

MICHIGAN MEMO



Camp Meeting Issue

STRONG TOWER IS GROWING

"In order to reach all of Michigan, Strong Tower Radio is adding vital members to our team."



George Dronen, wife Barbara and friend, Joanne Dubreuil

The three angel's message must go to all of Michigan and beyond. Strong Tower Radio (STR) is collaborating with the Michigan and Lake Region conferences in half of Michigan, but we believe the Great Commission should be to all of Michigan and beyond. We want to thank you for your prayers AND financial help in growing STR to 12 stations and 1 TV station is just ten years!

In order to reach all of Michigan, Strong Tower Radio is adding vital members to our team. We hired retired pastor George Dronen, a certified public accountant, and committed layman Kam Ferguson as fundraisers to coordinate growing our stations financially and physically, as well as helping to sustain STR. With this added staff the ministry will have a larger presence in local churches. Pastors can begin scheduling a STR speaker by emailing

George.Dronen@StrongTowerRadio.org or calling 231-468-2087. They will also anchor the Strong Tower Radio Indianapolis General Conference booth this summer. As opportunities present themselves, other responsibilities will be to work with donors that want to rapidly provide radio stations across Michigan. There are some really awesome opportunities just about to break and STR will be ready for them with this new development department.

George Dronen, our new development director was born and grew up in the 1930s on a farm in McVille, North Dakota. He was in the United States Navy in the 50s, specializing in radio communication. He then worked for the Great Northern Railroad in the early 60s. He and his wife, Barbara, were baptized June 13, 1964. In 1965, he began his service as a gospel worker

(continued on page 7)



JUSTIN RINGSTAFF

“Do we believe with all our heart that Jesus is coming again soon? Do we believe the prophetic word that great changes are soon to take place in our world that will usher in the time of trouble and bring every soul to the test?”

HOW MUCH MORE

Our Camp Meeting theme this year comes from Luke 11:13 where Jesus, in a series of lessons on prayer, declares, “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more** will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”¹

What an incredible promise! Notice the unmistakable work and fruit of this gift when it is received into our hearts as outlined in the book *The Desire of Ages*.

“When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart,

1. it transforms the life.
2. Sinful thoughts are put away,
3. evil deeds are renounced;
4. love, humility, and peace take the place of anger, envy, and strife.
5. Joy takes the place of sadness, and
6. the countenance reflects the light of heaven.

No one sees the hand that lifts the burden, or beholds the light descend from the courts above. The blessing comes when by faith the soul surrenders itself to God.

7. Then that power which no human eye can see creates a new being in the image of God.”²

It is no wonder why the enemy of souls wants to keep us from genuinely asking, seeking and knocking for the gift that our heavenly Father longs to give. In fact, the pen of inspiration reveals to us that, “There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing

every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. If Satan had his way, there would never be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time.”³

Satan will do whatever is possible in his power to prevent the way being opened for God to “grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”⁴

The devil trembles at the thought of the Holy Spirit working in us. If he had his way, he would forever hinder us from seeking for it, praying for it, and believing for it. He wants to keep us endlessly bound by the sinful thoughts, evil deeds, anger, envy, strife and sadness mentioned above. He bends his efforts to bewitch us with a love for the things of this world—the entertainment, fashion, sports, and all the like that captivate our interest and monopolize our time from a desire for the things of heaven.

The apostle Peter, understanding the devil’s desire to hinder the Holy Spirit from being poured out in great power, earnestly entreats, “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain

from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.”⁵ “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith.”⁶

Praise be to God that because of Jesus and His Holy Word, “we are not ignorant of his devices. It is possible to resist his power.”⁷ May we believe His Word that as we “submit to God” and “resist the devil”, he will flee from us. And as we “draw near to God...He will draw near” to us.⁸

Looking unto Jesus and in His strength, let us remove every hindrance to the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Paul writes to the Corinthian believers: “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”⁹ Let us pray that the Spirit of God would impress with great force upon our hearts to “not love the world or the things in the world.”¹⁰ Because as the apostle John warns, “If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”¹¹

Dear friends, do we believe with all our heart that Jesus is coming again soon? Do we believe the prophetic word that great changes are soon to take place in

PRAYER FOCUS

Every Monday morning, the Michigan Conference staff meets for worship and prayer. Here is the list for March. Please join with us as we pray for these churches and ministries.

