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Adventist Journey

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*They Were the Hands and
Feet of Jesus*

My Journey

Growing up in the church we had *Mission Spotlight*, mission stories. We had missionaries come and share their experiences. . . . One year into our marriage we went to Africa, serving for almost eight years. Now in retirement we are back in a mission field. We will be part of this community and serve here on "the res" as long as we can. Visit vimeo.com/nadadventist/ajgaryandmarlamarsh for more of the Marsh's story.

GARY AND MARLA MARSH,
Fort Peck Reservation, Montana

*Gary Marsh
Marla Marsh*



Cover Photo by Dan Weber

Dear Reader: The publication in your hands represents the collaborative efforts of the North American Division and *Adventist World* magazine, which follows *Adventist Journey* (after page 16). Please enjoy both magazines!

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ADVENTIST JOURNEY

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Constructing an AMAZONIAN DREAM

BY MYLON MEDLEY

North and South American students help make free education possible for children in Nova Jerusalém.

All Photography by Mylon Medley

Tucked within Boa Vista do Ramos, located in Amazonas, Brazil, is the village of Nova Jerusalém—the home of Escola Técnica Adventista do Massauari (ETAM). This Adventist school is located along the Massauari River, a tributary of the Amazon River. Forty-five students, ages 5-14, attend ETAM.

For seven years 33 missionary groups have come to help expand its resources to serve the people of the region. The road to a greater school for the seven communities in this specific area, however, first began with two young medical missionaries, Daniel and Naissen Fernandes.

After getting married and completing their nursing degrees, the Fernandeses wanted to fulfill their shared childhood dream of serving throughout the continent of Africa. The couple, instead, was led by God to serve in an extremely remote location of their native country.

“We didn’t have a house, so we had to live on a boat for three years,” said Daniel, who explains that they were the first medical professionals ever to serve the region. “When

you arrive in the mission field, especially in a place where you can see so many needs, you just want to work, serve, and help those in need, whatever their situation,” he said.

This inspired the couple to create what became known as Health Post, which allowed them to serve hundreds of people through clinical and health educational resources.

“What should we build next?” Daniel asked community members while operating the clinic. They responded, “*Maybe we should build a school here.*”

“That was the beginning of the dream,” said Daniel.

Molding the Dream

The only way missionaries with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency



The ETAM “driver” uses a motorized covered boat to transport students to school. A one-way trip can take up to an hour.

(ADRA) have reached the school in the Amazon rainforest has been by traveling 30 hours by boat from Manaus, the capital of Amazonas, a state of Brazil, and also the location of the regional ADRA base.

To say the location is in the “middle of nowhere,” is an easy yet unjust description. Boa Vista do Ramos is remote, but life is present and bountiful. The municipality’s 3.2 billion square miles of lush jungle, carved by the world’s longest river and its ecosystem, is inhabited by approximately 18,000 people, according to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics.

ETAM’s first 20 students walked through the jungle on dirt paths or traveled by paddleboats or motor-

ized boats from the surrounding, yet distant communities to have school in a small, cramped room with only one teacher. “But the class grew as parents saw that the children were able to read and write. Holding them in one room wasn’t sufficient, and it became clear they needed more classrooms,” said Daniel.

At the conclusion of a missionary trip in 2013, an adult sponsor told Bradley Mills, the director of ADRA Brazil’s Amazon Region, that they wanted to donate money to help buy land for the school.

“Then the dream started to gain shape,” said Daniel. Every year thereafter, larger mission groups have traveled to ETAM to work on constructing new facilities for the school.

“It became the dream of many others,” said Rolf Maier, the architect of the project, who initially thought the vision was too large to accomplish. “For some reason God slowly put the same dream in my heart. He said ‘Rolf, you have to build this dream together with Daniel.’”

An Extreme Task

Fast-forward to 2018 when a group of more than 200 students and volunteers from the United States and South America arrived on eight boats to complete the final phase of the school’s construction.

The group made up ADRA Connections Extreme, an unprecedented project, which took place July 8-22.

