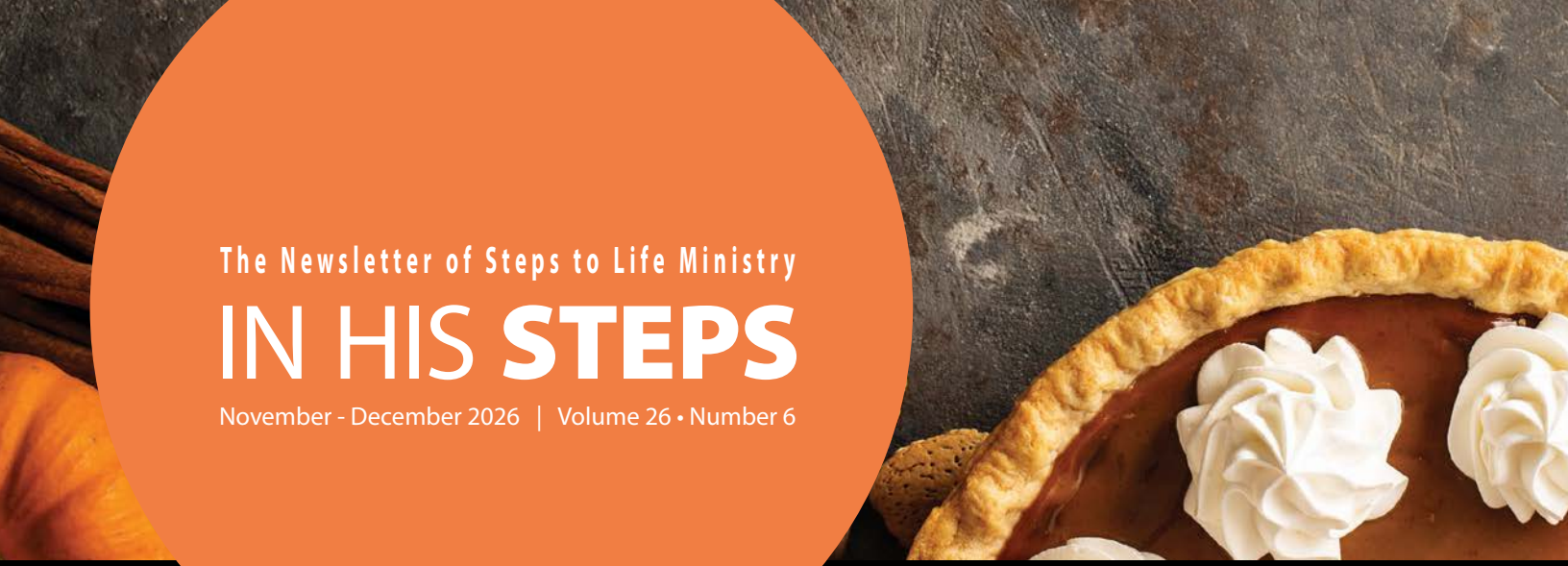
The Newsletter of Steps to Life Ministry

IN HIS **STEPS**

November - December 2026 | Volume 26 • Number 6



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

2026 Kansas State Fair

It's that time of year again and Steps to Life and the Prairie Meadows Church of Historic Seventh-day Adventists staffed a booth at the Kansas State Fair this last September. By the Lord's grace, we were able once again to have a double booth display, just as we have for the last 30 years.

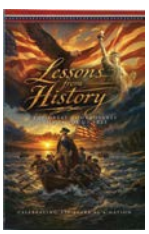
John Korponay

This year we experienced a heightened interest in the books and other materials we offered free to fairgoers. Unlike years past, many folks didn't just glance and walk on by, but instead, they stopped, looked, and gratefully received the material and/or books. Let me share with you some of our experiences.

One young woman stopped and was curiously looking. We engaged her in conversation and she seemed very spiritually-minded. We talked about the theme of our booth, which was stated on our banner, "God's Solution to Our Problems, the Ten Commandments." She left, but later that day and the next she came back and brought a friend each time to listen to our discussions.

