

VOICE

Vol. 1 No. 1 Quarterly Newsletter of the Central Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church January-March 2011

The New Year's Focus on Selflessness

Ruby Leonor Camagay-Tangonan

Mar31 – Just ninety days into the year 2011 you and I note how unprecedented remarkably extraordinary monthly events taking place under extraordinary demoralizing and extraordinary life-extinguishing conditions have no doubt generated this global fear factor of the uncertain unknown. Despite all these, can we still praise God and confidently proclaim we serve an extraordinary gracious merciful God of love who inspires us to move on, to go proclaim what He has wrought in us and through our church, in this premier edition newsletter christened Central Valley VOICE? Someone needs to “Tell the World” what God is doing in this niche of the world! Do you feel the same as I do? I believe we can testify of God’s love even in the midst of these terrible events. If we do not, even the “rocks will cry out!”

It is then worth our time to remember what God has done, is doing, and will continue to do unselfishly to us, for us and through us, to continually strengthen our grip on Him as He processes His work in progress to save us. He has not been doing great things for nothing. God’s unselfish ways to, for and through us in spite of what and who we are, is what He seeks to develop in us because He is love! His

unselfishness for our sake needs to be known to inspire hope. And this exactly is what this paper is about. It is about God’s selflessness that invokes in us a love response that reaches up, out and across to others when we ask in faith believing we receive (Matthew 21:22).

In this media savvy age when a deluge of irreverence for life & irrelevant hopeless information competes for our attention, it is easy to lose perspective of what we are here for and why. And just as prior to Jesus’ first coming a “voice” was heard preparing His way these pages seek to be a collective “VOICE” to share moments meant to help prepare loving people for the Second Coming of Jesus and relate our mission to seek souls for Jesus to save. VOICE promotes & reinforces the saving relationship we have with our soon coming Savior!

CONTENTS	PAGE
Focus on Selflessness	1
7 Components of Tell the World	2
Straight From the Pastor	3
Prayer Breakfast	3
Church Revival	4
For Your Appetite	4
The Health Link to Eternal Life	5
Kids In Discipleship	6
Follow the Bible ...	6
Family Life Weekend Workshop	6
Women’s Annual Retreat	7
Community 1 st Quarter Report	7
Our Bible Workers	7
Memorable Moments in Pictures	8
He Took God as His Lawyer	11
SDA is fastest growing U.S. church	12

This edition highlights the variety of departmental programs that have been dreamed about, prayed for, plan, practiced and performed that lift high The Word clearly, passionately & intelligently. It is a delight to unselfishly proclaim His story in us, for us and through us - members of (Continued next page)

(Continued from Page 1)

Christ's Bride amidst the chaos and toxic fear engulfing millions! VOICE aims to be distinctly heard sharing light & spreading hope. Thus, in updating you with the ongoing "Tell the World" events in our church, it is the staff's earnest prayer that these pages, in its infant phase, will create a sense of satisfaction yet trigger that need to improve in ones service to Jesus, instill hope, inspire faith, encourage holy living and enable wholesome choices. We aim to give our selfless best to Him who exemplified selflessness by His inconvenient human life and sacrifice of separation from His Father on the cross; more so now when His promised imminent return approaches! May we like Jesus experience selfless satisfaction serving God!

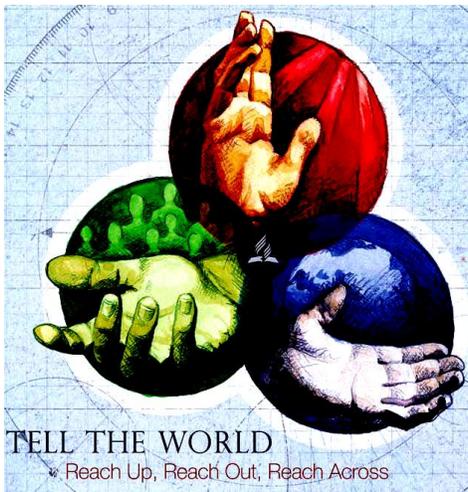
God's unselfish ways ...is what He seeks to develop in us because He is love! ...His unselfishness needs to be known to inspire hope.

