provide For My People?" Saceo M. Sabas, SCHLS Teacher
Patch of Weeds: Jesse Colegado
LIFE of a Missionary: "Total Membership Involvement" Romy Halasan

CLOSING: Announcements | From The Mail Bag | Prayer Requests | Acknowledgment
Meet The Editors | Closing Thoughts | Miscellaneous



Devotional: “Sufficiency”

By: Ardys Joy Caballero-Gadia

Be honest! Do you seriously remember the last ten sermons you had heard and can explain to others what they were about? How about the last five? Or the last two? It is so common to forget speeches and sermons, that commencement speakers frequently joke about the graduating class forgetting everything that was said during their speech. On the other hand, do you remember how others made you feel? Many remember how others made them feel – and they can explain and expound upon those at great lengths. Why is that? Because it is their story!

In soul winning, we are all commissioned to “go tell the world” but a great many of us do not feel confident enough to even say a word. Would you agree with that statement?

While we are NOT EXCUSED from the job, we can witness to others what God has done for us personally. We certainly can tell the story of our lives because we were there when things happened, right? Commercial marketing experts agree that personal testimonials are the best way to sell products. But what if you don’t know what God has done for you? What if you don’t have a personal relationship with God? That is a problem!

Having no story to share can be easily fixed. God promised that IN HIM we have EVERYTHING. IN HIM we are COMPLETE. By yielding our lives to Him, we can confidently tell others about what God has done in our lives. We can reach out and touch others with kindness. Then as we remove debris and clutter from our hearts, our capacity to experience Him will increase greatly.

I like the promise in Ephesians 3:20-21. It says, *“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen!”*

I don’t know about you, but when I am given the opportunity to have something far better, I grab it with both hands. Reach out to others in kindness and they’ll remember exactly how you made them feel. Reach out to God, the One who can do “immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” and ask Him to help get rid debris and clutter in your heart so that there is more room in it for a personal relationship with Him.

In God, we are sufficient.

Joy Caballero-Gadia

Editorial: "Prayer Matters"

By: Lily Escara Lare

I have always wanted to be an MWF (Minister's Wife in the Future) when I was a student at MVC. I thought I could be more effective in the Lord's work while helping a minister husband. It was only when I married a teacher that I realized that teaching is also a great mission field.

God always knows what is best for all of us and He places us at the right places where we are more needed.

When my sister Elnorie Caballero excitedly told me about the General Conference's evangelistic program, The TMI (Total Member Involvement), and that she was assigned to preach to children in the neighboring community, I was also excited for her. Later, both she and my brother-in-law Michael Caballero preached in Arushia, Tanzania, a country next to Kenya. My fellow teacher Tom Ongaro was also asked to preach in Uganda.

While the TMI evangelistic meetings were being held in Tanzania and Uganda, a group of us Maxwell Adventist Academy teachers came together and prayed for God to touch hearts as His chosen children preached.

God knows we cannot all preach but He knows fully well that all of us can pray. I believe that praying for those who preach is also one way of being involved.

So, whatever we are doing in the Lord's vineyard, let us continue to lift each other in prayer as we continue our own method of reaching the unreached.

With sincere prayers,

Lily Escara Lare

Editor's Note: A special thank you to all the MVC alumni and friends who joined us in prayer while the TMI effort was going on simultaneously in both the countries of Tanzania and Uganda.



TMI Evangelism: A Life-Changing Experience

By: Elnorie Claveria Caballero

TMI or Total Member Involvement is one of the General Conference's (GC) Initiatives for this quinquennium (2015-2020) and was personally promoted here in East-Central Africa Division (ECD) by GC President Ted Wilson.

ECD's response. ECD has greatly accepted the challenge of TMI. Pastor Ruguri, ECD President challenged everyone to participate. He said, "What if, when Jesus comes, He would say, 'those of you who are saved, kindly line up at the back of the person who led you to the kingdom of God.'" The question is, how many souls have we led to Christ's kingdom?

Self-Evaluation. From that time on, I thought about what Pastor Ruguri said and I asked myself if I had led any souls to the feet of Jesus. I could not remember ever actively witnessing or inviting someone for Bible studies. I could not remember ever personally inviting someone to attend evangelistic campaigns, although I have participated in many evangelistic campaigns myself. I could not remember ever inviting a non-Adventist to attend church services. I really did not do anything as far as I could remember.

I have taught Vacation Bible School. I have joined literature evangelism and have sold books for two years and became a Licensed Literature Evangelist. I was active in joining the Ministerial Outreach of MVC for many years when I was in college. I was a faculty sponsor for students going out for MS outings but I was not directly involved in personal soul-winning. I felt empty inside. After listening to Pastor Ruguri that morning, I began asking God to open the way for me to witness for Him and teach me how to reach one soul for Christ.

