

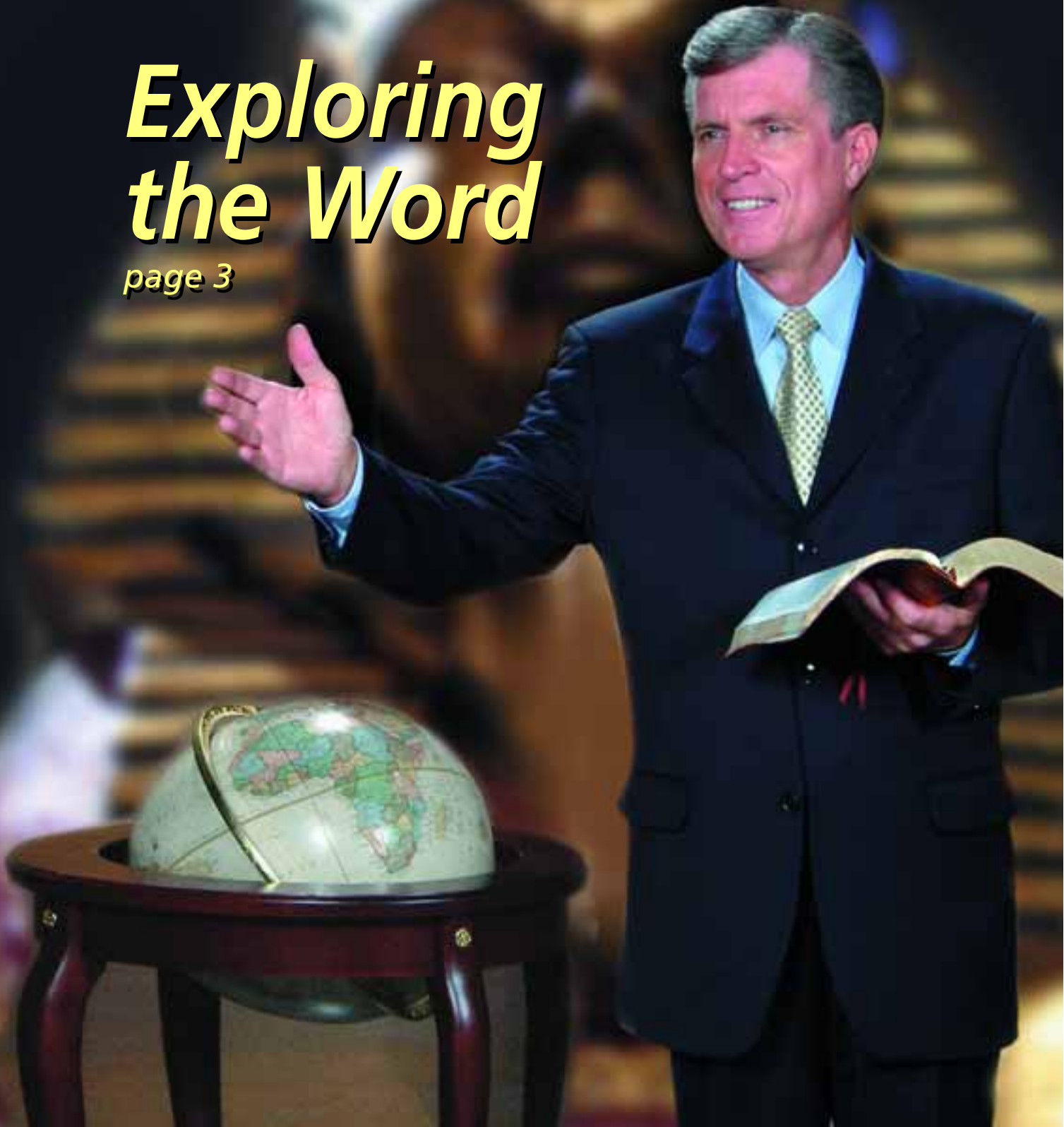
Voice of Prophecy **News**

S p r i n g 2 0 0 5

MIAMI EVANGELISTIC SERIES page 5
NATIVE AMERICAN LESSONS page 9
BISMARCK SERIES PLANNED page 10
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS page 11
TRIBUTES TO MUSICIANS
BOB EDWARDS, JERRY DILL page 24

Exploring the Word

page 3



Drive Is Best Time of Day

Dear Lonnie, we haven't met in person, but you and I have been in touch for almost a year now, every day on the drive to work. I want to tell you the best time of my day is that drive to work. The Voice of Prophecy is so wonderful. I enjoy our time together studying the Bible.

