



Embers

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. Romans 13:11

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What God and the World Needs

As I sit at my desk I am thinking of the evangelism that will start in less than three weeks. We will by God's grace be able to reach the people of Silver Spring. I appreciate the help that a number of you volunteered to give. It is your help that will make the meetings successful. I think of the young people that we have and their desire to help and be a part of this effort for Jesus.

As I think of this I am reminded of experiences in scripture where the Lord used young people for the work that He wanted to accomplish. There was Joseph who at the age of 17, on his way to Egypt, determined to be faithful to God. As a result he ended up saving a whole nation and his own family from starvation. I think of Samuel who was probably around eight when the Lord first spoke to him in the sanctuary one night. And there was David, not yet eighteen, whom God had Samuel anoint as the next king of Israel. And who can forget Daniel and his three friends? Daniel was nineteen when he was taken to Babylon and there he faithfully served God for well over 70 years.

Coming closer to home I think of the beginning of our denomination. God called James White who began preaching the Millerite message when he was 21. Ellen White, then Ellen Harmon, received her first vision from God when she was seventeen. If you look at the founders of the Adventist Church you discover that they were in their twenties, except for Joseph Bates.

It is interesting how God has used young people down through the ages to accomplish great tasks for Him. Ellen White envisioned them working with adults in finishing the work of God in this world and at this time. Notice what she said in a *Review and Herald* article on May 16, 1912, three years before she died.

"Young men and young women, gather a stock of knowledge. ... Keep reaching higher and still higher. It is the ability to put to the tax the powers of mind and body, ever keeping eternal realities in view, that is of value now. Seek the Lord most earnestly, that you may become more and more refined, more spiritually cultured. Then you will have the very best diploma that any one can have--the endorsement of God. However large, however small, your talents, remember that what you have is yours only in trust. Thus God is testing you, giving you opportunity to prove yourself true. ... To Him belong your powers

of body, mind, and soul, and for Him these powers are to be used. Your time, your influence, your capabilities, your skill--all must be accounted for to Him who gives all... With such an army of workers as our youth rightly trained might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come..."

God has a work for each of us, and if we will seek Him and allow Him through the Holy Spirit to mold and train us, how soon the work of God would be finished. What God is looking for is a group of people, youth and adults, that cannot be bought or sold; a people who are true and honest, who will be faithful to the duty that God calls them; a people who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.

May each one of us roll out of bed on our knees each day and start the day with God. May we each desire above all else a character like Jesus, asking for it, pleading for it. And let us each, like Enoch, train our minds to dwell on spiritual things, heavenly things. In the process we, like him, will become more like Jesus and He will come for us. For the one thing that Jesus desires in each of us is a manifestation of Himself.

by Pastor Wally Frost

GYC 2005: Now is the Time

General Youth Conference

Lord send a revival, and let it begin with me! Now is the Time!

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

Matthew 24:14

In 1999, the idea of a Bible-based revival movement was conceived at the University of Michigan. A diverse group of Adventist students began a grassroots youth-led movement that would mobilize and train an army of youth to boldly proclaim the three angels' messages to the whole world. Their vision gave birth to the General Youth Conference (GYC), a youth-led organization, to equip and inspire Seventh-day Adventist youth and young adults to become ambassadors for Christ in their respective places of work and study through biblical preaching, practical seminars, deep bible study and earnest prayer, Christian fellowship, and on-site evangelistic outreach. Since its inception, annual GYC conferences have attracted and equipped over 1,000 youth and young adults who are passionate about hastening Christ's return. GYC is a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Visit their Web site at <http://www.generalyouthconference.org>.

I had the opportunity to attend GYC 2005 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. I saw Seventh-day Adventist youth and young adults who were “on fire” for God. A unique spiritual intensity was present that could not be missed. They came prepared with their SWORD (Bible), a notebook, and a pen to gain a deeper understanding of the Word of God and the distinctive message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I saw smiling faces and felt their excitement as they discussed what they heard while rushing off to the next session. I saw small prayer groups in the hallways. At various altar calls I saw young people who saw the urgency of telling the world about the wonderful gospel message and the soon coming of our Savior. As we were leaving the conference, I had the opportunity to talk to some of the participants. Whether this was their first time or the fourth, they were all motivated for evangelism and were filled with the desire to talk about

Jesus and His soon coming return.

