



REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

EMPOWERNOTES

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A SECOND WIND FOR AN OUT OF BREATH CHURCH

When Dr. Gugliotto and Elder Shane Dresen spoke in Kenya almost two years ago, they began something that only now makes complete sense to them: a call for REVIVAL among God's people. There are two parts to every outreach: (1) one for those outside the church, and (2) another for the church itself; and the second is actually the chief requirement for success of the first. We can only reach out as far as we reach out for Christ ourselves. Tragically, many Christians ignore the second and focus entirely on the part about reaching "outsiders." We do not feel our own need for Christ before we can tell others they need Him, too. But every Christian needs REVIVAL: *a fresh dose of the Spirit that gives new Christian strength and energy, improves the spiritual condition, restores*

interest in heavenly things, and can even cause us to regain life or consciousness.

Many Christians consider REVIVAL a breath of fresh air that picks up our spirits and renews our faith; but it's more than that: REVIVAL *is a renewed conviction of sin and repentance that spawns an intense desire to live by every word that proceeds from God's mouth. In order for God to revive us, we must give up our will to Him in deep humility. REVIVAL is the peace that comes after we surrender to God and join forces with Him against the enemy and self.*

Who needs REVIVAL? We all do. Every one of us starts out madly in love with Christ, ready to do anything He wants He asks; but gradually, eventually, we return to many of our old ways and

overlook how they damage our communication with God and cause us to contradict our claims to be followers of Christ.

Many of us substitute religion for a relationship with Christ—clinging to the Written rather than the Living Word: like the Jews, we are a people of the Book, when we should be a people of the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn 5:39, 40).

The way, the truth, and the life is a Person—and without an active connection with Him through the Holy Spirit, our efforts to live by the book appear comical to those outside the faith who see our inconsistencies and laugh at the Lord we claim to follow.

From now on, we will plead for REVIVAL at Bible study workshops, starting with ourselves, to bring a second wind to an out-of-breath church—so it can study tirelessly and in-depth!

A Workshop to Remember

The best way to tell you what happened in Missoula is to let the pastor and two of the members sound off about the meetings we held there. Listen to [Conna Bond's](#) report to the *North Pacific Union Gleaner* of the three day event:

“Digging Deeper — Alone and Together” was the title of a Bible study seminar presented last month by Lee Gugliotto, PhD. A former teacher of Biblical languages, Gugliotto authored the award-winning “Handbook for Bible Study.” That book was chosen in 1996 as the inter-denominational Bible study book of the year. Dr. Gugliotto is president and co-founder of Empower Ministries and the Bible Study Institute.

Dr. Gugliotto presented a systematic approach to Bible study, but also shared many stories and anecdotes to illustrate his points. His own testimony is fascinating. Raised in New York City, Gugliotto is the penultimate Italian-American. He still lapses easily into New York-Italian speech and mannerisms.

He joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church over two decades ago after attending a series by evangelist Jac Colon. He was a Presbyterian pastor at the time, and the transition was not an easy one. His perspective on both the strengths and weaknesses of our church are at once unsettling and encouraging. His Biblical methodology equips him to defend both faith and doctrine with rare clarity and ease, and he has the ability to make that methodology practical and accessible to any layperson willing to listen.

During the seminar, Dr. Gugliotto covered a broad range of topics related to building a solid foundation in God's Word. Most powerful were his presentations on the meaning and importance of personal revival as a prerequisite to effective study. Deep, honest, soul-searching prayer prepares us not only to read but also to understand and apply the wonderful truths we discover in the Bible.

He urged those who attended to make their Bible study efforts Christ-centered, and to seek personal interaction with Jesus, the only qualified Bible Teacher or “Rabbi.” Without personal instruction from the living God through His Holy Spirit, we cannot expect to comprehend the truths we study.

The effects of the seminar were reflected in Pastor Souza's sermon January 20. It was clear to all who had attended the seminar that Pastor Souza not only applied what he learned, but really took those principles to heart and incorporated them into his own study and presentation of Biblical truth. His sermon was truly inspired, and we were doubly blessed.

A number of Bible study groups are being raised in response to the seminar.

Anyone who failed to attend can still view the seminar on DVD. If nothing else, take the time to listen to the first two presentations. They very well may change your life.

