

# Faith VENTURES

The Official Magazine of Eden Valley Institute • Spring 2014



## Treading On Serpents

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**Front cover:**

*Pastor Roa and his wife on their way to church Sabbath morning.* (p.4)

PHOTO: EMANJSR2611 - SPECTACLED COBRA - WIKIPEDIA

# Faith VENTURES

Spring 2014

**Eden Valley Institute**

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**Layout & Design:**

Mission Forward Design

**Printing:** ADM, Inc.

Faith Ventures is published tri-monthly by Eden Valley Institute and is circulated free of charge. Printing costs and postage are covered by donations. Please contact us if you would like to add, change or delete any address from our mailing list.

Eden Valley Institute is a member of Outpost Centers, Inc. (OCI) and Adventist-lay-men's Services and Industries (ASI).

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*Eden Valley Institute*



## 10% Discount

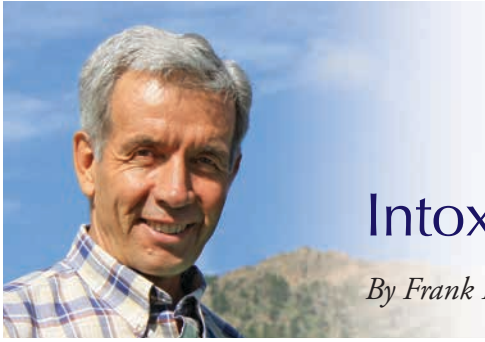
The Eden Valley Wellness Center is offering a special discount to our readers. Now is your opportunity to look after your health, and to spend eighteen life-changing days under experienced healthcare professionals. This offer is good for the remainder of the year.

*To receive your discount be sure to mention that you saw this discounted price in Faith Ventures.*

Call (970) 669-7730 to secure your reservation.

## Eden Valley Education Program

Call The Well at (970) 776-3349, or apply online at [eden-valley.org/education](http://eden-valley.org/education).



# Intoxicated

*By Frank Fournier, EVI President*

**I**ntoxicated: the root of the word is “toxic”—poisoned.

When I was twenty-five I was involved in a head-on collision with an intoxicated stranger. He was so impaired that he had little control over himself, much less his car. Consequently, he collided with a harsh reality . . . and died.

You and I are in little danger of this type of intoxication, or are we? But friend, alcohol isn't the only intoxicant out there. It isn't even the most dangerous, prevalent, poisonous, or impairing. Pride, as a poison, is far more lethal. “Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?” asked, King Solomon, “There is more hope for a fool than for him.” Proverbs 26:12. Lucifer's insanity demonstrates this perfectly. He didn't lack intelligence, rather, “His heart was lifted up because of his beauty, he corrupted his wisdom, (his thinking became impaired), by reason of his brightness.” Ezekiel 28:17. As a result, he came to believe himself on par with God. Isaiah 14:13-14.

## **Does that make sense to you?**

It's like a baby girl's rag doll deciding to control the family. It makes no sense, of course. Rag dolls can't do that. But baby girls can, and they do. And the parents who let their children be in control suffer from impaired thinking.

God, specifically commands us, “be not deceived.” Few, however, realize the founda-

tion of every deception. Galatians 6:7. Galatians 6:3 explains, “If a man thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.” Lucifer was deceived by thinking more highly of himself than he ought. He became drunk, intoxicated, and thought impaired through pride. On earth, Satan used the same principle on Eve that had been his downfall; he whispered, “you shall be as gods.” Genesis 3:5. She savored the thought, became drunk with the possibility, and her ability to reason was compromised.

Robert Foster wrote, “When we make ourselves more than nothing, we make God less than everything.” Are we really nothing? Yes, the Bible says we are nothing, we know nothing as we ought to know, we have nothing except God gives it to us, and we can do nothing without Christ. Galatians 6:3; 1Cor 8:2; John 3:27; John 15:5. On what basis then might we gloat and strut? Pride on our part only proves to intoxicate, and impair our thinking, and makes us candidates for a head-on collision with reality. So the word says:

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” Proverbs 16:18.

