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*A Journal for
Seventh-day Adventists
in Public Service*

For God & Country





SERVING IN THE KING'S COURT

By Paul Anderson, D.Min.

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The Bible is full of stories about godly men and women who served in the King's court.

Joseph served admirably in the service of the government under which he lived. David served with humility and distinction in the King's court and the military of his era. Mordecai, Esther, Naaman's maid, and Daniel were noteworthy characters who served God while serving the nation in which they lived.

Similarly, in this day and age, believers in the God of heaven who accept that Jesus is the Son of God and that God raised Him from the dead can and do serve Him while working in the governments of their nation. Many civil servants, bureaucrats, judges, legislators, police officers, clerks, soldiers,

sailors, Marines and airmen around the world are serving God and their church while under the employ of the government.

Twenty years ago while at the Navy Chaplain's School in Newport, Rhode Island, I received orders for my first overseas assignment. I would be going to Okinawa, Japan.

I needed a new passport for official travel. At the Passport Office, I handed my paperwork over to the clerk who would process it. I noticed a stack of books on her desk, *Steps to Christ*. Curious, I inquired about the books. She said that it was one of the best books that she had ever read. I agreed.

"You have read this book?" she asked.

"I have," I replied, "I am a Seventh-day Adventist chaplain." She greeted

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me more warmly. When I came back to pick up my passport, I noticed that the stack of books was gone. I asked about it. She said that people often ask for one to read as they travel. She found a niche within her civil service to be a non-threatening witness to her faith in God.

While serving aboard the USS MONTEREY (CG 61), a Guided Missile Cruiser of the United States Navy, we visited the Seychelles Islands. I preached at one of the Seventh-day Adventist churches there on Sabbath. After church, I was invited to dinner at the home of a very stately gentleman. His home was high up on a hill and very tastefully decorated with official memorabilia. I asked him what his occupation was. He was the Minister of Finance for the country. A Seventh-day Adventist at the highest level of government. And why not?

“Higher than the highest human

thought can reach is God’s ideal for His children.” Like Joseph, David, Daniel, or even the young, unnamed maid who worked for Naaman’s wife, there are many who serve in the governments of our nations.

For God and Country will highlight some of the Seventh-day Adventist Christians worldwide who are working in government service. Stories of their professional preparation, their journeys, experiences, and prospects will be shared. Our hope is that through this new focus, confidence and network building among Adventists in public service will occur.

We who serve or have served in government agencies are not alone. Our identities and faith preferences are secure. If and when they may come under threat, may our characters and reputations stand like Mordecai’s as a witness to our value while serving in the King’s court.



ADVENTISTS in UNIFORM



Adventists in public service and all veterans are encouraged to join the World Service Organization at AdventistsInUniform.org.



LIVING FAITH IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

In his book, *The Will of God as a Way of Life*, Gerald Sittser writes, “...we do the will of God when we fulfill our calling in life, a calling that is uniquely ours, like a set of fingerprints. A calling grows out of our temperament, our talents, and our experiences in life, though these are not the only factors that affect a calling, as we will see. Ultimately, a calling comes from God. It is part of who we are, of what God has put in us, and of how God wants us to serve his kingdom. Though we have to discover our calling, we should also recognize that it is already in us, very much a part of our identity, waiting to be discovered and expressed, like perennial seeds that, once planted, produce flowers that come up year after year.”¹

The Bible proclaims some are called to be apostles, some are called to be pastors, etc.

There are those who are called

to serve in the public setting. These positions can be as a military member who serves in the nation’s defense forces. Others fill the role of civil servants who work for the government in the various departments and ministries at the local, state or provincial, and even the federal level. Others may be called as legislators or judges.

THE IMPACT OF CHRISTIANS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Why would God place the calling of public service on a Christian’s life? God established government as a part of the order of this world. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.”²

Christians can influence governing authorities for good and counteract those who might choose



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to sway leadership for evil purposes. Additionally, there are other reasons for God-followers to engage in public service.

► **REPRESENT CHRIST TO OTHERS**

Have you considered that your job is perhaps a divine appointment that God has set up for you? If God has led you to this position, how does this impact your performance? When placed in positions of trust and service, Christians should execute their duties as a godly military member, civil servant, or legislator. Do you intentionally look for ways to reflect Christ to others? This should be in a manner that is not offensive, but rather one that will attract others to ask questions about the Saviour you serve.

Is your demeanor pleasant as you interact with your co-workers? Do you eschew gossip and backbiting that often happens in the workplace?

Instead, do you speak positively about your superiors and those with whom you work? Do you pray for them? Do you project a positive attitude, even when there are difficult situations at work or at home? If someone doesn't know you are a Christian, can they tell a difference between you and others who do not profess this belief?

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.³

► **TRANSFORM PUBLIC SERVICE**

Imagine walking into a dark room. You do not know where the light switch is located. You grope around, running your hands over the walls

seeking a switch that will ignite the light source. Work in the public sector can feel like being in that dark room, not knowing where the switch is located.

Before you find the switch, you remember that you have a packet of matches in your pocket. Gratefully, you pull them out and carefully strike a match. The tiny flame flickers in the darkness and then flares enough to help you see the switch.



A Christian's faithful witness is like the match giving light to darkness. Light is always stronger than the darkness that surrounds it. Darkness, in a spiritual sense, symbolizes Satan's realm.