Bill and Michaela Janicaro recently joined the Missoula church, and shared these impressions of the weekend at their new church home:

Last weekend we were blessed when Dr. Lee and Jolynn Gugliotto came to Missoula to speak about revival and in depth Bible study. What a heart and eye-opening weekend.

WOW! The tools we were given for Bible study, I believe, are going to change our lives from just barely getting into heaven and having the Lord say “well done thou good and faithful servant.” Dr. Lee was an extraordinary presenter. I felt so ready to jump into my Bible with Jesus as my teacher and learn all I can from HIM.

And those talks on revival. Wow, again. So right on. It is so obvious that Dr. Lee and Jolynn's first love is Jesus; and it's reflected in Dr. Lee's teachings and interaction with Jolynn. He reminded us, it is so easy to get mired down in the often sub-spiritual politics and off-target agenda of local churches; but Jesus is who it is ALL about!

Helping people to fall in love with Jesus—all over again

Scoring Points for Jesus

So thank you Dr. Lee for pointing us back to our one true love. JESUS. May the church see that Jesus is everything and may God bless you guys.

Pastor Alvaro Souza expressed his gratitude to the Gugliotto's for ministering to his flock: *I want to thank you for coming to Missoula and presenting your workshop "Digging Deeper—Alone and Together". I've had numerous individuals share with me just how much they appreciated your expertise on the subject. Your seminar has helped them better understand the methods of Bible interpretation that will allow them to find the true meaning of the text and apply the truth in their lives. You have further equipped them with resources and tools that will allow them to grow in the joy of personal Bible study. We pray for your success as you take your workshop to other churches.*

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR ONGOING, TIMELY SUPPORT ON FEBRUARY 1st

Members, friends, and visitors of the Hermiston SDA Church braved an ice storm and a freak blizzard to attend a workshop in that normally snow-scarce eastern Oregon city. *Associate Pastor Sid Hardy* expressed these thoughts about the meetings:

Thank you for coming to Hermiston SDA Church. We had people seeing Jesus in every part of the Bible, and feeling a freedom to discover the hidden cultural and biblical language truths for themselves. I was delighted to see parents commenting on their children wanting to attend Sabbath afternoon meetings for the first time. Because they were being shown how to start a relationship with Jesus and let Him guide them to Himself through the Bible. It was a heart warming experience to see people finding how to bring the Bible alive and get to know the living word Jesus Christ.

People are hungry to find Jesus and know Him and you and your wife have allowed yourselves to become leaders to the living water. Thank you Pr. Sid Hardy

Zara Hardy, Pastor Sid's energetic co-worker in the Lord shared her spiritual impressions (with a delightful New Zealand twang):

Dr Lee Gugliotto and a jam-packed weekend filled with renewal, revival and surrender... I was there I hope you were too! Hermiston church was privileged to host a weekend long seminar/workshop on Bible study methods that challenged everyone attending to cultivate a desire for revival in Jesus. In studying Gods word, Dr Gugliotto's rally cry is two fold: first, we must have an "earnest desire to be people of the 'living Word;" and second, we must "yield ourselves entirely to the Holy Spirit and become completely dependent on Christ" for this endeavor. This central theme was expressed in his workshops where Dr Lee educated, and equipped us with practical information and skills to explore the Bible for ourselves and "to learn about Jesus—from Jesus". This compelling and convicting weekend truly ignited a renewed passion for God and the study of His word in the Hermiston Seventh day Adventist church. By committing to digging in Gods word and being led by God's Spirit I hope to see our church continue to grow with renewed vigor by the grace of God and the power of His Holy Spirit.

