When Prayer Meets Technology, Preparing the Way for OneVoice27[1]

A Sermon for the OneVoice27 Global Launch

Sabbath, September 5, 2026
Primary: Matthew 6:33; Matthew 24:14; Revelation 14:6

Brothers and sisters today is not an ordinary Sabbath.

In this very hour, Adventist congregations in nearly every time zone — from the islands of the Pacific to the coast of Africa, from cities you have visited to villages you will never see — are gathering exactly as we are gathering. The sermons may differ from pulpit to pulpit, but the purpose is one and the same: today, the worldwide church is lifting up one shared vision. Together with them, this morning, we are launching a worldwide movement.

That movement is called OneVoice27. Let me tell you about it.

In September of 2027, the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church will mark the 2,000th anniversary of the day Jesus stepped out of the Jordan River and began His public ministry. The Adventist Church has set aside that month for one of the largest unified proclamations of the gospel our church has ever attempted. The theme comes straight from the Bible — Revelation 21:5 — *All things new: hope starts here*. The vision is captured in three words: **Mission for All**. And the question that closes every *OneVoice27* article, every video, every announcement is one short question we cannot avoid answering this morning.

THE QUESTION: Are you in?

Now, the months between today and September 2027 are not empty. They are a runway. Every Adventist church on earth is to do one thing — use every tool God has placed in our hands to reach the world Jesus died for.

Every tool. Personal visits to the neighbor across the street. Family Bible studies around the kitchen table. Health programs in our community halls. Cooking classes. Community service that meets a

[1] [1] *A note for the preacher: This sermon is being preached today in Seventh-day Adventist congregations around the world as our church launches OneVoice27: Mission for All. At an average pace it runs about thirty minutes. Preach it as your own, in your own voice, with the faces of your own congregation before you. All Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version.*

real need. Literature ministry. Public evangelism. Radio. Television. And in this generation— the screen already in our pockets.

That last one is what we want to talk about this morning.

Not because it is the most important. The visit you make next week to the lonely widow next door will still be the most important. The Bible study you start in your home will still be the most important. The cup of cold water you give in Jesus' name will still be the most important. None of those is going away. *OneVoice27* needs every single one of them.

But there is a mission field that has opened in our generation that did not exist when many of us were baptized. Five billion people now live a part of their lives on a screen every day. And we cannot leave that field untouched. Not if we are the people of Revelation 14.

Listen to the assignment one more time.

"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth — to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people." **Revelation 14:6 (NKJV)**

Every nation. Every tribe. Every tongue. Every people. By every means. Through every tool. In Jesus' name.

The title for this morning's message is, "When Prayer Meets Technology: Preparing the Way for OneVoice27."

Opening Prayer

Dear loving Heavenly Father, You are the One who opened the heavens at the Jordan and spoke over Your Son. Open them again over this church today. Pour out Your Holy Spirit. Show us where the world is looking, and teach us how to bring You there.
In the name of Jesus, our soon-coming King, amen.

What Digital Evangelism Actually Is — And The Greatest Misunderstanding

Before we go any further, let me explain in plain language what digital evangelism actually is. Many of our beloved members are not quite sure what we mean when we use that phrase.

Digital evangelism, simply put, is the practice of using the digital tools already in our hands — the smartphone in your pocket, the social media apps you open a dozen times a day, the messaging apps you use to talking with your friends — to share Jesus with the people God has placed around you.

It is not a new gospel. It is not a different message. It is the same everlasting gospel of Revelation 14, reaching the same lost world, through a doorway that has opened in our lifetime.

And precisely because that doorway is new, there are some misunderstandings that I need to clear away this morning. Here is the most common one.

When a sermon on digital evangelism is introduced in our churches around the world, we often hear something like this: "Young people, listen carefully — this is your ministry." Many sincerely believe that digital ministry belongs to the younger generation.

I understand the heart behind it. But beloved, digital evangelism is not a ministry for the younger generation only. It is a **Mission for All**. That one sentence, repeated for years in our congregations, has quietly locked an entire generation of faithful believers out of a mission tool God has placed within their reach.

HEAR THIS CLEARLY — Whoever can send a text message, can do digital evangelism. Whoever can pray, can do digital evangelism.

Digital ministry is not the work of the young. Digital ministry is the work of the willing.

So the question this morning is not whether you are young enough. The question is whether you are willing. If you can hold a phone, you are already holding one of the most powerful evangelistic tools ever given to the church. Beloved, do not silence the Holy Spirit this morning because someone once told you that this ministry belongs to someone else.