This earth is filled with Satan's darkness. One only has to listen to the news to understand the blackness that envelopes people. News of terrorist attacks by ISIS, al-Shabab, and al Qaeda. Earthquakes, typhoons, mass killings. Refugees who inhabit temporary camps or make a dangerous trek to seek a place to live in peace. "How can it get any darker?" one might ask.

When light shines, it can begin to replace the darkness. For light to shine evenly through matter, light must not be affected by two things. It cannot be absorbed and it cannot be scattered in assorted directions. The Christian's light can be absorbed when secular fascinations control our lives.

Physical light shines more evenly when the material it shines through is smooth. If the light shines through a piece of wavy glass, it will scatter. The light of witness can also be scattered through inconsistent behaviour. Do you try to witness to your friend, but laugh when he tells you an off-color joke? When your co-workers are feeding on the latest piece of gossip, are you eager to hear every spicy tidbit? Actions like these cause deflections of your light and it's scattered inconsistently.

► **IMPACT SOCIETY.**

From the moment that sin entered the Garden of Eden, the earth and its inhabitants began to decay. As Adventist Christians, we believe this



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will continue until Jesus returns. However, it was Jesus who said we are to be the salt of earth.

In ancient times, salt was used to prevent decay of food. It was so important as a part of the food preservation process that wars were fought over the control of salt. The Egyptians used it to preserve their dead as part of the mummification process. In some cultures, it signified friendship. If two people ate salt together, it was requisite that they must look out for each other.

Salt is also important as a flavor enhancer. Have you ever eaten a big spoonful of porridge when the cook forgot to add salt? Most likely, it was bland and without flavor. A little salt makes an impressive difference. Too much salt in food can ruin it completely and make the food completely inedible.

It is the same for us when we interact with others. If the salt of witness in our lives is so little that no one can detect it, no flavor of hope in the Saviour will be tasted by others. If our witness is one of

pouring all of the salt out of the salt shaker, we spoil our interaction with others and they will refuse to listen to anything we might share. Shouldn't the salt in our lives bind us to others and help them on their spiritual walk?

HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Colossae. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."⁴ This biblical mandate calls Christians to remember that everything we do is for Jesus, and we should not be careless in our work or in our actions.

Humans are affected by the external situations around them. Have you really examined the rules for your job? How do these impact your beliefs and spiritual life? It is necessary to be cognizant of situations that might impact you in a spiritual manner. Once you are aware, you are better prepared to deal with these matters.

As you interact with others, exhibit genuine compassion. Take time to listen to another's concerns. Care for the whole person, not just the spiritual portion of his or her life. Are they physically hungry? Are there medical or other needs that are being unmet? What are the distractions that could be barriers from this person being ready to hear the Gospel?

NOT ENOUGH SALT AND LIGHT?

Have you become lax in your spiritual life and how you reflect Christ? Have you lost your saltiness and begun to decay within yourself? God offers you a solution. You just need to wake up from your spiritual slumber and become an illumination and preservative. "For anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."⁵

¹Sitsser, Gerald. *The Will of God as a Way of Life*, p.68.

²Romans 13:1

³Philippians 2:14-16 ESV

⁴Colossians 3:23, 24 NIV

⁵Ephesians 5:14 ESV

- Examine your core convictions. Can you publicly express your core convictions in a way that can make a difference? Are your convictions non-negotiable, even if it means ridicule or the threat of job loss?
- How are your ethics, character, temperament, and judgment? Are you exemplifying personal virtue in each of these areas?
- If Adventists are not involved in public service, how will there be light in the darkness?
- Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. Ephesians 5:11 ESV
- How do you handle compromise? Are you committed to never compromise on moral and spiritual principles?



WORLD SERVICE ORGANIZATION EXPANDS

Many people who choose to enter a form of public service do so because they want to help others. Others choose this as a way to fill their duty to community and nation. The World Service Organization (WSO), a ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is a support network for Adventists who are employed in the public sector.

In upcoming issues of *For God and Country*, you will learn more about programs that are being developed to support Seventh-day Adventists as they serve their communities, nations, and civic organizations.

The WSO is currently working with the various world divisions, unions, and conferences to create local National Service Organizations (NSO). Together the WSO and the NSO can develop and grow working relationships with government officials at various levels.

In order to more effectively connect with Adventists engaged in the public sector, a database is under development for Adventist members who are public workers. This database will enhance the ability of both the WSO and the NSO to maintain contact with individuals, learn of the opportunities and demands they face in the workplace, and provide targeted assistance.

Educating young adults about a role in public or military service is another role of the WSO and NSO.

Discussion of the demands of work in the public sector will assist in developing and understanding the principles and ethical considerations that should be part of a Christian's decision when entering public service.

Future plans include retreats designed specifically for those in public and military service; development of alternative service for military service that can be configured for various locations; and ongoing efforts to develop and maintain effective working relationships with government officials, with a specific emphasis on Adventists who serve in the uniformed services.

As these programs develop and mature, *For God and Country* will continue to provide coverage of events and programs in each world division. For more information about services and programs available in your area, contact the WSO office for your Division.

The World Service Organization (WSO) is a support network for Adventists who are employed in the public sector.

