

The Newsletter of Steps to Life Ministry

# IN HIS STEPS

July - August 2023 | Volume 23 • Number 4

Son, go work today in my vineyard... *Matthew 21:28*



## *Beware the Wolf in Sheep's Clothing*

### Same Tactic – Different Disguise

In the 1970s, some Adventist ministers became interested in the way other Protestant churches were conducting evangelism and how successful they were, and so they wanted to bring these philosophies, methods, and ideas into the Adventist church to help us become more successful in the church's evangelistic efforts. There were many different attempts to do this. For example, a prominent Adventist evangelist came to speak to the ministers in the North Dakota Conference where I was one of the pastors. He told us about how successful a protestant minister was with the approach he described. We were supposed to visit with a prospect and during the course of the conversation we were to ask them this question: "If you were to die tonight, do you know that you would be saved and go to heaven?" If they were not sure—and most people would not be sure—we were then to show them how, by using the approach of this protestant minister from Florida, starting that very night, they could have the assurance that if they were to die that night they would go to heaven.

When some of our ministers tried it, apparently it worked wonderfully well until you tried to study with them about the law of God and the Sabbath and the three angels' messages and the judgment. Then you found out that they were not interested in any of those things—they already had assurance that if they died that night, they would go to heaven.

In the 1980s, Adventist ministers went to different "mega churches" in the United States to see how they were successfully attracting so many thousands to their worship services. Our ministers learned many new ideas and spiritual techniques from these Babylonian churches and then tried to get the rest of us in Adventism acquainted with these techniques and how to use them.

One of these techniques was neurolinguistic programming (NLP). I had already been introduced to NLP because I had studied salesmanship. Sales people had been using NLP to become more successful for years. I had books on salesmanship which taught this technique, but I laid them aside and did not read them after I ran into techniques



*A piano and drums replaced traditional church musical instruments.*

“

*It is not God's purpose that any human being should yield his mind and will to the control of another, becoming a passive instrument in his hands.*

*Ministry of Healing, 242-244*

that I recognized as a form of spiritualism and did not want to be corrupted with it. After the introduction of NLP and the training of Adventist ministers in these techniques, I went to my library and looked again at these books on salesmanship and saw that it was the same thing and finally I became afraid to even have those books in my house and threw them away.

Unfortunately, not all Adventist ministers felt this way. Some espoused NLP as a way for a minister to be more successful in conflict resolution, among other things.

What is wrong with NLP? Simply this: “It is not God’s purpose that any human being should yield his mind and will to the control of another, becoming a passive instrument in his hands. No one is to merge his individuality in that of another. He is not to look to any human being as the source of healing. . . . The theory of mind controlling mind was originated by Satan, to introduce himself as the chief worker, to put human philosophy where divine philosophy should be. . . . God alone is the One who can heal. Those whose minds and bodies are diseased are to behold in Christ the restorer.” *Ministry of Healing, 242-244*

NLP is a technique whereby a person with a stronger mind can bring a person with a weaker mind partially under his control. In fact the person using it on another person can often bring the other person into a light trance.

You would think that Adventist ministers would be scared to learn a technique that is so closely related to hypnotism and spiritualism. However, not all Adventist ministers were afraid of NLP. Many in both the United States and in foreign countries studied it to become proficient in it. What did this eventually lead to? This and other practices brought into the Seventh-day Adventist church led to changes in worship so that in some churches the organ and the carpet were removed from the front of the church and a piano and a drum set were installed instead on hard-wood floors. Then the front was changed so that instead of absorbing sound, the sound would be reflected back on the congregation. Gospel music was used in worship services with

these new instruments so that the worship service became in some places a bedlam of noise. This resulted in some people deciding that they could not attend worship services at the church that they had attended for years.

But perhaps the capstone of these developments occurred in 1993 when a prominent Adventist minister who had been pastor of some of the largest Adventist churches in America and who had been a college President was recorded telling Adventist ministers about how to hypnotize the congregation. When I heard the recording, I was shocked. I did not need to look at any video to see who the minister was because I recognized his voice. I had heard him preach in Adventist churches many times.