The Important Role Of Prayer In Digital Evangelism

So let me ask this question. What does prayer have to do specifically with digital ministry? Why are we preaching this morning about prayer when the topic is technology?

When most of us think about digital evangelism, we think about content creation. A Bible study video. A Scripture image. A sermon clip. Content matters. The Word of God is, and will always remain, the foundation of everything we do.

But the digital world has changed. In the early internet, communication ran in one direction. A website spoke; the visitor listened. We posted; they read. We no longer live in that world. We live in

the era of social media — where communication runs both ways. People don't just consume; they respond. The platforms our neighbors live on were built for conversation.

Beloved, I want to slow down here, because this is where many of us misunderstand digital ministry. If we stop at posting and publishing, we are speaking to a world that is waiting to speak back. There is one more thing we must not overlook.

That one thing is engagement — fellowship. Connection. The two-way meeting of one human heart with another in the name of Jesus. Posting a verse is sowing good seed, and "the seed is the word of God" (Luke 8:11). But Scripture also tells us how that seed grows: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6). We sow the Word. We water it through prayer, connection, and genuine care. And God Himself, through His Holy Spirit, gives the increase, transforming the life on the other side of that screen.

And one of the most meaningful forms of engagement in digital ministry is also the oldest practice of God's people, carried through all of sacred history.

Prayer. Let me tell you why.

What We Discovered Online

A few years ago, the Adventist Church brought together a team for digital evangelism with one simple mission: find the best way to reach people online. The team ran a global outreach using digital marketing tools — presenting the gospel in different ways on different social media channels, to reach people right where they spend their time every day.

Think about it. When we reach out to our community, what are the most common ways we present the gospel? First, of course, Bible Study. Second, as Adventists, our health message. Third, community service — meeting people's real needs with gifts. So those three approaches were presented online, each with a clear invitation for example like: "I want a Bible study — connect with me."

AD Keyword	Bible	Health	Gift	Prayer
Contacts Per $1	4	6	5	**33**

AWR & Hope Channel Digital Advertisement Campaigns Jan - Sep 2020

Here are the results, per dollar spent:

- **Bible study:** about 4 responses per $1

- **Health resource:** about 6 responses per $1
- **Community service (Gift):** about 5 responses per $1

Those are encouraging numbers. God has blessed these methods for generations, and they remain at the heart of our outreach. But then the team presented one more thing online — and the response changed everything. Out of a sample of more than a million people, this one invitation drew thirty-three responses per dollar — almost eight times more interest than our traditional methods in online.

What was it? It was **prayer**.

"We are your neighbor. We want to pray for you. Send us a message." When that invitation reached people online, hearts that would not open for a brochure opened wide for prayer.

THREE IMPORTANT LESSONS

From this discovery, we learn three important lessons:

- **Lesson 1:** People need your prayer.
- **Lesson 2:** We can reach our community not only with Bible study, the health message, and community service, but also — and powerfully — with prayer.
- **Lesson 3:** Prayer helps us build meaningful relationships online through spiritual conversations.

And the follow-up rate in those prayer conversations was remarkably high. How does that happen? When someone asks you, "Can I pray for you?" — can you say, "No, don't pray for me"? Almost no one can. People want prayer.

A missionary who served in a Muslim country for more than ten years was once asked, "What is the best way to reach Muslims?" Without hesitation, the answer was simple: "Prayer." Even when people recognized him as a Christian missionary, they still welcomed prayer. That reveals something powerful: prayer builds bridges and opens hearts across every culture.

Why Prayer Opens Hearts — Especially Online

Why does prayer reach hearts so powerfully? Because prayer is a conversation that naturally leads people toward God. The moment someone shares a prayer request, they are no longer just scrolling — they are opening their heart. And when you respond in Jesus' name, a meaningful spiritual connection begins. No longer just a screen and a user, but two people brought together by God's providence. In that moment, the Holy Spirit can work powerfully in both hearts.

There is research behind this as well — what scholars call self-disclosure in computer-mediated communication. It reveals something surprising about how human hearts behave online. Face to face, people open their hearts only to a certain level. On a phone call, the level rises. On a video call with the camera off, it rises further. And in text-only conversation, people open their hearts the most.

Now think about what prayer is. Prayer is the act of opening our heart to God. And a prayer request is the act of opening our heart to a friend, a neighbor, a community. So in the digital world — the very place where hearts are already most willing to open — prayer becomes the most natural bridge of all: from a stranger's screen to a believer's heart, and from that heart into the family of God.

