

## EVANGELISM 101

by Herb Montgomery  
Director | Speaker



In the next few weeks, I will once again be conducting our Life Unlimited gospel-centered evangelistic series. This month I would like to share some thoughts that are currently in my heart. I am convinced that our evangelism needs—first and foremost—to introduce people to God and His love for them. By answering their questions and meeting their needs, we can

not only show them His love, but also lead them into deeper and more personal experiences with that love. This is what changes lives. Our Adventist message was never intended simply to spread intellectual, doctrinal facts. That might produce members who are convinced, but it doesn't necessarily mean they are converted. Conversion happens as we encounter God's love for us, as we “perceive with [our] hearts” (John 12:40). Then the miracle of a new birth takes place, when we “no longer live for ourselves, but for Him” (2 Corinthians 5:15) who loved us and gave His life for us. Our message is to be centered in helping others “see” what God is truly like, and nothing in my life has contributed more to my understanding of God's love than the truths of the Adventist message. It's powerful! It's heart-awakening! It's life-changing!

Our understanding of the Sabbath teaches us how to “rest” in God's love (Hebrews 4:9).

Our understanding of the nature of man teaches not only what happens when we die, but also, more importantly, what happened when Christ “tasted death for us all” (Hebrews 2:9).

Our understanding of mortality and immortality points back to the Gospel, through which life and immortality have been brought to light (2 Timothy 1:10, NLT); as “in Adam all die, in Christ all will be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22).

Our understanding of the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2) reveals that God did not send Jesus to save us from Himself, but rather to “save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

Our understanding of the fate of the lost reconciles the Bible's teachings on hell with God's claims that He is a God of love.

Our understanding of free will, the Great Controversy, and the cross continues to balance the question of how God could love us so passionately and yet still not guarantee that we will never suffer pain.

All of these truths piece together like a giant puzzle; a picture of a God whose chief attribute is love mysteriously emerges, overwhelming our hearts, answering the questions that prevented

our hearts from trusting in His love, and setting us free to run in the expanse of His goodness and mercy, to love Him the way He is in love with us. (This may not be the context that introduced you to the Adventist message, but this is the intended purpose of our teachings.)

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### Thoughts to Ponder—

But He waves them back. Not yet; He cannot now receive the coronet of glory and the royal robe. He enters into the presence of His Father. He points to His wounded head, the pierced side, the marred feet; He lifts His hands, bearing the print of nails. He points to the tokens of His triumph; He presents to God the wave sheaf, those raised with Him as representatives of that great multitude who shall come forth from the grave at His second coming. He approaches the Father, with whom there is joy over one sinner that repents; who rejoices over one with singing. Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the Father and the Son had united in a covenant to redeem man if he should be overcome by Satan. They had clasped Their hands in a solemn pledge that Christ should become the surety for the human race. This pledge Christ has fulfilled. When upon the cross He cried out, “It is finished,” He addressed the Father. The compact had been fully carried out. Now He declares: Father, it is finished. I have done Thy will, O My God. I have completed the work of redemption. If Thy justice is satisfied, “I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am.”  
John 19:30; 17:24.

The voice of God is heard proclaiming that justice is satisfied. Satan is vanquished. Christ's toiling, struggling ones on earth are “accepted in the Beloved.” Eph. 1:6. Before the heavenly angels and the representatives of unfallen worlds, they are declared justified. Where He is, there His church shall be. “Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.” Ps. 85:10. The Father's arms encircle His Son, and the word is given, “Let all the angels of God worship Him.” Heb. 1:6.

With joy unutterable, rulers and principalities and powers acknowledge the supremacy of the Prince of life. The angel host prostrate themselves before Him, while the glad shout fills all the courts of heaven, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.” Rev. 5:12.

Songs of triumph mingle with the music from angel harps, till heaven seems to overflow with joy and praise. Love has conquered. The lost is found.  
(Ellen White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 834)

# MINISTRY UPDATE

## UNDERGROUND OASIS

By Diane Johnston

We were blessed to have Herb join us in Cove, Oregon, for our first Underground Oasis Retreat. It is a very long trip from West Virginia to eastern Oregon, but the Oasis family will always be grateful to Herb for making the exhausting trip and agreeing to be our keynote speaker.

The Underground Oasis is a God-based recovery program that believes that only God has the power to completely heal our destructive habits and dependencies. Our Oasis family will never be the same as a result of this life-changing weekend. We say that “at the Underground Oasis, we don’t care about where you’ve been, we just care about where you’re going.” Herb gave the Oasis Family a new vision of God this weekend. A God who truly cares about where we’re going and freely forgives where we’ve been.