"We have a lot of university students who wanted to get involved in a project, but also wanted to connect with each other, so we created a program called ADRA Connections Extreme, designed specifically for large-scale projects," said Adam Wamack, manager of ADRA Connections. The humanitarian agency's ADRA Connections program differs from its "extreme" counterpart because it sends students from various colleges to a variety of ADRA projects around the world at different times.

The colleges and universities represented from the United States were Pacific Union College, Loma Linda University, Walla Walla University, Oakwood University, La Sierra University, and Kettering College. The universities represented from South America were the Brazil Adventist University in São Paulo (UNASP), River Plate Adventist University in Argentina, and Peruvian Union University in Peru. The students represented two of the Adventist Church's global divisions—the North American Division and the South American Division.

"Giving students the opportunity to go on a mission trip is an awesome opportunity, and we don't want to understate that," said Wamack. "But to add the ability to connect with other college and university students is just an exponential multiplier of the impact that you can have."



Caleb Akins (right) who studies Spanish and broadcast journalism at Oakwood University shares a selfie with Raiane Porto (left), who studies music at the Adventist University of São Paulo in Brazil (UNASP). "The most spiritual part of the trip is seeing a lot of young people, really being passionate and enjoying doing something for somebody else; and seeing that I'm not the only person who is trying to make a difference in the world," said Akins.

"I Ache, but I Wake"

Bringing a mostly westernized group of students to the Amazon presents a different type of culture shock. The river boats offered living conditions that placed the volunteers out of their comfort zones. The participants slept in hammocks on the boats' upper level. The boats were able to accommodate up to 30 hammocks. The lower level had a kitchen, an open meeting area, and two bathrooms, one for men, one for women, that used river water for showering and flushing the toilet.

Students had experiences of sleeping next to snorers, falling out of their hammocks, and combating mosquitoes, bees, ants, and other insects. One student woke up with a frog in his hammock.

There was no air-conditioning to escape the scorching temperatures, and no cellular service or wi-fi to upload photos on Instagram or text loved ones. Personal space was extremely limited. Adaptability skills were either deployed or developed.

"It's amazing to see the amount of introspection that has happened," said Brigitte Hinds-Reynolds, a doctoral public health education and promotion student at Loma Linda University, who has worked for numerous humanitarian projects and organizations over the years, including the United Nations. "The self-discipline of a volunteer and missionary is amazing," said Hinds-Reynolds. "I ache, but I wake. It's a mind change. It's a purpose change."

Life-changing Experiences

On face value the project is a large mission trip with a tremendous goal to help provide free education for up to 200 local youth. The college and university students helped build or finish the construction of the campus' dormitory, cafeteria, library, administrative building, and housing units for teachers and missionaries. But the trip's significance was as diverse as the young adults who volunteered to serve.

The trip was a student's first time leaving the United States; it was anti-anxiety treatment for another student grieving the loss of a relative; it was a test to solidify the decision to become a medical missionary; it was a last-minute decision; it was a way to reignite a relationship with God; it was an extension of a desire to help educate children; it was the next piece to be sown in a pattern of lifelong service to an underdeveloped world.

"I would say that this group is the cream of the crop from all the colleges; they are exceptional kids," said Elaine Halenz, who, along with her husband, Donald, joined the group as volunteers. The retired couple



Elaine Halenz (left), a retired missionary from the U.S., paints alongside Pollyani Mamedes, an art student from Brazil.

had worked for decades as teachers and missionaries in such countries as the Philippines, Indonesia, and Singapore. "We love the enthusiasm and excitement that they have brought with them. It's just great to be a part and they've accepted us at our 'advanced ages.'"

Worship as the Cornerstone

The overall goal of the trip was to bring the God-inspired dream to life. However, the objective was extended to enhance the spiritual journeys of the participants.

"The most spiritual part of this trip is being able to come together with all these different cultures, people, all these different ages, working on a project together, waking up at 5:00 in the morning just to be able to help others," said Lauren Cavillerro, a religious studies and social work major at La Sierra University. "I think that in and of itself is worship,"

"Our goal is not to change the community's spiritual aspect, but to have our volunteers have a spiritual experience. We've focused a lot on how we'd like to shape the day-to-day experience that our volunteers will have while they're on this trip," said Wamack.