Seven Key Components of Tell the World

Adapted from North American Division Evangelism Ministry

Spiritual Growth	Quality, uninterrupted time with God is the foundation of all outreach. The young and old need to be involved in daily personal devotion
Community Involvement	We touch lives for Jesus when we demonstrate genuine concern for those around us. We reveal how valuable they are to Jesus and to us.
Personal Witness	In Win One , members reach out to at least one person with the hope of Christ.
City Outreach	Soon half the earth's population will live in cities; 400 worldwide have a population of one million or more. This is a serious challenge. Establishing church plants in 66 of the world's great cities is an integral part of Tell the World.
Church Planting	New churches are full of spiritual life and vigor. The excitement of finding Jesus often seen in a new church has a contagious effect on the local community.
Evangelistic Programming	Imagine what could be accomplished when each church commits to one evangelistic campaign each year.
Media Ministry	Every day billions of people are watching TV, surfing the Internet, listening to the radio and reading countless published materials. The media is a means of sharing Jesus. Relevant and high-quality media are essential to reaching an increasingly media-savvy world.

Tell the World is more than a sweeping church vision; it is a real, tangible effort which you can be part of. Tell the World calls ALL members to be ambassadors of Jesus Christ. It will be for good. This challenge can be met. Together, let's Tell the World! "Please, tell me!"



EDITORIAL STAFF

Ruby Leonor Camagay-Tanganon
General Editor

Ofelia Pangan
Assistant Editor

Grace Bautista-Abriol
Copy Editor

Department Heads
Contributors

Central Valley VOICE is the official newsletter of the Central Valley SDA Church located at 3901 E. Clinton Avenue, Fresno CA 93703, phone number (559) 226-3901. It is a non-profit organization affiliated with the Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists located in 2820 E. Willow Avenue Clovis CA 93611. Its official website is <http://centralvalley.adventistfaith.org>.

Straight from the Pastor's Heart

Pastor Abel V. Pangan

DOES GOD SPEAK TO YOU?

"Last night the Lord spoke to me that we should change a contractor," explained one of the elders at a certain church. Some skeptical people in the congregation raised their eyebrows wondering how God spoke to him. From time to time we hear people asking, "How does God speak to us?"

Does God really talk to us in an audible manner? Before the entrance of sin into this world, God spoke to Adam and Eve on a face-to-face basis. In the account of Genesis 18, Abraham talked with Him face to face. God spoke to Moses face to face. (Numbers 12:8) Later, He spoke to the prophets in dreams and visions.

Does God speak to us today? Definitely! But how does He talk to us now? He speaks to us in various ways. First, He speaks to us through the Holy Bible. He speaks to us through 1) the impression of the Holy Spirit, 2) nature, and 3) providential workings. Sometimes, He speaks to us through godly parents, ministers, teachers, and other wholly committed Christians.

As a little boy God spoke to me when I opened His Holy Writ that I should be faithful to Him like Joseph of old. He spoke to me in Malachi 3:8-11 that I should be a faithful steward by paying tithes for all my income. Later, He impressed me also to love, honor, and give Him offering. At first, just whatever money I had in my

pocket or wallet. But as the years went by, I learned to give Him systematically and cheerfully.

Whenever I encounter fiery trials in my life as a minister, I open my Bible and listen to Him as He speaks, e. g., "Do not fear, Abel, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

Whenever I have heavy burdens and my sins are brought before me, He speaks to assure me, that "if I confess my sins, He is faithful & just to forgive & to cleanse me from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). He tells me that "He loves me with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3). He loves me unconditionally!

He spoke to me in Jeremiah 29:11 that His plan is to prosper me and to give me hope and a future. I can testify that He has been fulfilling His promises above and beyond!

Absolutely, He speaks to all of us in countless ways. Allow Him to speak to you loud and clear as you open the Holy Scriptures. Stop and listen to His sweet small voice. Then you can sing, "And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He tells me I am His own..."

Yours in His service,
Your Pastor

Prayer Ministry

Gladys Gallego & Ruby Tangonan

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Prayer like mercy is twice blessed. It opens the windows of heaven as God rains His blessings upon those for whom we pray, and it blesses those who pray.