Herb’s message for the Underground Oasis was a message of hope—something that has eluded most of us as a result of our choices earlier in life. We were shown a new picture of God’s character, a God who desperately loves even those who have made poor decisions and left a trail of wreckage in their path. This was brought home in a powerful way when Herb told of the last three hours of Jesus on the cross. The fact that Jesus felt separated from His father, but was still willing to die that second death so that we might experience eternity, was a powerful picture of God’s character of love. Of all the people who can identify with feelings of rejection, betrayal, separation, and hopelessness, the Underground Oasis Family stands out. Many had never heard the true story of the cross, and for the first time it brought hope to those hearts.

The weekend was about healing and forgiveness. Forgiveness is an issue that consumes most of us in the Oasis Family. The track record for most of us has not been stellar. We learned the key to forgiveness was not held by us—that key is held by God. Herb encouraged us to let go and stop begging God to do something He has already done for us. He has already forgiven us in His heart. We need forgiveness to cleanse our hearts and minds of the guilt and remorse we have been packing around for a lifetime. Herb asked us to concentrate only on how much God has forgiven us. When we start to comprehend that truth, the ability to forgive ourselves and others who have hurt us will automatically flow out of a grateful heart. —Dale, aka “The Deacon”



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A wise author wrote, “The sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary. I present before you the great, grand monument of mercy and regeneration, salvation and redemption,—the Son of God uplifted on the cross. This is to be the foundation of every discourse given by our ministers” (*Gospel Workers*, pg. 315). “Of all professing Christians, Seventh-day Adventists should be foremost in uplifting Christ before the world. The proclamation of the third angel’s message calls for the presentation of the Sabbath truth. This truth, with others included in the message, is to be proclaimed; but the great center of attraction, Christ Jesus, must not be left out . . . The sinner must be led to look to Calvary . . . believing in His mercy” (*Gospel Workers*, pg. 156).

Thirty years ago a woman had a child out of wedlock. She was told by her pastor that both she and her bastard son were destined to burn in hell with no hope of eternal salvation. This woman came to me after the seventh meeting of my series in Clarksburg. That night’s topic had been God’s prevenient forgiveness of us. She told me, with tears streaming down her face, how she (for the first time in those thirty long years) truly felt God’s forgiveness and she now believed that both she and her son could go to heaven. We prayed right there and changed that “could” into a “would.”

Dear fellow Adventist, this is what we are to be about! Not just changing people’s minds, but changing their hearts! “Those who wait for the Bridegroom’s coming are to say to the people, ‘Behold your God.’ The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love” (*Christ Object Lessons*, pg. 415). †



“I never realized how we can tie God’s hands by our choices. That explained so much to me why my 911 prayers never seemed to reach the ceiling. Even though God is all powerful, in His love for us, he still gives us free choice.”  
—Steve, aka “Mad Max.”

“I am a 3rd-generation Adventist. I have spent my whole life in a backslidden, hopeless condition. I have found recovery through Jesus Christ at the Underground Oasis, a Christ Centered 12 Step recovery family. Herb was invited to speak at our retreat this summer and WOW! I’m convinced that this is God’s last great message to the whole world. Let the rain fall!” —Steve F.

“Thank you so much for the awesome weekend. I learned so much and was relaxed at the same time.” —Ricia

“I’ve been in and out of church all of my life. I’ve been in and out of prison, too. I viewed Christianity as a band-aid for weak people. After this weekend I saw a real Jesus Christ and my view of Christianity and religion is more of a wholesome, one-on-one relationship and friendship with Jesus. The weekend should have lasted longer. Herb redefined my definition of who God is. The marks, scars, tattoos and bruises on my body were the decisions of a teenager who knew everything and who became an adult who knew nothing. I was once a hopeless dope addict—now I’m a dopeless hope addict! I love you, Herb!”  
—Mike, aka “Biggin”

“I know things now that will keep me from running away from God. I couldn’t get enough, I need more.” —Vicki

“The first night stands out in my mind, where Herb defined who it was we are seeing when we think of God. We have been concentrating on our behavior instead of Jesus. Who I see determines how I think. How I think determines how I feel. How I feel determines my behavior. I believe the eyes are the avenue to the soul. As a result of this weekend, I am more dedicated to beholding Christ and then letting the behavior fall in order.” —Jim, aka “Recovering Pharisee”



*1895 General Conference Bulletin. A. T. Jones Sermon NO. 15. Review and Herald, Battle Creek, Michigan 1895*

The first Adam touched all of us; what he did included all of us. If he had remained true to God, that would have included all of us. And when he fell away from God, that included us and took us also. Whatever he should have done embraced us, and what he did made us what we are.