A sad note: *The Gugliotto's postponed the afternoon skills portion of the workshop until 3:30 to allow members to attend a memorial service for Elinore Hanson at nearby Irrigon. She was the mother-in-law of Diana Hanson, Jolynn Gugliotto's sister and a former member of the Hermiston church.*

On Fire for the Lord

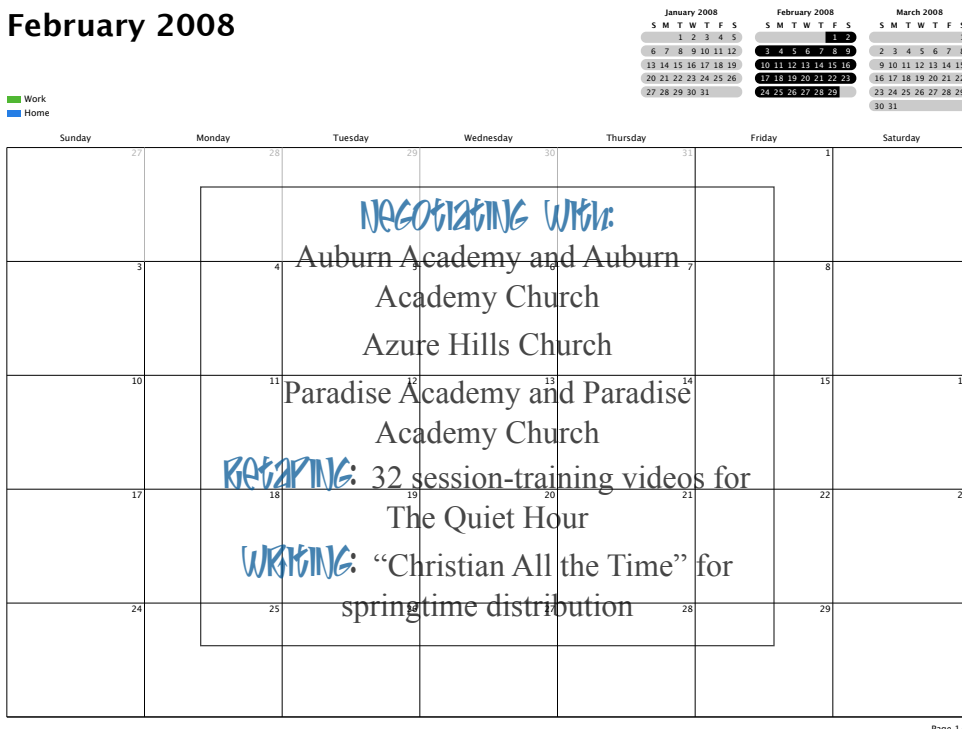
A Thrilling Thought from the Master

Last month, students from Montana and California joined the Gugliotto's for a live study of the Lord's prayer—over the Internet. Sharing an AOL *Instant Messenger* chat-room, they typed out insights and discoveries over the chat board screen for an exciting 75 minutes together—with Christ!

Since then, Dr. Gugliotto has continued to reflect on the Master's model for Christian prayer, and was rewarded with a divine moment while addressing the church-at-worship in Hermiston: "Jesus," he said, "warned His disciples never to call any man 'father,' because they already have one in heaven. The religious leaders wanted credit for bringing their 'children' (disciples) into heaven, something only the heavenly Father can do." Suddenly, the opening words of the Lord's Prayer, *Our Father who art in heaven*, came to mind and sparkled in the light of Jesus' other words. As his heart began to pound with excitement, the Spirit then gave him power to say what he had not realized before: "Jesus wants us to begin our prayers, from the standpoint that we are being raised for another world—a better world—by a better parent than any of us has ever known—the heavenly Father. At the start of every prayer, before we ask for anything else, we must acknowledge Christ's greatest gift to us—His own Father—to give us confidence that the One who hears our requests will grant them to us because Christ has reconciled us to Him and is willing to share Him with us—unashamed to call us, 'family'."

Sr. Pastor Steve Huey sees the potential for revival: *I was spiritually blessed by the Empower weekend. So were our members, judging from their enthusiastic participation and comments. We had a truly wholistic experience; not only did we train to use the tools for Bible study after learning strategies for uncovering the meanings of the text, but we also adopted the strong emphasis on the goal of all study - falling in love with Jesus! The written Word must lead us to the Living Word! Dr. Gugliotto built his remarks on an inspiring study of the roles of the Word, the Spirit, and self-examination in the divine work of revival. I personally experienced close, self-examination by the Spirit freeing the Word to move with power in and through me. The weekend really invades lukewarmness here at the end of the world, and I enthusiastically endorse the Empower weekend for any church interested in getting out of Laodicea, being revived, deepening our relationship with Jesus, and getting ready to effectively reach the lost.*

February 2008



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