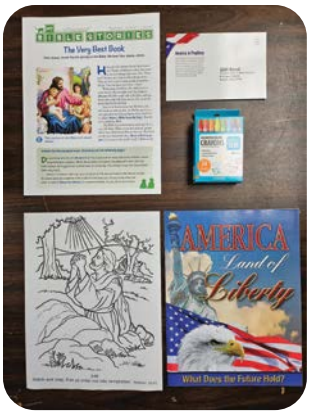
An older man stopped by and was arguing that we do not need the commandments if we have Jesus. We told him that when Jesus comes, he would have to explain to Him why he didn't keep God's law. So, he just moved on from our booth.

An interesting argument, isn't it? Jesus was the law in human form, living the character of God, and teaching through His words and life that God means for us to keep His law in every respect. So, if you have Jesus living in your heart, then you will be changed and keeping the law will be a natural outworking of that change.



We were very happy for the many people who looked at our banner and affirmatively acknowledged the truth with a nod. Many, including young people, came by our booth to tell us that they had taken materials and books last year, had read it, and were coming back for books they had missed before. One of the most popular books continues to be *The Great Controversy*. The new cover is very attractive and draws the eye.

Fairgoers are patriotic people. They love America's history and want to learn more. Praise God for this wonderful opportunity to point them to the Author of history!



Packets given to children always included one magazine for someone adult in their household.

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Pastor John Grosboll

Evelyn and I were manning the booth when a couple approached the table. The gentleman reached his hand across the table to shake mine. As he shook my hand, he said, "I'm not a church-going man, but I have watched your program on Sunday mornings." We talked for a while and he asked me what book I would recommend to him. I pointed to *The Desire of Ages* and told him to start with it, but then he should follow it up with *The Great Controversy*. He took both books and with a smile, he and his wife immediately went on their way. I didn't get his name, but please pray for this man and his wife.

Janet Headrick

I want to share an overall observation and two experiences from the fair this year. I observed that people, on the whole, were warmer to gospel outreach and more interested in sharing their Christian experience, but there was also a subgroup who had decided they had all the material they wanted in their Bible and the literature from their own church.

A young man was interested in *The Desire of Ages*. As we were talking about the contents of the book, an older man abruptly came up to the booth, interrupted our conversation, and aggressively put *The Great Controversy* on the table. He said, very heatedly, "I am a Catholic and you can have your book back!"

I was taken back more by his attitude than his words, but with his obvious animosity, as well as the young man standing there, I didn't want any further confrontation. I simply said, "I'm sorry you did not appreciate the book." He turned and immediately left. Once he was gone, the young man said, "Well, he may be a Catholic, but he certainly isn't a Christian. Christians don't act like that."

I was impressed that the young man made that comment and realized again, how much we share about Christ and our relationship with Him by our actions and words. It reminded me how important it is that we always carry Christ and His character with us and in us.

My second experience was an answer to a long-time prayer request and desire of my heart. For several years, a group selling beauty products has had a booth straight across from ours. The people who man this booth are mostly of Jewish background, and each year different individuals run their booth. I know in past years, others who have manned our booth have had conversation with members of that group, but not once in all these years while I have been at our booth, has one of them come to our booth. I have prayed for some time that I might be able to witness to them.

This year the man who seemed to be in charge, came over and asked me why we had highlighted the Sabbath commandment on our marquee. He was very surprised to find out that there were Protestants who kept the Sabbath. After a little discussion, he left. The next day, he came back and we talked some more and he took the book, *God Predicts Your Future* because it was on the prophecies in Daniel. He knew nothing of the 2300-day or 70-week prophecies and he was interested in know more about them. He also shared that the Jews don't talk at all about Jesus and he was curious about Him. I explained that *The Desire of Ages* was all about the life of Jesus and he was welcome to take that book also. He declined, but said maybe after reading the first one. Please pray with me that the seed that has been sown in this man's heart will produce a great harvest.