MARCH 2 - 6

Kentwood
Pastor Leeroy Hernandez
Grand Rapids Adventist Academy
Rest, Relax, Renew Retreat

MARCH 9 - 13

Alma/Edmore/Lakeview
Pastor Daniel Jean-Francois
Cedar Lake Elementary/Great
Lakes Adventist Academy
Lakeview Community Services

MARCH 26 - 20

Midland/Mount Pleasant
Pastor Rod Thompson
Mount Pleasant Elementary
Midland Community Services

MARCH 23 - 27

Bunker Hill/Jackson/Marshall
Pastor Raymond Torres
Jackson Community Services
Marshall Community Services

***“Be careful for nothing;
but in every thing by
prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let
your requests be made
known unto God.”***

—Philippians 4:6, KJV

our world that will usher in the time of trouble and bring every soul to the test? If we do believe, let us then pray with longing desire for the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to see more of Jesus and His beautiful character. Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to teach us the joy and gladness of feasting upon the holy things of the world to come. Let us give our all to God for the cause of Christ and the honor of His name.

As we think about this year’s upcoming camp meeting, may we remember that it is often in the assembly of the saints, as the people of God seek Him with their whole heart, that the Lord pours out His Spirit in extraordinary ways. God has used such occasions in the past to bring about amazing and wonderful revivals.

In ancient Israel, during the days of King Hezekiah, the “hand of God” was on the people to seek the Lord in a marked manner.¹² It seemed that as they advanced in the way of holiness that they became bolder and still bolder for the ways of heaven. And as they gathered together to keep the national assembly before the Lord, the Holy Spirit worked among them in ways that had not been witnessed in their day.¹³

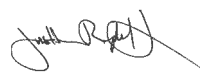
Just imagine what God will do for us if, with humble and penitent hearts, we prepare the way for Him to send the Holy Spirit in great measure upon us. Certainly, we would see a mighty revival and reformation that our eyes have not witnessed to this day. What power would attend our lives, our families, our churches in reflecting Christ to those around us!

Satan may fear such a day and do all in his power to hinder it, but “when the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come. Satan can no more hinder a shower of blessing from descending upon God’s people than

he can close the windows of heaven that rain cannot come upon the earth. Wicked men and devils cannot hinder the work of God, or shut out His presence from the assemblies of His people, if they will, with subdued, contrite hearts, confess and put away their sins, and in faith claim His promises. Every temptation, every opposing influence, whether open or secret, may be successfully resisted, ‘not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts’ (Zechariah 4:6).¹⁴

By God’s grace may we as lovers of the cause of truth see Him work in such a way for us today!

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”¹⁵



¹ All Scripture passages in this article are from the *New King James Version* (NKJV).

² Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 173 (numerals added).

³ Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, 1:124.

⁴ Ephesians 3:16-19

⁵ 1 Peter 2:11

⁶ 1 Peter 5:8, 9

⁷ Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, 1:124.

⁸ James 4:7, 8

⁹ 2 Corinthians 7:1

¹⁰ 1 John 2:15

¹¹ 1 John 2:15-17

¹² 2 Chronicles 30:12

¹³ See the account of Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29 - 31) and also of Josiah (2 Chronicles 34, 35).

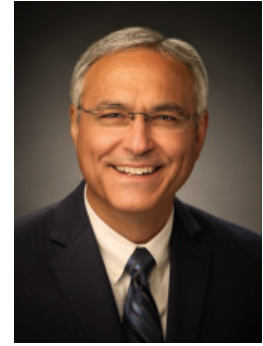
¹⁴ Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, 1:124.