February 12, 2011, ten people came to for the church's first monthly prayer breakfast held in the board room at 7:30 a.m. The season of prayer followed the healthy hot breakfast. What a blessing to have an audience with the God of the universe during the early Sabbath hours!

Prayer breakfast will be held **every 2nd Sabbath** of each month. Would you like to receive a blessing? Would you like to be revived? Join us on March 12, April 9 and May 14.

Focus during this Quarter - Pray for the following:

- Individual and corporate revival & reformation by praying 7 days a week at 7 am, 7 pm & at any hour for the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit's power and presence in each of our family's lives;
- God's gift of the new pastor for our church;
- Renewed commitment to experience God's overcoming power after the March 5 – 12 revival;
- Conversion of souls April 30-May21 evangelism;

(Continued next page)

The Health Link to Eternal Life

Optimal Health is defined as “A balance of physical, emotional, social, spiritual and intellectual health,”¹ whereas, the World Health Organization defines health as “*The state of balance between the physical, mental, and social aspects of life and not merely the absence of disease, for health itself is far more than the absence of disease.*”² The goal of a healthy body is homeostasis – that balancing act of the four dimensions of life so the person in excellent health exudes that quality of life that enables him or her to be productive and contribute much for the good of others while enjoying life to the fullest! Here is where the salient connection lies. Did you connect the dots? Read further.

The four dimensions or areas of health when lived in full devotion to God bring about eternal life (see Luke 10:25-37). Isn't this amazing? To love God by responding to Him with devotion in all four areas of life – the heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love others by reaching out to them, leads to the reward of eternal life. To be devoted to God with all of one's being, then, involves all of one's HEALTH. Furthermore, what Jesus meant when he agreed to the lawyer's answer as “loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength signified obedience to the first four commandments, and loving your neighbor signified obedience to the last 5 commandments.”³ The relationship between health, eternal life and the moral law - the 10 commandments is remarkably noteworthy here. We can therefore see the requirements to have an endless life is to “Love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength,” interpreted as obedience to the first four commandments, the same as “loving God with all your health” and loving those in need of health as you would yourself. My favorite author writes⁴

“...Jesus, recognizing love to God and man as the sum of righteousness, had said, ‘This do, and thou shalt live.’ Christ bade the lawyer, ‘Go, and do thou likewise.’ Doing, and not saying merely, is expected of the children of God...He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked (1 John 2:6).”

To love God with all your health and to desire your neighbor to be in health just as you are in health is what the moral law therefore descriptively clarifies, and responding to God's love in obedience to His law is rewarded with eternal life!

Reference:

1. O'Donnell, Michael P., 1989, Health promotion. American Journal of Health Promotion. <http://www.healthpromotionjournal.com/> accessed 15 September 2006.
2. World Health Organization
3. White, EG, 1990. Desire of Ages, Better Living Pub., p. 288.
4. Ibid., p. 290

“The light God has given on health reform is for our salvation and the salvation of the world.” CH 446
 “I wish to tell you that soon there will be no work done in ministerial lines but medical missionary work.”CH533

UPCOMING LEARNING PROGRAMS 2 ND QUARTER	
April	
1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22	Evangelistic Training Classes: Vespers, 7-8pm, Sabbath afternoons 2-3 pm, Keoke Gandeza
8-10	Teen Girls' Retreat & Teen Boys' Retreat, Soquel and Raymond Town, respectively
23	Church 22 nd Church Anniversary, AWESNA Reunion, Central CA Chapter
30 – May 21	Revelation of Hope 6:30PM - 8:30 PM Taj Pacleb Central Valley SDA Church
MAY	
1	Full Plate Diet Seminar 10-12 noon & Disaster Relief Training at CCC Office. Call 559-347-3176
14	Senior Citizen Seminar Valley Area at CCC office 3-6 p.m. Speaker: Steve Horton
15	Prison Ministry Training at CCC Office 10-12 noon. Call 559-347-3176
21	Parenting Seminar Valley Area at CCC 3:30-6:30 p.m. Pierre Steenberg. Call 559-347-3176
JUNE	
11	NAD Women's Ministries Emphasis Day. Call Joyce Mulligan 559-696-3692
Jun 20- July 10	Teen Bible Academy** For more info: Jon Tillay 509-301-9438
JULY	
14-23	Soquel Camp Meeting

