



WINTER 2019

# Hartland

## MINISTRY REPORT



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**"YOU JUST  
SAVED A LIFE!"**



# The Abomination of Desolation

*The sign that the final generation will see*

This year marks the 175th anniversary of the Great Disappointment after October 22, 1844. Led by the Holy Spirit, faithful Adventists searched the Scriptures and discovered the message of a heavenly sanctuary. They understood that the investigative judgment had begun, as foretold in Daniel 8:14 and described in the earthly sanctuary service. The Spirit also led them to understand the connection between the investigative judgment and the final warning message against receiving the mark of the beast of Revelation 13 and 14.

Jesus referred to this sign, the mark of the beast, in the context of His second coming as the “abomination of desolation” (Matthew 24:15) spoken of by the prophet Daniel. And He added: “So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.” Matthew 24:33, 34. Through these words, Jesus indicated that the same generation that would witness the “abomination of desolation” sign, would see the unfolding of all Earth’s final events.

Notice the following inspired statement: “Jesus, looking down to the last generation, saw the world involved in a deception similar to that which caused the destruction of Jerusalem.”<sup>1</sup>

The distinctive characteristics of the last generation are pointed out in Revelation 14:4, 5, 12: “These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes,” and “they are without fault before the throne of God.” “Here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”

How can this be possible? The Lord gives us the answer: “I will give you a new heart.... I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes.... I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses.” And He adds, “Then they [the nations] shall know...that I am the Lord!” Ezekiel 36:26–29, 38.

Each generation that has lived since 1844 could have been the final generation. Oh, may we pray and yearn to be that final generation; may we follow the Lamb wherever He goes! 💧

<sup>1</sup> Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy* (1911), p. 22.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norbert Restrepo".

# From a Knock at the Door

*"My calling is to win souls for Jesus."*

by Stephen Rajan



## Working as a conference Bible worker

in Maine, I find that knocking on doors can sometimes be challenging and even discouraging. At the end of one such day, a door opened and there stood a lady named Brenda with a puzzled look on her face. I invited her to have Bible studies, and without hesitating she said, "Yes!" Only after several weeks did she share with me that

half an hour before my arrival, she had prepared to end her life by consuming poison. I was awed and grateful to Jesus for sending me to her house "for such a time as this!"

My time at Hartland College was a work of heart preparation for my Master's service. The Bible classes, farm work, and various outreaches shaped my life to help me value souls who are dying. As I prepared for internship, I looked forward to applying the principles which I learned from my Bible classes and outreach experiences.

Interestingly, I had not even planned to do my pastoral internship in Maine, but my plans fell through, and the Lord opened the door for me to work in the Mt. Blue District with Pastor Don Ball, a 2010 Hartland graduate. Now I see more clearly the truth of this statement: "Often our plans fail that God's plans for us may succeed."<sup>1</sup>