Even more remarkable was that I saw Seventh-day Adventist youth and young adults who were willing to demonstrate Nehemiah's leadership, Daniel's integrity, Paul's passion for evangelism, and Christ's love for God and humanity.

by Shyla John

HERE ARE SOME INTERESTING FACTS...

GYC 2002—*Pentecost: He Will Do It Again*

- 250 expected attendance, 425 actually attended
- Young people were called to surrender all to Christ and to return to primitive godliness.

GYC 2003—*Higher than the Highest*

- Over 800 youth / young adults attended
- Young people were called to aspire to God's ideal of spiritual and professional excellence in all aspects of their lives

GYC 2004—*Carry the Light*

- 1200 registered and 1,600 attended the Sabbath services
- GYC youth knocked on the doors of more than 5,000 homes, prayed with nearly 300 people, and enrolled 800 in Bible studies
- Youth were called to carry the gospel to the un-reached people groups in the world, giving six to eight years of their lives as a career missionary—over 200 youth responded

GYC 2005—*Now is the Time*

- Over 2,600 registered, 5,000 attended the Sabbath services, GYC youth knocked on the doors of more than 9,000 homes, over 850 requested Bible studies
- Youth were called upon to be God's witnesses just as God called upon Daniel in Babylon and Esther in the Persian Courts—50 attendees decided to be baptized or re-baptized

You Have to See to Believe!

When I was first invited by a friend at church to go to the General Youth Conference in December 2005, I automatically declined it. What would a 37 year old have to do in a youth conference? My friend, however, insisted that my age shouldn't be a factor to prevent me from going and that I would surely receive a blessing. I said I would consider it, but still didn't feel too inclined to go. A few days later a group of friends from church also insisted that this would be a blessing

that I wouldn't want to miss. I finally decided to give it a try. After all, what would I have to lose? If nothing else, at least I would enjoy their company and would spend the New Year among Christian friends.

The day I finally decided to go was the day before full registrations would close. When I got back home from church that evening, I went online to register only to find out that all accommodations were filled to capacity; therefore, full registrations were already closed. That meant that I could still register to attend the meetings, but I would have to find my own lodging and provide for my own meals. I then decided that would be too much of a hassle and decided not to go. Another friend from church suggested that we should still go, as he was also planning to go and had not yet registered either. So off to Tennessee we went.

What I saw in this youth conference was something that I haven't seen anywhere else for a long time. In spite of the inexperience of the young people organizing this conference and the fact that attendance was way over what they had expected, this event turned out to be a great blessing to all those who attended. All over the conference building there was a spirit of unity. The messages were very appropriate for the times we're living and no time was wasted with criticism. The focus of the messages was that we all must be ready for the soon return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and that we have a job to do to spread the Three Angels message to the world. What a blessing it was to see so many young people together committing their lives to follow Jesus and denying the allurement of the world!

I praise the Lord for the good friends who insisted that I should go to this conference. Today I can understand why my friends were so sure that I would be blessed by going to the General Youth Conference. This was definitely a blessing I wouldn't want to have missed! Would you like to come to the next General Youth Conference? I can assure you that you'll receive a blessing as well. Sometimes you just have to see things for yourself!

by Marcio DaCosta



Whole Wheat GYC

Of all the important items to be concerned about on a conference, one very important component to consider is..... FOOD! ☺ Wouldn't you agree? Well, I'd have to say as an avid fan of food and a health-conscious one at that—the food at GYC was great! Considering that they had to cater to nearly 3,000 people during the week, and about 4,000 on Sabbath--- it was a huge undertaking and quite well done. Now if you can imagine, catered food for any occasion is quite expensive, and now when you're looking for high quality, nutritious food it gets even harder to keep costs low. But I applaud GYC leadership for their efforts to provide wholesome, nutritious food at GYC. No, it wasn't the best and some days were better than others, but the effort to keep things healthy is something to be recognized. Every morning you would see a box of soymilk at each table.