Sabbath School Children's Division

Cherie Pefanco

Kids In Discipleship

Central Valley SDA Church is among the first to implement KID (Kids in Discipleship) in the Central California Conference after the conference-wide training seminar on November 5-7, 2010. The Children's Ministries director and staff thank Pastor Abel Pangan; he urged them to attend this training. Equipped with KID training, the Children's Ministries Staff purposed in their hearts to experience what the program offers each family. Hence two rallies and two sermon series swept through the church on December 04, 2010 and January 08, 2011 to jumpstart Kids in Discipleship.

After eleven weeks of planning and preparation, the Sanders family came January 29, 2011 to follow the "ground" and make it soft for "planting" seeds of truth. A total of thirty eight attended. What presence!!!

Attendees of these programs deeply appreciate the Children's Ministry Staff headed by Cherie Pefanco and assisted by Jemar Esteban, Margaret Mora, Virgie Cobb, and Elizabeth Ruiz. Sincere recognition likewise belongs to the young adults and young at hearts for their solid "molar" support. And special gratitude & appreciation goes to Margaret Mora's efficient child care program, during the learning sessions.

A sequel follows on April 16, 2011, "The Footprints for Parents and Mentors' "program. Three teen mentors signed up for this small group experience: Nicole & Tanya Samila and Nikki Lising.



"Follow the Bible" Project, Graduation & Promotion

Early in January, eight kids, expressed excitement and commitment to read and mark their very own, brand new Bibles. This "Follow the Bible for Kids" project included 7-year old Elijah Lising, who

was the first to eagerly and diligently comply. He was interviewed on January 29, during the Children's Sabbath School Division Graduation and Promotion program. Members of the Cradle Roll class up to the Junior class levels who graduated and were promoted were Shyllyn Kye Nermal, Moses Israel, Elmer Ferraren III, Elijah Lising, Amber Kishihara, Katrina Sulit, Jed Sulit and Charissa Santos.



Family Life Weekend Workshop

February 14-16, a "high" weekend with the Cameron Sanders' family inspired the young adults and the young at hearts. Cameron Sanders, a member of the pastoral staff of Templeton Church spear-headed the weekend program. He is well-supported by Stephanie, his better half, and all their children: Dionavin (the gifted pianist), Elizha (the guitarist), Jone' and Jonesia – the singer twins, and CJ, who's endowed with friendly charm.

The festive taste of the workshop included the following topics: "The Family That Prays", "The Family That Plays", "The Family That Saves", "The Family That Stays."

As the whole Sanders' family led out in the praise team, all heaven must have stooped in deep interest for each "royal child" when he/she sat with his or her parents during all the worship services. Moreover, hair raising stories captured hearts when Pr Cameron and Stephanie related how the Omnipotent turned their lives into this direction, the Family Life Ministry. What they went through can be experienced by God's children, they concurred, as God, the beginner of good works, finishes and completes faith full circle.

These meetings inspired church attendees to take on the mission to save their families. Moreover, parents, children, and grandparents who attended the icing on the cake activity, i.e. Sunday's best fun event with the Sanders leading out in games, also relished the well-prepared wholesome lunch. Furthermore, they witnessed the Sanders receive a certificate of appreciation for the wholesome refreshing weekend spent with them.

Women's Ministry

Carel Esposito

Annual Women's Retreat

In January 28-30, about four hundred women attended the Central California hosted Women's Ministry Retreat in Tenaya Lodge, Yosemite, California. Among these were Carel Esposito, Jackie Cunningham and her mother and sister-in-law, Clarita Dalida, Judy Osen, Sally Saberola and Marie Fe Umambong (See the pictures below).

The speakers, Vicky Coe (Janet Page's sister-in-law) and Audrey Graham (wife of Ricardo Graham, president of Pacific Union Conference, expounded on the theme "Believe" as expressed in 2 Corinthians 5:7, "For we walk by faith, and not by sight."