I was not the only person who was shocked. Pastor John Osborne from Prophecy Countdown in Florida was shocked, too. He sent a video all over the country, not only with this recording, but also advising people that if they were going to get away from all such influences, they were going to have to form home churches in order to have a safe place for themselves and their children to worship. Within a matter of weeks hundreds of home churches began meeting every Sabbath.

It was during this same general period of time that I printed a small booklet entitled *None Dare Call It Apostasy*. In this booklet I quoted from several different Adventist periodicals and then quoted the Spirit of Prophecy statements that either forbade what was done or taught something totally opposite. When during that same year I was disfellowshipped from the Conference church of which I was a member, this was one of the four reasons given why I was being disfellowshipped—I was accused of saying that the Adventist Church was in apostasy.

Although the home church movement in Adventism lasted for several years, there were several developments that occurred which resulted eventually in the home church movement collapsing in the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. (It was destroyed from within.)

We were told outright by highly educated people at the beginning of the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century that there was no need for self-supporting work anymore, and we did not need to exist any longer—in other words the problems that we had been talking about for the past several years had all been solved and very soon the latter rain was going to come upon the Adventist church and we were all going to finish the work very quickly and be in heaven in a short time. I well remember one Adventist pastor who had been standing up against the worldwide apostasy saying something like this, “Don’t you think we should wait and pray and not be so hasty about making such sweeping conclusions”?

Some Adventists may decide that the problems that we addressed in the 1990s have all been solved and that we can just all go lock-step together through the pearly gates, but my friend, when Adventists lay down their weapons (when they do not rebuke open sin anymore) and think that all is well, the devil does not lay down his weapons. He is usually already in the middle of another even more successful attack—an attack that will use the same false principles but will be masked in different clothes so that God’s professed people will not recognize it. “When error in one garb has been detected, Satan only masks it in a different disguise, and multitudes receive it as eagerly as at the first.” *The Great Controversy*, 285

When people understood that things like NLP and the techniques that were used to hypnotize them in church were evil and decided to get away, the same ideas were wrapped in different clothes and the multitudes in Adventism started accepting it as readily as the former. In fact the new ideas and theories that are today sweeping through Adventism were even promoted in *Adventist Review* a few years ago. Where is the protest that there should have been and should be now against these things?



Pray for your children or grandchildren every day and every night that they will be saved from the forces of spiritualism that are trying to take control of Adventist young people.

If you have children or grandchildren, I hope you are praying every day and night that they will be preserved from the forces of spiritualism that are trying to take control of Adventists and especially Adventist young people today.

The forces of spiritualism are very close to getting control of the world and Adventists seem to be asleep. I am glad that in His great mercy God has intervened and pulled some of His children out of the trap that the devil has laid for Adventists.

Stephanie Griffin, a young woman who was into these spiritualistic practices for almost nine years wrote this about it: “The Silence of which I speak is a common practice within Spiritual Formation known as Contemplative Prayer. Other names for this practice include Centering Prayer, Soaking Prayer, Listening Prayer and even ‘Silent in Jesus.’

“Contemplative Prayer is foundational to the spiritual exercises of Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. It was an integral part of my daily life for almost nine years.”

We are glad that having been delivered from this delusion she is helping other people to understand and avoid it. She was one of the speakers at our camp

meeting, May 24-27. DVDs of her presentations will be available for purchase, once we have completed editing them.

To understand more of her explanation, you can order her book *Silence No More*. If you do not have much time to read, you can get her booklet *Beware of the Silence*.

Here is how you can obtain the book and booklet:

- Order it from Steps to Life
- Order it from the website [SilenceNoMore.net](http://SilenceNoMore.net)
- Order it through the website: <https://sgriffin.org/>

Here is her brief description of the reason you need to be informed with the material in the book and booklet: “A dark force has taken our church by storm, a false revival boldly wrapped in the promise of an intense worship experience. ... Open your eyes to the telltale signs of this movement that may already be in your church as well.”



