

Review of *Burst the Bubble*

By Stephen Chavez, Assistant Editor of Adventist Review/Adventist World

It's sometimes useful to ask ourselves questions regarding our identity and purpose as Christians. For example, if something happened so that our churches were locked or otherwise removed from our communities, would they be missed? That's the question asked by Sung Kwon, executive director of Adventist Community Services for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, in *Burst the Bubble*.

The premise of the book is that there is more to our role as responsible community members than faithfully showing up in the aftermath of natural disasters. We can, and should, do more to be visible in our communities on a regular basis through greater community engagement in the form of carefully devised service activities.

The book's six chapters are presented in three sections: Why, What, How.

The first section—Why Do We Do What We Do?—covers familiar territory by reminding readers that Jesus' ministry was incarnational: He became a man and served humanity. Serving others was how He demonstrated God's love.

The second section—What Are the Components to Revisit and Reframe?—encourages readers to remember why the church exists and what is its mission. Too many Christians seem content with simply taking up space. On that perspective the author observes: "We must overcome institutional myopia and cultural differences and see the world as the setting for our calling, commission, and commandments."

The third section—How Do We Change Our Way of Thinking and Doing?—challenges readers to evaluate their congregations' outreach methods to see if they are still compatible with a rapidly changing society; and if not, how they can be refined to be more effective. The success of this activity, according to the author, requires that as many members be involved as possible, not just as participants but as decision-makers.

Burst the Bubble is not a light material. It reads more like a classroom textbook than a devotional book about witnessing. It covers substantial topics that require deliberate, disciplined reading. To rush through it would defeat the purpose of crafting a community service model that creates buy-in from members and has a positive impact on the community. Yet the author's writing style is accessible (reflecting his personality).

The rewards of reading books such as this may include following more closely the One who mingled with people, ministered to their needs, won their confidence, then said "Follow Me."