DEACON THOMAS

A MODEL FOR WITNESSING



By David W. Girardin, M.A., MDiv.
Chaplain, Chesapeake Regional Medical Center
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I met Deacon Thomas¹ (hereafter, Thomas) in 2008 in Washington, D.C. I was in Washington to attend a specialty school for a year. Because my family was not going to be with me, I was looking to rent a room in a house, preferably with a family. Through providence I found Thomas and his family. I lived in their home for a year, but learned lessons for a lifetime.

Thomas was semi-retired, but very active at church and in the community. One day while I was studying at the kitchen table, Thomas invited me to

go with him on a *'food run.'* I thought we were just going for groceries and in a way we were, but not for the house. Off we went in Thomas' old work van. Thomas drove to various grocery stores. As we walked into a store, Thomas with his ever-present smile would greet the clerks and managers with a cheerful, "The peace of the Lord be with you!" I watched as the clerks and managers, with grins on their faces, greeted Thomas. With many, Thomas leaned forward and asked about personal issues they had shared with him, and with



The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'

some Thomas would stop and pray. It was almost like being at church. After the greetings, the manager would walk us to the warehouse and donate the nearly expired bakery goods and produce. We loaded these goods into the van and as we were leaving Thomas would wave joyfully proclaiming, "Rejoice and be glad!" We then drove on to the next store. At the end of the 'food run,' Thomas delivered the food to various shelters for the homeless. A couple of these shelters were infirmaries for those with terminal diseases. I watched as the shelter staff and residents interacted with Thomas similarly to the store clerks and managers.

On the way home I asked Thomas about this ministry. Thomas explained it in detail, but to be succinct for this article, the ministry that Thomas performed can be summed up in a couple of quotes. First are Jesus' words to the disciples in Matthew 28: 19 & 20.

"Go therefore 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 that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."²

The second quote is from Ellen

White's book, *The Ministry of Healing*.

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

There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice."³

We are not all Thomas' but we are all, as disciples, called to be witnesses. Even though some will simply pull the principles for witnessing from Thomas' story and the quotes, there is merit in mapping out a simple process. Look at the steps drawn from the quote by Ellen White, think back to Thomas' story, and think forward of how you could use these in your world.

Step 1. 'Mingle as one *that* desires good.' Be joyful as you go about your daily activities.

Shake hands and genuinely make eye contact. When in conversation⁴, one

Sometimes the needs will be as simple as being a good listener or having a prayer. Other times the needs will be complex like homelessness or addictions.

acronym that can be used is FORT. Below is the acronym with example questions. If your interactions are through various electronic messaging systems, always respond when messaged(!) and learn how to enhance your messages using emoticon or emoji symbols (😊😄👍).

F = Family. *'So, tell me about your family?'* As the other person is telling the story, acknowledge listening with smiles, head-nods, etc. The goal here is to find out about the other individual, who are they. Ask the questions you'd want

someone to ask you. Share back, remember this is a conversation.

O = Occupation. *'Tell me, what do you do for work?'* If the other person is retired, ask what kind of work they did before retirement? Even though the question is about the person's work, the goal is for the individual to tell their story. Weave into the conversation your own work.

R = Recreation. *'Do you play or follow any sports?'* *'What do you do for recreation?'* *'What are your hobbies?'* Because this is a conversation, by



this point there is connectedness, a basic level of trust.

T = Testimony. Building on the previous parts of the conversation, the connectedness and trust, this is a time when a testimony can be shared; it should be brief, one to two minutes. The goal is to assess the other person's relationship with Jesus. *'While we are getting to know each other, one of the important aspects of my life is my relationship with God and at church. In the early 1970s, things were pretty wild. Then a lady I was dating invited me to church. After a while, it was there I found a way to serve the community, a wife - I married the lady who invited me, but most significantly I found faith in Jesus. I'm wondering, where are you with God - Jesus?'* After the question, this is a time to listen and not debate!

Step 2. 'Show sympathy.' Be interested in the other person and their story! The most caring behaviour is to listen to another person. Show interest! As the other person is telling their story acknowledge listening with a nod of the head, smiles, and one-word acknowledgments (Interesting, Wow, Hmm, etc.).

Step 3. 'Minister to their needs and build confidence.' As you listen, you will hear the other's needs. Sometimes the needs will be as simple as being a good listener or having a prayer. Other times the needs will be complex like homelessness or addictions. Ministering to others needs does not mean having to do it all. Involve others as needed by referring the individual to a resource that is best equipped to help. Develop an up-to-date information and referral file that contains various church and community service resources.

Step 4. 'Follow.' By this point, it is very natural for the conversations to be those that touch on deeper topics. If not already known, this is an ideal time to invite someone to faith in Christ or to attend church. I have found a useful tool for leading someone to faith in Christ, the AWANA⁵ Gospel Wheel⁶ (hereafter, The Wheel). The Wheel begins by contrasting man's sinful character to God's loving character⁷ and is followed by God's response to sin that should lead to man's response to God⁸.

As stated earlier, we are not all like Thomas, but we are all called to be witnesses. Described in this brief essay was witnessing through a food redistribution ministry and a process for witnessing using four aspects of a statement by Ellen White from the book *The Ministry of Healing*. We are all given this information. The challenge is how will each of us use it toward the growth of God's kingdom?

Rejoice and be glad!