I finally went online. I am just amazed! It's great, there's the broadcast archives and videos too. I want to thank you for your work and ministry. You've helped me walk closer with Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus. I'll keep you and your family, as well as the Voice of Prophecy ministry in my prayers. Thank you and may God continue to bless you.

— Ohio

Resource for Outreach

I caught your program for the first time on satellite this Sabbath. Please send me *New Ways to Tell the Old, Old Story*. My husband and I are feeling a burden to start outreach within the Latino community in our city and are looking for helpful resources to talk with people effectively about Christ and salvation. Thank you for making this resource available. Please pray for the Lord to direct us in our desire to reach souls for him.

— Maine

Note: If you would also like a copy of this booklet, ask for it by title and enclose \$2.00. Write: Voice of Prophecy, Box 53055, Los Angeles, CA 90053.

By Chance or Direction?

I stumbled on the program just by chance, or maybe God wanted me to find it. I requested the free Bible guides and finished the first lesson today.

— Indiana

Enjoys Interview on 3ABN

I am so glad I turned on the TV just in time to hear and see [Lonnie Melashenko and Danny Shelton] talking and showing what has and is being done by the Voice. God is truly working and it made me bubble over with joy, praise, and thanksgiving to

God, and also with an even deeper desire in me to do more and more for Jesus.

I am 86, sick, and unable to get out, but I write letters explaining different subjects to people, and I buy books and give them away.

— British Virgin Islands

Messages a Blessing

Your messages are truly a blessing. Your presentation is beyond compare. I will try to support your ministry from time to time with a financial gift. Thank you and may God richly bless you.

— West Virginia

So Much Beauty in World

Thank you so very much for the beautiful calendar for 2005. I loved your 2004 calendar also and could hardly bear to remove it!

Isn't God great to provide so much beauty in our sin-filled, ravaged world? Just think what He has waiting for us! ("Eye hath not seen . . .")

— Oregon

Discover Helps in Search

The Discover Bible lessons have been a tremendous help in my search for Jesus. I was a Muslim for 20 years. Now I have found true heartfelt inspiration in knowing that my Lord is not merely another prophet but the Creator of us all!

— Oklahoma

Impact of Hope Channel

It is always a pleasure to watch Pastor Lonnie Melashenko and his wife, especially after their successful satellite series in Lusaka in 2003. We have watched Christian channels before, but we have never watched one like the Hope Channel. This channel is having a great impact on both Christians and non-Christians in our community.

— Zambia

Both Outside and Inside

Your messages have changed my life and give me new hope each day. I know that your primary goal is to reach people outside the church, but I would like you to know that

there are many people in the church with a messy and hopeless life. So you are not only reaching outside but inside as well.

I thank the Lord for the opportunity He gave me to listen to the Voice of Prophecy through the Internet. I pray that you will always continue to share the gospel of Jesus with the whole world through different means.

— France

CORRECTION

The Spring 2004 issue of the NEWS incorrectly stated that Voice of Prophecy founder H. M. S. Richards died in 1980. Actually, he died in April 1985. Though officially retired some years earlier, he was in active service—traveling to camp meetings, reading through the Bible at least once a year, preaching dozens of sermons—every year until his first stroke in August 1982. And in 1980 and 1981, he joined the rest of the VOP team in presenting more than 20 Golden Jubilee celebrations across the United States and Canada.

Voice of Prophecy News

VOL. 62 SPRING 2005 NO. 1

©2005 The Voice of Prophecy Printed in U.S.A.

THE VOICE OF PROPHECY NEWS (ISSN#1529-9414) is published by the Voice of Prophecy, a Seventh-day Adventist radio broadcast, Bible School, and evangelism ministry. Headquarters are at 101 W. Cochran St., Simi Valley, CA 93065. (805) 955-7611.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE: All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

CORRESPONDENCE: Send all letters to Voice of Prophecy News, Box 53055, Los Angeles, CA 90053. In Canada: Box 2127, Oshawa, ON L1H 7V4.

WILLS AND TRUST AGREEMENTS may be made in the name of "The Voice of Prophecy—California, a Corporation," 101 W. Cochran St., Simi Valley, CA 93065.