Poured over a box of All-Bran cereal it had 15 grams of fiber in one serving! That's a lot of fiber! Fresh fruit and vegetable salads were common side dishes to accompany meals. On one occasion, vegan veggie burgers were served. I really appreciated GYC's efforts to accommodate vegan diets. There was definitely ample food for vegans to enjoy.

Throughout the whole conference, Ezekiel multi-grain bread was served at meals! We're not talking low-quality stuff! If you've ever had Ezekiel bread, you know that it's the real stuff. Taken from Ezekiel 4:9, the company tries to emulate the bread made in Bible times. "Take thou also unto thee wheat, and barley, and beans, and lentiles, and millet, and fitches, and put them in one vessel,

and make thee bread thereof, according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon thy side, three hundred and ninety days shalt thou eat thereof." As one GYC speaker said, GYC is not white bread, it's WHOLE WHEAT BREAD! The physical food was definitely an indication of the caliber of spiritual food that we received as well. GYC speakers and seminars were of the highest quality for understanding truth for the present times. "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." John 6:35. Energized from physical nourishment, we were able to enjoy the true nourishment that comes from Jesus. May Jesus be our daily bread—may we ever eat of his food for our sustenance. Thank you, GYC, for allowing us to be WELL fed both physically and spiritually.

by Kaya Chong

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Revelation 2:10

Faithful Unto Death

My attention was caught by the title of this 6-part seminar presented by Dr. Samuel Koranteng-Pipim: *Faithful Unto Death: Living Holy Lives in the Last Days*. In the blurb for this seminar, the program says, "Discover how to make tough decisions and what it takes to serve the Lord, no matter what." Isn't this what we all want? To serve the Lord - no matter what. At the beginning of his 5th lecture, he had everyone repeat the quote from *Education* p. 57. The world needs men and women who will be honest and upright, whose conscience is directed by God, and who will stand for the right though the heaven's fall. Many people add a 'however' condition to God's commands. But should they? Dr. Pipim addressed several *what if's* in his lecture. *What if we have no choice? What if harm*

will result? What about lying for a good cause? What if we have good motives? What if life is at stake? Is lying really bad all the time? Well ... YES! He gave quote after quote from the Spirit of Prophecy to address each of these questions. And then he continued with another favorite question: What about the example of Bible characters? After all, David is our example, right? WRONG. Who is our example? Christ, of course. (see Sanctified Life p. 80, In Heavenly Places p. 54) But what if there is no way out? No worries - there ALWAYS is! God promises: "For your sakes," "to the intent ye may believe." To all who are reaching out to feel the guiding hand of God, the moment of greatest discouragement is the time when divine help is nearest. They will look back with thankfulness upon the darkest part of their way. "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly," 2 Peter 2:9. From every temptation and every trial He will bring them forth with firmer faith and a richer experience. Desire of Ages, p. 528. God is with you! He gives you strength to resist all the temptations that come your way. He gives you peace in the midst of the storm. Trust Jesus! Remain faithful unto death, and you will receive a crown of life. Maranatha!

by Sarah Endres

p.s. Dr. Pipim has outlined his seminar in a book entitled "True to Principle: Biblical Holiness and the Call to Discipleship"

Sunday Laws

James D. Standish presented a series of lectures at the General Youth Conference on Religious Liberty issues. One presentation dealt with various Seventh-day Adventist reactions to the question of Sunday Laws. Three responses were outlined:

- A secret Sunday Law could be issued at any time – a largely speculative viewpoint fueled by various rumors.
- Sunday Laws are historical relics that are no longer viable given the current circumstances – since the Lord did not come as soon as believed; perhaps Sunday Laws are also conditional.

- The prophetic scenario presented in the Great Controversy is just as valid today as in the nineteenth century. Once necessary prerequisites are met, the National Sunday Law will come just as we have believed.