One question. Last December 2016, I was asked to help in the ECD grounds for improvement and landscaping. I gladly helped because I have a passion for beautiful flowers and plants in the campus. One Friday morning, I was working with the park workers and I was impressed to ask them, "Which church do you attend?" Two non-Adventist young men, Henry and Francis, gave me the names of the churches they attended. But Alex, a very tall non-Adventist guy told me something very impressive. He said, "I want to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church." I was surprised and did not expect him to answer that way. Deep down, I felt so happy that I asked that question. I invited them to church that Sabbath. Alex and Henry came to attend the Adventist University of Africa (AUA) church from that Sabbath onwards.

Friendship Evangelism. Pastor Ruguri's question sparked an inspiration to invite non-Adventist families to come to church with us. Every Sabbath, we would invite my granddaughter's playmate and her family, and my granddaughter's babysitter together with her family to attend church and to join us for lunch. Each Sabbath, our house is full of laughter and stories as we share Sabbath lunch with two families—with seven children, and two or three young men. We are happy to share our food with them every Sabbath.

The joy of seeing souls accept Jesus. When the call was made to everyone to participate in TMI, at the beginning I was a bit hesitant to volunteer. I am shy when it comes to speaking in front and I am not a very good speaker. But I prayed, "Lord, use me to bring souls to your kingdom."

Pastor Joel Okindo, the ECD TMI Coordinator, passed by my table after coming from Pastor Ruguri's office, and told me, "I will assign you as one of the speakers of TMI." I immediately said, "Pastor, if God wants me to be one of the speakers, then I am willing." That was in the middle of 2016, last year. I was excited to be chosen as one of the speakers, but at the same time, I had no idea how to present the doctrinal message. For a few days, I was troubled. Then with courage, I asked Pastor Okindo what made him decide to put me in the list of speakers. He replied, "I want you to experience the joy of seeing souls accept Jesus." I was inspired to pray more.

TMI in Kenya. My prayer partner and I started praying for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of those people whom He wants saved in His kingdom. We started to pray for the sites where we were assigned. I was glad when I learned of the schedule of the launching of the TMI in Kenya last March 3-17, 2017. I invited our new non-Adventist friends to attend the evangelistic meetings which they gladly accepted.

I was assigned in the church near the ECD compound. I preached to the children's group with 30 regular attendees during weekdays and 100 plus during weekends. I encouraged them to invite their friends, neighbors and classmates. One non-SDA boy invited a neighbor and, praise the Lord, both were baptized.

March 18, 2016 marked the most amazing experience of seeing souls accept Jesus. Alex, Henry, and the 5 non-SDA children of our family friends were baptized together with a thousand others. I felt so happy seeing the joy in their faces that day.

TMI in Arusha, Tanzania. Last July 30 to August 12, 2017, my husband Michael and I participated in another evangelistic campaign in Tanzania. We were assigned in Arusha International SDA Church, a newly organized congregation of 55 members. Michael was assigned to preach to the adults while I preached to the children. I was so happy when they gave their hearts to the Lord even in their young lives. The experience is so enriching and we were blessed as we ministered to others.

It was Michael's first experience in joining the TMI. He expressed that he was very blessed with the experience. He said that his knowledge increased and His relationship with Jesus grew while preparing materials and PowerPoints presentations every day for two weeks during the campaign.

TMI not only led more people to Christ. It was a very fulfilling and enriching experience for us! If more opportunities will come for us to preach for Christ, we will gladly do so.

Elnorie Claveria-Caballero

Photos from TMI Arusha, Tanzania. July 30-August 12,2017



Where Tanzania is in Africa



Elnorie telling the Children's Story



They will wear a crown ...



The author with some new friends



With the TMI-Arusha Team



Those who came to hear the spoken word at TMI-Arusha. Notice how the audience do not have much shelter from the sun and how they are sitting on the ground. Notice the number of people thirsty to hear the Good News!



The children came in their best clothes to hear the lady preacher

God Changes Hearts

By: Tom Ongaro

It is with great pleasure that I take this chance to testify on what the Lord did while I was in Bundibugyo, Uganda. Going to this place was not in my mind at all. The last time I vaguely heard about it was some ten years ago, as a quarantined place because of the deadly Ebola virus. It never occurred to me that the Lord would later send me there for mission. Prior queries on the place were not rosy but I was determined to go if it was the Lord's will. The history of Ebola in this place and the numerous attacks by the rebels made prayer a key prerequisite.

The beautiful Rwenzori Mountains, however, depict a different mood for any visitor to Bundibugyo. The scenery is breathtaking. This was only surpassed by the precious souls who gave their lives to Jesus. I want to share with you a story about one of them.