What To Do When You Receive A Prayer Request

And this is exactly why the practice I am about to share is so powerful.

When someone sends you a prayer request, what do most of us do? We say, "Yes, I will pray for you." And then we pray — quietly, privately, in our own time. That is good. But beloved, after today, let me invite you to take one more step. A prayer request is a golden moment — the beginning of a spiritual relationship.

Suppose someone asks you to pray for their back pain. Pray for the back pain — yes. But then write your prayer down and send it to them through digital media. A short, personal, written prayer they can read with their own eyes. Remember what we just learned: in the digital world, the written word is where hearts open wider. As they read your prayer, the Holy Spirit can speak to them directly.

And do not stop there. We follow what we call the 72-hour rule. Within two or three days — before life buries the moment — reach out again: "I am still praying for you. How is your back pain today?" And pray with them once more. Now you have something sacred in common. That is how a spiritual friendship begins. That is how fellowship is born. And fellowship, in time, is how the Holy Spirit brings a soul home to the body of Christ.

Jesus Already Taught Us How

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

Brothers and sisters, notice that this verse has two parts.

The **first part** is our responsibility: **"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."**
Jesus calls us to put God's kingdom first—to pray first for His mission, His gospel, and the salvation of souls.

The **second part** is God's promise: **"And all these things shall be added to you."**
What are "all these things"? They include the daily needs that often fill our prayers—our family, our health, our children, our work, our finances. These are good prayers, and God cares deeply about them. He invites us to bring every burden to Him.

But notice the order Jesus gives. He does not say ignore your needs. He says **prioritize My kingdom first**.

If we are honest, many of us spend most of our prayer life focused on the second part of the verse—"all these things." We pray for needs, problems, and burdens. Again, those prayers matter.

But Jesus calls us higher. He calls us to begin with the first part—to seek His kingdom first. When our prayers turn outward toward God's mission, toward our neighbors, and toward souls who need Jesus, something beautiful happens: God faithfully takes care of the second part as well.

After studying Scripture and the writings of Ellen White, Matthew 6:33 can be summarized in two simple words:

Evangelistic Prayer

Prayer that turns outward. Prayer that asks God for souls before it asks Him for anything else. This is the prayer life OneVoice27 is asking the worldwide church to recover before September 2027.

One Voice, One Prayer, One September

Now we come to the heart of this sermon.

You have heard the vision. In September 2027, two thousand years after Jesus began His public ministry in AD 27, the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church will proclaim the everlasting gospel with one voice — *OneVoice27,* Mission for All.

But how does a worldwide church speak with one voice? Not through one method but through every method, carried by every member. Every method matters. Every member matters. And underneath them all, the foundation that makes one voice possible is prayer.

Sister Ellen White wrote it like this, more than a hundred years before the internet existed:

"Let every worker... study, plan, devise methods, to reach the people where they are. We must do something out of the common course of things. We must arrest the attention." **Ellen G. White, Evangelism, Pp. 122–123**

If she were standing in your pulpit today, I am convinced she would point at the device in your pocket and say the same thing. Use it. Do something out of the common course of things. Reach the people where they are — in Jesus' name.

Hear the apostle Paul on this point.

*"I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some."**1 Corinthians 9:22 (ESV)***

By all means. Old means and new. Sanctuary and screen. Pew and inbox. Personal visit and digital prayer. *OneVoice27* will fulfill its purpose only when every Adventist church on earth recovers the apostle's vision and begins to do all of these together — saturated in evangelistic prayer.

And listen carefully to what Jesus said would precede His return.

*"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."**Matthew 24:14 (NKJV)***

The Blessed Hope of the Adventist faith — the soon return of our Lord — is bound up with the fulfillment of this verse. The end comes when the gospel is preached in all the world. *OneVoice27* is the worldwide church saying, with one voice and through every available means, "We will preach Him until the world has heard."

Beloved, before we go any further, I want you to see what this looks like in real life. We will now watch a short video. Watch carefully — but the point is not the woman on the screen. The point is what the Holy Spirit can do through any willing member who picks up a phone and prays.

The Holy Spirit's Power

1. The Holy Spirit starts it

This is not only a strategy or a campaign. It is the response of a church that has learned to listen again to the Spirit who once spoke at the Jordan.

2. Prayer is at the door.

Not a video. Not a meme. Not a clever ad. The door that opens a stranger's heart is a prayer offered in Jesus' name. The most powerful evangelistic tool in our church today has been in the hands of God's people since the beginning of human history — a prayer for souls.