James went on to expand on these three views, especially the last two. He concluded that the third view is most reasonable, considering, among other things, the recent upholding of the constitutionality of Sunday Laws, the fact that attitudes toward Catholics have changed significantly in the last one hundred years, and the current and future impact of natural disasters. He concluded with some thoughts on the perspective of a prophet. Daniel was able to see into the future, when to human sight such a perspective had no supporting evidence at the time. I found the talk interesting and a source of serious reflection. This presentation was based on the following article:

Standish, James. "Sunday Laws in an Age of Freedom." *Adventists Affirm*, Vol. 19, No. 3 (Fall 2005). 9 Jan. 2006
<http://adventistsaffirm.org/article.php?id=165>.

by Joshua Marcoe

Lord, I Believe; Help Thou Mine Unbelief

The life story of David Gates is replete with fantastic miracles of epic proportions. But he admits that this could not be true if he had not been willing to risk all to gain all. To many of us, this sounds irresponsible, perhaps even childish, but it seems that David Gates is on a mission to change the way we think about risk. Having worn many hats over the years, including nurse, missionary pilot, and teacher, Pastor Gates has had many opportunities to practice what he preaches. In his current position as President of Gospel Ministries International, he has made multi-million dollar purchases of television and satellite stations, but with no money in the bank. Why does he do it? He will confess that it is because the Lord told him to. You see, Pastor Gates



lives on faith – faith that has been tested and tried and grown over his lifetime. Faith that is the result of his personal experiences while living under God's loving watchcare.

When I first heard David Gates speak a few months ago, he inspired me. When I heard him again at GYC, he challenged me. And as I have shared his story with many others since then, I have been encouraged to start practicing my own faith. It is a growing process. Today my test of faith may be small, but as each one is passed, and each successive one gets harder, wouldn't it be worth it to hear Christ say "O woman, great is thy faith"?

Revelation 14:12 tells us the 144,000 not only keep God's commandments, but they also have the faith of Jesus. Imagine being able to experience the same faith that Christ had as He hung on the cross – the faith that, despite the pain and agony of the moment, told Him that His Father had everything under control. I want that faith! I want to not only know but experience what God can do when we surrender everything to Him. Yes, it is a risk. It is a risk that I may have to go to places I don't want to go, or say or do what frightens me. But there's a 100% guarantee of success as long as I submit to and obey God. Heaven was willing to risk everything to save my soul, and I can't do any less.

O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD. Psalm 31:23, 24.

Just for the record – the money for each purchase that Pastor Gates has made un-

der the Lord's direction has always been miraculously provided, often less than 24 hours before payment was due. When done under His guidance, the Lord has answered every prayer and act of faith all through history, and He wants to do that for us too. We just need to be willing and then to ask.

by Angeline David

A Blessing You Don't Wanna Miss!

For some reason, door-to-door evangelism has always scared me to death. I always had an uncomfortable feeling just to think about knocking on strangers' doors to offer anything. So when they asked for volunteers at the GYC to distribute Bible studies in the neighborhoods of Chattanooga, Tennessee, my first reaction was to ignore it, as the thought of doing that was out of the question. But when I least expected it, I found myself among the 1,850 volunteers! The enthusiasm and love that the missionaries attending the GYC shared with the audience was so contagious that it made it impossible to decline such an invitation.

After a brief training by Mrs. Mark Finley on how to offer the Bible studies, a total of 1,850 volunteers left in 26 school buses to different parts of the city. For security reasons, an older and a younger person went together; a male and a female for the most part.

My first door-to-door experience was a real blessing. Not everybody was friendly or even wanted to talk to me and my partner, but the ones who did motivated us to move on to the next door. At one of the doors we knocked, a young lady not only gladly accepted the invitation for Bible study, but also asked us if we could give her a Bible. Maybe this is the first time this lady will ever read God's Word! When we went to the next door, the rap music was so loud that I had to knock on the door extra hard. For a moment I thought we were wasting our time knocking on that door, but soon a young man answered the door and he also accepted the Bible study. I was im-

pressed to ask him if there was anything he would like us to pray about. He told us that his girlfriend was ill and would appreciate it if we prayed for her. We then prayed with him and left this young man with a big smile on his face. A total of 9,117 houses were visited that afternoon and 852 people signed up for Bible studies. Among the over 9,000 households that were visited, ~26 of them were former Seventh-day Adventists.