¹⁵ Ephesians 3:20, 21



"HOW MUCH MORE"

CAMP MEETING
THEME: 2020



Jim Micheff, Jr.



Shawn Boonstra is speaker/director for the Voice of Prophecy ministry. His broadcasts and books have been a source of inspiration around the globe, and over the years, his live events have been presented on every continent except Antarctica.



Michael Oxentencko is the president of Reaching Hearts International and pastors a vibrant church plant in a new facility in Laurel, Maryland, where he points people through teaching and preaching to Jesus Christ. His radio program, *Reaching Your Heart*, is heard on the Salem Radio Network and on 3ABN. Oxentencko was a pastor in Michigan for five years and served the Holland and Oakwood churches.



Jëan Ross is the associate pastor for the Granite Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church. He also serves as the director of evangelism for Amazing Facts and co-host of the popular national radio program Bible Answers Live. His ministry includes an additional nine years of pastoral work as one of the conference's lay-evangelism trainers.



Don Mackintosh is the H.E.A.L.T.H. director and campus chaplain at Weimar Institute. He also serves as a pastor on the Weimar campus. His past experience as a nurse and his passion for evangelism has given him a unique perspective on utilizing health as the entering wedge for the reception of the third angels' message.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Time	Friday	Sabbath	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sabbath	
7:00 - 7:45	Michael Oxentencko (Sab. through Sab.)									
7:45 - 8:30	Breakfast									
8:30 - 9:00	Welcome to Michigan Camp Meeting	Sabbath School 9:00 - 10:30 Worship* 10:45 - 12:15 Shawn Boonstra	7:45 Fit 4 Him 5K	Michigan Conference Staff Meetings (Sun. through Fri.)					Sabbath School 9:00 - 10:30	
9:30 - 10:30			10:15 To	10:30 12:00 Path- finder Parade	Seminars & Workshops (Mon. through Fri.)					Worship* 10:45 - 12:15
10:45 - 12:00			Don Mackintosh (Mon. through Fri.)					Jëan Ross		
12:15 - 1:15			Lunch							
1:30 - 2:00	Family Time									
2:15 - 3:15	Seminars & Workshops (Sun. through Fri.)									
3:30 - 4:30	Ministerial Ordination 3:00 Soul Winning Hour 4:30		3:45 Blood Drive	1:00 2:00 ABC Sale	Seminars & Workshops (Sun. through Fri.)					Teacher Commissioning 3:00 Soul Winning Hour 4:30
5:15 - 6:00	Supper									
7:00 - 8:45	Musical Program and Evening Meetings (Final Sabbath evening meetings will close at sunset)									
	Jim Micheff	Shawn Boonstra	Shawn Boonstra	Jëan Ross	Jëan Ross	Jëan Ross	Jëan Ross	Jëan Ross	Jëan Ross	

* Sabbath overflow site will be the (1) Cafeteria; and when it is full, (2) the Academy Chapel.

(Subject to change)



CAMP MEETING JANITORS NEEDED!

Janitors are needed to clean the men's and women's restrooms during camp meeting, June 12-20.

To be eligible to apply:

Applicants must be 14 years or older, adults welcome.

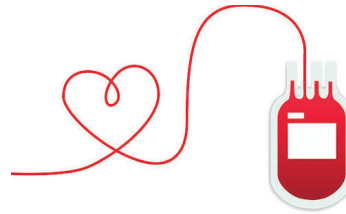
Applicants must have confirmed lodging.

Applicants must complete an Employment Application and mail it to the Camp Meeting Employment/Volunteer Committee at the Conference address shown on the application. Applications are available on www.misda.org.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the applicant's responsibility to submit a fully completed application with three references. An incomplete application may affect an applicant's hire.

All applications will be reviewed by the committee and notification will be sent regarding their decision. Additional required employment documents will be sent to those who are hired.