During the meetings Jackie Cunningham and her team - Ranella Kaligithi, Jessica Tello and Carel Esposito led out in the praise music. Also, during the Sabbath afternoon concert and testimony, Jackie, the fresh bride was joined in a duet towards the end by her husband, Josh Cunningham.



Adventist Community Services

Judy Osen

A summary of the number of households and people given food every third Saturday of each month is as follows:

1st Quarter Report

Month	#Households	#People Served
January	109	428
February	206	865
March	217	863

On March 11, Judy Osen & Dean Gallego attended the Food Safety Training Seminar at Malaga Center. This is required to run the future food pantry program in the church.

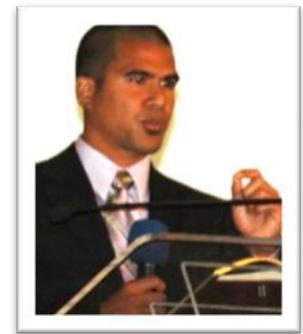
Evangelism Ministry

Cherie Pefanco

Our Bible Workers

Two people come to mind when asked, "Who is your Bible Worker?" I was asked this question when visiting Weimar Institute, also home to AFCOE-Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism, in Auberry, up north. Two men did pass through its gates and are currently working with us.

James Esposito, 25, a Registered Nurse, graduated from Pacific Union College in 2005. His first call to the ministry came when he joined his parents, Joe & Carel Esposito and sister, Jackie, in an evangelistic crusade with Taj Pacleb in the Philippines on December 2009-January 2010. Upon their return, James and Jackie enrolled at AFCOE, and graduated in April 2010. Then on, God opened doors for them to minister to others. In April to July 2010 both participated in an evangelistic crusade in Hawaii, again with Taj Pacleb. Since then in July 2010, James accepted the church-sponsored Bible Worker's job.



Keoki Gandeza, 28, of Hawaiian-Filipino blood is from Waipahu, Hawaii. Keoki grew up having nothing to do with church. From October 2001-October 2005, he was with the US Marines. Although he was recalled in September 2007, he knew he dreamt about going into ministry as a youth pastor. At the end of his term in October 2008, God's Spirit led him to enroll at AFCOE. His training began in January and graduated in May 2009. From then on he worked with Taj Pacleb and Brian McMahon from June-September 2009. Then from September 2009 until July 2010, Keoki did a Bible work in the Island of Lanai, but left for California where he volunteered as Bible worker with James.

Since August 2010, Keoki and James work together for the glory of God. God bless both James and Keoki whose goal is to seek souls for God to save. They fulfil the promise in Isaiah 55:11 "My word...shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

New Year's Memorable Moments in Pictures



January 7-16, fifteen from CVSDAC were equipped at Fresno Central Church, with AFCE to GO. A good start!

In the Philippines



12/ 23, Art Roo & Laura Saberola

The First Wedding in Central Valley SDA Church



January 23, Joshua & Jackie (nee Esposito) Cunningham

In January 23, Jacquelline Jewel Esposito, 28, wedded Joshua Hayden Cunningham, 37, and was preceded on the aisle by two Candle Lighters, twenty one Bridesmaids, twenty Groomsmen, ten Junior Bridesmaids, six Junior Groomsmen, one Bible Boy, two Bell Boys, four Flower Girls, three Mini Brides and three Mini Grooms on their wagons pulled by two Wagon Pullers. Evangelists Taj Pacleb, David Assherick & Pr Abel Pangan officiated. The wedding filled the church to the very brim for the first time with about 600 guests.

Memorable Quotes: "Josh, you were called to ARISE so you can give the REVELATION OF HOPE!"

The banquet, a blast at Banker's Ballroom, downtown Fresno, was from 2:00-7:00 p.m.! Congratulations Jackie & Josh! May a highly productive joyful Christian marriage follow the spectacular wedding! For more information visit their story in the link http://web.me.com/jgbeitz/Joshua_Jacquelin/Telling_our_story.html.