Editor	Eldyn Karr
Designer	Kurt Reichenbach
Editorial Secretary	Deanna Herr
Contributing Editors	Lonnie Melashenko Walter Arties Kurt Johnson Ken Wade
Webmaster	Entjik Jeffrie
Website	www.vop.com

Exploring the Word Telecast Teaches Bible by Satellite

Lonnie Melashenko's new half-hour teaching telecast, *Exploring the Word*, has aired each weekend on the Hope Channel since last October.

Beginning in April, the first 13 episodes will repeat on the Hope Channel and will also air on 3ABN and Safe TV, as well as Blue Mountain TV, which is an affiliate of the Hope Channel. The second series of *Exploring the Word* telecasts will be taped soon for airing later this year.

The programs are hosted by Lonnie and Jeannie Melashenko and were produced by Steve Mosley. Videotaping was done at the AMP Studios adjacent to Voice of Prophecy headquarters.

Both high-quality streaming video and scripts are archived at www.exploringtheword.com. The website includes links to additional resources on each topic.

Connecting With Churches

Pastor Melashenko says, "A 'missing link' has plagued media ministries for decades. Broadcast listeners and Bible correspondence course students are often ready for local followup, but there is no 'hook'

to connect them to a congregation for ongoing study and fellowship. *Exploring the Word* is a brand-new way to connect listeners, Bible School students, and sincere Internet seekers to local churches everywhere!"

By encouraging persons to visit a church or small group at a home, this type of study goes far beyond written lessons and response sheets mailed from a post office box to and from a Discover School.

A special feature of the telecast is the ETW Study Group, four young adults who discuss and debate the weekly topic, telling how they have related to the subject and seeking answers only from Scripture.

Pastor Melashenko's presentations include direct appeals



Lonnie and Jeannie Melashenko host the Voice of Prophecy's new telecast, Exploring the Word.

for decision. He asks viewers to counsel with local pastors and church leaders for assistance in their spiritual growth as they prepare for baptism.

Many churches have already found the *Exploring the Word* programs especially useful in connection with Sow 1 Billion, radio

Exploring the Word

Weekly by Satellite

Hope Channel	AMC-4	8:00 p.m. Friday and 10:00 a.m. Saturday (Eastern)
Hope Channel	AMC-4	8:00 p.m. Friday and 10:00 a.m. Saturday (Pacific)
3ABN	AMC-4 and Sky Angel	9:30 a.m. Sunday and 10:30 a.m. Wednesday (Central)
Safe TV	Sky Angel	10:30 p.m. Friday and 3:30 p.m. Saturday (Central)

NOTE: For your time zone, add or subtract hours from the times listed above. These satellite networks may be viewed across North America.

Also on Local Stations and Cable

Arkansas	Springdale	Safe TV	Ch. 57	10:30 p.m. Friday and 3:30 p.m. Saturday
Montana	Great Falls	TCI	Ch. 7	4:30 p.m. Wednesday
Missouri	Poplar Bluff	Falcon Cable	Ch. 17	3:00 p.m. Sunday
Oklahoma	Enid	Pegasys Cable	Ch. 11	4:00 p.m. Tuesday and 9:00 p.m. Thursday
Washington	College Place	Blue Mt. TV	Ch. 21, 28, 36	5:00 p.m. Friday and 10:00 a.m. Saturday
	Port Townsend	Millennium Cable	Cable Ch. 13	5:00 p.m. Friday and 10:00 a.m. Saturday

and television broadcasts, and local Discover Bible Schools. The telecasts are also serving as discussion starters for home Bible studies and small groups.

Global Response

In Oregon, Pastor Les Jones has used *Exploring the Word* for a pastor's class at Dallas and as the followup program for his evangelistic series at Falls City.

The Sligo Church in Takoma Park, Maryland, is showing the program both Thursday evening and Saturday morning.

Many e-mail responses have come from viewers not only in North America but also in Jamaica, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, China, India, Pakistan, New Zealand, and Australia.

Satellites carrying English broadcasts of the Hope Channel include AMC-4 for North and Central America; Hotbird 6 for Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and parts of Russia; PAS 7 for Asia, Africa, and Europe; and PAS 2 for the Pacific Rim. The Hope Channel's Spanish and Portuguese



As part of the telecast, four young adults make up the Exploring the Word Study Group and wrestle with how each week's topic applies to life.

programming is seen in South and Central America on ADSAT.