There were morning and evening worships that featured prayer, presen-

tations from missionaries and volunteers, and musical performances.

"It's just amazing how people can get together, not know the same language, and still sing praises together and have worship every single night—and have a wonderful time," said Ohimai Ahonkhai, who studies pre-law at Oakwood University.

The worships also served as a daily reset button for the participants.

"At the end of every day we're exhausted and tired, and we haven't seen each other from all the different schools. Getting to see each other, being able to worship with one another, and getting to really reflect on the reason we're here doing this mission work is important," said Ashton Harden, fourth-year business management and legal studies student at La Sierra University. "We have a bigger goal, a bigger purpose, and that's the kids. They deserve this. We're changing lives; we're impacting lives; but we're also being impacted as well."

The Dream Lives

ETAM was inaugurated on July 20, at the conclusion of the project. The efforts of the students, organizers, and missionaries were praised during the ceremony by local government officials, teachers, and community members as the entire

volunteer group sat in the chapel of the newly constructed dormitory.

"I don't think I can express with words what we've done here," said Fernandes while wiping tears from his eyes during the inauguration. "I thank all of you for having understood God's plan and accepting God's call for your lives."

"Each one of them are answers to our prayers," said Gabriela Rodrigues dos Santos, an ETAM teacher and one of the volunteers. "It's inspiring to see how much effort and how much care they put into every detail of the school as they were working. I thank you for not giving up on us."

"This is something that would seem impossible for other people, but we know this is God's dream. And just as God wanted to dwell among the Israelites, He also wants to dwell among people in the Amazon today," Rodrigues dos Santos continued. "Education can transform lives and it enables people to learn more about God. [They don't know what life is like beyond the jungle.] This is all that they have. This school brings hope for them to dream bigger and go higher."

Mylon Medley is an assistant director of communication for the North American Division.

Students from Loma Linda University haul a collection of blocks away from the construction site.





← A volunteer gives a patient an eye exam at the mega clinic in Fort Worth.
Pieter Damsteegt

THEY WERE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS

More than 6,800 Receive Free Medical Care at Adventist Pop-up Mega Clinic

BY PAT HUMPHREY

Tremendous! Impressive! Amazing! This is how volunteers, patients, and community members alike described the most recent Your Best Pathway to Health (Pathway to Health) event, a three-day mega clinic held in Fort Worth, Texas, September 19 to 21, 2018. The eighth in a series of Pathway to Health community health clinics held in cities around the U.S. over the past five years, the Fort Worth event stands out as one of the most unique.

"We had 2,200 volunteers, and approximately 50 to 75 percent of them were new," said Kim Goodge, who manages volunteer registration

for Pathway to Health. "We also had a large number of volunteers who are not members of our church—probably the largest ever," she added.

Also noteworthy is the large number of school groups—more than in any previous event, with the exception of Los Angeles, California—that came to volunteer. These numbers indicate a growing trend in both the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the community: Many people have the desire to serve, to make a difference in the lives of others, and to be the "hands and feet" of Jesus. The volunteers in Fort Worth did just that with more than 6,800 patients receiving more than \$25 million in services provided.

It Gets in Your Blood

When asked, "Why do you do this?" Carol Schaefer, who worked in patient registration in Fort Worth and at three previous events, responded, "It's what Jesus did when He was on the earth: helping people in their daily needs."

Debra Dehning, general manager of the cardiology department, who, along with her physician husband, has volunteered in six clinics, beginning with Pathway to Health San Antonio, Texas, in 2015. "It gets in your blood," she says, "and you can't quit!"

Linda Crosier, who volunteered in the triage area, finds her involvement as a Pathway volunteer to be a fulfillment of her childhood dream to become a missionary nurse. "Ever since I was 6 years old, missionary nurses used to come and tell their stories. Since then I always wanted to be a missionary nurse," said Crosier.

Regardless of what motivates volunteers to become involved, each one finds the experience rewarding, especially when they interact with patients.

