

Special

Carolina Breakthrough Edition

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Carolina Breakthrough

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Arden Church 2005 Programs

- Arden Church started its 2005 Evangelism program on Dec. 25, 2004, with a Christmas musical. They invited the community to celebrate the birth of Christ with them, and 50 visitors came.
- In January, a health fair with Park Ridge Hospital attracted more than 300 from the Arden area. A series of prophecy meetings by Pastor Ron Stier began with 20 non-members attending the first night, and ended with a baptism service.
- During February, Dr. Subodh Pandit, Arden Church member, native of India and authority on five major belief systems taught "Come Search with Me" at the Fairfield Inn. Nearly 50 people attended and 36 were non-members. The seminar showed Christianity is ideal in meeting everyone's spiritual needs.
- "Foods for Thought," a four-week Health Seminar, was held in March. Forty people from the community now better understand the relationship between diet and health. Many visitors to these programs have come to one or more events since then. A follow-up program is underway to nurture these interests.
- Following last summer's success, FLAG Camp returns. This nine week program is for ages 6-12 to have Fun Learning About God.
- Also this summer, for the third year in a row, a group will travel to Tanzania to preach Global Evangelism campaigns.
- Coming this fall are evening classes in personal finances, employment, resumes and a Spiritual Sing. A Community Youth Rally will feature a former Columbine High School student speaking on school violence. Youth in local churches and public schools are invited. Following the Youth Rally will be "Binding the Wounds for Teenagers" to help teenagers deal with issues in relationships with peers and parents.



All of the creative work coming out of the Arden church is produced by a unique committee within a committee. The Marketing Committee is a small group of talent within the evangelism committee. This creative team includes Bill Isles, Dr. DeWayne Butcher, Walter Hutton, Pastor Jim Hakes and Ron Stier.

Investing in Evangelism

The Arden Church has a challenging problem and exciting opportunity. In the mountains of Western North Carolina there are 15 Adventist churches in a 25-mile radius—part of a highly church community. It was about 30 years ago that one of those, the Arden Church, was organized. The focus of this newly established church was to evangelize the immediate community of Arden. Over the years, however, church leaders realized that theirs had become a "drive in" church. In other words, they were very much a commuter church, with 90% of its members living outside of its primary territory.

Realizing the problem, the Arden Church prayerfully and enthusiastically focused on reaching-out into the community for Christ and regain their original vision and mission.

During mid 2004, Arden chose

evangelism as a high priority. They wanted to make every function of the church evangelistic. They targeted a 5-mile radius covering five towns and nearly 20,000 people. The vision of the evangelism committee was to have a continuously expanding program that would extend for a period of three-five years.



In order to accomplish their goals and to reach their target area, the Evangelism Committee developed a strategic plan to have various types of out-reach program activities throughout

2005. The events were defined into four categories; Awareness (community awareness though marketing), Pathway (attending interested people), Entry (membership) and Nurturing (helping, caring, teaching and encouraging).

The major thrust in their program was to have as many non-members as possible visit the Arden Church, become acquainted with its beliefs and members and be as helpful and friendly to them as possible.

Now it was time for the marketing committee to go to work. The marketing committee is a small committee within the evangelism committee. With financial assistance from Carolina Breakthrough and a significant investment of the Arden Church, this committee set out to reach every home within the target area employing various marketing

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methods of advertising, i.e. multiple direct mailings using postcards, brochures, Valpak coupon mailing; as well as placement of posters, newspapers, radio & TV coverage and direct contact invitation. Further, the committee formed a partnership for quality creative graphic design and printing services with Graphic Printing Services (GPS), an Adventist-owned graphic printer in Greensboro, NC. Graphic Printing works closely with churches using their "Evangelism 360" program,

Investing in Evangelism

designed to enable church growth through marketing events which keep them in the forefront of community awareness.