1/11- Ian Tangonan to Afghanistan; 1/16 Cajil Fadri at Madera Hospital visited, & appreciated Maria Ramirez & Dyatra of Fresno Community Food Bank for the 59,917 lbs food received for distribution in 2010 to alleviate hunger in Fresno City.

Reaching the Community through Food Distribution in Pictures



"Bring them in!" Teens with Noni Misal & Jesse Mora invite the community, while packing is done.



Community Food Distribution every 3rd Saturday involves registration & getting tickets to exchange for food.

Memorable Parting Moments in Pictures



2/27- Pastor Pangan chairs his last Church Board before final retirement...and on 3/19 passes on the Torch of Leadership to the 7 elders.



3/25 Children's Chorus singing "When You Pray" for Vespers



3/26 J-R sings "Calvary"



Doris Sulit & Maria Fe Umambong selected as Madera Hospital's Nurses of the Year for 2010.

Captured Happy Retirement & 77th Birthday Wishes for Dr. Abel & Ofel Pangan



"Auld Lang Syne" Ed & Carmelita Que



Appreciating the Gifts... an iPad and plaques of appreciation!



"Lord, You are the way, You are the journey, Come walk beside us as we go..." sings the CV Chamber Chorus



Young adults sing "Mag-Pastor ay di biro, maghapon nag-tuturo..." alluding to the tune of "Magtanim ay 'di biro."



The Church Family wishing Pastor Abel & Ofelia Pangan the best of retirement years on March 20!

He Took God as His Lawyer

A Christian worker in a jail which shall be nameless, says: As we commenced meeting one Sabbath morning, a terribly rough looking man slid in among others to the open court, where we were allowed to hold our service. As I glanced at his fierce, sullen face, I thought I would not like to meet that man in the dark. When near the close of the Gospel meeting those who desired an interest in our prayers were asked to lift their hand, this man's hand went up. Later, I saw a lady worker had got him on his knees--shall I confess the unbelief that was in my heart? I doubted if anything could be done with him! But the worker was full of faith in God for him. Oh, how God shames our unbelief!

The next Sunday, after he got saved, while others were testifying, she asked him to speak. To my surprise and joy he gave a ringing testimony to how "God for Christ's sake" had saved him, and this testimony he kept up from Sabbath to Sabbath.

After some weeks I found him one morning looking dull. "What is the matter, Maloney?" I asked. "Och, my trial comes off this week. (He was in for burglary.) I have got to take my medicine--eight or ten years in state prison." "Well," I said, "put your trust in Jesus. He will bring you out all right."

Never was I more astonished than with his reply, to see how God had taught him the deep lesson of faith, so that he took God into all his affairs. He said, "Och, shure, I've done that. I had two lawyers for council; they were to prove an alibi. When I was converted I dismissed them and put my trust in the Almighty."

He now had the best lawyer in the world--the heavenly Counsellor. When he appeared before the judge he was asked: "Where is your lawyer?" He said: "On the 7th of November last, in the county jail, the Lord Jesus Christ converted my soul, and I dismissed my lawyers and put my trust in the Almighty God."

The judge looked to see what dodge this was. A consultation followed with the officers, after which the judge said: "It is not the question of whether you are converted or not, but whether you are guilty or not guilty."

"Your honor, I committed the crime."

Another consultation, and they gave him sixty days in the city prison instead of eight or ten years in the state penitentiary.

When he returned to the county jail, from thence to be transferred to the city prison, one of the lady workers was there with her fine Bagster's Bible. She said: "Maloney, have you a Bible?" He replied: "I never had a Bible or read a Bible till I came to the county jail." So she gave him hers, told him to read it and remember it was God speaking to him, and be sure and obey God's Word, and whatever He told him to do, to do it.

When he arrived at the city prison he was taken into a room to be searched. The Bible fell out of his coat. It was a surprise to the officers to find him with a beautiful new Bagster's Bible. They asked him how he came to get it, thinking he had been at his old tricks. He said: "Captain, the 7th of November last, God, for Christ's sake, converted my soul. Before that I niver had a Bible or read a Bible. The lady that's got her name to the back of the book said to me--she gave it to me this morning--she said to me, 'take it, read it, and remember it was God speaking to me, and be sure to mind whatever God's Word said to me.'"