3. The church becomes a home.

Thousands have joined the church because of digital evangelism and many more are waiting for a call. That is not a marketing principle — that is a Biblical principle. People are drawn to the place where their name is already being spoken before the throne of God.

There is power in prayer. Imagine, over 24 million Adventists and 151,000 churches in every nation, tribe, tongue, and people, praying. That is *OneVoice27* by September 2027. Not a celebrity ministry. Not a famous campaign. The faithful, hidden, daily prayer of ordinary saints who simply said yes.

Your First Digital Prayer

Beloved, before you leave this room today, decide in your heart who will receive your first digital prayer. A friend. A neighbor. A family member. A coworker. Someone whose name God has placed on your heart in the last twenty minutes. Hold that name. And before sunset today, send them something short and personal. A few things matter, and these are simple.

1. **A personal greeting.** Call them by name.
2. **A specific prayer** with one verse of Scripture.
3. **A simple closing** in the name of Jesus.

That is all. You do not need to write an essay. You do not need to be a theologian. A short, sincere prayer in Jesus' name is more powerful than a long, polished one. Here is what it can look like:

Hello my friend. I thought about you today, and I want you to know you are in my prayers.
"Gracious Heavenly Father,
I lift up [Friend's Name] to You today and ask for Your blessing upon their life. Your Word says, 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you' (Numbers 6:24–25). Lord, bless their family with peace, their heart with joy, and their future with hope. Surround them with Your love and remind them that You are always near.
In Jesus' name, Amen." ***SAMPLE MESSAGE***

That is it. Send it. Then a few days later, reach out again. Beloved, do not stop after one message. Keep showing Christ's love through consistent prayer and genuine care. The harvest is rarely in the first message—it often comes through faithful follow-up, as the Holy Spirit gently knocks on the door of the heart in the name of Jesus.

Now It's Your Turn — Are You In?

Pastor, elder, lay leader, member — beloved, the question is no longer whether the Adventist Church will engage in digital ministry. The world is already there. The question is whether we will reach the world Jesus died for, using the prayer Jesus taught us, in the time Heaven has entrusted to us before our Lord returns.

OneVoice27 is not merely a program to attend; it is a movement to mobilize. Identify the praying members in your pew. Share this vision with them. But before you mobilize anyone else, the call comes to you.

Perhaps, as you have listened today, the Holy Spirit has been quietly impressing something on your heart. What if God could use your phone, your hands, and your prayers to reach one soul before Jesus comes? That impression is not from this preacher. It is from the same Holy Spirit who descended at the Jordan in AD 27. Two thousand years later, He is still speaking.

Somewhere — maybe in your neighborhood, maybe just one notification away — someone is whispering a prayer, just as quiet and desperate as Elizabeth's:

"Lord, help me do something meaningful with my life."

You have heard the sermon. You have seen the story. You have a phone in your pocket. You have a Savior in your heart. You have a name God has just placed on your mind.

One prayer. One message. One faithful connection — in Jesus' name — can lead one soul home to the kingdom of God.

The Altar Call

So this morning, I want to make one appeal. If the Holy Spirit has spoken to you in this room — if you are ready to begin evangelistic prayer for one neighbor God will give you this week, and to take your place in our church's *OneVoice27* movement from this July to September 2027 — please stand right where you are.

[Pause. Allow the congregation to stand. Speak gently.]

Look around you, beloved. These are the praying men and women God has set apart for *OneVoice27* in this church. This is the beginning of one voice in this congregation. From this day forward, as we stand united in prayer and mission, the world will see Jesus more clearly through us.

Let's pray.

Father in heaven, two thousand years ago at the Jordan, You opened the heavens and declared, "This is My beloved Son." Today, we ask You to pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us once again.

Take the phones in our pockets, the words in our mouths, the prayers in our hearts, and the time You have given us, and use them to proclaim the one Name above every name — Jesus Christ. Bring into our lives the people You are preparing. Teach us to pray for them, love them, and faithfully lead them closer to You. Until the everlasting gospel has reached all the world, and our Lord returns in glory, keep us faithful, keep us united, and keep us praying.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus, our Savior, our High Priest, and our soon-coming King. Amen.

Beloved, *OneVoice27* starts here. It starts with you. It starts today, before sunset, with one prayer in Jesus' Name.

So I Ask You One Last Time, With All The Love Of A Fellow Servant: Are You In?