Inexpensive Home Dish

Families in North America who do not have access to the Hope Channel and 3ABN may wish to consider

purchasing an inexpensive 36-inch satellite dish and receiver for a one-time cost of \$204 (includes shipping). These channels, LLBN television, three radio networks—LifeTalk Radio, 3ABN Radio, and RADIO 74—and Spanish television networks Esperanza TV and 3ABN Latino are all on satellite AMC-4 (formerly GE 4). All are available on this special satellite system without monthly fees.

With this equipment package, a family, business, school, or church can enjoy preaching, Bible study, health, and music programs 24 hours a day.

For ordering details, visit www.hopetv.org and click on "Products" or phone 1-888-393-HOPE. Persons who have this dish system but not all the channels can find programming instructions at www.hopetv.org to tune their receiver.

Sleep Better Tonight!



One of life's best sleeping pills: an up-to-date estate plan that takes into account the needs of you, your family, and the soul-winning ministry of THE VOICE OF PROPHECY.

Fill out the coupon below and mail it TODAY!

Please send me your estate planning packet.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Mail your request to:

**ADVENTIST MEDIA CENTER
TRUST SERVICES
PO Box 500, Simi Valley, CA 93062**

Or call:

**ADVENTIST MEDIA CENTER
TRUST SERVICES
at 1-800-348-5993 to speak to a professional Trust Officer about the estate plan that is right for you!**

EXPLORING THE WORD - April-June 2005

April 1-2	<i>Seeing God</i>
April 8-9	<i>Now That's Inspiring</i>
April 15-16	<i>The Bad News and the Good News</i>
April 22-23	<i>On Target, On Time</i>
April 29-30	<i>What You Hear From the Cross</i>
May 6-7	<i>Taking on Human Nature</i>
May 13-14	<i>Peace About the Future</i>
May 20-21	<i>Expectations, Present and Future</i>
May 27-28	<i>A Revelation of Heaven</i>
June 3-4	<i>Are the Signs Still Good?</i>
June 10-11	<i>The One Who Empowers You</i>
June 17-18	<i>A Better Way to Peace</i>
June 24-25	<i>The Good News About the Judgment</i>

See box on previous page for when and where to tune in.

All Exploring the Word telecasts are archived as both video and text at www.exploringtheword.com.

Overflow Crowd Packs Miami Series

By Eldyn Karr

The Miami Temple Adventist Church had rarely—perhaps never—seen so many in attendance—and certainly not in the evening for an evangelistic meeting.

When everyone presses together in the pews, the church seats 850 in the sanctuary. But on Saturday night, February 5, more than 1,000 came to hear Lonnie Melashenko present the opening session of “The Voice of Prophecy Speaks.”

Chairs lined the aisles, filled the narthex, and spilled out of the entrance. Some persons simply stood wherever they could squeeze in around the edges. Nearly 100 children participated in an evening of stories and crafts under the leadership of Cheryl Alonzo.

Competing With Football

Everyone knew keeping the crowd for the second night would be a special challenge—going head to head with the biggest television event of any year, Super Bowl. Even those who aren’t football fans watch this grand finale of the season. And this year’s Super Bowl was hosted by Jacksonville, Florida just 350 miles north of Miami.

The solution? “Come tomorrow night,” was the invitation Saturday evening, “and we guarantee Pastor Melashenko will finish by 9 p.m.”



The Miami Temple Adventist Church hosted Lonnie Melashenko’s evangelistic campaign in February. Just hours before the series would begin on Saturday night, nearly everyone went forward during prayer at the end of the morning worship service when Pastor Melashenko asked members to recommit their lives.



Then join us for a Super Bowl party in the church’s fellowship hall. You’ll be able to watch at least the last quarter of the game.”

But would the crowd return? The church’s past experience was

that Sunday night doesn’t get a large crowd even when there isn’t competition for attention.