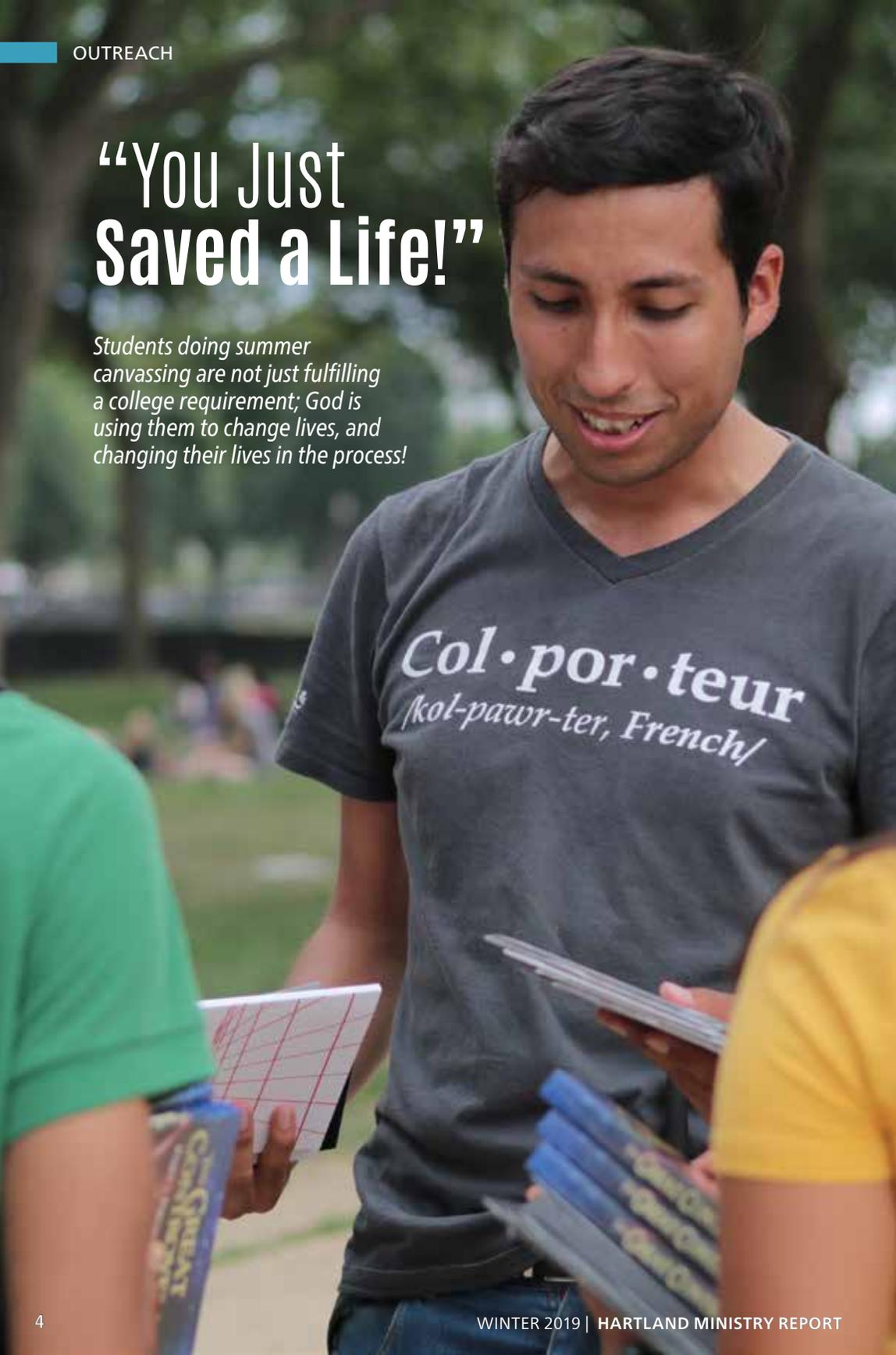
Brenda and I studied the Bible together for about eight months, and as she discovered the amazing love of God, her suicidal thoughts completely disappeared. She also has a whole new concept of what life is all about. Her love for the Bible has led her to embrace Jesus as her Lord and Savior and to accept the teachings of Adventism. She was baptized this August with another Bible study contact.

My calling is to win souls for Jesus, and experiences like this assure me that God has called me to this work. I do not know where the Lord will lead me after my graduation, but like Paul I can truly say, "And He said unto me, 'My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Corinthians 12:9. 

<sup>1</sup> Ellen G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, p. 473.

# “You Just Saved a Life!”

*Students doing summer canvassing are not just fulfilling a college requirement; God is using them to change lives, and changing their lives in the process!*





**I**'m sorry, I can't help you. I only have one dollar in my pocket," the elderly gentleman told me. He added that he not only was an alcoholic and drug addict in rehabilitation, but he also was taking medications for depression and suicidal thoughts. "Sir," I replied, "I've been through addictions and depression myself. I too have struggled with thoughts of suicide." Tears streamed down his face as we connected on a level that could've never been possible with others around us, and God alone made it happen. I left with him *Peace Above the Storm*, which he enthusiastically accepted. As we were walking away, he turned around and called after me, **"You just saved a life!"**—*Vanesa Esteche, Bible Instruction, Argentina*