1 Thomas' identity has been changed as to provide for his confidentiality. Thomas died on May 10, 2015 as this article was being written.

2 New Revised Standard Version, NRSV

3 Page 143

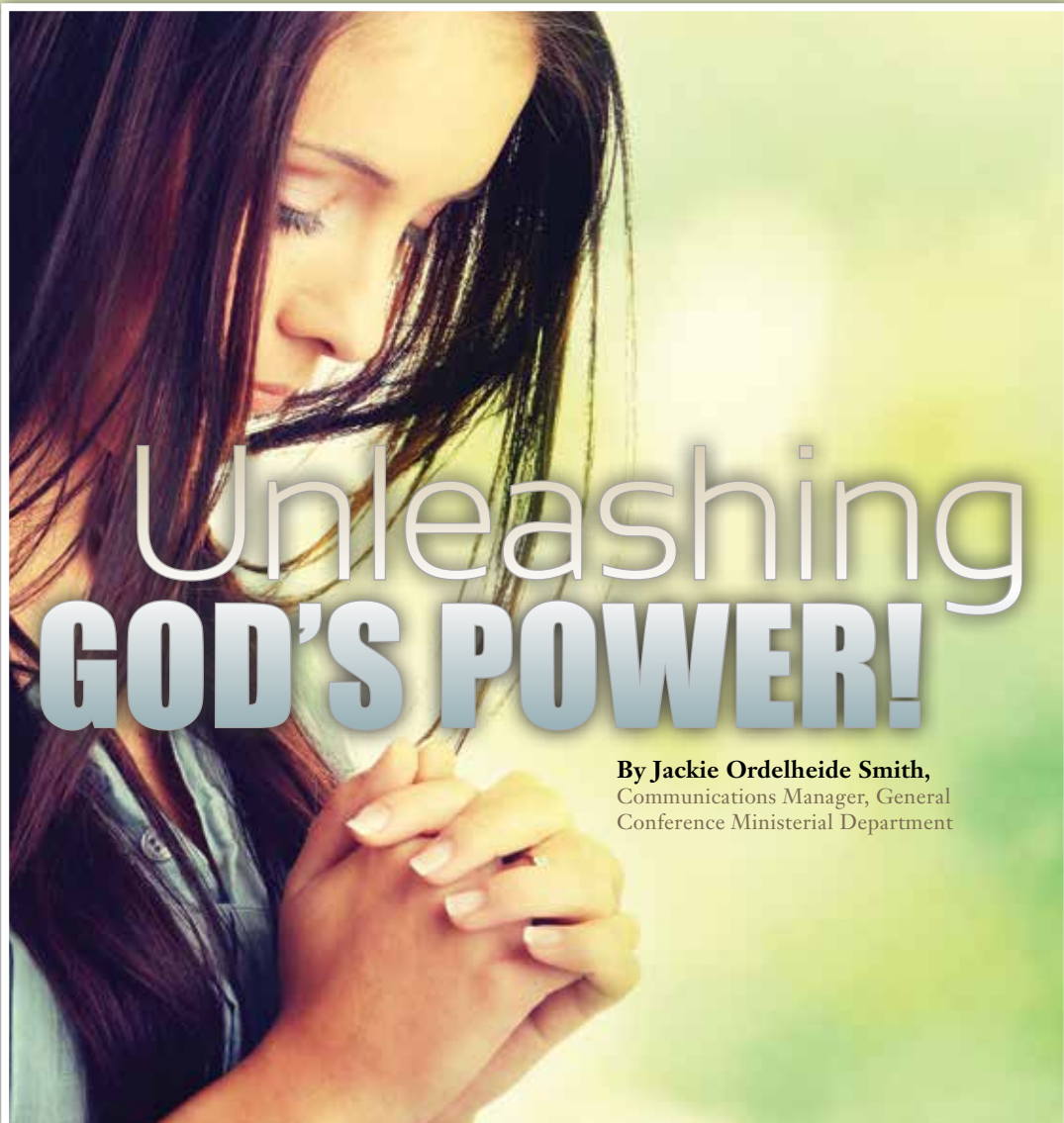
4 Conversation means that there is more than one person talking. To build a relationship of trust it is vital to listen to the other individual. Listening is a skill that needs to be exercised. As a rule of thumb, listen twice as much as you speak.

5 AWANA is a Christian youth ministry, similar to Pathfinders. AWANA is an acronym that stands for Able Workmen Are Not Ashamed, coming from 2 Timothy 2: 15.

6 The AWANA Gospel Wheel can be found at <http://summitawana.org/documents/GospelWheel.pdf>

7 1 Corinthians 15: 3-4, Romans 3: 23 and 6: 23, and John 3: 16

8 Romans 5: 8 and Acts 16: 31



Unleashing GOD'S POWER!

By Jackie Ordelle Smith,
Communications Manager, General
Conference Ministerial Department

A small church in a farming town had been without a pastor for more than six months. It had been decreasing in size for years, so God led the head elder to unite with church members several times a week in prayer. They prayed, and prayed, and kept praying for people to come to their church. People did start coming, and members continued to pray until their attendance had more

than doubled! Their dying school became their next united prayer object. God soon had doubled its enrollment plus the members were now seeing personal answers to prayer and were filled with rejoicing!