For detailed requirements and a job description, please visit www.misda.org. When positions are filled, there will be a waiting list. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2020.



CAMP MEETING BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, June 14, 10:00 AM-3:30 PM
Cedar Lake Fellowship Hall

Please consider donating at the Annual Camp Meeting Blood Drive! There is a serious need for blood donors in the state of Michigan. You can register online with the Rapid Pass at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass. It is our priority to get you through line as fast as we can. When you come, make sure that you:

- Bring a picture ID and a list of your medications.
- Drink lots of water and eat something before you come.
- Know that you are saving up to 3 lives when you donate.

EAT AT THE MOBILE KITCHEN CAFÉ AND SUPPORT DISASTER RESPONSE

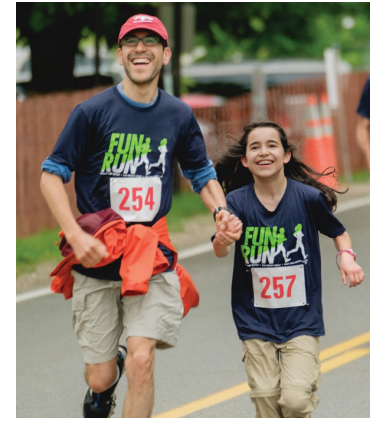


Join us for lunch or supper for delicious homemade vegan and vegetarian meals, along with sweet treats at the Snack Bar. We are located

next to the information booth and the exhibit tent. Remember when you eat at the Mobile Kitchen the money goes to helping communities in need during a disaster. See you soon!

Mealtimes:

Lunch: Monday-Friday 11:45 AM-1:30 PM
Supper: Monday-Thursday 4:45 PM-6:30 PM
Friday: 4:45 PM-6:00 PM



GREAT LAKES ADVENTIST ACADEMY CAMP MEETING 5K FUN RUN/WALK

WHEN: Sunday, June 14, at 7:45 AM

COST: Pre-registration is \$20 for adults and \$15 for children 13 years old. On race day \$22 for adults and \$17 for kids.

- Medals will be awarded to top finishers.
- All participants receive a memorabilia T-Shirt.

Pre-register on Friday, June 12, between 4:00 and 7:30 PM at the Camp Meeting Auditorium (Fitness Center) or Saturday night after sundown when the evening meeting is completed. Proceeds go to the Great Lakes Adventist Academy Worthy Student Fund. For questions call Delwin Garcia at 989-427-2401 or email him at dgarcia@glaa.net.

SAFETY OFFICER VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

The Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is looking for interested Adventist church members to supplement the Safety Team during this year's Camp Meeting. If you are at least 21 years of age, have an interest in, and would like to be considered for such a position, please contact Joel Nephew at jdnewhew@misda.org or 517-316-1524.

“Our annual camp meetings are of great importance, and all who possibly can should attend them. They should feel that the Lord requires this of them. . . The object of these holy convocation meetings is that the brethren may be separated from business cares and burdens, and devote a few days exclusively to seeking the Lord.” –Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, August 15, 1882



HOW DO YOU SIGN THAT?

What would you do if someone wanted help understanding the Bible but you did not speak their language?

I had a few sign language lessons with Vivian throughout the previous two weeks. Even though I was only in Laos for a few weeks visiting friends, she was excited that I was interested in learning how to communicate with her. It was an interesting learning experience because there was not one common language between the two of us. Google Translate was a big help. Sometimes she would search an English word and look at images to try to understand the word. It usually worked, but when she searched 'melt' it showed a grilled cheese sandwich and I was trying to explain that there is a lot of water when the snow melts in Michigan in the spring. When she searched 'gross,' we just laughed at those images. Even though repetition, clarification, and Google were necessary, we had some good conversations; sometimes talking for three hours at a time.

To me, most of the conversations seemed like small talk. Since I was

only in Laos for a short time, I didn't know what the long term benefit of our interaction would be. When would I ever need to know Lao Sign Language again? Nevertheless I continued the lessons and the conversations anyway.