Raymond Bertus

At a neighboring booth, The Amazing Grace Ministry of Tennessee had an hour of Bible study related to God's everlasting and unchanging law. The pastor from Dayton, Tennessee, was amazed with the Biblical materials available at our booth and promised to stay in touch. He and his crew had taken *The Great Controversy* and *The National Sunday Law*.

I also had the good fortune to meet a young man named Mark who had a ministry of his own preaching against abortion. The fair organizers would not let him spread his

Top left: John Korponay and Bonnie Rankin serving the public at the Steps to Life booth.

Top right: Fairgoers stopping by the Steps to Life booth and reviewing our literature.

Bottom left: Raymond brought street preacher Mark and his sons to church to share their message.

Bottom right: Kansas state fairgrounds near the town of Hutchinson.

message within the fairgrounds, so he stood on a street corner across the street. A humble young man, we had several conversations about the Bible, the gospel, and the tragedy of the millions of lives cut short by abortion. He visited the Prairie Meadows Church one Sabbath morning to briefly share his message. Please pray for this young man and his two sons.

A number of Sunday School teachers also stopped by looking for materials to use as resources to study with their classes. I also observed that people who had taken books and material during last year's fair were back to pick up books for their friends and family members.

This was my first time to participate in this type of witnessing. I was impressed at the very unobtrusive way of sharing God's everlasting message to a dying world, and the experience was a great blessing to me.

In addition to the books and other materials available at the booth, we have, for the last few years, handed out children's and youth packets. Each children's packet contains a color page and crayons and a child's Bible lesson. The youth packet contains a Bible lesson designed for teenagers and a crossword puzzle with a highlighter and pen. Both packets also include a magazine for the parents and a card to send in for more materials, books, and Bible studies. This helps to include the children and young people who might not yet be ready for the free books and Bible studies, and it also provides a way to get something into the hands of the parents if they are not interested in taking a book or talking with those staffing the booth. This year, we handed out 800–1,000 packets.

2,500 books given away

Fairgoers' most popular books:
The Great Controversy
The Desire of Ages
Steps to Christ
Bible Readings for the Home

180 DVDs:
The Origin of Sin
Fulfilled Prophecy

Nigeria

14 Inmates Graduate from Bible Course

Daniel Teryila

A meeting and training center in Makurdi, Nigeria under construction.

Many things have been happening in the North Central Nigeria's communities.

Seminars

In August, the Apir Church held a three-day youth program. Health and spiritual development-oriented messages were presented. A one-week prophecy and health seminar was also conducted in October.

One of our medical missionary trainees has been at the Koti Apera settlement about 125 miles from Makurdi where we held a prophecy seminar in June. He is helping to make further outreach and strengthen the new congregation.

Prison Ministry

Our inaugural graduation and first Sabbath worship service was held at the Makurdi Custodial Centre on August 29 and September 5 respectively. There were 73 inmates and three officers in attendance. Fourteen inmates completed their lessons and graduated. They were issued Bibles, certificates, and other Spirit of Prophecy books. We shared whole grain bread, biscuits, and locally-made grain drinks for Sabbath meal after worship.

We have received permission from the authorities to hold Sabbath worship services at the Makurdi Custodial Centre every first and third Sabbaths monthly from 11am to 1pm. Praise God for that. Copies of LandMarks magazine were printed and given to cell leaders to use for Sabbath worship in the cells on the second and fourth Sabbaths when we don't come. We continue to visit on Tuesdays and Thursdays for Bible study with the inmates. Makurdi has over 70 inmates right now at various stages of completion. We also have prison officers doing the lessons in Makurdi, including the superintendent of the two facilities. We are working on modalities to extend the Know Your Bible lessons to both the Oturkpo and Gboko facilities.