The audience was sparse in the large sanctuary when the lights dimmed for a short video clip at 7:30



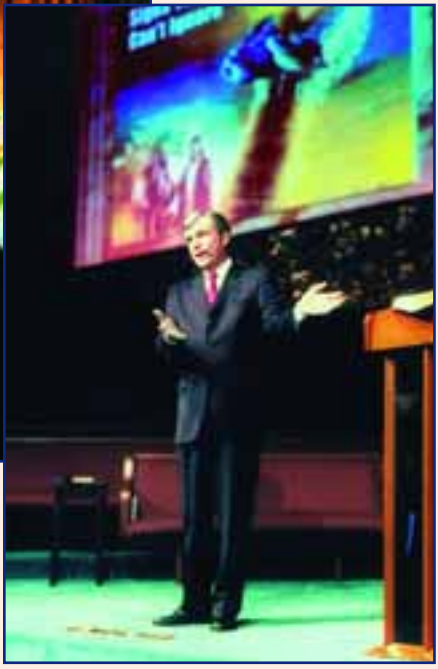
Pastor Bob Boggess (center) coordinated preparation for the Miami meetings, which included mailing 100,000 handbills and distributing twice that many fliers to homes in the southwest area of the city. With him are Lonnie Melashenko and Walter Arties, manager-treasurer at the VOP.



Walter Arties and Jeannie Melashenko served as co-hosts, introducing each night’s program.

Everyone attending the series registered the first night they came.

PHOTOS BY ELDYN KARR



Every seat was taken and chairs lined the aisles as Lonnie Melashenko presented his first night's PowerPoint presentation on "Armageddon." The following night was Super Bowl Sunday, but more than 500 persons came to hear about "Signs You Can't Ignore."

Sunday night. More arrived during the announcements, still more during the special music by Brazilian-born recording artist Rudy Micelli.

By the time Pastor Melashenko began his PowerPoint presentation, nearly half the opening night crowd was back. Even more impressive, 89 persons came and registered for their first session. One man who had been present Saturday night brought 13 new guests on Sunday.

Continuing Support

The Miami Temple congregation regularly gives strong

support to local evangelism. They hold two evangelistic series each year, often one by a guest evangelist and the other by satellite, sometimes one by a lay member. And the members never seem to tire of sharing the gospel message with their community.

Yet, several of the pastors and members noted the enthusiasm in February was greater than usual.

As the VOP series continued, attendance varied from 300 to 400 on weeknights, then picked up on Friday and Saturday evenings. The lowest numbers of 250-300 came midweek just before the end of the campaign.

"The continuing support for the meetings was greater than I had seen in my six and a half years at Miami Temple," says Pastor Bob Boggess, who recently retired. "I believe what made the difference



Jeannie Melashenko ran the teleprompter and Entjik Jeffrie the graphics from their control room at the rear of the sanctuary.



Children enjoyed stories and crafts during their own meeting each night. Nearly 100 came the first evening.



Individuals could use radios to hear Dr. Gershon Diaz's simultaneous Spanish translation of Pastor Melashenko's messages.

PHOTOS BY KURT JOHNSON (CENTER RIGHT) AND ELDYN KARR (ALL OTHERS)



was Pastor Melashenko's fresh, relevant, succinct approach to the Bible message." Many members had heard the gospel truths year after year, but they found the new packaging and style appealing.

Working Together

Five nearby Adventist churches participated with the Miami Temple in Lonnie Melashenko's three-week campaign: Kendall, Miami Portuguese, Miami Springs, New Community, and Westchester Spanish. Some members from the Perrine Church also assisted.

Their members not only attended and invited their friends, but also worked side by side with the host congregation to greet visitors, help with registration, and serve as row captains. Nearly 100 volunteers helped make the campaign a success. Norka Munilla and Micheline Aristide coordinated the program of members developing



The keyboard artist for the entire Miami series was Adrian Westney from Baltimore. Among the vocalists were the Miami Temple Praise Team, VOP manager-treasurer Walter Arties (top right), and Rudy Micelli.



Micheline Aristide (left) and Mercedes (Mercy) Abascal of the Miami Discover Bible School talked about their school with Mariel Swenson, associate director of the VOP Bible School. Meeting registration and Bible School data were entered on computers by Justine Charles (left) and Maple Sloley.



Studying the Discover Guide that paralleled each night's presentation reinforced the message. Those who brought back all the answer sheets for grading received a certificate of completion the last night.



PHOTOS BY HECTOR PUIG (TOP AND BOTTOM) AND ELDYN KARR (ALL OTHERS)

a personal relationship with guests.

Justine Charles and Maple Sloley from the Perrine Church were responsible for all the computer records of attendance and Discover Bible School activity. Pastor Steve Adessa of the Miami Springs Church led the Prayer Warriors nightly in petitioning for a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Mercedes (Mercy) Abascal directs the Discover Bible School at Miami Temple. She studied the course herself last year and was baptized November 20, 2004 after attending an evangelistic series presented by Pastor Bill Waters at the church and a satellite series by Breath of Life director Walter Pearson Jr.