Edmond was awakened on Friday night by someone demanding that he get out of his house. His wife cautioned him not to heed the call. He seemed to recognize the voice that was calling him and the next morning he headed to the home of that person. The man who was calling him the previous night came out with a machete! That made Edmond run for his life. Confused as to the cause of all this, Edmond involve the man's relatives but they too were chased with a machete.

The local authorities advised Edmond to report the issue to the police station as it involved a weapon. The police did not offer much support; they delayed efforts to go to the scene. Now, Edmond thought of going to church on Sabbath and dealing with the issue later after Sabbath.



Rwenzori Mountains, Uganda, East Africa

It was my first day of preaching for TMI (Total Member Involvement). Not know what might be the next move of his pursuer, Edmond walked to church fearing for his life. My tent meetings were held by the roadside. The place was chosen partly due to its bad repute.

On entering the site for TMI, Edmond was filled with mixed feelings of fear and confusion. He saw someone who looked like his pursuer. The man was seated and listening to the new preacher. For a few seconds, they both looked at each other spellbound.



Children attending TMI Sabbath

Now, at the beginning of each of my presentations I encouraged each believer to pray for at least five people, preferably new ones. Three of those people had to be in attendance. Edmond had no choice than to pray for God to change his pursuer's heart. This would make society safer and offer him peace of mind. I am sure his prayer was fervent. At this point, as the preacher, I was not aware of anything. It took me two days to learn what was happening. Meanwhile Edmond's pursuer, Godfrey, continued to attend my meetings. I later came to know that he was the stranger who always sat at the front during the meetings. With his arms folded he listened keenly day by day and left immediately as soon as the meeting ended.

When the church elders informed me that he was attending the meetings I yearned to see him. It so happened that that same day he responded to the call. The response from the rest of the people gave me a strong hint as to who he was. About ten people had responded to the call before he came forward. When Godfrey stood up almost everyone stood in wonder and excitement. Some could not believe their eyes that he had just given his heart to Jesus. It was the day I had talked about baptism and the need to have a new beginning regardless of what your past has been. The Holy Spirit had convicted Godfrey. He later attended the morning prayers and even brought his best friend to be baptized too. He did TMI right after his baptism.

Godfrey was one of the precious souls who were baptized at Kasese during the mass baptism. His conversion drew the attention of the whole village. It is so interesting that on the Friday before the baptism, Edmond took him shopping and got him some new clothes. What a contrast from the previous week.

Indeed, there is power in the blood!

Editor's Note: Mr. Tom Ongaro is the head of the IT Department at Maxwell Adventist Academy, Nairobi, Kenya where I teach. Aside from working with computers, he is gifted with being able to preach and reach the unreached.

Church Revival in Doña Telesfora

By: Romy Mahinay

On October 15, 2002, a Korean who was also a 1000 Missionary arrived at Doña Telesfora Village to work in the place for one year. He stayed with the Vallente family, one of the active Seventh-day Adventist families in the area. The SDA Church members were having their Sabbath services in a small Church made of bamboo materials and palm leaves for its roof. The members were very enthusiastic and so active with the church activities. The spirit of Christianity in Doña Telesfora SDA Church was like a blazing fire that gives light to the area which was covered with spiritual darkness, an area that had been occupied by people who have been practicing Occultism. They occultists relied on a spirit, a supernatural power.

In less than a year, the Korean missionary build a beautiful new church made of concrete. The brethren were so happy to go to that church from Sabbath to Sabbath. Then one day, the Korean Missionary bade goodbye to Doña Telesfora. His one year term was over. He left a sad group of believers but he was glad that he had done something for them.

In spite of the absence of the missionary, the church members continued to be active in their church attendance: on Wednesday evenings, Friday evenings, and all of Saturday. However, the enemy was not happy to see that fire burning in one of the villages of Tubay, Agusan del Norte, which was the town known for witchcraft, the stronghold of Satan in the Southern Philippines. He made plans and exerted much effort to make certain that light was snuffed out. He targeted the leaders of the church.

The members became discouraged. From Sabbath to Sabbath, the church-goers gradually diminished in number until the time came when only the Vallente family remained in the Dona Telesfora Church.

Another 1000 Missionary came to revive Dona Telesfora SDA Church, this time a female Korean Missionary but only one young man came back. The young man, the Vallente family, and the new missionary continued to worship. There were some Sabbaths when they joined other churches in the district to break the monotony. The time came for the missionary to leave. Then the experience that the Vallente family was afraid of, happened again: they closed the church and began to attend Sabbath services in other Adventist churches.