Article by  
John Grosboll  
Director of Steps to Life

# Foreign Mission Project Updates

## Orphanage in Central Nigeria Now Operational

As the accompanying photos show, the orphanage in central Nigeria is now fully functional, with twelve precious souls under the care of Ruby, Mercy, and Daniel.

We are so happy to have this project nearing completion that we are providing an in-depth report on the project in this newsletter.

This project would not have been possible without the wonderful encouragement and financial assistance we get from our supporters. Please accept our most heartfelt thanks. Truly the benefit of your generosity resides with the boys and girls who will have safe and decent dwelling places, regular meals, and, most especially, spiritual nourishment.

The orphanage is part of the ministry complex that is ready for occupancy in Central Nigeria.



**Very top:** Assured of a safe and comfy place to live and regular meals, the new residents enjoy their last meal of the day.

**Above left:** Daniel, Mercy, and Ruby with their new charges

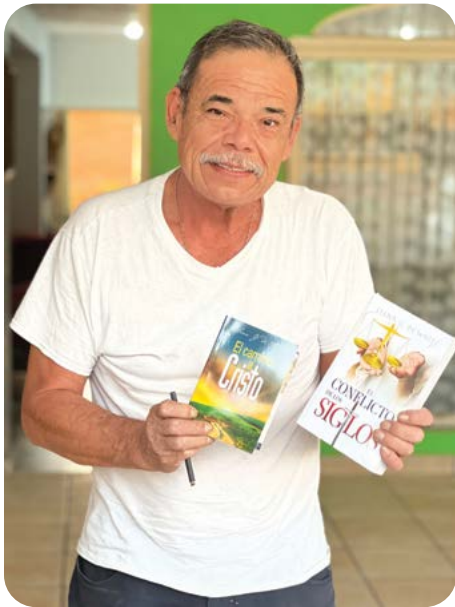
**Above right:** The children try out their new desks before beginning their studies.

**Left:** Several of the residents pause for a photo as they prepare to enjoy their new bunk beds.



# Spiritualism in Mexico

## The National Religion?



Gerardo Torres responded to our broadcast invitation to receive a copy of *The Great Controversy* and Bible studies.

In a recent broadcast from our studio in Guadalajara, we focused our Bible study on 1 Samuel 28 to shed more light on spiritualism, which a large majority in this nation practice and believe. The national religion of Mexico, Catholicism, is responsible for this deception. We gave a brief history of how the Lord Himself chose Saul to be king over Israel. In the beginning King Saul was humble and faithful to the Lord, but sadly he began to depart from His God, from the counsel of His prophet, Samuel, and trusted more in

self. This separation led to his complete fall from grace. Chapter 28 of first Samuel is an excellent Biblical account for teaching the dangers of spiritualism.

We are living in dangerous times. Belief in spiritualism and the state of the dead is the religion of many because evil messengers are communicating truth mixed with error. Disguised as "angels of light" and claiming the name of Jesus, they make captives of those who do not know the truth from God's word.

Mr. Gerardo Torres responded to our invitation from this broadcast to accept a free Bible and the book offers *The Great Controversy* and *Steps to Christ*. He shared that our radio broadcasts are a great blessing to him and that he enjoys following the Bible based studies. He feels that the Lord guided him to "stumble" onto the broadcasts back in March and now listens faithfully.

Every week new people are finding *La Verdad Presente* by divine providence. When we hear listeners make that statement, we think earnestly how much we would like for this broadcast be heard daily! It has been our prayer for a long time that the Lord will make this possible.

Thank you for your continued prayerful support. May the Lord reward you for your generosity.

Christ is coming very soon!



The Mexican version of Catholicism is deeply intertwined with occultism as evident in the Day of the Dead celebrations.