On the other hand “Blessed are the humble, who feel their spiritual poverty as well as their need of help from God, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:3 personal paraphrase. ■



# Treading On Serpents

By Roger Stone



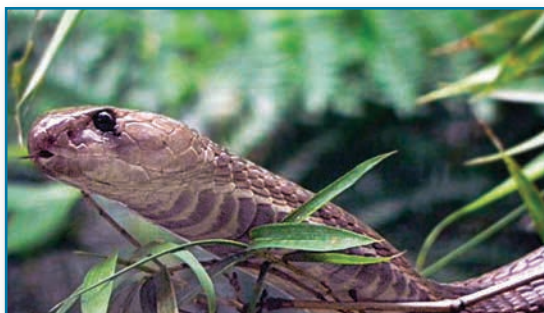
Usually, Pastor Rao is able to find church members to walk up through the tiger infested area to Ulugogla, but this particular morning he couldn't.



*Pastor Rao and his wife on their way to church Sabbath morning.*

Early one Sabbath morning in October, Pastor Kanna Rao, with his wife, embarked on their usual Sabbath morning schedule. Mounting their small motorcycle, they started up through the hills into the Communist controlled area. About 45 minutes later they reached the Village of Metachinta where they parted company—she, staying at the church and the Pastor starting his 3½-mile hike into the rugged mountains. His goal was the village of Ulugogla. Usually, Pastor Rao is able to find church members to walk up through the tiger infested area to Ulugogla, but this particular morning he couldn't.

This is a walk that nobody wants to make alone. If you have companions and a tiger shows up, everyone can start yelling and throwing rocks. After getting hit a few times from different angles, the tigers usually turn back into the jungle.



*Deadly Spectacled Cobra*





*Church in Metachinta*

After spending a few minutes in prayer, Pastor Rao turned his problem over to the Lord and started off alone at a fast pace. About half way up the mountain he was obliged to walk through some tall grass. Suddenly, he felt a sharp pain on his left foot. Parting the grass he saw a cobra slithering away. His heart nearly stopped. He knew that a person bit by a cobra has only about 20 minutes to live, unless he gets an anti-venom shot. Because he was 20 miles from the nearest medical facility, he knew he wouldn't be getting any medical help. So, he hobbled over to a big rock, sat down

Because he was 20 miles from the nearest medical facility, he knew he wouldn't be getting any medical help. So, he hobbled over to a big rock, sat down and started praying.

and started praying. He committed his life to the Lord, reminded God about his four churches, his family, and asked Him to spare his life.

He really didn't know what to do. He was well over a mile from either village. Soon, some businessmen came by and headed up the hill to Ulugogla. When they saw him sitting on a rock, they asked him why he was sitting there in the middle of nowhere. He told them about the cobra and showed

them the fang marks. They thought it better for him to die in the village rather than out in the jungle by himself, so, with some encouragement, he was able to get to the church in Ulugogla. The members had a season of prayer for him and after the prayer they enjoyed a lively service together. Later, he asked a couple of the members to walk back to Metachinta with him. By this time it had been almost two hours since he was bitten, and he was still doing well.

He didn't know if God was going to heal him or not, but his faith kept growing stronger every minute. By the end of the day, he had preached four sermons, returned home on his motorcycle, and knew for a fact that the Lord had worked a miracle.

Today, he loves to tell about his snakebite and how God protected and healed him. ■



# Answered Prayers

By Janet Fournier

I've asked many of you to pray for God's intervention over a proposed dam building project that would leave Eden Valley Foster Care Mission (EVFCM) under water. The original threat came from German business people. Your prayers must be effective for they eventually changed their minds. Now, the Chinese have picked up the idea. They came to visit me two months ago, very courteous, polite and full of soothing promises.

"Since this dam is the smallest of five, " I argued, "would you consider building only four in an effort to save my school?"

God is so good. He answers our petitions before we even think to pray. Needing to cut a clear straight path through a forest and with just a few days to do it; the Lord sent an angel to help us.

They showed great understanding and promised to compensate me generously, but frankly, at 63 I really am not excited about starting all over again. Who knows what will happen? God sees the end from the beginning; and "God does hear the prayers of the righteous." Please keep praying.