We paid fines and compensation that allowed six inmates in Bible study with us to be released. One of these inmates resides in Makurdi and now worships with us every Sabbath in Apir. We are making contacts with the rest who live outside of Makurdi. Bible workers close to them are visiting them to encourage their interest in the truth they have learned. Personal items such as soap, clothing, and footwear are also shared. The remaining five were released finally in October based on the dates of their court appearances.

We also have about ten Muslims taking the Bible lessons. Those who have been released went home with materials in Arabic and the local Hausa language. Those remaining still continue to attend Sabbath worship services with us. God be praised.

At the Makurdi Custodial Centre, the inmates asked us to supply carpentry tools—hacksaws, hammers, saw blades, measuring tapes, and screwdrivers—for their workshop. The inmates were pleased to receive these tools. They will be useful in keeping their minds and bodies active as they serve their sentences and receive useful experience that will benefit them once they are released.

Four ceiling fans were purchased and delivered in September for the Oturkpo Correctional Facility. The authorities are very grateful and many want to visit with our church to see who we are.

A graduation ceremony was held for 14 inmates who sucessfully complated their Bible course.

Sabbath services are now held in the correctional facility.

Construction

The Ministry facility courtyard has been roofed, and the flooring will commence this week.

All the material needed for the construction of the health facility has been purchased and construction began in October.

Community Outreach

Members of the Makurdi church visited the Internally Displaced Persons camp and made donations in clothing and other essentials. Eleven women came to church in appreciation of these donations. Efforts are continuing to get them to know more of the gospel truths for today.

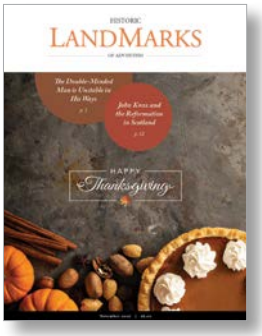
Needs

We need chairs for the worship space we have been given in the Makurdi Custodial Centre. To date, we have been using the hall and chairs the Catholic Church lends us, and they have given up their choir practice so that we can use their space during that time. The prison yard does not have spaces for the worship services, so other churches have built their own meeting halls in the prison yard and have their own chairs. We don't want to build our own hall, but having our own seating gives us the ability to conduct our services in any available space.

As we extend our efforts at the Oturkpo and Gboko facilities, we will need more Bibles.

All these efforts would not be possible without the Steps to Life Ministries and all of you, your donations and prayers. Thank you so very much. Keep praying for our prison ministries, the orphanage, the medical ministry work and other ministries. Once the health center is completed, we will be able to treat many people. At least one person now worships with us at the Apir Church after her in-law was treated and the results have been tremendous to God's glory. The health message is indeed an entering wedge. Three Pentecostal pastors are also training with us in ministerial and medical services.

HISTORIC
LANDMARKS
OF ADVENTISM
in November



If you are a *LandMarks* subscriber, you should have the November issue in your hands already. If you are not a subscriber, the magazine is available online at *www.stepstolife.org*.

The man who stands firm on principles of truth will not be deceived by multiple forms of error. But the man who is constantly changing what he believes, will be deceived. It is just common sense and most of us have witnessed it. Read the article "The Double-Minded Man Is Unstable in All His Ways."

While the truth is important, we often argue about unnecessary details (such as who is wearing what, what is healthy or not to eat, etc.). This causes pointless strife amongst God's people, and important issues are forgotten. Read the article "Issues of Minor Importance."

This issue also features an article from the time of reformation, how the gospel prevailed in Scotland despite Rome's efforts to stop it. Read "John Knox and the Reformation in Scotland."

There is more on health, nature, recipe, children's section, etc.

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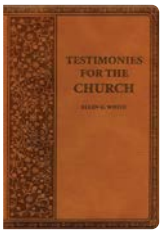

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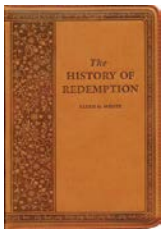

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