This situation continued for years. The district pastor tried to send lay workers to revive the lost members of the church, but to no avail. The church that was shining brightly before when it was newly built, now looked dead. The paint faded and it started to look like it was a cursed place.

A call came to me one morning from a mission director, instructing me to assist in an evangelistic effort in Cabadbaran City with an American Pastor. We choose a village nearer to the city where we worked at for two months prior to the evangelistic meetings. We encouraged people to come.



The Romy Mahinay Family

At that point, I heard about this beautiful church in Doña Telesfora that had been closed for a long time. I requested for Doña Telesfora to be my Mission field for those two months of ground work evangelism. At that time, my wife and I were already working as Gospel Outreach Missionaries.

Our main tool in evangelic work has been our music. We serenade people every morning, offering prayers for those former members who were now discouraged. On the 2nd week of our work, God helped us lead some backsliders. There were also new Bible interests. After a month of evangelistic efforts, we began holding our regular Sabbath Worship in Doña Telesfora SDA Church.

During the mass baptism in Cabadbaran City, 18 were baptized. Some were new converts and some were backsliders. Some church members from other places have joined us in Doña Telesfora Church. Now the number of church attendees rose to 24. Up to this day, Doña Telesfora Church continues to have their regular Sabbath services.

We repainted the church. The district pastor lead us in communion service, asking God for forgiveness of past sins and for blessings as the new members move forward in faith and trust.

Praise the Lord for using me, an MVC alumnus, along with my wife, to make a difference in Doña Telesfora SDA Church.

Editor's Note: Romy Mahinay SHINES ON as a Gospel Outreach Missionary in Tubay, Agusan del Norte Philippines with his wife Lendy Lou, son Delton John, and daughter Jessell Dawn.



Socio-economic Uplift, Literacy, Anthropological, and Developmental Services

Reaching the Unreached.

“Who Will Provide For My People?”

By: Saceo M. Sabas, SULADS High School Computer Teacher

It is rare to have the Spirit-of-Giving because ever since our fore-parents committed sin, the nature of humanity has been changed to greed. It can be seen in young children. For example, if you try give them candy and try to ask them to give it back, for sure they will not give it back. And when you ask their parents if they taught their children that, they would say, “NO! We did not teach that to our children!” It may seem funny yet it is true. We were born greedy beings. However, as we grow older God will find many ways to bring back our selfless nature.

This year will be my 6th year as a SULADS Missionary worker. Through the years, I have seen the Spirit-of-Selfless-Service passed on to my fellow *lumads*. But sometimes, I see that this is not enough. There are many basic needs that we are unable to provide our students. Some students are tempted to transfer to the public schools because there their academic needs are more easily provided but I personally want my students to remain at the SCHSL where they could learn about God. As a *lumad* myself, it is a big challenge for me to help my students see that they have a right to be provided for by the same educational system that I learned from – our mission schools.

Alas, we do not have the facilities and equipment to provide them training with the necessary skills for today’s age. If only we have desktop computers, functional ones, we could provide them hands-on computer training to meet the needs of this era. But for now, I lay these concerns on God who will provide for my people. Would Adventists provide or would non-SDAs provide? I trust that God will provide.

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If you would like to support this mission program dedicated to taking the Gospel to the people of Mindanao, please write a check to Gospel Outreach. Mark it for the SULADS and send it to: Gospel Outreach P.O. Box 8 College Place, WA 99324 You may also donate to the SULADS using your credit card by logging on to Gospel Outreach’s donation site (<http://www.goaim.org/>) and follow the directions. Again, mark it for SULADS. If you would prefer, you may write your check to the General Conference of SDA and mark the donation for SULADS and send it to: General Conference of SDA Donations 12501 Old Columbia Pike Silver Spring, MD 20904 Thank you for your support of this very important project. If you do not want to receive any more newsletters, Unsubscribe To update your preferences and to unsubscribe visit this link Forward a Message to Someone this

Jessie's Patch of Weeds

a hodgepodge of thoughts & chuckles to bring you cheer

Shared by Jessie Colegado, BSC Accounting '80

She Was Set Free

Lynn's mother led her into prostitution when she was only 15 years old. She hated her job and used heroine to hide her pain. Major Joy Emmons tells in the Sept. 15, 2012 issue of The War Cry that she invited Lynn to go to a Salvation Army retreat with her, and Lynn agreed to go.

While together they talked about her past and the things of the Spirit. Lynn expressed concern about withdrawal from heroine. Normally the process would mean enduring awful physical symptoms.

The speaker spoke on the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4). Jesus gave living water to this woman who was an outcast from society. He changed her life by giving her a personal relationship with God.