Not long ago, the American government paid to supply electricity to all the villages from Makete to Ikonda. When they reached Mago, the village I live in, they left all the side streets without power poles. Seeing the power was so close, I inquired if it



*This couple represents hundreds of people who will lose the services of EVFCM—if the dam is built.*

could be made available to my school.

"No," they answered, "you are too far away. You must not be more than a kilometer from the nearest pole."

Determined, I measured the distance from the nearest pole to my grounds and found their closest pole to be only 460 meters from both our upper and lower campus. Armed with this new information and God's grace, I was able to persuade them to plant some poles in the direction of my school. But that wasn't the end of the challenge.

God is so good. He answers our petitions before we even think to pray. Needing to cut a clear straight path through a forest and with just a few days to do it; the Lord sent an angel to help us. A few weeks earlier, a young American inquired at Kibidula if there was any good hiking in the area. Jason, my son, told the guy about EVFCM and that from there it would be an 18-20 hour hike to Lake Malawi. (When God is in charge, everything is on time.) Wonder

*Continued on pg. 14*

# God Knows

By David Cruz

Thank God for His blessings, watch care and protection. He comforts Virginia and I with His tender embrace in a world difficult to live in where evil and violence are everywhere. All we know to do is to surrender our lives to Him in fulfilling the great Commission in our little corner of His vineyard. Perhaps the following experience will motivate someone to accept the great challenge of spreading the Good News to a perishing world.

I was invited to conduct a funeral for a person who was not a member of our faith. The suffering and loss of this family touched me deeply, but how could I help them? I tried by reading promises of comfort, peace and hope. I told them that death was not the end of everything, that there was hope in the middle of their anguish and pain. "One day," I promised, "all suffering, pain, and death will be no more and the Lord will come in glory and majesty and everything will be changed."

God's timing is perfect. He knows when and where a person will receive His call.

I concluded my message and left thinking that there was nothing else to do.

Sometime later we held a health event in the community, giving medical consultations, free glasses, and free medications. While serving the people, someone approached and greeted me. I did not know her nor had I ever seen her before. She told me that she was at the funeral and had heard

about the glorious coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. She wanted to know more. She was a Bible believing Christian, but didn't know or understand the events that lead up to Jesus second coming.



(Left) Ms. Guadalupe Solis attending health seminar in village.

We are now studying the Bible together. Ms. Guadalupe Solis is very happy knowing the great truths of the Bible and of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She attends every Wednesday and Saturday meeting at the church in Nacarare. Please pray for this dear woman. She has been the church treasurer in a Sunday keeping church for almost 20 years. Now she is making arrangements to join the Adventist Church.

The word of God says, "Cast your bread upon the waters; for you shall find it after many days." Ecclesiastes 11:1. God's timing is perfect. He knows when and where a person will receive His call. For this reason I encourage you to continue sowing the precious seed of the Gospel. The Word of God will germinate in the hearts of His people. May we fulfil our part now while we still have the freedom to do so. ■

# Lest We Forget

By Shannel Fisher



*Dedication service for graduating students.*

It is easy to bask in the rich and marvelous blessings that flow to us from God out of heaven. Of course, nothing's wrong with enjoying God's blessings, but it is important that we give Him the glory and praise He deserves. When we forget this, our vision, goals and future are compromised.

We praise God for what He is doing in the Dominican Republic.

On December 14, seventeen students from the six-month L.I.G.H.T. School were dedicated for service, and a lady from the nearby community was baptized.

## On the Campus

In November 2013, the boy's dorm was fully repaired by a group of missionaries from Oak Haven & Eden Valley. It looked impossible for a while. They came for two weeks and it rained the whole first week, but with busy hands and fervent spirits, the roof of the building (the final touch) was finished two days before they returned to America.

On December 14, seventeen students from the six-month L.I.G.H.T. School were dedicated for service, and a lady from the nearby community was baptized.



*First Graduating Class- L.I.G.H.T. students December 2013*

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.” In 2014, we plan to continue sharing the Good News in this area.

Our little garden is blooming with crops of pigeon peas, tomatoes, greens, cilantro, sweet pepper and sweet potatoes. Since December, we enjoy eating its bountiful harvest. We also planted 25 papayas, 30 oranges, 20 coconuts, and 40 sour sops.