One night, during our last three hour conversation, we moved from her apartment into my friends' apartment. My friends weren't home but Vivian and I sat on the couch and continued talking. She started looking through the books on the shelf and saw a Bible. She asked if this was really Jesus' book. She repeated that question a couple times and then started reading it. As she flipped through and ended up in Revelation, I secretly hoped she wouldn't ask about the three angels' messages because I did not know how I would explain that through sign language. She eventually turned to Revelation 13:16-17 about the mark of the beast and stopped. She told me that people in America are already being implanted with microchips in their wrists. We searched the news and confirmed it. I then sat and stared at the text, not wanting the conversation to end there but wondering what to say

through so many language barriers. I said a quick prayer and told her that the devil hates those who believe in Jesus and he wants to control what they do (mark on the hand) and what they believe (mark on the forehead). She added that he wants to kill those who believe in Jesus. I agreed. She asked me if I wanted the mark. I told her no, but that I believe in Jesus. She said, "Me too." I was okay with the conversation ending there and thanked God for giving me a way to explain that passage that she understood.

Our language lesson continued as a friend of hers came into the house and started looking through the bookshelf as well. She picked up a book with a cover picture of the holes in Jesus's hands and explained, also through sign language, how the story of Jesus made her cry. I told her that she could read the book but she didn't know English. I found a couple tracts in her language and gave those to her. As she read, Vivian and I continued talking. Before the girls left, I noticed that the friend was reading *The Desire of Ages*. I didn't know how much she understood since the book was in English, so that night I asked members of the local church for a copy of the book in the local language. They were able to give me several copies of *Steps to Christ* and I gave one to both Vivian and her friend. They excitedly accepted the books. I don't know when I will need to use Lao Sign Language again, but I know why I had to learn it then. Please pray that these girls read the books and develop a closer walk with God.

Erin Gordon, Belleville church member

(RADIO)

by selling Christian materials as a full time literature evangelist in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He accepted a call from the North Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to work as a sales trainer in addition to being an associate pastor of two small churches. George has worked with literature evangelists in Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Wisconsin, and the Great Lakes states area. He was ordained as a gospel minister in Kansas June 1, 1974. He was an associate publishing director for literature evangelists and then became the Canadian Seventh-day Adventist Church publishing director.

In 1999 George accepted to pastor a three-church district in Michigan. In 2003 after 38-years of service he retired. Since retirement, he has been interim pastor in 25 churches, taught Bible-marking classes and has conducted evangelistic campaigns.

Barbara and George have been married 59-years, have four children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandsons! We know God will bless George in his new position with STR!

Kam Ferguso is our associate development director and was raised in Hawaii. Kam enjoys world travel, diverse cultures and foods, many kinds of natural beauty found around the world and regular student of the

Author of all things, Jesus Christ. Kam was educated in an international private school system, Hawaiian Mission Academy (HMA) and earned his bachelor's degree, Magna Cum Laude, in Business Administration/Accounting from Tennessee Wesleyan College. In 1993 he started as a staff accountant for Anderson Companies in Knoxville, Tennessee. He is a licensed CPA and has been their accounting director for the past 12 years.



Kam and Jodi Ferguso

Kam has been an ordained elder in the Georgia Cumberland Conference since 2010. While attending HMA, he went on several mission trips to build churches and clinic structures in central Mexico. For the past 10 years Kam has conducted several schools "week of prayer" in Southeast Asia and conducted evangelistic and revival meetings in the Philippines.

Kam has been married to his wife, Jodi, for 29 years. He met her at Andrews University, and when they're not working you can find them hiking

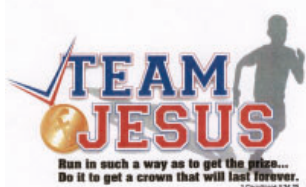
somewhere lovely, pursuing fitness in the gym, working on their house, doing landscaping projects or in the middle of a Bible study! Kam's goal in life is simple: "With joy, live by every word of God - be intentional."