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**I** know this book!" the man exclaimed in surprise as I handed him *The Great Controversy*. "I bought it from you guys last year." Of course, I had heard that many times. But the man continued, "My surprise is not that I have the same book as the one you showed. What shocked me is that yesterday I was led to randomly pull out the same book from the shelf a year after I bought it. I read a little bit and, with almost no interest, placed it back. It is also amazing that my wife got sick, so I can be home at this time." Then he concluded, "It's as if God is calling my attention to that particular book." I encourage all who will take up the canvassing work to heed the word of the Lord, and obey it. Therein is true success.—*Goabaone Sepako, Pastoral Evangelism, Botswana*

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**C**anvassing is definitely a character-building experience. As I canvassed, I met people who faced similar issues that I had, with whom I was able to share my testimony of how God led me out of darkness. At the end, they signed up for Bible studies. I witnessed the miracle of answered prayers, and I experienced healing from constantly depending on God through the good and the bad times. It helped my walk with God tremendously as I prayed a lot more than usual—all day long, in fact—pleading for the Holy Spirit to work through me.—*Yik Min Wong, Bible Instruction, Malaysia* 🔥

# I chose to attend Hartland



“I want to bring the gospel to my country and to all Europe. If God wants, I will establish a missionary school in France.”  
 —**Thomas Estevan**, *France, Pastoral Evangelism*



“The labor is great, but the workers are few. I want to contribute all that I can in the work of the gospel. God, through prayer, pointed directly to Hartland for my training.”  
 —**Christopher Micchelli**, *Idaho, USA, Media Ministry*



“Hartland provides the best training I need to be a medical missionary for God and to impart the knowledge I receive to others.” —**Lebogang Sebekedi**, *Botswana, Health Ministry*



“I want to learn more about showing the gospel and build a firm foundation so that I can use media to bring more people to Christ.” —**Glinda Jigi Cherian**, *India, Media Ministry*



# and College because...



“Hartland offers the environment I need to grow and develop spiritually, mentally, physically, and to be a genuine and effective missionary.” —**Michael Hargreaves**, Colorado, USA, Pastoral Evangelism



“I wanted a place where true education is still taught and practiced, and where God's principles are followed. I wanted a good spiritual environment where I could learn and work and become closer to God.” —**Teresa Hargreaves**, Colorado, USA, Elementary Education



“I want to be rightly trained to go out into the world making a difference!” —**Junior Vertus**, Michigan, USA, Pastoral Evangelism



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Catch the Vision Again!

# Jesus Saves a Sinking Boat

*Challenges threatened to sink our mission trip plans, but we fastened our eyes on Jesus and He came through marvelously!*

by Samson Fidimaye

**M**issing luggage on the flight. Phone damage. Challenges with logistics. Power outages. Internet problems. Coordinators hit by malaria. You name it! The mission trip to Nigeria left us rowing valiantly against ferocious tides.

Though our oars were broken, and the storms raged unabated, and we could not see the horizon, we kept our eyes on Jesus.

By August 1, nine of us facilitators for the H.E.L.P (Health and Education Leadership Program) Nigeria mission trip arrived safely at our venue—Adeleke University High School in Ede, Osun State, Southwestern Nigeria.

We had a diverse group of participants: housewives, university students and staff, high school students and staff, lay medical missionaries, government employees, and entrepreneurs from different parts of Nigeria.

“I have always cherished my flesh diet and did not believe it was possible to live without it,” Deborah, the wife of a Pentecostal pastor, enthused with a huge smile. “The health classes and practical hands-on health tips were really instructive! The first few days of this program, I felt the food was awful. Not anymore! When I went home over the



weekend, I made some green juices and plant-based food for my family.”

At the end of three weeks, the team completed an intensive lifestyle intervention training with 30 participants, one-on-one health coaching, introductory media workshops, midwifery training, and gardening classes for Adeleke University High School students. We finished with a health expo at Deborah’s church, where over 150 attendees flooded the venue as we ministered to their basic health needs.

Uchee Pines Institute partnered with us and our local coordinator for the mission trip—Elim Lands Nigeria Missionary Initiative—to award a certificate to each successful participant in the lifestyle intervention training.