She was already assisting with the school and a few weeks later was asked to lead out in its activity. Mercy welcomed scores of new students to the course during "The Voice of Prophecy Speaks."

Graduation and Baptisms

Kurt Johnson, director of the VOP Bible School, joined the Voice of Prophecy evangelism team in Miami during the final week of meetings. He worked with local leaders to plan a Discover Bible School graduation for the closing weekend.

Because the Discover series has 26 lessons but the evangelistic campaign had



Che Gwin, M.D. was among the health professionals who gave a short presentation before Pastor Melashenko spoke each evening.

only 19 sessions, many persons are continuing to study the rest of the course.

While some of the churches used videos by Pastor Melashenko to follow up his series, the Miami Temple immediately began their second month-long evangelistic series for 2005, showing the satellite feed of "The Prophecy Code" by Pastor Doug Batchelor, speaker for



The evangelism team and pastors greeted and talked with members and guests each night at a hospitality reception in the Miami Temple's newly expanded fellowship hall.

the Amazing Facts telecast.

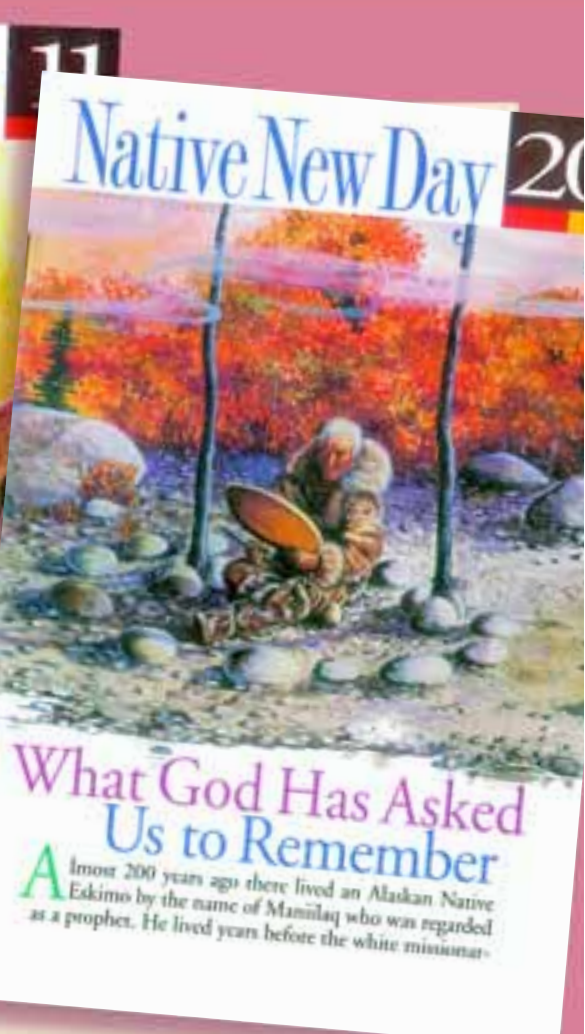
Baptisms during "The Voice of Prophecy Speaks" numbered 40 and other persons who attended have been baptized since the end of the meetings. Pastor Boggess expects at least 60 persons to be baptized altogether, with about half joining Miami Temple and the others choosing another of the participating churches.



Persons who were baptized during "The Voice of Prophecy Speaks" in Miami and those who were planning for baptism soon joined the VOP team and local pastors for a photo the last day of the series. Pastors participating in baptismal services included (left to right) Ronaldo da Cunha, Owen Vazquez, and Lonnie Melashenko.



PHOTOS BY ELDYN KARR (TOP) AND HECTOR PUIG (BOTTOM)



Canadian wildlife artist A. J. McCoy painted Native and nature scenes to portray evangelistic themes in the Native New Day Bible Course.

Bible Course Published for Native Americans

The Voice of Prophecy is distributing a 30-lesson Bible course designed especially to reach Native Americans across the United States and Canada.

Written by Monte Church, Native ministries coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the North Pacific states and Canada, the course features spiritual lessons and appeals for decisions that come from the perspective of a Native heritage. In order to ensure wide acceptance throughout North America, a reading committee representing several Native tribes gave input and assistance.

"Native people love correspondence courses," says Pastor Church. "The lessons have no boundaries," he says, "because they can be sent through the postal system no matter how remote an area is."