George and Kam will be available to help you in your desire to accelerate STR's mission of giving the everlasting gospel to the world. They are available for church speaking engagements beginning February 15. Contact George at 231.881.6756 or email George.Dronen@StrongTowerRadio.org to get your church scheduled.

We have many other exciting projects that will significantly open up listeners to this STR network. We are building the next generation website that will have more resources than ever before. We've contracted a professional graphic artist to make our Facebook more visually appealing and have seen our social media reach double since this move. Finally, we are working on projects that will massively increase our listening audience with more stations as well as streaming! Please pray that the Lord will make the way technically and financially before General Conference. Thank you all for your support of Strong Tower Radio, "Where God's Character is Proclaimed!"

Tom Mejeur, production and marketing, Strong Tower Radio

NEWS BRIEF



Team Jesus, 2020 Vacation Bible School Program Workshop will be held April 24-26 at Camp Au Sable. This year's VBS has the children meeting some great Bible characters who will show them what it takes to be Real Champions. Please go online to www.misda.org/news/youth-department/childrens-ministries or email lindavbs@yahoo.com for details.

Do you want to receive the weekly e-newsletter of the Michigan Conference for the latest in news and upcoming events? Subscribe now by copying the following link to your browser: <http://bit.ly/MISDA7>.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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MONTHLY CALENDAR

March

- 1-15 Camp Meeting Registration
- 5-8 Rest, Relax, Renew Retreat
Camp Au Sable
- 10 District Superintendents
- 11-22 Cuba Mission Trip
- 12-15 GLAA Home Leave
- 13-15 Marriage Commitment Retreat
- 21 Pathfinder Bible Experience
Union Level
- 22 Lay Advisory
- 22-29 New in Ministry
- 24 MI Executive Committee
- 28-29 Conference-wide Fieldwork
Berrien Springs

April

- 1 Camp Meeting Directors
- 3-5 Women's Ministries Retreat 1
Camp Au Sable
- 10-12 Women's Ministries Retreat 2
Camp Au Sable
- 11 Impact Day
- 17-18 Pathfinder Bible Experience
Division Level
- 17-19 Women's Ministries Retreat 3
Camp Au Sable
- 19-21 Literature Evangelist Retreat
- 20-26 GLAA Home Leave
- 24-26 Vacation Bible School Workshop
Camp Au Sable

CAN A HARE CHANGE ITS HAIR?

Bethany Nietling, Nature Center Intern, Camp Au Sable

Hidden in the shadows of a dense taiga forest or expertly camouflaged against a blanket of white snow is where you are most likely to see the snowshoe hare. Snowshoe hares are common throughout much of the northern regions of North America, including Camp Au Sable, making their homes primarily in taiga forests.

Taiga forests are characterized by their plentiful coniferous trees such

as pines and spruces and long, harsh winters. These long, harsh winters do not faze the snowshoe hare, however. These creatures are very well equipped for the snow.

As their name indicates, they have relatively large hind feet that enable them to run in the snow without sinking. They also have fur on the soles of their feet to keep them from freezing in the cold temperatures during the winter months.

Along with "snowshoes", the snowshoe hare has another trick up its sleeve that helps it to survive the winter. When

the days begin to shorten, as winter approaches, the snowshoe hare sheds its summer coat, and its reddish-brown fur is replaced with white. This allows them to blend in with their surroundings during the winter when their home becomes a winter wonderland. This camouflage helps to keep them hidden from their many predators.



Photo: Dr. Gordon Atkins

Similarly, God has created us with the ability to change our spiritual "color." By

spending time with Him daily, we become more like Him and the "color" of lives begin to change. In 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV) it says, "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." When we are transformed into God's image, we are camouflaged in God's love and are able to withstand any attack the devil may send our way.