What used to be a dreadful thought became a joyful reality. My first door-to-door evangelism was very rewarding and a wonderful experience. No wonder the Lord asks us to do this. He surely wouldn't keep any blessings from us!

by Marcio DaCosta

STATISTICS FOR DOOR-TO-DOOR

- *Volunteers:* 1,850
- *People reached:* 9,117
- *Surveys taken:* 3,555
- *Prayers offered:* 678
- *Bible study requests:* 852

Left Behind

As I entered the large auditorium on Sabbath afternoon, I was amazed to see it almost entirely full of volunteers willing to go door-to-door with invitations for Bible studies. Having come just a few minutes late, my roommate and I were assigned to bus #27 – a bus which didn't exist! So as more than 1,500 others formed their groups and went to their buses, we were left behind! Oh, it was agony – that wasn't what I wanted to do!! I didn't come just to wait around while others did the work. Oh sure, Pastor Finley said that they needed prayer warriors, which is an integral and necessary part of mission work. But I wanted to be on the front lines!

Well, the Lord is good. He didn't leave me there. *Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

Psalm 37:5. Those of us left warming the seats were given the option of joining the prayer warriors or serving as foot soldiers walking through the streets of downtown Chattanooga handing out Bible study interest cards. Wow! Now that sounded exciting! This was the front lines, indeed.

So my roommate and I grabbed our stacks of cards and headed to the streets. Since there were many other foot soldiers about, we had to strategically find regions that they did not traverse. It was tougher than expected to find souls. The concrete jungle seemed to camouflage them all too well. But we finally saw a lone person and offered the card, which he obligingly accepted. Continuing on our mission, we found a homeless lady, a few folks walking back from the store, another sitting in a park, several coming in and out of a bar, and even three firemen who had been called to an apartment complex for an oven fire! (I half prayed that the apartment would empty so we could give all the residents a card.) Almost every person we encountered was willing to take the cards, and we even prayed with many of them – right there on the sidewalk!

Not until we reach Heaven will we know how many of the people reached on that day will be saved. But one thing is sure – by doing even the simplest thing as offering an invitation, or saying a quick prayer, we are the ones who receive Heaven's blessings.

by Angeline David

Stand Tall!

The General Youth Conference had a fitting end with a personal challenge from Elder Mark Finley to each member of the audience. He called for each of us to Stand Tall for Jesus. As Elder Finley said, "If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything." Looking at the story of Daniel, he encouraged us to stand tall, which you can only do if you 1.) Stand Firm, 2.) Bow Low, and 3.) Look Beyond.

1. The Bible says in Daniel 1, that Daniel purposed in his heart to serve the living

God. He determined that, no matter what, he was going to follow God's direction. Proverbs 4:23 tells us to "keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." The battlefield in the Great Controversy is *your* mind and *my* mind. What is your focus; what is your purpose? Daniel purposed in his heart to obey God, and God used him for great things. If you want to see God do great things in your life ... stand firm!

2. Throughout the book of Daniel we see Daniel praying. His example shows us that we need to pray frequently, pray regularly, and pray joyfully. In *Prophets & Kings*, p. 486, Ellen White comments on Daniel and his three friends: "Constantly praying, conscientiously studying, keeping in touch with the Unseen, they walked with God as did Enoch." You can only get so far without prayer, but you won't make it to the end. If you want to stand tall till the end, then you need to bow low in prayer.

3. Daniel was able to see that this world is not all there is. He was able to look beyond to a heavenly kingdom. We too need to look beyond what *is* to what *will be*. This world is not our home.

Jesus does not ask for a half-hearted commitment; he calls for the best. We may have our jobs, but soul winning needs to be our calling. Will you accept that calling? Will you, like Daniel, Stand Tall by standing firm, bowing low, and looking beyond? Daniel passes the torch into your hands, will you take the torch today? Will *you*?

by Sarah Endres



The greatest want of the world is the want of men-- men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.

by Ellen G. White, Education, p. 57

Stand for the Right

Each one of us has the opportunity each day to live the life that God is calling us to live. We need to be true and honest, and not allow ourselves to be bought and sold. we cannot fear to call sin by its right name. Our conscience needs to be true and we need to stand for the right though the heavens fall. God is calling each one of us today to lead such a life. Are you willing?

You'll Never be Successful!

“Your business won’t be successful if you are closed on Saturday - your Sabbath. In fact, it will fail within the first year of operation.” This statement was made by the loan officer of Suburban Trust Bank in 1962. This bank was located across from the Takoma Park SDA Church.