Then these officers also held a consultation and sent him out to sweep the side-walk in front of the city hall, no doubt having someone on the watch to see what he would do. He swept it well and returned with the broom. They immediately made a trusty of him, and he had the liberty of the prison. By this time he began to realise the value of making God his lawyer, and the significance of the promise, "His Name shall be called Counselor."

Oh, how true is that word of Holy Writ--"the grace of God that bringeth salvation." No sooner had our poor burglar received by faith the grace of God in the forgiveness of his sins than God began to work salvation in his heart and life. His conduct changed. He was a "new man in Jesus Christ."

He was released from prison on a bright Sabbath morning. As he walked away he spied a church steeple and thought to himself: "I was niver in a Protestant church. Wonder what it's like." Seeing people going in a side door he thought he would steal in and see. He soon found himself in a red hot testimony meeting. In his turn he gave a ringing testimony. His appearance was pretty rough and threadbare, and after he had taken his seat the leader of the meeting said: "Brother, when and where were you converted?" The converted burglar arose and said: "I cannot tell a lie. The 7th of November last, God, for Christ's sake, converted my soul in the county jail, and this is my first day out."

The leader of that meeting was an evangelist. He was so impressed by the ex-prisoner's honesty and sincerity that he later asked him to assist him in a revival meeting. God richly blessed his efforts, and the evangelist said he never had a better helper in a meeting. Truly, wonderful are the ways of God with even the chief of sinners who put their trust in Him.

After four years the prison worker, who relates these incidents, was met by Maloney. While yet a long way down the street, Maloney, with his hands forming a trumpet to his mouth, was shouting, "Hullo! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!" The worker shouted back: "What's the matter?" He shouts in reply: "Haven't I a right to praise the Lord? Glory to God! The man that gave me the bottle of whiskey that sent me to the county jail has got converted!"

Seven years have passed and the converted burglar is still joyfully walking with Jesus, winning souls for Christ.

This true story is written for you, dear reader, whoever you are, who have not found yet the Pearl of Great Price. You also are shut up in the great prison house of sin. Only Jesus can liberate you. You will need Him for your attorney when you come before the judgment bar of God. At the door of your heart He stands knocking. If you will let Him in, He will open the door to your prison and set you free. "Whom the Son makes free shall be free indeed!"

FROM: _____

CENTRAL VALLEY  SDA CHURCH
3901 E. Clinton Avenue Fresno CA 93703
<http://centralvalley.adventistfaith.org>

TO: _____

Adventists' back-to-basics faith is fastest growing U.S. church. They are known best to

- ❖ Rest on the Sabbath.
- ❖ Heed Old Testament dietary codes.
- ❖ And be ready for Jesus to return at any moment.

SDA Growth Rate is 2.5% in North America; Adventists are growing 75% faster than Mormons (1.4 %).
“Seventh-day Adventists are asking a different question... Why isn't the church growing much faster on these shores?”
North America has just 1.1M when there are 16M Adventists worldwide.

The Seventh-day Adventism distinctiveness outside the Christian mainstream

- Saturday worship services
- Vegetarian Lifestyles
- Urgent Mission to bring the gospel, a distinctive emphasis on Christ's imminent second coming — to the ends of the earth, with Revelation 14:12 as basis of the essence of SDA Mission. The end of the age that “calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.”

Factors of SDA Growth Rate

1. Fruit of global focus leading Immigrants more apt to find familiarity in a local Adventist church;
2. Lifestyle track records attract the skeptics who share health priorities - to live 10 years longer than the average American... so Adventists get a hearing among skeptics;
3. Clarity of what's expected of Christ's followers – hope. Some newcomers to Adventism appreciate the church's clarity about what's expected of Christ's followers “There's hope where there wasn't hope before.”
4. Efforts in evangelism as weeks-long outreach events: Adventists are also reaping the rewards of their extra efforts in evangelism. > 80% of the 6,000 Adventist churches in NA staged weeks-long outreach events in hotels and other settings in 2009.

By Ruby Camagay-Tangonan

Source: USA TODAY, March 18, 2011