*Men's dorm completed with new roof.*





We thank you for partnering with us in the saving of souls for the kingdom of God.

*December 14 baptism.*

### **City Mission**

Our city evangelism continues for 2014. We are praying for a way to increase our profits from the health food store in Santo Domingo. Instead of holding classes on campus for six months, we have decided to do three one-month L.I.G.H.T. schools in the city. This enables us to work on other campus projects. We will then resume the six-month school on campus in July through December.

God keeps pouring His love into our cups, yet the gospel work in the Dominican Republic could not advance without your prayers, support and financial donations. We thank you for partnering with us in the saving of souls for the kingdom of God. Remember, if we forget that God is the Author of all our blessings, our journey towards the future would be dim indeed. ■



*Small vegetable gardens for our campus.*



# I Can Trust Him to See Me Through

By *Gayle Birney*

I am almost 75 years old; and I feel better than I have felt in a long time, thanks to God and what I learned at the Eden Valley Lifestyle Center about the eight “natural doctors” of health and healing (NEW-START), along with home remedies that really work.

In July of 2012, I was diagnosed with Lymphoma, which was growing very quickly on my neck. In October, I began treatment. By that time, the tumor had grown so much my doctor warned me that if I were to pursue natural treatment the cancer would get me before I conquered it. The chemo



*Gayle Birney*

God is my Chief Physician and I can trust Him to see me through. This is what the dear people at Eden Valley kept telling us, and we believe it.

treatments were three weeks apart and there were many side effects. I am certain that if I continued chemotherapy, I would surely have died from heart failure, liver disease or have become a vegetable.

My husband and I asked the Lord if He wanted us to go to Eden Valley. The next CT scan revealed no active tumors. Our prayer was answered, and in January we arrived at Eden Valley.

When my husband and I returned home, we implemented everything we learned—how to cook vegan meals, to taking fever baths, hot foot and calf bath, juicing, exercising, and even how to grow wheat grass and kale. I took fever baths five days a week,

and now we do them once or twice a week. We get my temperature elevated to 101-105 F. and keep it there for 20 minutes. Then I am helped to a bed draped with plastic, a flannel sheet, and a wool blanket. I am wrapped in the wool blanket and two or three more blankets are piled on top to sweat it out. It takes about 15 minutes for my temperature to return to normal; and then I get up and take a warm soapy shower and finish it with a very cold one. For a hot foot and calf bath we use a small barrel about 18 inches across and 20 inches high. The water is also 110 degree F. I keep my feet in the water for 30 minutes and then put them in ice water for one minute. This simple treatment leaves me soaking in sweat.

It has been a year since learning this new lifestyle. I am able to walk about a mile and a half a day; and we have kept up the fever baths and the diet program. God is my Chief Physician and I can trust Him to see me through. This is what the dear people at Eden Valley kept telling us, and we believe it. ■



# I Will Praise Thee

By *Betty Atkinson*

*"I Will Praise Thee, O Lord With My Whole Heart: I will show forth all thy marvelous work."  
Psalms 9:1*

Two thousand and thirteen was a life-changing year for me. It started with chronic blood pressure issues that affected every aspect of life. Eventually, I lost my job. When my self-confidence hit bottom and I failed miserably, I cried out to God for His intervention.

The Prodigal Son series was like water to my thirsting soul.

"Lord," I prayed, "You promised to instruct me and teach me in the way I should go, please help me."

You must know that my greatest desire was to work for the Lord, and when I prayed the Lord made it happen. I didn't know where to begin, but God did. One day, I was talking to my friend, Dr. Denise, about my desire to work for God. She told me about an evangelism school at Eden Valley where she volunteered and invited me to go with her to see for myself. So I did.

There, I met with Matt Dooley, the program director, and was amazed how the program seemed to fit my specific need.

I began my adventure at Eden Valley on August 12, 2013. I dare say, it was the greatest experience of my life. The Lord put me in a place where He could heal me physically, emotionally & spiritually. Each morning, when I walked the trails and breathed in the fresh air, all I could say was, "Thank you Jesus." When I sat in class and received these great lessons and instructions it



*Betty Atkinson*

seemed as if the puzzles of my life were being put together. I felt like I was sitting at the feet of Jesus. I would cry tears of joy as God fed my hungering soul. Conversely, I would feel mystified. Why had I not heard these great truths in the church? Nevertheless, I gained a new appreciation for ministry, the word of God, and the health message.