Paintings by Canadian wildlife artist A. J. McCoy use Native and

nature scenes to present traditional Christian evangelistic themes.

"We're excited to be involved in this brand-new outreach to Native North Americans," says Kurt Johnson, director of the VOP Bible School. "Using stories from their culture will make the gospel come alive for them."

Most of the development and printing cost for the new course was raised from among the 4,000 Native American Adventist church members in the U.S. and Canada. The lessons were printed by Pacific Press Publishing Association.

Single sets of the Native New Day Bible Course are available in the U.S. at \$8.60 postpaid (\$4.75 for the lessons plus \$3.85 postage) from: Bible School, Voice of Prophecy, Box 2525, Newbury Park, CA 91319. For quantity orders, phone 877-955-2525 during business hours, Monday-Thursday. Enrollment cards are also available.

Camp Meeting Schedule

FLORIDA

May 29-30

Lonnie and Jeannie Melashenko
Forest Lake Academy
3909 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka

NEW MEXICO

June 17-19

Lonnie and Jeannie Melashenko
Sandia View Academy
22 Academy Dr., Corrales
(exit Coors Rd. north off I-40)

NORTH DAKOTA

June 10-12

Lonnie and Jeannie Melashenko, Del Delker
Dakota Adventist Academy, Bismarck
(north on Hwy. 83 to Hwy. 1804, then west 11 miles)

TENNESSEE

May 27-28

Lonnie and Jeannie Melashenko
Southern Adventist University
Collegedale

Pacific Rim Series-2006



Kurt Johnson, VOP Bible School director, visited the affiliate school in Cebu City, Philippines in February. With him are Pastor Ben Mahinay Jr., VOP director, and Esther Estores, secretary and instructor.

Lonnie Melashenko will present an evangelistic series by satellite from Cebu City for all of the Pacific Rim countries in February 2006. The Convention Center of Cebu is being considered as the uplink location.



Church leaders in the Philippines met with Kurt Johnson to plan for next year's "Target: 60,000" evangelistic meetings. The series will celebrate the 60th anniversary of Voice of Prophecy Bible School ministry there.

Bismarck Evangelism Preparation Includes Cell Groups and Non-traditional Seminar Topics

Seminars on non-traditional felt needs are one way the Adventist Church in Bismarck, North Dakota is preparing for Lonnie Melashenko's evangelistic series next fall.

Pastor Melashenko will present "The Voice of Prophecy Speaks" at the Civic Center in Bismarck from October 28 to November 12. The meetings are sponsored by the Dakota Conference and the Adventist churches in Bismarck and Mandan.

Bismarck, the state capital, is separated from Mandan only by the Missouri River. The cities have a combined population of about 85,000.

John Turk, pastor of the Bismarck church, notes that persons from the community are most likely to attend evangelistic programs if they are already acquainted with some church members. The special interest seminars are designed to encourage such friendships.

Topics for the one-evening programs range from "Preparing Your Car for Summer Vacation," taught by the owner of an auto

repair shop, to "Home Buying," presented by a local realtor. Other topics include "Investing for Retirement" and "Hunter Safety."

Local preparation in Bismarck has also included door-to-door distribution of plastic bags containing a Bible course enrollment card and the book *Steps to Christ*.

Bismarck church members and students from Dakota Adventist Academy stuffed 25,000 bags in a two-hour workbee. Doug and Deb Haefner had already stuffed 5,000 bags themselves. The Pathfinder youth group began giving out the packets in late January.

The Bismarck Discover Bible School is coordinated by Wanda Sprenger. More than two dozen church members have volunteered to assist with Bible studies.

The Mandan church is also blanketing its community with enrollment cards and has already received several dozen applications. Its Discover Bible School is coordinated by Craig Schaffer.

Preparation at Mandan also includes forming cell groups of members and their invited friends. The church invited Dr. Don James, professor and cell group coordinator at Andrews University, to present three seminars on the concept.

Four cell groups now meet in homes, and these will divide as more persons join. "The goal," says Pastor Darrel Lindensmith, "is to have every member participate and to incorporate new members into the life of the congregation. Everyone needs to be involved."

Pastor Lindensmith serves both the Mandan church and the congregation at Dakota Adventist Academy, a boarding school with about 60 students in grades nine through twelve. The academy students will assist with the series, especially the children's meetings.

"We're really elated," says Pastor Lindensmith, "that the Voice of Prophecy will present the biggest evangelistic series in our area in many years."