

EDITORIAL  
"Eyewitnesses"

FEATURE  
"Original Meat"

NATURE NUGGET  
"Organ Pipe Cacti"

INFORMING MEMBERS SINCE 1988

# Memo

FEBRUARY 2023

ORIGINAL MEAT  
A BUSINESS-MINISTRY'S JOURNEY



## Eyewitnesses

Each one must have a personal encounter with God for themselves as Jesus described in His prayer when He said, "May they also be one in Us" (John 17:21). Jesus also said, "And if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to Myself."

**P**aul tells us that everyone is born with a measure of faith. This simply means God placed in the heart of every human a compass that points to Him.

As we contemplate the story of Jesus, we can see people being drawn to Him. Let's look at two examples and see what we can learn from their experience.

**Pilate (Quotes inserted from *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 77):**

After Jesus had been taken prisoner and before the first glimmer of daylight, as many of the members of the Sanhedrin as possible assembled to officially condemn Jesus to death. Because Rome did not allow the Sanhedrin to carry out the death sentence without their consent, Jesus was taken to the Roman governor. Occasionally in the past, the governor had quickly consented to the wishes of the Sanhedrin, and they hoped he would do it again without having to prove the charges. They knew Jesus was not guilty of any crime.

In the early hours of the morning, Pilate was awoken from his sleep and told that the Jews had a criminal they wanted to execute and needed his permission. Irritated and determined to quickly deal with this matter he made his way to the judgment hall. When Jesus was brought in, Pilate visually assessed the prisoner. He was accustomed to "dealing with all kinds of criminals but never had he seen a man bearing marks of such goodness and nobility.... There was no sign of guilt, no expression of fear, no boldness or defiance. He saw a man of calm and dignified bearing, whose countenance did not have the marks of a criminal but bore the signature of heaven."

This was Pilate's first encounter with Jesus. Although he had never seen Jesus before, he had heard of him. His own wife had told him of this teacher who healed the sick and raised the dead. "His better nature was aroused," and he determined to know the charges and evidence that caused the



Elder Jim Micheff

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"When we fail to appreciate the saving power of God, we are subtly moving from the 'foot of the cross' experience, to the pharisaical, 'I'm glad I'm not like those sinners.'"

Sanhedrin to condemn him.

The priests were in a dilemma. They knew that if Pilate discovered they had condemned Jesus on religious grounds their proceeding would have no weight with him. They must make it appear that Jesus was plotting against the Roman government. In their desperation they called false witnesses to their aid saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ a King." "Pilate saw through their purpose." He didn't believe the prisoner had plotted against the government. Turning to Jesus he asked, "Are you the King of the Jews?" When Jesus admitted that He was, His whole countenance seemed to light up. When the priests heard his reply, "they called Pilate to witness that Jesus had admitted to the crime as charged. With noisy cries, priests, scribes, and rulers demanded that He be sentenced to death."

Hoping to gain the truth from Him and to escape the noise of the crowd, Pilate took Jesus aside with him, and again asked him if He was the King of the Jews. "Jesus did not directly answer this question. He knew the Holy Spirit was working and He gave Pilate an opportunity to acknowledge his conviction." "Are you asking because you really want to know or because of the charges that are brought about me?" "Pilate understood Christ's meaning, but pride arose in his heart. He would not acknowledge the conviction that pressed upon him."

Pilate's golden opportunity was passing away. But "Jesus didn't leave him without further light. He plainly stated His own mission" but helped Pilate understand "that He was not

seeking an earthly throne." He had come to reveal the truth about God. "He desired Pilate to understand that only by receiving and appropriating truth could his ruined nature be reconstructed."

Pilate was being drawn to the Savior and "had a desire to know the truth. His mind was confused. He eagerly grasped the words of Jesus, and his heart was stirred with a great longing to know what it really was, and how he could obtain it. 'What is truth?' he inquired. But he did not wait for the answer." The roar of the crowd brought his mind back to the situation at hand. "Going outside he declared emphatically, 'I find no fault in Him.'"