Sleep Outside

Dave Fiedler, who volunteered in the spiritual care department, encountered patients in a way that no previous Pathway volunteer has ever done. He got the idea that, in addition to serving as a chaplain during regular clinic hours, he would sleep outside and mingle with the patients as they waited in line overnight—passing out water, chatting with various groups, easing people's tensions, and praying with them. When a woman who was waiting in line had a seizure and was taken to the hospital, Fiedler



↑ Two massage therapists treat patients at the free, Adventist pop-up mega health clinic in Fort Worth. Active Manual Relaxation and Hydrotherapy was the department with largest number of providers (60). *Pieter Damsteegt*

organized a group of waiting patients to pray for her. He found them quite responsive.

"This [staying outside with the lines of people waiting for services] provided a tremendous opportunity to put a positive face on the organization before the people ever came through the door," he said. Fiedler, like many other volunteers, saw that the people he encountered were amazed when they learned that the clinic is run by volunteers who aren't paid for their services—in fact, they actually pay their own expenses to travel from great distances! Those with whom he mingled outside overnight, using a mere inflatable float toy to sleep on the ground, were heartened by his selfless act.

Unexpected Blessing

Another first for Pathway Fort Worth is the impressive number of patients served on day one of the clinic: 3,211. "This is the most we've ever seen in one day," said Lela Lewis, president and cofounder of Pathway to Health. "We have not had that kind of response, even in Los Angeles," she says. "I can't explain why, I just know there is a great need and we're trying to fill that need in a small way."

Perhaps the overwhelming influx of patients can be attributed in part to the media coverage that was given to Pathway Fort Worth. "Literally every media outlet in the city came out to do coverage, wanting to tell the story of what happened here," said Costin Jordache, who serves as head of the communication/media department for Pathway to Health.

Indeed, many needs were met at Pathway Fort Worth, some of which came as an

unexpected blessing. "We witnessed a miracle today!" exclaimed Jon Washington, a licensed massage therapist who worked in the active manual relaxation and hydrotherapy department. He told the story of a woman named Linda who had come to the mega clinic for dental work, but found herself seeking massage therapy when she was unable to receive dental services because of a maximum capacity of patients. Three years prior, Linda had had surgery, during which six screws were placed in her back. But after the surgery she was worse off than before, and she was in constant pain, despite the medications that had been prescribed.

Washington listened to Linda's story and then prayed with her. "I'm not the healer. Jesus is the healer," he assured her.

After a 20-minute massage therapy session, Linda was miraculously able to walk on her own power without a cane. Rejoicing that her original

Many people have the desire to serve others, to make a difference in the lives of others.

plans had been thwarted, Linda said, "This is the best thing that could have ever happened!"

Team Effort

Planning and executing a mega clinic such as Pathway to Health is a massive undertaking requiring the collaboration of many people, including church organizations and their leaders, community agencies, and civic leaders, along with a dedicated team of volunteer department heads and others who work tirelessly to pull it all together. Southwestern Adventist University, Texas Health Huguley Hospital (which provided all lab services at no charge—in addition to sending



↑ A patient receives dental care during the Pathway to Health Fort Worth clinic September 19-21, 2018. *Pieter Damsteegt*

The people were amazed when they learned that the clinic is run by volunteers who aren't paid for their services.

volunteers), several local academies and primary schools, and many others too numerous to mention all contributed in their own way to make the event a success.

Providentially, two well-known and influential pastors from the community, Kenneth Jones, Jr., pastor of the Como First Missionary Baptist Church, and K. P. Tatum, pastor of the New Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church, were instrumental in paving the way for Pathway Fort Worth, and the efforts of their church members who hand-delivered flyers all across the city saved the organization thousands of advertising dollars.

"We had pastors from Baptist and Assembly of God churches, the Texas Conference, and the Southwest Region Conference all working together to impact the city in

↓ A volunteer in the lifestyle department and a patient pray together during the mega clinic in Fort Worth, Texas.