Imagine, millions of Seventh-day Adventists around the world, all praying together in one accord for the same thing! What would happen? If millions unitedly persevered in

prayers, much like the disciples did in the upper room just before Pentecost and though the book of Acts, what could God do!

God has promised to pour out His Spirit upon us, if we just ask, and press together as a people in one accord in prayer. You can be part of a similar dynamic, worldwide prayer movement with that same purpose! *United in Prayer*, as this Revival and Reformation initiative is called, is a global church community of Seventh-day Adventist members praying together. “We want to encourage members to join together in prayer,” says Jerry Page, General Conference Ministerial Association Secretary, “whether through your own personal time with God, personal prayer groups, or in a broader sense as a church through prayer phone lines, 777 on the hour, texting groups, or any other way that God leads.” Participants of *United in Prayer* will also share and receive testimonies, prayer requests, practical helps, and inspirational messages.

In Matthew 18:19 and 20, God invites us to come together and ask great things of Him: “. . . If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father, which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (KJV).

WHY PRAY UNITEDLY?

Ellen White tells us that, “The promise [in Matthew] is made on condition that the united prayers of the church are offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be expected a power greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer. The power given will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their

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love for God and for one another (9 Manuscript Release 303.3)—MR No. 748 The Power of United Prayer.

A young woman’s husband left her for another woman. Her father kept persistently asking everyone to pray for the husband—his son-in-law—to come back to the wife and family. The father would meet in various prayer groups and would have them pray. The wife and children kept uniting in prayer for their father to return. For seven years they persevered in prayer. Then one happy day the husband returned home, and the marriage was restored!

“The purpose of united prayer is to pray together for what is on God’s heart for this lost world,” says Janet Page, General Conference Prayer Coordinator. “It brings us into unity, unleashes His power, and energizes our own spiritual life. I love it! Praying together with others has totally changed my life!”

BELIEVE HIS PROPHETS

Prayer and Bible study go hand-in-hand to bring revival. One can hardly have a strong prayer life without also going deeper into God’s Word. The companion to the *United in Prayer* global prayer initiative is the global study program called *Believe His Prophets*. *Believe His Prophets*, the sequel to *Revived by His Word*, is a five-year program of reading

through the entire Bible, a chapter a day, with an accompanying blog, and interactive comments. It also includes weekly readings from seven Ellen G. White books, including *Steps to Christ*, *Christ's Object Lessons*, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Prophets and Kings*, *The Desire of Ages*, *the Acts of the Apostles*, and *The Great Controversy*.

"God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path," says Derek Morris, editor of *Ministry* magazine and coordinator of the program. "So our goal is to encourage church members to spend time with God in prayer and reading the Bible every day."

"I used to be violent and always aggressive," writes one participant, "but because of God's Word and His life, I'm now peaceful, loving, and kind."

"My workmates are seeing changes in my habits," writes another. "I use to swear a lot at work, but now these habits are dying out. Thanks, Revived by His Word!"

Shah writes, "I am no longer complaining about leaders in my local church, but I pray for them!"

The name *Believe His Prophets* was

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taken from the counsel in 2 Chronicles 20:20, which says, "Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed" (ESV).

Thousands have been blessed by God as a result of *Revived by His Word*," Morris concludes, "and we believe thousands more will gain an even deeper understanding of God's will or their lives through *Believe His Prophets*."

To be part of these two worldwide movements and receive the daily chapter and regular prayer mailings, go to RevivalandReformation.org.

This article originally appeared in *Elder's Digest*, October/December 2015. Jackie Ordelheide Smith is Ministerial communication manager at the General Conference World Headquarters.





Revival and REFORMATION GUIDANCE for the JOURNEY HOME

Take your connection with God to a higher level!

Believe His Prophets, a sequel to ***Revived by His Word***, is a five-year journey through the Bible and selected writings of Ellen White, which includes daily Bible readings, daily interactive blogs, and weekly selections from the Spirit of Prophecy.

United in Prayer is a dynamic worldwide movement to pray with others. Receive weekly inspirational prayer messages, ideas, testimonies, and requests from the world church, and share praise reports and prayer requests through WePray.mobi, an online prayer community.

Sign up for both ***Believe His Prophets*** and ***United in Prayer*** at www.RevivalandReformation.org.

GLOBAL STUDY PROGRAM

Believe
His Prophets

Every day in God's Word
and the Spirit of Prophecy

GLOBAL PRAYER CIRCLE

UNITED
in
PRAYER

Every day in Prayer
with God's People



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST® CHURCH

www.RevivalandReformation.org

WE ARE ENROUTE!

Lt. Rudy Prado, as told
to Deena Bartel-Wagner

When the alarm sounds at Station 27, Rudy Prado and his team are ready to respond to the emergency that someone is experiencing. “As a Christian firefighter and paramedic, I don’t see myself as someone who saves lives,” says Rudy Prado. “I see myself as someone who intervenes in a situation where death may occur. We only have one Saviour.”

Prado, a lieutenant and paramedic/firefighter with Station 27, Orange County Fire and Rescue in Florida, has always liked to do things that helped others. The work of a

firefighter seemed a natural fit for him once he finished school. “I knew that I wanted to serve others and thought about going into pastoral ministry,” says Prado. “Instead, I felt that my calling was in another direction. Once I became a firefighter, I knew that I wanted to expand my skills to become a paramedic.”