Pilate had developed the practice of compromise to achieve his purposes. He knew justice demanded this innocent man be released immediately. Not wanting to condemn Jesus but unable to muster the fortitude to administer justice, he desperately tried to free himself of his responsibility. He did this by sending Jesus to Herod—but Herod sent Him back. To gain crowd sympathy he had an innocent man whipped. His last effort was to have the crowd pick between the worst criminal he had and Jesus.

When they chose Barabbas, Pilate was out of options. He called for water and symbolically washed his hands claiming that he was innocent of the blood of this just man. Although Pilate claimed to have the power and authority to release or condemn Jesus to death, he was a slave to his own carnal heart. He was unable to do what he wanted to. "Pilate yielded to the demands of the mob.

Rather than risk losing his position, he delivered Jesus up to be crucified. But despite his precautions, the very

# Prayer Focus

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

## **FEBRUARY 7**

### **Pastor Chris Ames**

Boyne City/Central Lake/Gaylord  
Boyne City ACS

### **Pastor Bob Benson**

Cadillac 13th Street/Manton/Messick

## **FEBRUARY 14**

Grayling/Houghton Lake/Mio  
Houghton Lake ACS Center  
Grayling SDA Elementary  
Mio ACS Center

### **Pastor Ben Garcia**

Kalkaska/Traverse City  
Kalkaska ACS Center  
Traverse City Elementary  
Traverse City ACS Food Pantry

## **FEBRUARY 21**

### **Pastor Henry Escamilla**

Carp Lake/Cheboygan/Petoskey  
Carp Lake ACS Center  
Petoskey ACS Center

### **Pastor Mac Mills**

Frankfort/Irons/Manistee  
Irons ACS Center

## **FEBRUARY 28**

### **Pastor Paul Ratsara**

Alpena/Onaway

### **Pastor Ariel Roldan**

Cadillac/Lake City  
Northview SDA Christian School  
Cadillac ACS Center

*(continued on page 7)*

# ORIGINAL MEAT

## A Business-Ministry's Journey

One of the hardest parts of eating healthfully is finding healthy food that tastes good, looks good, and is as good for you as promised. That's why Julia Roach founded Original Meat, a plant-based food company.



shall be for meat."

Original Meat's name is pulled from Genesis 1:29, which reads, "Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed... and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed, to you it

Roach explains that in this verse, the Lord is saying that the food to be eaten is all plant based—the original food, the original meat, given to humanity was plant based. "I want people to get back to the original food that God intended for us," she says. She plans on using her company to show people that plant-based food can be just as tasty as its counterpart.

Roach's interest in healthy eating can be traced back to her childhood. She grew up in a traditional family, and dinner was always eaten with her parents and siblings. "We talked, we laughed, we had a good time," she said, "this cultivated a sense of enjoying food with people." Not only was mealtime itself a special memory, but Roach has fond memories of working with her father and grandmother in the kitchen.

Her father taught her to cook, and she picked up tips from her grandmother who was known for her amazing food. Between the two of them, Roach learned a lot about natural, healthy cooking. Her grandmother often altered recipes by adding or swapping ingredients and that taught Roach to cook "by taste and feel" rather than by following a recipe religiously. She credits her grandmother with teaching her to cook creatively.

It wasn't until her teenage years that Roach became a vegetarian. Her grandmother took her overseas, and Roach says, "The way I saw meat, just out in the open, it was disgusting." That experience pushed her to become vegetarian and, when she came back, her parents supported her decision.

Several years later, Roach felt the Lord impressing her that she should become entirely plant-based. She approached her husband with her conviction and, interestingly enough, he had arrived at the



same conclusion, entirely independent of her. "It was a transition," Roach says, "but we are happy in the plant-based world."

Roach further explains that throughout her own personal journey, she has shared what she has learned with others. "I enjoy teaching others what I've learned," she says, "I get excited when people want to talk to me about food." It is because of this excitement for food that friends began encouraging her to start a food business.

