

CONNECTIONS

The Ministry Of E-Van-gelism



This past year, we had the privilege of celebrating another successful year of the Van Ministry in the Greater New York Conference. 2016 marks the 41st anniversary of the Van Ministry. On October 18, 2015, a new van was dedicated to God and was named "Wellness on the Go". We were able to revitalize the ministry by using new tools that helped us become more efficient in following up with our visitors. The new van is designed to provide services both inside and outside of the vehicle. New equipment, including massage chairs with back and foot relaxation, enhanced our operation. We have witnessed numerous beautiful testimonies from people who discovered the love of God through the hands, faces, and words of our staff. Over the past year, the Van Ministry team has distributed thousands of publications, including Signs of the Times, El Centinela, and Health and Wellness. More than five thousand people received the opportunity of being able to know more about God's love by visiting the van. The Van ministry is alive and relevant to New Yorkers all across this great city.

One day while working in downtown Manhattan, a lady approached the van to express how happy she was with the services, kindness, love and literature she had received. She further explained, "I have never gone to any church, but because I have received so much love today, I want to come to your church. Where is your church?" On another occasion, a Jewish family from Jerusalem came to the van. After receiving all the treatments and literature, they started asking about our church. Pastor Rodrigo answered all the questions raised by the gentleman, whom at the end said: "I didn't know that we have a Christian church that keeps the Sabbath Holy". The gentlemen and his family left the van reading all the literature they received.

Moving forward, we pray that the Lord grants us the opportunity to share many more testimonies through the Connections newsletter. We believe that Jesus is coming soon. As His people, we need to stay connected and remain relevant in our community. Please pray and support this great mission in reaching New York City through this ministry. Many Blessings!



Luis Biazotto ACS/Health Director-GNYC

SNAPSHOTS



Continuing a Ministry of Blessings

Isaiah 32:17

"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever"

TESTIMONIES

For many years the Van Ministry in Greater New York Conference has been very important to the people of New York City. We have seen throughout the years many positive results by connecting with people in the city, and going where the people are. Following Jesus' method, when He used to go village to village, place to place, the Van Ministry "Wellness on the Go" has the privilege to do the same. We want to commend the ministry and encourage you to pray, to support and to get involved with the Van Ministry. Many New Yorkers, as well as people from all over the world, will have the chance to know the love of God by your support.

Many Blessings,



Henry Beras
GNYC President

A Message From Juanita Kretschmar: The Cofounder of the Van Ministries in New York

With this letter, I am responding to a request from your energetic director of outreach, Pastor Luis Biazotto, in regards to what began as a "van ministry" in your conference during the 1970s. When we arrived in Greater NY in 1974, there was already in place a community service outreach program with a utilitarian out-fitted van providing emergency help to victims of loss due to fire. Clothing, literature, kindness and prayer were freely given. Many church members participated by contributing time and resources to assist in this blessed service!

Merlin and I, were quite honestly overwhelmed with the enormity of the mission field as we first flew over the city upon arrival. How were so many to learn what we knew of God's love, and His solution to the hopelessness of this life? Our only guaranteed plan, which our lives of ministry were built on in South America, the U.S. West Coast, and New York depended on prayer. Personal resources were next to none. We were "limited" to depending on God. (That really is not all that bad, you know?) The rest is history.

During the two decades that followed (from 1974-1994), we were with you in New York. Members continued to join our team with much prayer. I believe that the impact of the ministry may have been designed just as much for us and the members, as it was for the one million persons literally touched one-on-one through personal contact with physical, spiritual, mental help, and encouragement, as well as by the literature and eventually by adding on the airwaves. How blessed we all were to watch Jesus send His Holy Spirit and turn our feeble, flawed, faltering attempts to minister, into a flowing stream of friendship that He permitted us to have in His name. Even now I stand back in awe at all the strength and courage we receive and the risk the Lord took in allowing us to represent Him and share His message for these last days.

Just in hearing about the classy presentation of "Wellness on the Go" as well as some of the stories already happening as the concept

moves from a plan on paper, to God's anointed workers courageously heading into the streets, I can only pray that all "who remember" (like those with me here who in the past breathed and slept thoughts of the Van ministry), as well as all our older members in the Greater New York area will remember to pray.

Never forget. With God, all things are possible, and "There is no limit to usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit." Revitalized and revisited by His Holy Spirit moment by moment, you have our affections, encouragement and prayers. Continue being open to every opportunity, large or small. One cannot know that which He is planning to work through His incredible miracles on a daily and hourly basis. It is fun, challenging, and painful at times, but it will all be worth it one day soon when your own ears will hear Him say, "Well done, faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord". His joy will be your joy. And who knows, maybe we'll get to work again, side by side, throughout the universe telling stories in those places where beings from unfallen worlds will press together, wanting to hear the details of what Christ did through humble human hands! It gets more amazing to think of it all the time, doesn't it? We'll be with them all soon.

In the meanwhile, keep your letters coming. Your world and mine are thirsting for the news. Let the people who are served on the vans get on your mailing list. Years later (if time lasts), you'll be hearing from them!!!

They will be learning more of the love of Jesus... And so will we!!!