Pieter Damsteegt



Fort Worth Pathway to Health Fast Facts

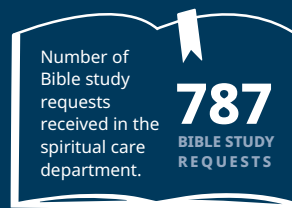


Total number of patients served:

6,805

2,200

Total Number
of volunteers



Number of
Bible study
requests
received in the
spiritual care
department.

787

BIBLE STUDY
REQUESTS

1st
time

Percentage
of first-time
volunteers:
approximately
75 percent.



847 on Wednesday

Largest number of patients on any day in any department: 847 seen in primary care on Wednesday.

a marvelous way," said Elton DeMoraes, vice president for ministries at the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The Southwestern Union Conference, as well as the Texas and Southwest Region conferences, collaborated to fund the event, and administrators, staff, pastors, teachers, church members, and others literally rolled up their sleeves and came together to be the "hands and feet" of Jesus, doing whatever necessary to get the job done.

Caring About the Community

"I'm really impressed with all the services you are offering—portable X-rays, dental services, a little bit of everything—even haircuts! It's amazing!" remarked Betsy Price, mayor of Fort Worth. "Thank you for caring about our community," she said.

Summing up the reason this ministry exists, Lewis says the North American Division organization is simply engaging in the healing ministry of Jesus. Plans are already underway to hold the next event in Raleigh, North Carolina, sometime in early 2019. In Indianapolis, Indiana, another mega clinic will take place just prior to the 2020 General Conference session.

"In April 2020 we hope to have 4,500 volunteers, and, by God's grace, serve 10,000 people in the city of Indianapolis," Lewis said. Having completed eight events, and now on their way to the next, Lewis recognizes that these clinics happen only by God's intervention and blessing. "Every event is a miracle beyond miracles," she said.

Pat Humphrey recently retired from the Southwestern Union Conference, where she served as communication and health ministries director. In addition to gathering stories for this article, Humphrey volunteered as a counselor in the lifestyle department during Pathway to Health Fort Worth.



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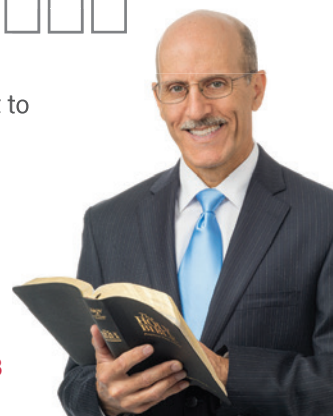
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BY ANGELINE B. DAVID

When Holidays Aren't So Jolly

It's the most wonderful time of the year! That is, until we realize all the work that needs to be done. Have you made your to-do list and checked it twice?

Christmas is all too often the most stressful time of the year. This can lead to unintended anger or outbursts, emotional or mental breakdowns, or physical problems such as high blood pressure. The holidays can be harmful, instead of refreshing our faith in our soon-returning Savior.

But there is hope for a truly joyous holiday season. The potential side effects of increased stress can be eased by becoming more resilient. Resilience is our ability to cope with or bounce back from negative events. It includes behaviors, thoughts, and actions. We all have some of it; and like faith, resilience can grow through God's power.

A strong social network with family and friends can improve your resilience. The January/February 2015 issue of *Vibrant Life* (www.VibrantLife.com) has articles and tips about how to meaningfully connect with family and friends. It's important that these connections are deep, sincere, and mutually fulfilling, which is a blessing from God (Ps. 133).

Here are four other tips to help alleviate stressors this time of year and build your resilience:

Be realistic. Much of the holiday pressure comes from our personal and cultural expectations and norms. Make up your mind that it's OK to let some of them go. Don't demand from yourself or others what is not absolutely necessary. Exercise your flexibility. Invite others to contribute toward making the festivities a success; perhaps God wants to develop some skills in them.

Nontraditional gifts. Save yourself time by donating to a charity in the name of your loved one. Give a card or picture explaining the ministry to open up conversation. Or consider gifting them tickets to an upcoming church-sponsored event or retreat, such as the NAD Health Summit in January. Give a gift that will strengthen their ministry and heavenly influence.