I started my printing company in Northwest Washington, DC in 1963 at the age of 27. This was the fulfillment of my dreams. While working in several printing companies in the Philadelphia-New Jersey area, getting the day off on Sabbath was a constant problem. I made up my mind to start my own company. This would eliminate having to work on Sabbath. Also, no one could tell me when I should close my own business.

One of the men that worked for me suggested that I stay open on Sabbath until I got established, then I could close on Sabbath. I decided to be open on Sunday instead and put my trust in the Lord. I closed an hour before sunset. I have never regretted being closed on Friday evening and Sabbath.

When I informed my customers that I did not open for business on Saturday, this would give me an opportunity to tell them why I followed the Bible day of rest and what it meant to me. Many of my customers were Jewish. They would tell me that they were taught about Sabbath being a day of rest and worship, but making money and being successful was more important to them and their families.

If we were working on jobs that had to be finished by Monday, I would bring workers in on Saturday evening and Sunday. In 42 years of business we never delivered a job late because we were closed on Sabbath.

There were many times when I turned jobs down because of Sabbath delivery dates. This was not a problem for every job I turned down. The good Lord would provide my staff and me with other work, many times from new customers. The Lord was very good to my staff and me.

I had many customers tell me that they had never heard of a business being closed on Saturday so that I could obey the Bible command to observe the Sabbath day. This gave me the opportunity to share the precious truths of the Bible.

For 42 years I owned my company, and I started out with three employees. By 2003 I had 38 employees. The average employee had worked for me 19 years. Every employee knew why we closed on Friday before sunset and remained closed until after Sabbath sunset. I believe that I planted many seeds of interest into their spiritual life. I thank God that I was able to witness for Him over the years.

by Domenic DiBiase

The Praying Lawn Mowing Man

In 1980 we returned to Silver Spring after working in England for five years and we needed to find work for our sons to assist them in paying for their school tuition. In speaking to a friend in my office, she told me how she helped her sons with lawn mowing. So just as soon as we

were unpacked and had purchased an old mower, the two young boys went out looking for lawns to mow. Soon they had five but needed me to drive. So off we went and with very limited implements, we began to get more work. The customers liked to see young men working.

As we became known in the area, we began to get more customers till after some years we had over one hundred and twenty. We knew each of our clients. They were all such wonderful people and over the years many of them became some of my very dear friends. They have all known that we were Seventh-day Adventists and we had many opportunities to share our faith.

When Mike was not traveling he would come with us, and it was fun. When the customers saw him they would often come out and talk to him, while we mowed!! They would share with him what was troubling them. As we were packing up the truck, I often looked back at them and there was Mike with his arms around their shoulders praying with them. When he died, all but five (they were either away on vacation or just could not come) came to the memorial service and the thing that truly surprised them was when they found out that he was a pastor! They had thought he was “just a lawn mowing man!” Most of our customers receive *Signs of the Times*.

Another rewarding part of the business was the young men who worked for us. They were wonderful, hard working young men. We were very proud of all of them. At times one of them would have a problem that he was worried about and he would come to me and talk about it. We would pray about it and later find out how the Lord had blessed and answered the prayers. That was extremely rewarding.

I have cut back now and my son Jason has taken on a lot of the business. It has been a wonderful blessing to him and he is so happy to be working for such wonderful people.

by Jennie Stevenson

Closed for the Sabbath

In 1960 at the age of 28 I realized a childhood dream of owning a service station. I signed a lease for a Texaco Service Station situated in Takoma Park, MD. The lease included wording concerning the operating hours and the business was to be closed during Sabbath hours. At that time the world headquarters for the Seventh-day Adventist church was in Takoma Park just a few blocks from the service station location. In fact, many of the residents of Takoma Park were Seventh-day Adventist. The station I leased had previously been operated by a Seventh-day Adventist so the oil company and residents were used to the business being closed on the seventh day Sabbath.

For the first few years there was this original acceptance and not many questions were asked. However, as time went on, new employees of the General Conference did not settle down in Takoma Park and I began dealing with different individuals at the oil company so things began to change. A customer had assisted me in making a sign that hung by the gas pumps stating **CLOSED FRIDAY SUNDOWN UNTIL SATURDAY SUNDOWN**. This sign remained there until 1985 when the business was sold.