Prado’s department fields over 100,000 emergency calls annually. “Our objective is to help victims have a quality of life after an accident,” says Prado. “We work hard to provide our services quickly and efficiently.”

To stay current with quali-

fications, Prado, and his colleagues are constantly training and upgrading their skills in both how they respond and for the equipment that they use. “There are situations that happen that you never see coming,” says Prado. “When those occur, you have to be ready to mitigate with the proper response.”

On one medical response run, Prado encountered a woman who believed she was having a heart attack. “She dressed modestly



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and was well-spoken,” Prado recalls. As he checked her vital signs, he began to reassure her that his team was there to care for her physical needs.

“I asked her if she believe in God,” says Prado. “She told me that she did. I then asked her if it was safe to assume that she was a Christian.”

The woman acknowledged this and then she probed further with the question, “Are you a Christian, too?”

“I’m a Seventh-day Adventist Christian,” Prado replied.

“I don’t go to church anymore,” the woman told him.

“Why don’t you want to be with other believers?”

“When I was a student in the academy I was treated poorly because of how I dressed,” the woman confided. Those hurtful interactions built a wall that only grew more solid through the years.

“I encouraged her to return to be with other Christians,” says Prado. “During my years as a paramedic/firefighter I learned very few people are loved by others. Christ loved everyone, but He didn’t force Himself on others. Christ’s mission was to bring the truth of who God the Father



is to humans and to restore us to a relationship with Him.”

When engaging with his colleagues, Prado enjoys the camaraderie of being a tight-knit group. “We become family to each other,” says Prado. “When you eat, work, sleep, and relax together, it’s natural that a bond is formed. These interactions are part of what makes my work enjoyable.”

As a Christian, Prado has a heart to share Jesus with his co-workers. “Evangelism is about building relationships with others,” says Prado. “You have to develop a trust between yourself and another person. That will open the door to share spiritual matters.”

In his desire to help others, Prado has also shared his skills and

YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE TRULY CALLED TO DO THIS WORK. IT'S NOT ABOUT WORKING FOR THE MONEY. YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT WHAT THE JOB WILL REQUIRE FROM YOU. ARE YOU READY TO SERVE OTHERS?



knowledge by training others in life-saving skills. "I was asked by David Canther, president of Active Christians That Serve (ACTS) if I would be willing to go to travel to the Dominican Republic to assist with emergency response training."

Prado had recently asked God to show him how he could use his talents to serve him in a wider field. "I told David that I'd be happy to go," says Prado. "What a great thing to be able to train others in something I had done all my life! And the best part was that I was able to combine it with sharing the Gospel."

In the Dominican Republic, 150 firefighters, church youth leaders, and personnel from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and World Vision enrolled for the course. "The training focused on incident command, life-saving skills, and emotional and spiritual care," says Prado. "I was impressed with the firefighters who were actively working in their communities and how well-trained they were."

The course met with such success that Prado and Canther next went to Chile. More than 500 youth and church members were trained to be emergency responders. "We worked with Boy Scouts at a camp in the Andes," says Prado. "The focus was to equip them to respond following a disaster in their local community. During the week of training, they were preparing to participate in a mock mass casualty drill that would test the skills they had learned." Since their training the Scouts, have been the first on the ground following earthquakes and tsunamis.

With more than 25 years as a firefighter/paramedic, Prado believes that there is a place for Christians in this type of work. His advice for someone considering this as a lifework begins with asking one question. "You need to make sure that you are truly called to do this work. It's not about working for the money," says Prado.



“Don’t think of this as getting a job at the local box store.

Prado also says, “You need to think about what the job will require from you. Are you ready to serve others?”

There are practical considerations for anyone choosing to join the profession of firefighter/paramedic. It is a high-stress job, with many demands. Being able to read people is a required skill, as well as interacting with them. In a job that deals with accidents, injury, and sometimes, death, you must guard against becoming cynical to the world around you.

As a Seventh-day Adventist, you will need to be prepared spiritually. “It is imperative that you have a good relationship with your Creator,” says Prado. “You must understand that you will work on some weekends. I knew

there would be times I was going to have to work from Friday to Sunday.” The weekends that Prado has off he makes sure he is spending his Sabbath with fellow believers.

Another piece of wisdom that Prado offers is that you must know your beliefs and not deviate from them. You don’t know who is watching and how your life will impact them. “A fellow firefighter needed to be away over a weekend that I wasn’t scheduled to work,” says Prado. “When he came to me to ask if I could substitute for him, his words to me were, ‘I know how important your Sabbaths off are to you.’ I never sat him down and told him that. The relationship that I built with him and my co-workers was what had led to his observation about how meaningful that Sabbath is in my life.”

BE STILL MY SOUL

Reino Ketola, with Deena Bartel-Wagner

*Be still, my soul; thy God doth
undertake, to guide the future as
He has the past.*

*Thy hope, thy confidence,
let nothing shake; All now
mysterious shall be bright at last.*

*Be still, my soul; the waves and
winds still know, His voice who
ruled them while He dwelt below.*

Reino Ketola will tell you that his baptism occurred at 16, but his conversion was at 22. “My uncle had been baptized as a Seventh-day Adventist. His studies with my mother, my brother, and me led to our baptisms. The closet Adventist church was 50 miles away and located in the town hall on a reservation. One of the tribal chiefs was an Adventist, and that was why there was a church there.”