Spread the love. Holidays can be especially painful for those who struggle with loneliness. Our beautiful Sabbath smiles can sometimes disguise our emotional needs. Do you see them at your church? Why not make room for them at your holiday table?

Consider how you can implement Luke 14:12-14 in your celebrations. Someone near you is praying that Psalm 68:6 comes true this year: God sets the lonely in families.

Be healthy. Yes, it's true: getting enough sleep and regular exercise, and partaking in a healthful diet, also improve how you cope with stress. Bundle up the family and take a quick walk around the block. Or play musical chairs inside. Simple activities can make a big difference.

But sometimes, no matter how much we do, the pain of the season can be quite unbearable. The holidays don't make memories of past abuse, trauma, or neglect disappear. If this is your experience, find a qualified counselor who will respect your faith in God and encourage you to exercise it. Let God give you the gift of complete healing.

In Leviticus 23, when instructing the Israelites about the national feasts, the Lord repeatedly tells them not to do any "servile" or "regular" work. Commenting on this precept Ellen White wrote: "God gave direction to the Israelites to assemble before Him at set periods . . . and observe special days, wherein no unnecessary work was to be done, but the time was to be devoted to a consideration of the blessings which He had bestowed upon them."*

Being exhausted and burned out does not glorify God, nor does it draw us closer to Him or to salvation. The year is drawing to a close. We have just a few more days to make this year really count for eternity. What one thing—the one thing needful—will you do?

* Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1948), vol. 2, p. 598.

Angeline B. David, DrPH, MHS, RDN, is health ministries director for the North American Division; visit www.nadhealth.org for details on next month's health summit.

Christmas is all too often the most stressful time of the year.



General Manager USA Child Impact International

"An exciting opportunity for a talented manager to serve children in need with a special ministry supportive of the Seventh-day Adventist Church"

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Application deadline is January 31st, 2019.

Child Impact reserves the right to extend or close the application period prior to that date.

Contact support@childimpact.org for a detailed job description.

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Child Impact supports two orphanages in India and over 100 orphans in Bangladesh giving support and HOPE to orphans

Operation Child Rescue

Child Impact funds a rescue home in Bangalore where rescued trafficked girls are given HOPE. It also rescues abandoned children and gives them HOPE in its orphanages.

Check the back page of this magazine to see how you can HELP!

Child Impact International is a registered 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization.



CHILDIMPACT
INTERNATIONAL

PO Box 763, Ooltewah, TN 37363 (423) 910-0667
support@childimpact.org www.childimpact.org

CHILD IMPACT CHANGES THE LIVES OF NEEDY CHILDREN & GIVES THEM HOPE!

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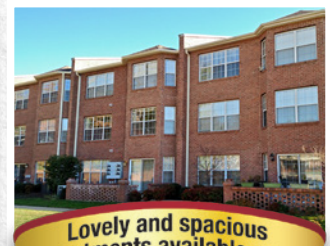
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WHERE NEEDED MOST!

Help Child Impact meet its needs and the needs of children, their families and the Adventist mission school they attend.

VISION: to meet urgent needs and continue the ministry of Child Impact International.

NEED: \$250,000



BLIND, DEAF & ORPHANS

Provides urgently needed funds for our four orphanages and our schools for the blind & deaf in India. We have a huge need for these special children.

VISION: to continue providing a home, education and a future to these extraordinary children.

NEED: \$60,000

RESCUE A CHILD!

Help rescue girls from sex trafficking, children from slums, orphans and abandoned babies.

VISION: to make vulnerable children safe.

NEED: \$100,000

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Sponsor a child in need in an Adventist mission school.

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\$19 to \$48 per month

GO TO childimpact.org or CALL US NOW

OPERATION
**CHILD
RESCUE**

Child Impact International is a fully supportive ministry of the Adventist church. My family are excited to be a sponsor of a child with Child Impact. Jean & my girls have visited her & the work of Child Impact in India. They do an amazing work!

Shawn Boonstra, Speaker / Director Voice of Prophecy.