I had many opportunities to witness to customers about the Sabbath. As time went on and the community drastically changed, many questions were asked when new customers would see the sign or I would be making appointments for auto repairs. But the oil company did not give up. The lease would come up for renewal every third year and they always wanted it changed to include being open during Sabbath hours. The concept they could not understand was why I could not allow the business to be open so I could go on to church if I wanted to. I would repeat the fourth commandment to them "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy...in it thou shall not do any work...nor the stranger within thy gates."

It was a real surprise to customers and community when I sold the business and I have had many people tell me how hard

it was to drive by the first few Sabbaths and see the station open. It is very clear the oil company would never have allowed the closing again because they were sure it was to their benefit for it to be open. However, according to the new owner, the gas sales never really increased after the change.

A few years later the General Conference headquarters moved to Silver Spring and Takoma Park is no longer populated primarily by Seventh-day Adventists. Most likely there are few people that remember how it was during those years but the whole town was once a witness. I hope my time there and my witness was a blessing to the community.

by James Morgan

The Train is Pulling Out, Are You Onboard?

The evangelistic series featuring Pastor Frost is about to begin: are you part of it? You may still be wondering, "How can I be part of it?" Fortunately, there are several ways that this can happen. You may have volunteered or been asked to help in the various areas that directly support the series (pre-work, parking lot attendants, greeting, registration, ushers, row hosts, children's program, intercessory prayer and audio-visual). You can also help by praying, attending, inviting friends, neighbors or coworkers, or handing out flyers to people. Maybe an area you would like to assist with is getting acquainted with the people who will be baptized and encouraging them in the Christian walk. Whatever you do to help the series, is contributing to its success. The Great Commission mandates evangelism, and the Three Angels Messages mandates evangelism. This is our reason for existence! This is why each of us needs to be a part of this series in some way.

Are you onboard? No one should miss the blessings God is about to give us!

by Daniel Endres

"Dalith" (The Untouchable People of India), or A Child of a Loving God?

It is my pleasure to share with our church family and the Embers readers about my mission project. In a few weeks I will be leaving for India to kick start a 10-village evangelistic campaign. This program will be held in the district of Erode, South India. Let me tell you how this program works and its goals.

Sathiamangalam, in Erode, is a city surrounded by several villages, mostly consisting of 'Daliths' (The Untouchable people of India) who are deprived of basic human needs and rights. The name of Jesus is unheard of to the majority of the Hindus who live in this area. When I shared my interest for an evangelistic project with the North Tamil Conference and Erode section officers of Seventh-Day Adventist, they picked this area.

Starting March 1st, 2006, ten Laymen/Bible workers will be assigned to a village to do ground work and to conduct Bible study. These Laymen/Bible workers will be paid Rs.1,500.00 (\$35.00) per month plus travel expenses. Laymen/Bible workers will work for three months. At the end of the three months (May or June) people from these ten villages will be brought to a central location nightly for a two-week effort, meeting to study the Word of God. At the end of these meetings small congregations will be established.

The goals of this project are to Baptize One Thousand Souls for the Lord; to establish ten Seventh-day Adventist congregations by the end of 2006; and to build ten churches by the end of year 2007. Each Church building (basic structures that can seat 75-100 people) will cost from \$2,000.00 to \$2,500.00.

Do I have the money? No. But I have something money can't buy; Faith in God and a vision to attempt great things for the Lord.

Though I have helped in the establishment of new congregations and church buildings in the past, this is the first time

I am undertaking a project as huge as this. I sure do need your prayers and support. You are welcome to join me in any one of the trips that I will be making. If you would like to discuss this project with me, you can reach me at (301) 996-7257 or email me at RichardRaj@aol.com. God Bless.