During those years, Reino didn’t know that this isolation from other believers would give him strength during a difficult time in a land much different than the upper peninsula of Michigan.

CALL TO WAR

In June 1950, the Korean war began, and Reino saw two of his cousins go off to war. “Then my brother Martin went,” says Reino. “I finally was called up and reported for duty December 31, 1952. I served as a medic with the 25th Infantry Division Tropic Lightning, Company C Medical Battalion.” Just before he left for Korea, Reino and his sweetheart, Marie, were married.

The battlefield would put Reino’s faith to the test. “When I saw another soldier next to me die, it made me truly consider my relationship with



The battlefield would put Reino's faith to the test. "When I saw another soldier next to me die, it made me truly consider my relationship with God," says Reino.

God," says Reino. "I was converted at that moment and completely gave my heart to the Lord."

The Tropic Lightning Division contributed heavily to the push above the 38th parallel. "Although I had experienced the cold in Michigan, Korea seemed even colder," says Reino. "Often we would see Korean citizens sleeping on the Army's garbage dumps to keep warm. One night it was so cold I huddled into my blanket as best I could. When I woke up the next morning, my nose was frozen to the blanket that I had wrapped over my face."

As the troops made their way across the country, the intensity of the artillery increased. "One week, I didn't sleep at all," says Reino. "The artillery was non-stop, and it was impossible to sleep."

BE STILL MY SOUL

The bitter cold and the pitch-dark night wrapped themselves around Reino, as he shifted his heavily loaded Arctic pack on his back. "It was -40°F, and we were out on patrol," says Reino. "As a medic, I was unarmed. Suddenly, an overwhelming impression came over me. It was almost as if I heard someone speak the words, 'Your life on earth is done.'"

For a moment, Reino was petrified, but his faith was strong. His stomach felt as though it was full of butterflies as he prayed, "Lord, I turn it all over to you."



"A pressure enveloped me at that moment," says Reino. "It's hard to describe, but I felt surrounded by the pressure. Then, I sensed someone approaching me on my right side. Suddenly, the words of the song, 'Be Still My Soul,' filled my mind, as peace radiated out towards me."

At that moment, Reino's helmet fell forward over his face. For the next half hour, that presence stayed with Reino. "After that, I wasn't afraid of anything," says Reino.

Another instance of testing occurred in the dark of the night when the Division was moving out. "We had to use blackout lights on the vehicles," says Reino. "We were on a mountain road, and I really couldn't see anything except the mountain that was on my side of the vehicle. The



lieutenant sitting next to me said that he couldn't see anything at all when he looked out his window. The road just dropped off into the oblivion of the darkness." Just one miscalculation and Reino and the lieutenant would have hurtled down the mountainside.

ADVENTIST, WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

As a Seventh-day Adventist and a non-combatant medic, Reino faced challenges. He was the only Adventist in his unit, but he had worshiped without a large group before. The Sabbaths of his youth when he worshiped at home had taught him that. "When you are on the front lines, you have to be on night guard duty when scheduled," says Reino. "I told my CO that I was willing to stand guard anytime except Friday night." That brought a four-hour grilling about his beliefs by one of the

officers. Reino stood for his beliefs and eventually didn't stand guard duty on Friday nights.

Food proved to be another challenge for the young soldier. "I had chosen to be a vegetarian," says Reino. "There were a lot of rations that I wouldn't eat. Many of my buddies were willing to trade the crackers in their rations for the food I didn't want."

A trip to Seoul meant that Reino could meet with other Adventists there. "While I was in Seoul, I met with the Adventist missionaries. They fed me a wonderful home-cooked lunch that meant a lot to a hungry soldier who'd been living on crackers," says Reino.

While Reino was on the frontline, he received an unexpected visit. "My brother, Martin was 20 months older than me," says Reino. "Our time in Korea overlapped. One day, Martin showed up at the front to visit me. The war took a terrible toll on him. He was so affected by what he had witnessed that he couldn't eat for a week."

A LIFELONG COMMITMENT

Eventually, the brothers both returned to their hometown on the edge of Lake Superior. "We grew up in a logging community, and that is where we returned to after Korea," says Reino.

After the war, Reino and Marie raised their family of two boys and three girls in a Christian home. "I fasted one day a week for my children," says Reino. "I knew I couldn't raise them without the Lord's help."

On the battlefield, Reino and his brother, Martin, learned to face the dangers of the enemy. They decided to go into business together and

He was the only Adventist in his unit, but he had worshiped without a large group before. The Sabbaths of his youth when he worshiped at home had taught him that.

opened Ketola Logging. In the logging business the Ketola brothers faced different type of dangers, but they did so with faith that kept them strong.

Reino attended Emmanuel Missionary College and took the machine shop course and welding. He also spent seven years working as a literature evangelist. "It was an incredible experience to see others accept Jesus as their Saviour," says Reino.

Throughout his life, Reino has pondered that cold, pitch-black night when a presence stayed close and radiated peace and warmth. He will never know the full story this side of Heaven, but Reino has been steadfast in his battlefield commitment to submit his life to God. His faith played out in practical ways in his daily life back in Michigan. "We had a bone dry year," says Reino. "We didn't have a well and were dependent upon the spring that ran on our property. When the spring dried up, I knew we didn't have the \$5,000.00 it would cost to drill a well. I began to pray."