Lynn clung to every word and 15 years of drugs and prostitution began to melt away. She later told Major Joy, "I was in the bathroom Sunday morning brushing my teeth and felt the wind brush by me, but the windows were closed. Then there was a sound of heavy steel chains falling to the ground. I asked the girls if they heard something, but no one heard the clanging sound."

Major Joy told her, "That was the wind of the Holy Spirit and the noise was your chains of prostitution and drugs falling off."

That day Lynn was freed dramatically from the prison of prostitution and heroin. She became a new creature in Christ, "taking off the old self and putting on the new self" (Col. 3:10).

Ten years later, she is an active church member, doing outreach evangelism in the park. Recently the mayor of her town recognized Lynn for her work with youth. The chains had indeed fallen off!

Thank You, Jesus, that no one is too chained by sin for You to rescue. "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

(2 Cor. 5:17 NLT).

(as seen in Come to the Fire)

Top 10 Christian Pick-Up Lines

11. "Hi there. Let me introduce myself...I'm Will...God's Will."
10. "I just don't feel called to celibacy."
9. "Did I tell you that my great-uncle was a personal friend of Billy Graham?"
8. "I don't see it myself, but people tell me I look like Michael W. Smith."
7. "What do you think Paul meant when he said, 'Greet everyone with a holy kiss'?"
6. "You have the body of Amy Grant and the soul of Mother Teresa." (DO NOT get this confused!)
5. "You know, I'm really into relationship evangelism."
4. "I'm pretty flexible--I don't think a woman should be submissive on the first date."
3. "Before tonight, I never believed in predestination..."
2. "Just looking at you makes me feel all ecumenical."
1. "I hear there's going to be a love offering tonight."

(from Mikey's Funnies)

You Might Be A Preacher If ...

1. You've been asked, "What's so hard about preaching?"
2. Others say they wish they only had to work one day a week for a week's pay! (Oh, if they only knew!!!)
3. You have ever said, "I'm NEVER going to be a preacher!"
4. You wear your new shoes to church and someone comments, "We are paying you too much money!"
5. Women call up and say they want you to marry them.
6. You keep relating movies you've seen or books you've read to sermon topics.
7. You name your bed "The Word." (You tell everyone that you "stay in the Word")
8. You jiggle all the commode handles at the church before you leave.
9. Instead of being "ticked off," you get "grieved in your spirit."
10. You've ever dreamed you were preaching only to awaken and discover you were.

(from Laugh & Lift)

Still Being A Witness

J.T. Elliff retired from the active ministry in 1965, but he continued to preach whenever he was able. When he was about to turn 93, J.T. walked the sidewalks of his neighborhood as far as he was able, inviting people to a barbeque. After the meal, he stood to make an announcement:

"Folks, I have an announcement: I'll be turning 93 in a few days (which was met with applause and cheering). And...I'm going to die (which quickly brought the celebration to an awkward pause). I don't know when I'm going to die, but you're going to die too. (At this point, he shared his testimony). Now, here's the offer: At 93, I don't do a lot of traveling. But if you want to know how you can go to Heaven when you die, will you just stop by to see me?"

And, sure enough, members of different households came by to talk. J.T. Elliff, now 97, is still eager to speak to others about Christ.

--Adapted from "Reflections of Faith" from GuideStone Magazine, Issue 13, 2014, pp. 12-13.

(from The Timothy Report, www.timothyreport.com)

Soul Winning Efforts

A very zealous soul-winning young preacher recently came upon a farmer working in his field. Being concerned about the farmer's soul, the preacher asked the man, "Are you laboring in the vineyard of the Lord, my good man?"

Not even looking at the preacher and continuing his work, the farmer replied, "Naw, these are soybeans."

"You don't understand," said the preacher. "Are you a Christian?"

With the same amount of interest as his previous answer, the farmer said, "Nope my name is Jones. You must be lookin' for Jim Christian. He lives a mile south of here."

The young, determined preacher tried again, asking the farmer, "Are you lost?"

"Naw! I've lived here all my life," answered the farmer.

"Are you prepared for the resurrection?" the frustrated preacher asked.

This caught the farmer's attention and he asked, "When's it gonna be?"

Thinking he had accomplished something, the young preacher replied, "It could be today, tomorrow or the next day."

Taking a handkerchief from his back pocket and wiping his brow, the farmer remarked, "Well, don't mention it to my wife. She don't get out much, and she'll wanna go all three days."

Within My Reach

I've frequently visited the beaches on the East coast with my family. Oh, we love them! One visit, it wasn't just another day with the family at the beach. No. No, see, the lifeguards at Ocean City, N.J. suddenly made everyone get out of the water - fast! And you know what I'm thinking? I'm thinking "Jaws"! So, I was really cooperative. I got out real fast! Well, instead, it was all about these two children, and they had to plunge in and rescue them because they were in trouble out by a jetty there.