“This information is priceless! We are going to take this back home and share with others the wonderful things we have learned here!” they exclaimed with joy.

For every need and trial, our classes and experiences at Hartland College bolstered our faith in God and gave us confidence to teach what we had learned. Jesus saved our sinking boat! Truly, the mission trip has ended, but the memories and impact will last for many years to come—perhaps forever. 💧

# Because of His Love

*God led Jim to reflect His love by ministering to children through agriculture.*

by Gillian Bethel

**“Hartland helped me choose** to follow God because of His love for me rather than just doing the ‘right thing’ like I’d always done,” says 2014 Hartland graduate Jim Whitaker. “Since then, life has brought me to many places I never dreamed I would find myself. As I choose to trust the guiding hand of my Savior, He keeps me safe and purposeful even in very trying circumstances.”

At Hartland, God guided Jim to choose the elementary education major after taking a required freshman class, Introduction to Teaching, and teaching one class period at Hartland’s elementary school. “I had never really thought of myself as a teacher prior to that experience. God confirmed it during my time as a student teacher at Hartland, on internship, and after graduation.”

As an undergraduate, Jim especially appreciated “the staff who took an interest in the less promising students.” In his own teaching ministry, Jim showed similar compassion: “I was an uncle figure in many troubled children’s lives.” He also became “a father to two girls whose biological fathers had abandoned them.”

As Jim and his wife followed God’s leading as teachers, God later opened a ministry to Jim that was the fulfillment of his passion—combining education and agriculture. “One day, almost out of the blue, my wife’s boss asked me, ‘Would you be interested in helping us start our Garden-to-Plate farm program?’” So Jim restarted the farm and taught gardening



*Jim and Annalee Whitaker with their three children*

classes at Holbrook Indian School, which had not had an agriculture program for 30 years—his “dream project!”

The project had a very positive impact on the children. Jim remembers, “One day I told my elementary class to pick peas and fill a certain number of buckets. They did a wonderful job and surprised themselves. How thrilling it was to see the joy of accomplishment on their faces! Another time, while building a shed with my middle school class, I was excited to see their enthusiasm as they learned to use the tools and to witness their accomplishments.”

Jim and Annalee are committed “to continue ministering to children, especially those who come from rough backgrounds, in whatever ways God opens for us.” 

# Reaching Hearts in a Closed Country

*What are the chances that a Buddhist young man in a Communist country would learn of Christ and find his way to Hartland?*

by Sabrina Petersen



**Jai\*** grew up in Southeast Asia in a strict Buddhist family where his grandmother would not tolerate any other religion. In accordance with her wishes, he participated in religious rituals, such as attending the temple at every full moon, offering food sacrifices, and performing ceremonies for the dead. In a country where Christianity is little accepted, he'd never even heard of God! However, that would soon change.

Graduating from high school in 2014, Jai intended to study elementary education at

a university, but needed to work to earn the tuition first. There was one problem—his work required him to learn English. Jai soon found a language school, little knowing that his teachers were Adventists.

For the first time ever, he developed friendships with Christians and began attending a group that met every Friday evening to fellowship and share Bible stories. Through these new friends, Jai discovered a personal God who understood every aspect of his life. As he made the decision to follow Jesus, Jai's life purpose was transformed. He now wanted to share God's love with children just as his English teachers had with him!

"My teacher Sarah helped start Oon Jai, a non-profit organization. She asked me to help at their farm where they have an English program. That experience showed me that I really enjoy working with children."

With his new life came challenges. His grandmother strongly disapproved of his conversion to Christianity, thus straining his relationship with her. He also struggled to keep the Sabbath at university as Saturday classes were often imposed. He prayed earnestly that God would provide a way for him to study and worship God in freedom. That's when he learned about Hartland through one of his Adventist friends and applied for the Missionary Training Fund scholarship.

Now a second-year elementary education major at Hartland, Jai is excited to finish his training and return to serve in Southeast Asia. In preparation for his future ministry, he has soaked in Hartland's spiritual atmosphere and has taken advantage of opportunities for children's ministry, such as Piedmont Bible Camp and other outreach programs.