Roach prayed about it and felt impressed that the Lord wanted her to do it. "I just didn't want this business to be about me," she says, "I don't want to become rich or famous—I don't want that aspect in my life." Roach wants to use her business as a ministry, to reach people in an interactive atmosphere. Her husband is interested in pursuing evangelism, and envisions them someday working together, bringing together the gospel message and the health message to productively reach souls.

Roach began to build her business in 2018 but when her mother was diagnosed with cancer, she stepped back to support her mother. After a grueling few years, her mother was declared cancer-free, and Roach asked herself, "Are you going to do something with this business or not?"

In early spring 2022, Roach obtained her food license and began legally selling food. She sold through her website, at local farmer's markets, and at food shows, such as the Detroit Vegan food show.

The food show was at first a struggle for Roach. When she found out about it, she was hesitant to apply. Her husband told her to pray about it, and said, "If it isn't God's will, ask Him to block the application." So Roach applied, and her application was accepted. "When I found out," she said, "I called my husband and said, 'What have I gotten myself into?'" Her husband responded that God had allowed her to be accepted, so His blessing was upon it.

The food show projected 3,000 attendees, and it was a blessing for her and her family, her greatest assistants. They sold out of their sandwiches and Roach found herself doing impromptu Bible studies with attendees. "I love explaining to people that eating this way can taste good and help them feel better," says Roach.

Roach plans to do more food shows, and has already booked The Michiana Veg Fest in June 2023. "I am hopeful, optimistic, and prayerful about what the long-term trajectory for [Original

"Roach wants to use her business as a ministry, to reach people in an interactive atmosphere."

Meat] looks like," she says. "I don't want to constrain the Lord in His plans the way I have done in the past." Roach is prayerfully listening to the Lord's guidance as He takes her and Original Meat on a witnessing journey.

Original Meat can be found online at [theoriginalmeat.com](http://theoriginalmeat.com), and on Instagram and Facebook, @theoriginalmeat. 🌱

Judy Ringstaff, Communication



Oatrageous veggie burgers—also made gluten free!



Original Meat's deli "meat," packaged and ready to go!

## Strong Tower Radio: Vital Outreach Tool

From its beginning with one station in Cadillac, MI, Strong Tower Radio (STR) has functioned as a tool in the hand of both Michigan and Lake Region Conference church members. The enthusiastic, positive response to early exploration in the Cadillac region produced the initial STR board comprised of area church members. In 2007, the ministry incorporated with the state of Michigan and applied for the construction permit to build a full power signal in Cadillac.

When additional station opportunities emerge, one of the first steps is to meet with area churches to determine whether they want a full-power FM radio ministry in their area. If not, STR doesn't move forward, because the ministry doesn't exist for itself. God raised up STR as a tool and sustains this ministry through members and listeners who are drawn to Jesus through the broadcast.

While no conference entity subsidizes the ministries annual budget, STR enjoys a strong working relationship within the Lake Union Conference, particularly with the Michigan Conference. Earlier this year, the Michigan Conference's executive team worked with the North American Division and General Conference to resolve a new policy that had ended church members' ability to give, through church offerings, to supportive ministries not owned by the Adventist Church, including STR. Thanks to their diligent efforts, members now have the option to support STR by giving to "Michigan Radio Ministry" either via

tithe envelope or Adventist Giving portal.

Proclaiming the everlasting gospel in the context of the Three Angels' Messages, 24/7/365, continues to be STR's mission and purpose. Evangelistic series, Bible Q&A programs, health seminars, Bible stories, and uplifting music are just some of the formats used.

Seventh-day Adventist churches and STR both have evangelism cycles and the two are closely linked. STR's cycle begins with listeners tuning in and the testimonies of how they discover STR frequently amaze. As they listen, they're soon searching their Bibles to confirm what they've heard and find that the messages are true. STR mentions Adventist churches and listeners frequently visit the church nearest them.