And then there are those times when you just can't wait for the big guys to get there. That's what happened with 12-year-old Nicole Kissel who was boogie boarding about five months ago on Washington's Long Beach. And suddenly she heard somebody screaming near her, "Help! Help!" It turned out it was another 12-year-old. It was 7th grader Dale Ostrander. He was there that day with his youth group, and suddenly he was in deadly trouble in the surf.

I'm Ron Hutchcraft and I want to have A Word with You today about "Within My Reach."

Nicole actually was able to maneuver over to the drowning boy; she pulled him onto her board and started paddling toward shore. Then this huge wave came along, threw them both off the board and carried the board away. Nicole managed to resurface, but there was no trace of Dale. It took the surf rescue team about ten minutes to get to the scene and a few more minutes to find Dale and bring him to shore. Honestly, the rescuers didn't think he'd make it. I remember seeing them bringing him ashore just as limp as a dish rag. But miraculously, he was revived and began recovering.

Now, I'm grateful for courageous guys like those trained rescuers at Ocean City or the guys who were there at Long Beach that day. But it's young Nicole who's my hero in this story. The professionals were doing what it's their job to do. Nicole didn't have to risk her life to save someone else's, but she did. And they believe now that she kept him out of the water just long enough to have made the life-or-death difference.

She took the risk for one simple reason. That person who was in danger was within her reach. Now, if she had said, "Oh, I'm not a rescuer...I'll just wait for the guys who do this for a living," Dale would almost surely have been lost. Which is causing me to ask myself, "Who is there within my reach who may die if I don't do something?" That's "die" as in the words of the Bible, a person who "will be taken away because of his sin"...who "will die for his sin."

Our word for today from the Word of God, Ezekiel 33:8 tells us "I will hold you accountable for his blood." Sobering words! Why will I be held accountable? Because I knew that as the Bible says, "whoever believes in Jesus shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

When you let Jesus help you see the people in your personal world through His eyes, you'll see them as more than just coworkers or neighbors or fellow students or customers. You'll see that person as an eternity person, a future inhabitant of eternity in heaven or in hell; someone whose eternity can be changed, if only I'll reach out and tell them what I know about Jesus.

Each of us who knows Christ has someone within our reach who doesn't. And we can't just wait for that "professional rescuer" or "someone who has the gift of evangelism" to attempt the rescue. The rescue responsibility rests with the believer who is there. There's nothing random about where we work or where we live or recreate or go to school. You've been divinely positioned to be God's designated "lifeguard" for your stretch of beach.

And why don't we reach out? Why don't we try to rescue? Fear: fear of being rejected, fear of losing, fear of messing it up. Fears that have one thing in common: they're all about me. Young Nicole was scared that day. She said, "I actually said out loud, 'I'm going to die.'" But her fear didn't decide what she did. Her bottom line in her own words, "No matter who it is, if they need help, I will risk my life. I will do it."

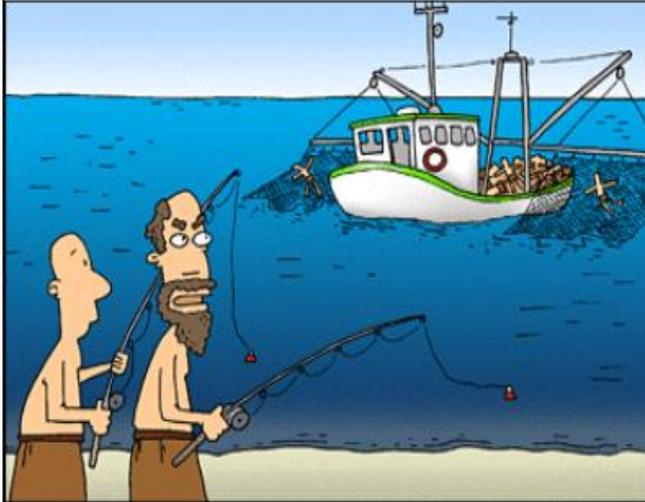
Well, that is just like Jesus.