## HISTORIC LANDMARKS OF ADVENTISM

in July



If you're a *LandMarks* subscriber, you surely have the July issue in your hands already. If you're not a subscriber, you can

access the magazine online at [www.stepstolife.org](http://www.stepstolife.org).

With a word, a look, a benevolent voice, Lucifer inspired the greatest rebellion in the universe's history. The great controversy had begun. Even today, Satan is arranging affairs so that we become confused and discouraged. Ultimately the truth will prevail, but it requires humble hearts to accept it and build a fortress of faith that will protect us. Read the article "The Great Controversy."

For the truth to prevail, the first step is the new birth experience. Many people believe they are Christians, but they find that they are found lacking. Read the article "The New Birth Experience" to learn how to receive it.

Can you image the result? White robes, jeweled crowns, harps, angels, the holy city, shouts and songs of praise! Reading the article "Heaven Bound" will bring this reality closer.

You can receive a complimentary subscription of this spiritually uplifting magazine.

Haven't gotten a subscription yet? Call us today to subscribe!

1-316-788-5559

# Camp Meeting Successes

Another Year Closer...



Another spirit-filled camp meeting has come to a close, with attendees carrying home a rich treasure of spiritual nourishment.

Pr. John presented four encouraging messages that gave, as always, honor and glory to our Redeemer and edified those in attendance. His emphasis was on overcoming our inherited sinful nature through the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can faithfully reflect the image of our Creator in our daily lives.

In addition to Pr. Domingo's two spiritual messages, he gave an update on his many foreign travels and the success of his efforts in establishing "spiritual lighthouses" in several countries in Africa and South America and in Mexico.

Of special interest was Jonathan Bennett's report on his efforts to cover

the British isles with offers for *The Great Controversy* and the success he and his team members had in distributing over 15,000 pieces of present truth literature to the crowds gathered for the coronation of King Charles III.

Stephanie Griffin presented convincing evidence on the dangers of spiritual formation, with its many and varied names, and other "mind-emptying" techniques that provide an avenue for Satan to influence our thoughts and behavior.

Dr. Michael Snyder provided an interesting perspective on the seven seals and the seven trumpets, provoking much thought and further study.

In addition to the presentations of the main speakers, above, there were teen meetings in which each teenager used a laptop to research the Bible and the writings of Ellen White for their daily

studies to learn how to know and do God's will.

There were also children's classes that explored the diet of Daniel and his Hebrew friends and how their faithfulness in their food choices enabled them to remain loyal when faced with pressure to consume "the king's delicacies" instead of the diet given by a loving God.

Sabbath afternoon, Laura Williams and her husband, Ernie, gave an absolutely amazing musical program that was far more than entertainment. It was a testimony on how a loving Creator orders the providences in our lives to draw us closer to Him.

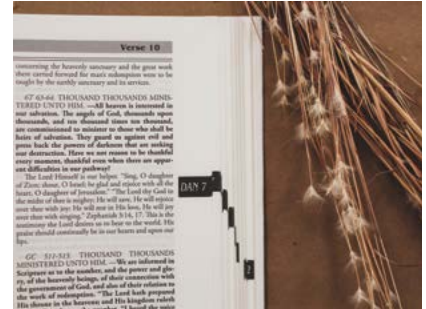
We will include an order form for DVDs of the presentations of the five main speakers and the music program in our September/October newsletter.

# DANIEL & REVELATION

Back in print after fifteen years, these two volumes are an exhaustive commentary by Ellen G. White on the books of Daniel and Revelation, verse by verse, with passages taken from her published and unpublished sources, compiled and meticulously keyed to scripture. This set features a redesigned exterior while keeping the same content as the previous edition.

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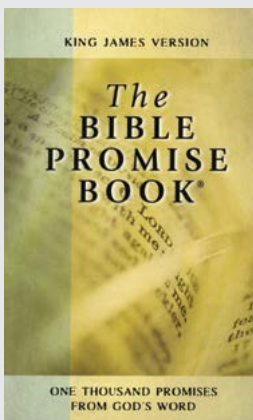
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