## **My life changed forever.**

The Prodigal Son series was like water to my thirsting soul. Righteousness by Faith was always hard to understand. Listening to those presentations helped to put the pieces of Christian living together. What a difference it made to my walk. God speedily answered prayers I prayed in those early Morning Prayer meetings. The evangelism classes provided many tools to be a blessing in the church and community. When I returned home, I started to find others who would participate in Eight Weeks to Wellness studies.

Everyone and every class was a rich blessing to me. I would never trade the past five months for anything. I am a new and different person, a much happier and healthier person. I was sick, sad, broken, confused, with no hope of being healed physically, emotionally and spiritually. Today, I am using what I learned to bless my church and community. I want to be the best I can be for God. I praise God He chose me to be a part of the great army that He will use to finish the work. May God be with this great institution and may you touch many more lives. ■



# Nutrition and Health

*By Laural Bates*

Two thirds of the people in America are overweight and a great many of them are on popular diets. The widespread hope, relative to obesity, makes many vulnerable to all kinds of questionable promises, many of which turn out to be scams.

With so many conflicting reports about nutrition and weight loss, how does one determine what will lead to optimum health?

About 75 percent of the \$2.8 trillion in annual health care costs in the United States is due to degenerative, lifestyle related diseases.

## **There are a few basic principles to keep in mind.**

- Choose a variety of plant-based foods from each of the following categories: fruit, vegetables, whole grains, legumes, nuts, and seeds. These foods are full of phytochemicals, which allows you the maximum natural protection against cancer, degenerative diseases, environmental toxicity, and are great source of micronutrients.
- Buy fresh, locally grown, organic foods. Remember you are investing in optimum health.
- Abstain from foods that are harmful and eat moderately of those that are good.
- Use the oven more to eliminate frying in oil.

- When shopping, focus on unprocessed and low or non-fat foods. Remember, calories do count—fat is much denser in calories. It is recommended that we eat as much fresh raw foods as possible.
- Be sure to eat natural plant sources of omega-3: soy foods, walnuts, flax, and hemp seeds.

About 75 percent of the \$2.8 trillion in annual health care costs in the United States is due to degenerative, lifestyle related diseases. If a person adopted only four simple lifestyle changes—quit smoking, exercise a half hour a day, eat a plant food diet, and stay thin—most type II diabetes, heart attacks, half of the strokes, and a third of cancers would be reversed or prevented. A plant-based diet improves blood flow and lessens inflammation, which is an underlying cause of poor failing health. It sets in motion genes that protect against disease and stops genes that promote cancer, inflammation and oxidative stress. These modest life-style changes may prove to be more effective than most medical interventions. ■



# Zippy Kale Salad



## Ingredients

### Salad

- 3 cups finely chopped fresh kale (stems removed)
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup finely chopped radishes
- 12 grape tomatoes cut in half lengthwise
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced
- $2\frac{1}{2}$  Tbs. raw sunflower seeds

### Dressing

- $2\frac{1}{2}$  Tbs. fresh lemon juice
- 1 Tbs. honey
- 2 tsp. salt
- 2 Tbs. olive oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. onion powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. garlic powder

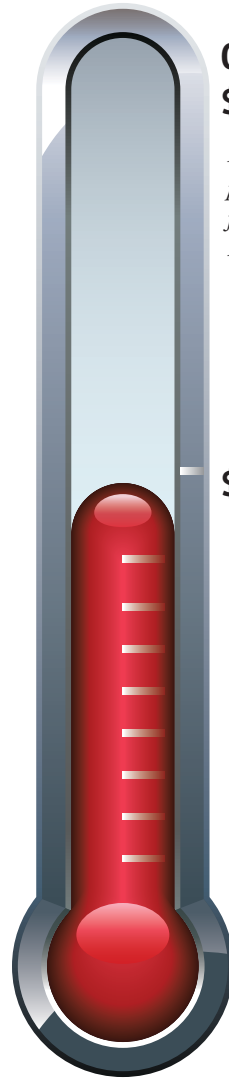
*Answered Prayers*  
*Continued from pg. 6*

of wonders, this man and his father clear-cut trees for a living. Wanting to help, he staked and cut down trees for the first line. Day and night, we tromped through the forest to get the job done. The next day, they put up the power line, but that was only the first leg. There was one day left, and this man needed to leave. Not wanting to keep him, I offered to drive him closer to his destination if he would stay and help prepare the area for the second power line. He was the one man that could make this happen, and thank God, he did.