(as seen in The Christian Challenge and Blessing Email Service)

Fishing vs. Evangelism

By Andy Gadia

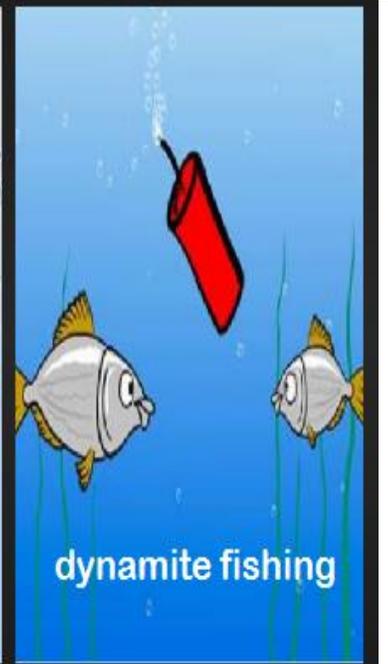
Evangelism is often likened to fishing for men (souls). Are you a cold-water fisherman, a freshwater, deep sea, fly-fishing enthusiast? There are many styles. What kind of *fisher-of-men* are you?



(See Matthew 4:19)

06-26-2009

ALL THESE NEW COMMERCIAL FISHERIES-OF-MEN ARE TOTALLY KILLING MY PERSONAL EVANGELISM EFFORTS



The Great Commission or Omission

By Rick Ezell

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV).

I have collected evangelism and mission quotes for years. Here are my top ten. My prayer is that they will encourage you to be faithful in your witness for Christ as they do me.

1. "The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed" -- Hudson Taylor
2. "No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once." -- Oswald J. Smith
3. "Any church that is not seriously involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission has forfeited its biblical right to exist." -- Oswald J. Smith
4. "We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first." -- Oswald J. Smith
5. "No reserves. No retreats. No regrets." -- William Borden

6. "The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time." -- Carl F. H. Henry
7. "The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity." -- Mike Stachura
8. "The Church must send or the church will end." -- Mendell Taylor
9. "Sympathy is no substitute for action." -- David Livingstone, missionary to Africa
10. "The evangelistic harvest is always urgent. The destiny of men and of nations is always being decided. Every generation is strategic. We are not responsible for the past generation, and we cannot bear full responsibility for the next one; but we do have our generation. God will hold us responsible as to how well we fulfill our responsibilities to this age and take advantage of our opportunities." -- Billy Graham

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(as seen in Cup O'Cheer)

Start Where You Are

***"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth." —Acts 1:8***

Some people want to go to other countries and be missionaries for Christ. And that is good. But how about starting with crossing the street and talking to your neighbor?

Some people say, "I want to be in the ministry." Guess what "the ministry" is? It is service to the Lord.

Jesus said, "You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). This is how it worked for the disciples, and that is how it works for us. It is a strategy for evangelism. They were to start in Jerusalem, where they were. Next came nearby Judea and Samaria, and then the rest of the world.

Here is what God is saying, in effect: If you want to reach the world, then start with your world. When you think of going into all of the world and preaching the gospel, that is a daunting task, isn't it? But how about this? Go into all of your world and preach the gospel.

I know of an interesting group of people. They are small in stature. They have a lot of energy. They have a short attention span. But they are very open to the Word of God. They are called

kids. They can be found in Sunday school rooms and are in need of people to help teach them.

You might be thinking, I am looking for the big call of God. But what about doing something simple? How about just sharing Jesus when you are out and about? How about starting with people that you live near? How about starting with members of your family? How about your coworkers? How about students on your campus?

That is where it starts. So just start where you are.

(as seen in Daily Devotion with Greg Laurie)



Fishers-of-men

LIFE OF A MISSIONARY



written by Romulo "Romy" M. Halasan, BSBA'86

Total Member Involvement (TMI)

During the last GC Session in San Antonio, Texas USA, the General Conference encouraged all our church members to be involved in Soul Winning or Total Member Involvement (TMI). The topic for this week is very timely as we are encourage all MVCians to be involved in Evangelism some way or another.

Per "Christianity Today," dated February 22, 2015, the SDA church is now the 5th largest Christian denomination worldwide after Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Anglicanism and the Assemblies of God. The growth of the Adventist church is phenomenal from just 3,500 members when the General Conference was organized in 1863 into a global church of more than 20 million church members as of today. The growth is just amazing.

Some important events of the SDA Church.

- GC was organized in 1863 with 3,500 members, 22 ordained ministers, and 8 license ministers. It took
- 1 million SDA Members – reached after 92 years of soul-winning activities. Then
- 2 million SDA Members – reached after 15 years of soul-winning activities. Then
- 3 million SDA Members – reached after 8 years of soul-winning activities. Then
- 4 million SDA members – reached after 5 years of soul-winning activities. Then
- The latest 1 million – reached in 3 years of soul-winning activities.

Currently we are baptizing more than 1 million converts every year, 3,196 per day, 133 newly baptized members every hour and 2 members per minute.

We are also building 7 new churches every day and 1 new SDA church is added every 4 hours. While the other protestant denomination is declining in their membership, the SDA church is increasing. However, there is still a great challenge for us.

