

Ministry News

STRONG TOWER RADIO

Where God's Character is Proclaimed



88.7 Owosso	90.9 Escanaba	97.9 Newberry
88.7 Port Sanilac	91.3 Decatur, IL	102.7 Alpena
88.9 Houghton	91.3 Ironwood	104.7 Lansing
89.1 Bridgeman	91.7 South Haven	
89.1 Iron Mountain	91.9 Battle Creek	1110 Petoskey
89.3 Tower Hill, IL	91.9 Cadillac	1540 Okemos
89.7 Grand Rapids	92.3 Charlotte	
89.9 Greenville	93.1 Grand Haven	
90.3 Manistique	93.9 Mio	
90.7 Harrison	97.3 Kalamazoo	TV 23 Cadillac

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13

Over the past year of 2025, we have explored the “depths” of this powerful passage of 1 Corinthians 13.

Wonderful thoughts have been shared with us, with truth to help us better understand its meaning. I want to share just two statements to summarize what has been shared. The first was by Karen DeArmond Gardner, who said, “Paul’s call to love is not a passive one. It’s active, intentional, and often costly. When lived out with wisdom, it becomes the most transformative way of life. A love that shelters, trusts wisely, hopes fiercely, and endures with strength is the kind of love the world desperately needs—and the kind we are invited to live.” That’s it. It’s active love, *lived out* love.

And the second statement was from one of my favorite Christian authors, Ellen G White. “Through the cross we learn that the heavenly Father loves us with a love that is infinite....It is our privilege also to glory in the cross, our privilege to give ourselves wholly to Him who gave Himself for us.” Jesus is the source and example of this love, and his birth, life, death, resurrection, and ongoing life is the best example and source of this love that we have.

As we move into this new year, here are some final summary thoughts based on Paul’s conclusion to his teaching on Christian love. Hopefully, you will be led to let Jesus teach you how to grow much closer to Him and to really live love as He would.

The New Testament clearly establishes the beginning point of a relationship with Jesus Christ as faith. In **2 Peter 1:1**, the writer, Peter, greets those who have “obtained faith” with the other believers, and then he speaks more about building a growing relationship with Christ in verse 5. He says, “add to your faith virtue,...” What follows is what has often been called “Peter’s ladder” because it progresses up from faith through a list of virtues to the greatest virtue of all, which is love, true love.



Elder
Royce Snyman



President

President's Perspective

With sad hearts, we received word that our beloved friend and faithful super volunteer, Sandy Cole, passed to her rest in mid-December 2025. She had just the week before attended the funeral of another friend and STR volunteer electrician, Craig Soule.

One of my most striking memories of Sandy was her willingness to support STR. One time, a listener called requesting a book. She had just sent out the last copy we had of that book to another listener. She searched for days and found a copy in Australia. She personally paid to have that book shipped and sent to our listener.

At one STR Variety Hour, Sandy gave the following appeal: *Everyone is always excited when you get a new puppy. It's part of your family, and you want the best of everything to keep it happy, healthy, and well-nourished. As time goes by, the new puppy grows into a dog, ages, and begins to develop health issues. Sadly, some families do not provide the necessary care for their faithful dog who is so dependent on them for its very survival.*

Similarly, purchasing (and building) a new radio station is very exciting, and everyone wants to be a part of getting it up and running. Still, there is so much more to running a station than just securing it.

There are monthly expenses such as tower rent, electricity, insurance, internet and phone connections, lawyer fees, and the occasional need for tower climbers. At some point, as it ages, equipment needs to be repaired or replaced. All this takes money to keep God's ministry on the air.

.Sandy was an integral part of STR for over a dozen years. She saw what it takes to keep these stations on the air, and she was willing to volunteer her time and resources, doing her part to spread the Love of Christ to all who can hear a STR station. Like Sandy, will you support us with your prayers and financial gifts?



STR Changing Lives: Eric Stanley

Eric first encountered a Seventh-day Adventist in the late 1980's, when Amazing Facts evangelist Doug Batchelor spoke at a Grand Rapids-area Assembly of God church where Eric attended. It was during this weekend series that he first heard of the seventh-day Sabbath. It would be decades before he would again encounter **Amazing Facts'** ministry.



Eric's family preferred the New International Version (NIV) Bible translation, and he consistently read through it into his adult life. His wife was raised with a King James Version (KJV), and Eric began comparing the two versions as he studied.

A new job with a parcel delivery company took Eric into northern Michigan daily, and he searched the radio dial for Christian stations to listen to from 9 – 12 each morning. Eric's co-workers soon nicknamed him "captain" because he kept a Bible on his truck's console, harkening back to the historic practice of ship captains. As he listened to a sermon on the radio, Eric would occasionally even pull off the road to look up a verse he'd just heard. Eric regularly found doctrinal errors in the sermons presented on various Christian radio stations and yearned for pure truth. All the Christian stations to which he listened and even the various churches he'd visited would emphasize certain Bible topics and avoid others. Was there any church that taught the entire Bible!?