by Richard Rajarathinam

Mission to Myanmar

My lips are full of praise and my heart full of gratitude. My ten months mission trip at a hardship mission post was a challenge and a blessing. God was with me all the way. I am sure it was because of your prayers, my Burnt Mills Church family, my friends and supporters. I did not know exactly how many I had till I came home and called to tell them I'm home and everyone said we were praying for you daily in our personal devotions. In the Christmas cards the message was "I am praying for you." What a joy and what a blessed thought. It was very evident. I was home, for I was born there, but forty years ago I had left to pursue higher education and make a new home for myself. God has blessed me more than words can ever say. But home was not what it use to be. It was a foreign land to me, even the people were different. Their attitudes were different. Some for the better, some for the worst, and that is only natural. The church is opened at 4:00 a. m. and many are there to pray. It closes at 9:00 p. m. and many are still praying. They sense the need and the urgency to pray and be ready for His return. They all stop whatever they are doing at noon to pray. In my public school we had DEAR (Drop everything and Read). They had DEAP (Drop everything and pray). Evenings and Sabbaths are soul winning times. I am so humbled and want to be more like them. They all want to learn English so they come to me before they go to work and come again after work. I start teaching at 7:00 a. m. and finish at 8:30 p.m. Even then, some come while I am eating my light dinner (usually boiled rice) to help them with their English homework or a piece they are working on. Others question why I work so hard. My reply is "I do not wish to be

fired when I am a volunteer." I can't wait to tell you more of how God has a thousand ways and He helped me in no less than one hundred and ninety nine ways. God be praised and for He is greatly to be praised.

Sincerely, Betty Tin

Mission: Brazil

In December of 2005, with the prayers and support of Burnt Mills Church and also with the support of other friends, I had the opportunity to go to Brazil on a mission trip. It was a wonderful experience, and spiritually uplifting.

We started the flight to Brazil at 10:30 p.m. and got into Brazil at 8:00 a.m. our time, (11:00 their time), and had a two hour layover before flying another hour to Rio. We got to the house at 12:00 p.m. our time and 3:00 their time. It was a long day for me!!!!

The people there are so different from us in many different ways. The houses that they live in are very run down, old places that you would never think of as home in the U. S. The poor that live here are better off than some of the people that are there!! The water is so dirty that it has to be put into a filter system several times before it can be used for drinking water. If you take the water straight from the faucet you can see dirt in the water. The roads that they have there are terrible. They are not paved and are very bumpy. On the way to the campus the road was so bad that the luggage that we had stored behind us fell right on us!! The roads are very narrow but the people make a two lane road four or five lanes wide. The people who live there drive very fast in those small lanes, but surprisingly they don't get into many accidents.

I find that I should never take anything here for granted. I have everything that I could possibly want. Down there the people have nothing. The Lord has really blessed us over here.

The first week I was there, we prepared for the up-coming camp meeting. We cleaned the campus, getting it ready for the camp meeting; cleared wooded areas to prepare for the garden; painted the

building where the camp meeting was going to be held; made two tables from old junk wood that was in the shed to hold books for the camp meeting; cut down branches from trees; cleaned out a couple of sheds; and did many other chores.

We also got up early in the morning to have devotion time and also had morning and evening worship every day. After breakfast we went to work. We had two meals a day, and there never seemed to be enough food. I was hungry almost all the time. A couple of times, we snuck out to town with a few friends in the evening to buy potato chips and soft drinks. Boy, were they good!!! Also, there is a falls nearby and we got to go there often as a reward when we were done with all of our chores. That was fun and exciting!!

The second week we were there one more family came to help. That was when the meetings started. The first series of meetings began Saturday night at a church in the city of Rio with Diego Silva for the youth. About 60-75 people came every night. He also spoke Sunday evening, all in Portuguese. Then from Monday to Friday, a man named Aaron Baker came from Hartland. He spoke and Diego translated. Friday evening Aaron Baker made an appeal and most of the people came to the front to give their hearts to God. What a blessing it was to see all those people come forward and give their hearts to the Lord.

The last week that I was there was the camp meeting. It was led by Hal Mayer from Hartland. We had about 95 people come to the camp meeting from all over Fortaleza, (which is about 3 days away by bus,) Rio, and other places which I can't remember the names of. I did not get to see the end of the meetings because I had to come home in the middle of them.

This has been a wonderful, exciting, and life changing experience for me personally. I would like to thank all of my friends in Burnt Mills Church for their prayers and also for their financial support. I would not have been able to go without the support of the church. This church has been a blessing for me and for my family. Thank you.

by Joshua Oh