Now here is another Adam. Does He touch as many as the first Adam did? That is the question. That is what we are studying now. Does the second Adam touch as many as did the first Adam? And the answer is that it is certainly true that what the second Adam did embraces all that were embraced in what the first Adam did. What he should have done, what he could have done, would embrace all.

Suppose Christ had yielded to temptation and had sinned. Would that have meant anything to us? It would have meant everything to us. The first Adam’s sin meant all this to us; sin on the part of the second Adam would have meant all this to us.

The first Adam’s righteousness would have meant all to us and the second Adam’s righteousness means all to as many as believe. That is correct in a certain sense, but not in the sense in which we are studying it now. We are now studying from the side of the Adams. We will look at it from our side presently.

The question is, Does the second Adam’s righteousness embrace as many as does the first Adam’s sin? Look closely. Without our consent at all, without our having anything to do with it, we were all included in the first Adam; we were there. All the human race were in the first Adam. What that first Adam--what that first man, did meant us; it involved us. That which the first Adam did brought us into sin, and the end of sin is death, and that touches every one of us and involves every one of us.

Jesus Christ, the second man, took our sinful nature. He touched us “in all points.” He became we and died the death. And so in Him and by that, every man that has ever lived upon the earth and was involved in the first Adam is involved in this and will live again. There will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and of the unjust. Every soul shall live again by the second Adam from the death that came by the first Adam . . . Therefore, just as far as the first Adam reaches man, so far the second Adam reaches man. The first Adam brought man under the condemnation of sin, even unto death; the second Adam’s righteousness undoes that and makes every man live again. As soon as Adam sinned, God gave him a second chance and set him free to choose which master he would have. Since that time every man is free to choose which way he will go; therefore he is responsible for his own individual sins. And when Jesus Christ has set us all free from the sin and the death which came upon us from the first Adam, that freedom is for every man, and every man can have it for the choosing.

## TESTIMONIES . . .

*"I was crying when I came up to you after one night at Redwood this year and told you how you gave me the missing puzzle piece of why God let my mother abuse me and how I had been looking for that for 35 years and it had rocked me to the core. I wanted you to know the peace God gave me through you that night flows on and I am now praying that my husband will find that grace too. I can never thank you enough. You changed my life. God bless you and your family and that new miracle baby on the way."*—CY

"God is so good! Your messages are a wonderful reminder of the love of God. For years my favorite study has been the true character of God. Growing up as a 6th-generation SDA, I was groomed to know a lot about God, but sometimes struggled to trust Him and know Him. These messages

bring everything into perspective in a way that makes my heart sing as I study more of God's Word everyday!"—CC

*"Thanks for listening to the Holy Spirit to present such needed messages in this time and place. If we had had these messages 50 years ago Jesus would have come by now to claim His bride."*—DD

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***"These messages bring everything into perspective in a way that makes my heart sing..."***

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"Herb, your message has been a new light in the unknown revelations of my heart. You preach with a different flavor. Thank you for your continued persistence with your ministry . . . I know all too well how change in style affects people. No matter what hardship has been put in your

way, no matter how many critics or discouraging words you may encounter, Grace always abounds! Keep on fighting the good fight! My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family"—JL

*"I currently attend CUC, and am having the opportunity to listen to Herb speak. I have never before looked at God with this adoration. For the first time in my life I feel on fire for Him . . . Thank you Herb."*—CR

"God bless you as you share this privileged, amazing message a starving world needs."—CR

*"I was blessed by your insights into God's character . . . I believe that God is who you say He is and I want to know Him more."*—MK †



## CALENDAR

### **October 5-13, 2007**

Glendale SDA Church  
Glendale, AZ  
623.934.3295

### **October 19-29, 2007**

Bakersfield Central SDA Church  
Bakersfield, CA  
661.832.2620

### **November 2-4, 2007**

Good News Tour  
Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR  
888.250.4612

### **November 7-8, 2007**

Durant SDA Church  
Durant, OK  
580.924.4019

### **December 8, 2007**

Lewisburg SDA Church  
Lewisburg, WV  
304.647.5925

### **January 11-12, 2008**

Pullman Community Worship Center  
Pullman, WA  
509 332 8782

### **January 18-19, 2008**

Charleston SDA Church  
Charleston, WV  
479.754.0675

### **January 25-26, 2008**

Penn Valley SDA Church  
Penn Valley, CA  
530.432.2479

### **February 8-9, 2008**

Campion SDA Church  
Loveland, CO  
970.667.7403

### **February 15-24, 2008**

Penn Valley SDA Church  
Penn Valley, CA  
530.432.2479

### **February 29-March 1, 2008**

Westchester Korean SDA Church  
Yonkers, NY  
347-683-0157

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