Maize Grace's first point of contact was via a STR broadcast. She had just moved to a rural home and discovered there was no cable, internet, or even radio signal! One day in spring 2016, she took her radio up the stairs to the barn loft and on the way up, the dial knob moved. When she turned the radio back on, STR came in clearly! The first message Maize Grace heard addressed tradition versus truth. She studied and found that the speaker spoke truth! She listened more and soon visited her local SDA church where she was lovingly welcomed. A church member began providing transport to church as Maize Grace no longer drives due to the residual effects of a car accident. Despite Satan's obstacles thrown in her path, Maize Grace persevered as our Heavenly Father

strengthened her. She signified her commitment to Jesus through baptism last fall at the Fremont Seventh-day Adventist church.

Gerald was looking for Bible answers and found them with both Amazing Facts and Secrets Unsealed material on their respective websites. He visited the Midland church where members welcomed him and also introduced him to STR – another key connection point! Gerald soon began listening to STR during his daily commute instead of another Christian broadcast. Gerald was baptized last summer and is now an active member in the Midland church.

Each testimony showcases how church members and STR work together to reach souls with the everlasting gospel!

Our heavenly Father opened a significant growth window during 2022, with 8 new station permits granted by the Federal Communication Commission. The permits for these new stations, in varying development stages, provide a 3-year build out window, and coverage will reach much of Central and Southwest Michigan and the Western Upper Peninsula previously unreached by STR on the FM dial. Many are responding energetically with prayer and financial support for these new stations as area churches anticipate the blessing of this evangelistic tool in their region!

God wants to fill the churches with souls seeking complete connection with Him. Let us pray and prepare for the many souls that the Holy Spirit will bring into our churches through various ways, including the continued broadcast of STR, where God's character is proclaimed. 🙏

*Kam Ferguson is the development director for Strong Tower Radio.*

**(continued from page 2)**

thing he dreaded afterward came upon him. His honors were stripped from him, he was cast down from his high office, and, stung by remorse and wounded pride, not long after the crucifixion he ended his own life. All who compromise with sin will gain only sorrow and ruin" because spiritual compromise is fatal.

There are choices we make that weaken the drawing power of Jesus. If only Pilate had not compromised in carrying out his responsibilities. If only he had acted on his conviction that Jesus was a divine being and waited for the answer to his question. One thing is certain—we cannot wash our hands of the responsibility of doing the right thing – God holds us responsible.

**Mary Magdalene (Quotes inserted from *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 58; *Daughters of God*, p. 57)**

Mary was the sister of Lazarus and Martha from Bethany. She had led an immoral life, and many believe she was the unidentified woman caught in adultery. If so, it was her first encounter with Jesus. The Bible says that Jesus had cast seven demons out of her. She had been forgiven, cleansed, and restored back into society by Christ—something she never forgot throughout her life and changed her destiny.

Jesus became a frequent guest at the family home in Bethany. His first visit there was after He and His disciples had just returned from the long journey on foot from Jericho to Jerusalem. They had been invited as guests to the quiet home of Lazarus and his sisters. While the meal was being prepared, Jesus continued the instruction He had been giving His disciples on the road, "in reference to the qualifications necessary to fit men for the kingdom of heaven." Martha had

been anxious to make sure everything went just right for her guests,

and with Mary's help was making progress, but as Mary passed the room where Jesus and His disciples were sitting, she was drawn to the words of instruction to the disciples.

Forgetting what she had been doing, she quietly entered the room and took her place at the feet of Jesus, drinking in every word that Jesus spoke.

After a while Martha wondered where Mary was. Looking into the living room she spotted Mary sitting at Jesus feet. Irritated and forgetting the courtesy due her Guest, she asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her in the kitchen. Jesus' response was a lesson for all of us. Tenderly, and with kindness, He told Martha that she was focused on meeting the needs of this life, but Mary was learning about preparing for heaven. "Martha needed less anxiety for the things which pass away, and more for those things which endure forever."

Mary eventually joined several other women who traveled with Jesus and his disciples and who also supported him with their means. When she first heard Jesus refer to his death, she was devastated. As she thought about how Jesus had rescued her from sin, her heart almost burst with love and gratitude for her Master. Although she didn't understand the full meaning, she longed to show Him honor. When that time came she wanted to be prepared, so she purchased an expensive alabaster box of spikenard to anoint His body.