The Dividend Payoff

One would think it must be extremely costly to design colorful brochures and to have an ongoing direct mail programs and the employment of other methods of marketing! The folks at Arden have come to realize that the investment really pays! What makes it all exciting is to see the Holy Spirit working with the church members as they reach out to the community. Here are a few testimonies that prove that the Holy Spirit is working and there are real dividends:

In January, a school teacher from the community attended the Health Screening Fair. She found out during her visit that the Arden Church conducts annual mission trips to Africa. "This is a dream of my life!" she stated. "God has truly led me here today!" After speaking with Dr. Butcher, she decided to join the

mission team going to Africa this summer. Since that time she has attended the Foods for Thought seminar and has expressed her gratitude and joy by giving her live testimony in front of the Arden Church one Sabbath morning.

Recently Senior Pastor Jim Hakes received a letter from a local businessman: "Dear Pastor Hakes, We haven't met, but I attended the Foods for Thought seminar at your church . . . I truly appreciated your church bringing such an opportunity to this community . . . I was a little reluctant to take the seminar due to the church affiliation, but knew I needed to make a change. Well, not only was the seminar presented in a wonderful manner, but I never felt there was any recruitment taking place. You lead by example

and I thank you for that. Though many may not directly thank you, there are others who appreciate what you do."

In March, a gentleman found an Arden prophecy postcard advertisement in the local Post Office trash can. Being so interested to know more about Bible prophecy, the gentleman contacted the Arden Church. "This is just what my wife and I have been searching for—to know more about Bible prophecy!" Since, the gentleman and his wife have been attending a newly formed Bible doctrine class held on Sabbath mornings along with three other "pathway" non-members.

The Arden Church believes it is doing what Christ would do — investing time, nurturing others with love and using its gifted resources in reaching out! They have determined that evangelism doesn't cost, it pays!



A Tale of Two Webs

It wasn't just an ordinary crusade. More than 50 visitors came out to the meetings in 2004 at the intimate setting of the Greenwood, SC, church.

The little church and its pastor, Alex Romanov, planned the meetings for the months of October to November. The youth stepped forward, ready to make a stand for the gospel message. Yes, that's right. A number of them decided to conduct evangelistic meetings for their church.

The lives of these young people, Amy Hughes, Malay Pace, Anna Romanov, Josh Frock and Aime Arroal would never be the same again. They would soon realize that God was preparing them for a great work to be done through His own divine worldwide web.

The church secured Breakthrough funds and sent out newspaper advertising. The pastor began practicing the messages with the group. They would play back the cassette the pastor had taped of them and give each other encouragement.

The beginning of something

Meanwhile, thousands of miles away in the Philippines, Nube Nongcayana was enjoying the company of her friends. Finding someone to have as a friend, a nice guy to meet, came up in conversation. Nube never imagined she would go the route of the web, but upon the advice of a friend, she went to an internet café.

As she scanned the website, Nube caught the profile of an interesting young guy, Scott Cowan. He didn't smoke or drink and was active in his local Baptist church. He seemed to like the same things that Nube liked. Only one factor remained...he was not an Adventist. Nube had grown up in a very stable, loving Adventist Christian home. "Well," she thought to herself, "let's give it a try." So she sent her profile and photo via the web. Almost immediately she got a response.

From that moment on, it was an instant connection. For six months there were almost daily calls, in addition to communication on the web. Scott made three trips to the Philippines to visit Nube and meet her family. Neither one had any set intentions of marriage, though. They just wanted a friendship. But God's plan was even better.

It all comes together

Nube mentioned she had a singing ministry in the Adventist church. Curious about her beliefs, Scott began to search for an Adventist church where he lived in Greenwood, SC. Simultaneously, another search had been underway—And God already knew the profile of the soul for whom He was searching. Scott began attending the meetings presented by the youth at the Greenwood church! He became one of several who answered God's call and entered the baptismal waters.

Nube and Scott were married December 19, 2004, and settled in South Carolina. Nube was sad to leave her family in the Philippines, but a new family of believers



Scott and Nube Cowan

awaited her.

As for the small church at Greenwood, they were overjoyed to have their new members Glenda Myers, Scott Cowan and Kewyatta Pace. Pastor Romanov's final remark about the crusade was, "We must realize that the young people are not just our future, but our present. We must not wait to use them—they can be used now, little by little. We see how they can make a positive difference in our churches."

After all, God did weave a web and bring them all together for His purpose.



Pastor Romanov and three of the young evangelists.