Many thanks to all for making this project possible. We have a wonderful group of students making your sacrifices worthwhile. ■

# New Lifestyle Center Fundraising Goal



**Goal:**  
**\$2,800,000**

*If you'd like to help,  
please mark your donation  
for new Eden Valley  
Lifestyle Center.*

**\$1,389,754**

*Thank you  
for your support!*

# Donations and Memorials

Baize, Pearl L.  
Baumann, Dieter  
Benson SDA Church  
Boettcher, Rainer  
Botti, Carmen  
Butler, Sharon  
Cansler, Mavis  
Cherne, Harold  
Christensen, Beverly  
Clapp, Frank  
Clements, Mary Ann  
Dahl, Dennis  
Damsteegt, P. Gerard and Laurel  
Doering, Robert  
Elm Haven Fellowship  
Goodwin, Frank  
Graybil Construction  
Griffin, C. Daniel and Linda  
Grothe, Elisabeth  
Hardinge, Fred  
Haug, Nancy  
Hay, Bill  
Hodges, Nicholas G. and Debbie J.  
Imes, Mary  
Jansen, Martin and Jessica  
Jenkins, Elgin and Gal  
Kunze, Wolfgang  
Lewis, Carol S.  
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Morrow, Richard  
Northland Sanctuary Ranch Assoc  
Nutt, Elroy  
Oak Haven, Inc.  
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Pirraglia, Larry and Naomi  
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Roberts, Francis  
Rollins, Gary L.  
Sauer, David and Anne  
Smith, Sally  
Stone, Roger Jr.  
Tank, Steven  
Taylor, Billy and Nancy  
Torres, Rafael A.  
Vellenger, Daniel  
Villa, Corrine  
Wabbel, Richard  
Wical, Charles  
Wolford, Monte and Debbie

## Needs at Eden Valley Institute

- Continued financial support for Master Plan improvements submitted to Larimer County. Wastewater plant, Duplexes, and Single Family Dwellings, along with a new Lifestyle Center.

### **Eden Valley Institute**

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Please pray for

## Eden Valley Mission Projects

### Eden Valley Foster Care Mission, Tanzania

We are seeking staff to assist in the general operation and maintenance of the mission school. Persons must be skilled and willing to work in a non-English speaking environment. If interested please contact Janet Fournier at her email address: janet4nier@gmail.com

### Tarahumara Indians in Creel, Mexico

The work for the Tarahumara Indians continues to grow. There is an ever increasing need for churches in that area. Continue to pray that God will open the hearts of the Tarahumara Indians and to provide an open door for the gospel to be preached.

### Stone Valley Foundation, India

Since 2000, the Lord has used Roger and Barbara Stone to raise scores of churches in India. They trained hundreds of pastors and ministers, and provide numerous orphans with medical care, housing and educational advantages. Currently raising funds to build a new orphanage to cut rental costs, and new church buildings.

### Country Life Mission, Dominican Republic

- Volunteers: a medical doctor for our lifestyle center; others in the areas of agriculture, industry, teaching, etc.
- 4wd 50-70 HP Tractor with a bucket.
- Student Fund \$200 per month for each student. Estimated costs are anticipated to be much lower in the future as the agriculture and industry which these students will be starting will begin bringing in food and finances to the institution.
- Capital to rebuild and reform Health Food Store – (\$ 3,000 US dollars or more).
- Building team to repair Lifestyle Center.
- Two motorcycles

### Mount Akagi Institute, Japan

Today several individuals have joined hands to revitalize Mount Akagi's ministry. The property needs many repairs and a couple of good industries. The team would like to invest in a greenhouse built to US specifications.