God already knew the need, but Reino felt he had to express it in words. Reino prayed for water and for the spring to be restored. Another time of testing wasn't going to shake his faith loose. When the spring began running again, Reino knew that he'd been blessed once again beyond measure.

Another test of his faith came when Reino lost his beloved brother, Martin. His hope in the Second

Coming and a reunion in a better land has Reino longing for that day. Until then, his thoughts are *"Be still, my*

soul; the Lord is on thy side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;

Leave to thy God to order and provide; In every change He faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul; thy best, thy heavenly Friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end."



Martin Ketola



There are
different kinds
of **service**, but
we serve
the same **Lord**.

—1 CORINTHIANS 12:5 NLT

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

For God and Country is designed for you, our readers. If you are a Seventh-day Adventist in public service we want to hear from you!

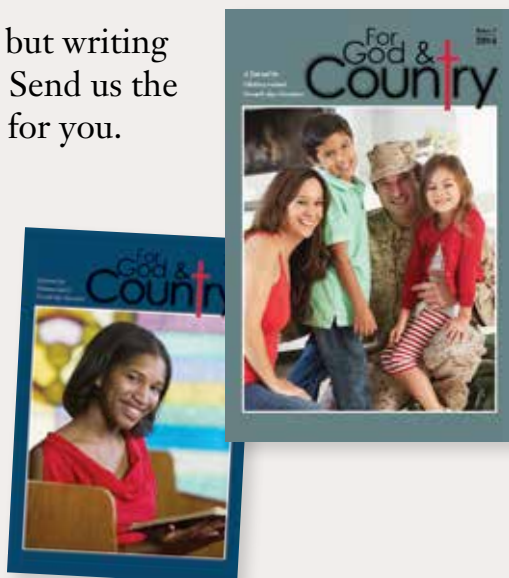
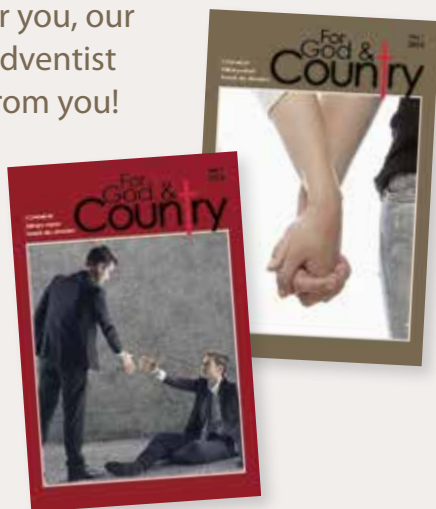
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SDA MILITARY CHAPLAIN CANDIDATE SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED

Thousands of Seventh-day Adventists serve honorably in the United States Armed Forces. Frequently, Adventists in uniform are deployed to places where no Adventist churches or pastors are readily available. During the past sixty years more than 100 Seventh-day Adventist ministers have provided pastoral care and religious support as military chaplains.

Seminarians called to serve as military chaplains are rarely, if ever, granted financial sponsorship by a conference. The Military Chaplain Candidate Scholarship Fund has been established to provide funds for prospective military chaplains. This scholarship will assist seminarians who have become chaplain candidates and plan to serve as a Seventh-day Adventist military chaplain in the United States Armed Forces.

In order to receive funds from this scholarship fund, the seminarian must fully meet the requirements listed below and submit a completed application form to the Christian Ministry Department of the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

1. Be a Seventh-day Adventist church member in regular standing.
2. Be a full-time graduate student in the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University.
3. Have completed at least one semester of study with a B average (3.0 GPA).
4. Be unsponsored by a conference.
5. Been granted ecclesiastical approval/endorsement by the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries Department–North American Division, and show proof by a valid DD 2088 form.
6. Been accessioned by one of the military services as a chaplain candidate.
7. Been sworn in and commissioned as an O-1 officer (Second Lieutenant in the Air Force or Army; Ensign in the Navy) in either the Guard or Reserve of that military service.

A seminary faculty committee will determine the amount and distribution of the available funds to eligible applicants who have applied.

Perhaps the ministry of an Adventist military chaplain has blessed you or others you know. You can help continue the tradition of ministering to the spiritual needs of those in uniform. Your financial donation will help enable a chaplain candidate to become a military chaplain. Make your check payable to the “Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary” and specifically mark it for the **Military Chaplain Candidate Scholarship Fund**. Mail to the SDA Theological Seminary, ATTN: Treasurer, 4145 East Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49104-1500. Thank you for your contribution.

NAD MILITARY CHURCH

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Are you assigned overseas for six months or longer in some type of official government or military-related service for Canada or the United States (active duty in the armed forces, civilian employee, teacher, AAFES worker, contractor, or family member)? Then you are eligible to join the NAD Military Church. To request a transfer of your membership, visit AdventistsInUniform.org. Click on the link "NAD Military Church."

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YOUR NAD MILITARY CHURCH STAFF AND BOARD LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU!





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The National Service Organization is the official military-relations office of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Its primary mission is to provide pastoral care and religious resources to support the spiritual well-being of Seventh-day Adventist military-related personnel.

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One act of obedience is better than one hundred sermons.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



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