Amazing!
Desirable!
Delight unending.
Wellness, true "wellness" in His presence forever!
Amen...
Your sister-in-love (His Love),

Juanita Kretschmar



Words of Appreciation

On behalf of Pacific Press, I extend my congratulations and best wishes to you and the New York Van Ministries as it celebrates 40 years of service to the people of NYC and the surrounding metropolitan area. This is truly a milestone in ministry—one that has been accomplished only through vision, commitment, and hard work.

During a number of those years, it has been a privilege for Pacific Press and Signs of the Times to partner with the New York Van Ministries in its work of reaching out to the people of this great city with the message of Jesus and His soon return. Your efforts and that of all the faithful individuals who have been associated with this ministry have resulted in bringing many to a saving relationship with Jesus.

We here at Pacific Press salute you and the van ministry, and join you in praying that this special outreach will continue faithfully serving God and the community until the Second Coming.

May God continue to richly bless you and your work.
Sincerely,

Dale E. Galusha
President



A Blessing in Disguise

Located near the public library, the van's staff was working together with the pastor and members of the Middletown SDA Church. Everyone was eager to get to work serving the community. They had started working and in the midst of checking blood pressure and giving massages to the community, a police officer approached the van. He asked to see a permit, but the van's crew could not provide what the officer had asked for. The pastor and members did not request a permit because it was not necessary. All the services provided through the van were free of charge, and permits are generally only needed when there is a fee for services provided. The police officer told the staff to stop the services and asked the van to leave immediately. While the van was preparing to leave, the police officer issued a citation to the local pastor. The staff and volunteers left feeling disheartened and unsatisfied because they wanted to keep serving the community.

We did not hear from the Middletown church until two weeks after the incident. The church pastor called. It came as a surprise to us, because the last time we were asked to leave and he was fined. The pastor reported there was no longer a problem. He explained that the mayor himself called and apologized for what happened. The mayor

went on to state that from now on, the van would be permitted to park anywhere. The ticket was dismissed and the van went back to Middletown to serve the community.

Later on that day, a reporter who had heard about the mayor's intervention approached the van staff and asked a few questions. The reporter would later write an article about the story and the van ministry. God has bet-



[Click to watch a video](#)

ter plan for the Van Ministry than we could ever have imagined. This was a blessing in disguise.

As His blessings fall from the sky, His mercy unravels. Oh Lord of Israel let us see your glory. Let us see your hidden blessings, blessings in disguise.

Celebrating One More Year of the Van Ministry

It was back in the 1970s under the inspiring leadership of Sister Juanita Kretschmar and her husband Merlin Kretschmar (now deceased), that the Van Ministry in Greater New York Conference started. It began with one van and over time the ministry expanded to five vans. This ministry responded to a great need in the community to provide more information on health issues, counseling, simple health assessments and intervention.

In 2015, the Greater New York Conference administration made the decision to revitalize this ministry and we are very grateful that Pastor Luis Biazotto, Director of ACS and Health Ministries, rose to the challenge. Today we have a fully equipped and staffed van on the road. We see this van and its ministry providing "Wellness on the Go" to the people within the City of New York and beyond. It is our desire to put one or two more such vans on the road. We will need your help in donations,

as well as a willingness to volunteer your time and energy in ministering on the vans or helping to create a link with the community. Your financial and prayerful support is always welcome.

G. Earl Knight
Atlantic Union
Conference-President



All I Really Needed

It was a cold, rainy day. Rodrigo looked outside and saw a woman who was carrying heavy stuff from place to place. Rodrigo invited her to come inside the van and get a massage. The woman said that she could not go now, but if the van was still there later in the day, she would come back. Later that day, the woman got close to the van, but seemed uncertain. Rodrigo and Cristiane invited her to come inside. She looked



very tired. Beth took off her wet coat to get attended and massaged by Cristiane. Beth opened her heart and began talking to Rodrigo and Cristiane about how she loves helping other people. Beth said that nothing gives her more satisfaction than the happiness you get from helping others. She stayed talking with them for a while, about 30 minutes. Then Beth told them that the massage was "Just what I Needed".

**THANK
YOU**

Recognition for people who have sent donation of any amount to the E-van-gelism Ministry - Wellness on the Go.

The retrofitting of the new ACS van was made possible by a generous planned gift from Venice Sweet Thurmon of Dyersburg, Tennessee. Mrs. Thurmon, 98 passed away just one day following her 78th wedding anniversary. She and her husband Roy B. Thurmon ministered in the Greater New York Conference many years ago and recognized the importance of leaving a legacy to further the work in the great mission field of New York City. Legacy gifts bring great joy and peace knowing what we leave behind will impact future

generations until Christ's return. Contact the office of Planned Giving and Development to learn how you can help to ensure this ministry continues for years to come. [Visit gnyc.org/pgd](http://Visit.gnyc.org/pgd).

Janice Da Silva

Former GNYC Associate Director of Planned Giving and Development.



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Visit: Wellnessonthego.nyc

"Make checks payable to the Greater New York Conference and note 'Van Ministries'.

[Support Wellness On the Go](http://SupportWellnessOntheGo) in our mission to bring God's health and healing to New York City.

CONNECTIONS

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Volunteers/Staff

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Pastor Rodrigo Becker	Ratomponiomy Rasandy	Samuel Maxime
Cristiane Krusche	Caroline Ferreira	Walter Harris
		Wilson Trigo

UPCOMING EVENTS

October, 2017

- Emotional Health Week
- Wellness and Lifestyle Coaching Program Phase 4