"Each day, God is teaching me how to depend on Him and love Him more," shares Jai. Just as Christian teachers impacted his life, he plans to teach Asians who've never heard of the love of Jesus. 🔥

\*A pseudonym



# Small Beginnings to Big Dreams

*God has blessed the Castro family as they use what they have to bless others.*

by Gillian Bethel

**Freddy and Connie Castro's ministry,** Loma Linda Campestre,\* is a living witness of the blessings of starting with whatever we have. They began their family ministry in Colombia in 2008 by making health foods like bread, granola, and sprouts in their home. Freddy cooked, and Connie sold their products door-to-door in the community. This gave her the opportunity to meet people and minister to their needs through massage, hydrotherapy, health counseling, and Bible studies.

As time went by, they were able to supply local restaurants, hotels, and supermarkets. God opened opportunities for them to give health expos, cooking schools, agriculture classes, and other training events. Their young daughter even taught a class on how to make soy products. But this was just the beginning!

The Castro family prayed for seven years that God would give them a modest property, perhaps four or five acres, for a lifestyle center and farm. While praying, they continued to minister with what they had. God then gave them 74 acres, something much bigger than they ever dreamed of! They were offered a farm with rich soil and good spring water. The property is now paid for, and Freddy and Connie have enlarged their dreams.

Their plan is to develop a center for

training in agriculture, home industry, health, and evangelism as well as a lifestyle program. God has given them many ideas to attract young people such as an educational maze, and classrooms and a church housed in a Noah's ark-sized building. One of their burdens is to provide counseling and pregnancy education for troubled teens. They also plan to create a model of the wilderness sanctuary so people can be taught what Jesus is doing for them in heaven.

In the meantime, they are farming their land. In addition to many kinds of fruits and vegetables, recently they have grown herbs such as citronella, lavender, thyme, rosemary, and eucalyptus. From these they're making essential oils to sell and use in therapy.

They say, "Working as a family, we present a living testimony of what God can do in our lives. A family ministry makes us thinkers and not mere reflectors. Creativity flourishes, and economic independence is achieved. The whole family can be involved, thus strengthening family ties. We are witnessing the true blessings of God and motivating others to be missionaries for Christ." 

**Watch an interview with the Castros on 3ABN at** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5owi7na9Zo>

\*An alumni project supported through Hartland's "Lord, Send Me" program



Photo Credit: No Sang Myung, Class of '08

# Upcoming Events

## Winter Convocation

January 17–19, 2020

**Speaker:** Tim Riesenberger

**Contact:** Events Coordinator  
(540) 672-1927

## Spring Convocation

April 17–19, 2020

**Speakers:** Norman McNulty and Chris Buttery

**Contact:** Events Coordinator  
(540) 672-1927

## Piedmont Bible Camp

June 7–14, 2020

**Speakers:** TBA

**Contact:** Eva Sanchez  
(540) 216-2137

## Summer Conference

July 15–19, 2020

**Speaker:** Eric Flickinger

**Contact:** Events Coordinator  
(540) 672-1927

## Fall Convocation

October 16–18, 2020

**Speaker:** Bob Gregory

**Contact:** Events Coordinator  
(540) 672-1927

You may register for our events online at [booking.hartland.edu](http://booking.hartland.edu). On-site registration is also available. We look forward to seeing you!

Cover: Image courtesy of Michigan Youth Rush

## WINTER CONVOCATION

JANUARY 17–19, 2020



### About the Speaker

**Dr. Tim Riesenberger** is an ER physician from the Seattle area. Originally from an agnostic background, he learned of the Seventh-day Adventist Church while attending a public university. He has a passion for Christ and for sharing God's Word around the world in places where Christ is not yet known.

### Important Notice!

Thank you for sacrificially giving to God's work at Hartland. In order to receive a tax-deductible receipt for 2019, your envelope must be postmarked by Dec. 31, 2019. To donate using your credit card, please call (540) 672-3100 ext. 2224 by Dec. 24, 2019.

### Staff Openings

Auto Mechanic  
Bookkeeper  
Farm Manager

Men's Dean  
Media Department Chair

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