Sometime later Jesus was invited to Simon's house for a special meal in Jesus' honor. Simon was Mary's uncle who had been healed of leprosy. Even though Jesus had talked about His death on several occasions, the buzz of the conversations were that He was about to be proclaimed King. Mary's "grief was turned to joy, and she was eager to honor her Lord." Slipping past the guests, she made her way to where

Jesus was. She broke the box of ointment and poured its contents upon His head and feet.

As she thought of what Jesus had done, tears of gratitude flowed down her cheeks. She had tried to slip in unnoticed, and would have, but the aroma of the ointment filled the room. Now all eyes followed the nose to the source of that breathtaking aroma. There were some who cast a condemning eye on what Mary had done. But Jesus read the hearts of each guest and publicly commended Mary, adding that her act of devotion would be forever connected to the gospel message as a living testimony to the saving power of God.

Pilate resisted God's drawing power through compromise, delay and eventually trying to delegate his responsibility. Mary responded to the mercy of God and valued the forgiveness and cleansing she received. She placed more value on heavenly things than she did on earthly things. Her life became a living demonstration of her love for God—it wasn't just words.

When we fail to appreciate the saving power of God, we are subtly moving from the "foot of the cross" experience, to the pharisaical, "I'm glad I'm not like those sinners." All who will ever see heaven must be eyewitnesses of the saving power of God from personal experience. Only then will we be a living testimony to God's promise to transform the carnal heart and have a personalized gospel to share. As we begin 2023, let us never forget who we are—Eyewitnesses to God's saving power to redeem!

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*Elder Jim Micheff is the President of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.*



# Seventh-day Adventist® Church

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## NATURE NUGGET Organ Pipe Cacti



Why? This part of the desert is located at low elevation where it is warmer, and the cacti grow at the base of the Ajo Mountains, which act as a reflector "oven," concentrating the sun and heat so that these cacti can survive.

Some synonyms for gluttony are: craving, longing, passion, thirst, yearning, and zeal. So, the question is, "What are you and I a glutton for? What do we seek out each day? What can you or I not do without? I pray that we are not distracted by the popular felt-needs of modern culture, but that we can be labelled by others as a "Glutton for Christ"! 🙏

*Dr. Gordon Atkins is the Nature Director at Camp Au Sable.*

**There's more! Visit [www.misda.org](http://www.misda.org) for other news and inspirational stories from this month's Memo.**



In a recent trip to Arizona, I visited Organ Pipe Cactus National Park, which is located in the southwest part of the state.

This is the only location in the United States where these plants can be found. They cannot tolerate any frost, which often occurs in most deserts during the winter – yes, it can get very cold in the desert at night. In fact, most people that perish in the desert do so in the cold at night and not during the heat of the day.

So, why is this location in Organ Pipe Cactus National Park the only location to find these interesting cacti?

In an article I read, it described the Organ Pipe Cactus as a "glutton" for sun and heat! It turns out this is the only region in the southwest that has the right conditions and does not get any frost.

## MONTHLY CALENDAR

### February

**3-5** Adventurer District Retreat (CAS)

**4** PBE Area Level

**12** VBS Workshop

**17-20** CAMPUS Winter Retreat (CAS)

**22-26** GLAA Home Leave

**24-26** Teen Impact (CAS)

### March

**1-15** Camp Meeting registration

**3-5** Health Ministries Training (CAS)

**4** PBE Conference Level

**6-9** New in Ministry

**10-12** MI Tribe Training (CAS)

**16-26** GLAA Spring Break

**18** PBE Union Level

**19** Faith Identity Trip (Israel)

**24-26** Youth Rush Summit (CAS)

**29-April 2** Sab School/Personal Ministries Speaker-Coordinator Training (CAS)

**31-April 2** Statewide Youth Conference (Troy SDA Church)

\*CAS = Camp Au Sable