He soon discovered several of Strong Tower Radio's (STR) signals, and for 3 years, Eric listened and compared what he heard on STR to what the Bible said. He knew the Bible well enough to recognize that what he heard on STR was truth. For the first time, all that he heard lined up with the Bible, and further study simply confirmed it. He shared what he was hearing and learning with a friend, who said, "You're talking about the Seventh-day Adventists."

Eric soon visited and began attending the Hastings Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) church and shortly thereafter began giving Bible studies to his friends, sharing the Three Angels' Messages. In May 2025, Eric publicly embraced the everlasting gospel in baptism at the Hastings SDA church. Eric still enjoys listening to STR, and his favorite programs include **Amazing Facts'** Bible Answers Live, the 9 a.m. evangelistic message, and STR's Fresh Manna at 11 a.m. weekdays.

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; (Continued from page 1)

Paul shows agreement with Peter when he says, “Now abide faith, hope, and love.” Both Peter and Paul begin with faith and end with love. Love is the final outworking of faith, and the epitome of love is Jesus. And it was Jesus who said in **John 15:13** “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

A story from the United States Coast Guard website entitled, ***The Long Blue Line: So that others might live—Earl Cunningham’s final rescue***, is one example of “greater love.” Lookouts at the Coast Guard rescue station in Charlevoix, Michigan, on February 8, 1936, spotted five fishermen out on the ice. A storm came up quickly, and the wind soon pushed the ice so strongly that a piece with the fishermen on it broke off. It began to drift away from shore. The station immediately launched a rowboat (skiff) out to rescue the men. But the boat could only accommodate the coast guard surfman and three of the fishermen. They managed to make it back to shore. That meant there were still two fishermen on the ice flow, which was rapidly being pushed further out into Lake Michigan. 41-year-old Petty Officer 2nd Class Earl Cunningham volunteered to rescue the two remaining fishermen, Claude Beardsley and Clayton Brown. He managed to row out to the men, who climbed aboard, but it was impossible to get back to shore. The men had no choice but to hunker down in the boat and wait for rescue or for the storm to abate. The attempt to launch a small motor launch proved unsuccessful. The weather was so bad that one member of the launch crew had to be treated for frostbite. Multiple other attempts also failed. On February 10, Clayton Brown struggled ashore near Good Heart, Michigan. He told how Cunningham had died in the skiff of exposure the night before, and that he and Beardsley had tried to walk over the ice to shore. Beardsley had fallen in the water and was pulled out by Brown, but could not continue and froze to death. Brown managed to walk 9 miles to shore. On Wednesday, rescuers found Beardsley and Cunningham. Cunningham was frozen stiff, still manning the oars of the skiff. The article concludes by saying, “Clayton Brown would lose both feet to frostbite sustained during the ordeal but was alive to return to his family thanks to the self-sacrificing effort of Cunningham.” (NOTE: This story is shared in a **Your Story Hour** recording titled “No Greater Love,” though names and details were slightly changed. YSH is heard here on Strong Tower Radio.)

In 2026, I encourage you to focus your faith on the life of Jesus, who also gave His life for you, His friend. Start with faith, and He will lead you up Peter and Paul’s ladder of the Christian life and teach you how to live life with love, as He would.

“STR Changing Lives: Eric Stanley (Continued from page 3)

More than simply “keeping the law,” Eric wants a living testimony of service to others within his sphere of influence. God brings him opportunities to help others and has also allowed significant trials in Eric’s life. In the six months following May 2025, he lost five friends/relatives to tragic death events. Eric confidently states that “God gives us power to overcome and we have our own testimony of how God helped us navigate difficulties. This strengthens us to help others and encourage them through their trials.”

Eric’s living testimony continues as he drinks abundantly of Jesus’ living water. I invite you to intercede with me for Eric to be filled with the Holy Spirit and strengthened to meet present trials. Pray that he will be that spring of living water that Jesus promised in John 7:38. We praise God for another changed and changing life as the Holy Spirit powers the broadcast of Strong Tower Radio!

Put “fun” back into Fundraising!

Here is a new & easy way that you can help us with our fundraising. I like to think of it as free money!! Do you use or buy gift cards? Especially this time of year? We are inviting you to join our gift card fundraising program.

 **RaiseRight.** The RaiseRight organization partners with hundreds of brands. You can choose from eGift cards, physical gift cards, or reloadable gift cards—all with no activation fees or expiration dates. Shop online with 550+ brands, dine at participating restaurants, even buy gas cards or book hotels & car rentals for massive earning potential. Over 50,000 organizations trust RaiseRight as their #1 fundraising platform.

You can also earn from all your online shopping. Log in at [RaiseRight.com](https://www.RaiseRight.com) or the mobile app, then select the Shop Online tab to browse brands, shop directly on their websites, and earn on your purchases.