When I was assigned in Davao Mission as Publishing and Spirit of Prophecy Director, I made it a point to have soul-winning evangelistic effort every year. I remember my budget then is only 20,000 pesos.

Our evangelistic efforts in Indonesia:

When I was assigned in Muslim-majority Indonesia, I continued to have the burden to share the knowledge of God with our Muslim friends. In one of our meetings with the SSD Division Treasurer, I asked him for a budget which he willingly gave. Since then, we have had evangelistic meetings held every year at any place in Indonesia where I decide.

In the last 3 years, we conducted 5 evangelistic efforts in these areas of Indonesia.

1. Samarinda, Kalimantan
2. Solokarta (Solo), Central Java
3. Kupang, Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia
4. Pematang Siantar, North Sumatra
5. Bandar Lampung, South Sumatra

Although I am not a pastor and my work is not directly involved in soul winning, I am passionate about doing evangelism each year because it is a joy to see many non-Adventists hearing about the Good News for the first time and choosing to join the church. It is heartwarming to see Muslims converted to Adventism.

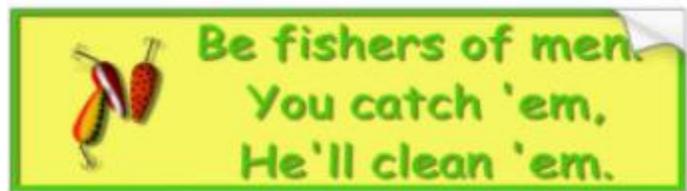
In one of our evangelistic efforts in Central Java, a mother of eight was baptized. Her only question before the baptism was how to give tithe for a piece of land she sold 2 years ago, as the money had already been long spent.

When becoming friends with Muslims, it becomes easier to share the Good News with them. They become more inclined to get attracted to Adventism. The *Small Group* approach is also very powerful at bringing more souls to the Kingdom of God.

Lastly, the Total Member Involvement (TMI) does not require you to be involve in direct evangelism but you can spare some time to share even a small thing with your neighbors, your co-worker and your friend. Anything of small value is accepted.

Romy Kalasan,

North Sulawesi Indonesia



Photos from Romy





In Closing....

Announcements | From The Mail Bag | Prayer Requests | Acknowledgements
Meet The Editors | Closing Thoughts | Miscellaneous

Meet The Editors

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by **Raylene Rodrigo Baumgardt**. Please direct all entries to her or to any of the editors.

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Junior Devotional 2019 Philippines

The PPH is coordinating with MVC to make a Junior Devotional for 2019. MVC needs 365 devotionals. The deadline to submit was supposed to be on August 30, 2017. Problem: they received less than 80. If you can write/submit devotionals – please send them to sdajuniordevotional2019.ph@gmail.com

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Prayer Requests

FOR THE CONTINUED HEALING OF: Marie Bingcang, Ching Rivera, Pheobe Cagulada, Pat Caballero, Leonora Gagatam, Jerusalem Era, Ruth Fabella & Ellen Fabella (wife and daughter of Dr. Armand T. Fabella), Felix Sareno, Elmer Aguro, Rayelch Modillas, Rebecca Antemano, Roxie Pido, Virgie Osita, Pastor Oseas Zamora, Pastor Remelito Tabingo and members of the MVC Alumni & Friends who are sick.

COMFORT FOR THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF:

Naty Caballero-Sanz, Anabel Quilog, JB Mendez, Ronnie Enero, Theodoro Inocellas, Pastor Antonio Dandoy, Vizminda Brion Murcia, Asher Ortaleza, Federico Blaza, Jovita P. Solis, Wayne Chavit, Nanette Chio, Rolly Boniales and other families who recently lost their loved ones.

Closing Thoughts

Sometimes, we wish we were somebody else just so we could do God's work effectively. The story below describes it so well. It was written by Stanley Combridge.

"One beautiful summer day, a king went out into his beautiful garden. But to his dismay, he found that all his plants were languishing. He asked an old oak at the gate what was the problem, and the tree complained that it was weary of life and determined to die because it was not as tall and stately as the pine.

Turning to the pine, he found that it was unhappy because it couldn't bear grapes like the vine. The vine trailed on the ground, dying, because it thought that depending on others for support was undignified. Sadly, the king walked away and was about to leave when he noticed a bright, uplifted face full of cheerfulness.

'Well, daffodil, I'm glad to find one brave little flower amid all this discouragement.' he said ' You don't seem one bit disheartened.'

'No, Your Majesty, I know I am of small account,' the daffodil replied, 'but I concluded you wanted a daffodil when you planted me, so I determined to be the very best daffodil that I possibly can be.' "

May we all be like the little daffodil and be the best God made us to be.

Happy Sabbath!