How it works: Let’s say you purchase a \$100 gift card from a participating brand & in turn they donate a percentage of the gift card cost to Strong Tower Radio, anywhere from 1-14%, sometimes more!! But your gift card is still worth the price you paid. The brand is paying the percentage, similar to what Amazon Smile used to do. That’s why I call it free money!

Use our unique enrollment code **Y2V9HHQ9DXPN** to help us fundraise! Please go to [RaiseRight.com](https://www.RaiseRight.com) & join. Use gift cards that give back, earn anywhere, anytime with everyday purchases. Shop Now!



Jilane Fenner
Host and
Board Member



Tom Mejeur



Our flagship interview program,
Strong Tower Radio Today, airs
Sundays at 5 pm, Mondays at 10 am,
& Wednesdays at 12:01 am.

Good Growing with the Garden Guy begins with a quiz on root crops; followed by the 2026 All-American Selection Winners described as “new flower, vegetable, & herb varieties that offer superior garden performance, flavor, or production in nationwide trials, earning a trusted ‘Tested Nationally & Proven Locally’ seal for home gardeners seeking reliable, high-quality plants that outperform current standards. These varieties excel in disease resistance, unique qualities, & overall appeal, getting awarded after rigorous testing in gardens across North America.”

Creation Animal Care comes to us from the LegaSea Aquarium, in Utica, MI, with Dr. Edyie Hannah and yours truly! We met four exotic mammal species: 2 Capybaras, which are the largest rodent in the world; Lilo, a two-toed Sloth; Stitch, a Binturong (Asian cat bear); & Brillo, a Six-banded Armadillo.

We also visited the McGuffey House Museum (National Historic Landmark) on the campus of Miami University in Oxford, OH. We learned about **The McGuffey Readers**, the most popular American History textbook of the 19th & early 20th centuries.

Strong Tower Radio Feature, airs Sundays at 3:30 am, Mondays at 4 pm, Wednesdays at 9 pm, & Thursdays at 1 pm.

During this time slot we share the testimonies of John Partridge and Joey Ritzema. The week between the testimonies, we learn about the Recovery Church movement, “a growing national network of faith communities designed specifically for individuals in early addiction recovery. The network functions as a “bridge” between traditional 12-step programs (like Alcoholics Anonymous) and the Christian church.”

Finally: please promote your favorite Strong Tower Radio programs in your church, work, & community. Thank you for your love, prayers & financial support😊

Divine Choreography

Just over 1 year ago, my friend Jeff joined the Seventh-day Adventist church through profession of faith, after gaining victory over several life habits that had held him prisoner for years. His journey to that point had started a few years prior, when he tuned in to Strong Tower Radio (STR) from curiosity after passing a yard sign in Grand Rapids. He wanted to be rebaptized, and both of us wanted me to be there to witness it, yet various circumstances kept delaying that joyous event.



**Kam Ferguson,
Development
Director**

Then came Nov 15, when the Ionia church went to Camp Au Sable for the weekend, and I just happened to be staying there in conjunction with a nearby speaking engagement. As I returned to join the Ionia church for lunch that Sabbath afternoon, I heard the last few minutes of pastor Hold's message and appeal for anyone who wanted to be baptized or rebaptized. Jeff raised his hand, and later that afternoon, Pastor Hold baptized him in nearby Lake Shellenbarger.

None of us coordinated ANY of that: Someone else did. I praise God for His master choreography, not only for Jeff's rebaptism and my witnessing it, but also for His choreographing radio listeners connecting with STR! Sometimes it's the ordinary experience of scanning the radio dial and discovering the signal; at other times, it's angelic intervention, such as their radio locking onto an STR signal or their radio dial mysteriously changing to an STR station. For each listener, it occurs when they're seeking truth, hungering for something more, and the Holy Spirit choreographs the next move in response to their faith.

Each of you who prays for and financially supports STR has a part in this experience. **Thank you for persistently investing in eternal riches.** Strong Tower Radio listeners' learning, unlearning, and life-changing decisions take time, and your faithfulness is being written in heaven by the Master choreographer. May your mission-minded life remain a sweet song in His ear through 2026 and beyond!

January 2026

Strong Tower Radio
Ministry News
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StrongTowerRadio.org

231-468-2087

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STR Engagements:

1/10 9:00 a.m.	Kam Ferguson	Mesick Seventh-day Adventist Church
1/10 9:00 a.m.	David Bullock	Marion Seventh-day Adventist Church
1/10 11:00 a.m.	Kam Ferguson	Cadillac Division St. Seventh-day Adventist Church
1/17 10:40 a.m.	Kam Ferguson	Charlotte Seventh-day Adventist Church
1/31 12:15 p.m.	Kam Ferguson	McMillan-Northwoods Seventh-day Adventist Church

**When moving, please contact us with your new address,
231-468-2087 The post office WILL CHARGE
us for each returned and/or forwarded newsletter.**

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