



Lake Union
HERALD

NOVEMBER 2005

...and now a word of
THANKS!



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in this issue...

The Psalms encourage us to enter God's gates with thanksgiving, to sing with thanksgiving, to glorify God with thanksgiving, and to join the festive throng with shouts of joy and thanksgiving.

One of my favorite books in the Bible is Paul's letter to the church in Colosse. Three times in this short letter he encourages the church in thankfulness. We are to overflow with thankfulness, devote ourselves to prayer with thankfulness, and live at peace with one another, being thankful.

So thank you for your suggestions, your prayers, your encouragement; and thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Gary Burns
Gary Burns, Editor



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Count Your BLESSINGS

“**N**ow it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God” (Deut. 28:1, 2 NKJV).

What a precious promise! The natural exchange for blessings is diligent obedience to God. Now that seems easy. There are so many benefits from obeying God, and then He grants bonus blessings because we have obeyed!

When we pause to count our blessings it is true, in the words of our text, that the blessings will “overtake you.” In other words, God pours out blessings in such abundance there is “not room enough to receive them.”

I am actually writing this article on the first anniversary of my cancer surgery. Jackie and I are sitting under palm trees at the South Queensland Camp Meeting outside Brisbane, Australia. Can you put up with me listing my blessings here? I think how blessed I am to have a wonderful, dedicated wife. Think of being helpless and vulnerable with a wife you have not built a good relationship with. Fortunately, we do have a beautiful relationship, and I reaped the blessings.

My children came from across country, one by one, to minister to me and relieve Jackie. Trusted friends served our every need, and went beyond the expected to do extraordinary things for us. My officer corps and staff stepped in to take up the slack and kept our offices running smoothly at the Lake Union.

The local conference presidents, officers, and you wonderful saints showered us with prayers and well-wishes that truly seemed to “overtake us.” And then the Lord raised me up and allowed me to return to the work I love with adequate energy and enthusiasm. His name be praised!

These are tremendous blessings, and I haven't even mentioned God's provision, protection, grace, mercy, patience, love, redemption, and salvation. And add the awesome privilege of working in His vineyard for the salvation of men, and you see that my blessings are truly more than I have room enough to receive.

Pause my brother, my sister, and count your blessings. If you are discouraged or sad, it will be a healing for your attitude.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Indiana **Delight Olson** attended summer camp at Timber Ridge Camp every year for the past several years. Each year response cards are passed out for the campers to complete. These cards provide an opportunity for campers to indicate an interest in Bible studies or baptism. And each year Delight checked the box saying she wanted to be baptized.

Last school year Dave Fish, Spencer pastor, began Bible classes with the students at the Spencer Adventist Christian Elementary School, where Delight just completed the fourth grade. She took the first opportunity to tell the pastor of her desire for baptism. Delight completed the Bible studies and plans were made for her baptism.

On a Sabbath afternoon during the summer, her desire for baptism was granted in a special ceremony at the Timber Ridge Camp lake. Even though the weather was rainy and stormy, there was much rejoicing. Sunshine was on the faces of Delight's friends and family as they witnessed the blessed outcome of the team effort between the summer camp workers, church school, home, and church.



As raindrops fell, Delight Olson (left) was baptized last summer at Timber Ridge Camp, by David Fish, Spencer Church pastor.



Delight Olson (front left) stood with David Fish, Spencer Church pastor, as he prayed before her baptism.

Judith Yeoman, Indiana Conference correspondent, as shared by Sandra Culp, Spencer Church communication leader

Michigan **Joe Rivera** first walked into the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Plymouth, Michigan, in Fall 2004. Dennis Sawyer, a Metropolitan Church member, began to develop a friendship with Joe while he was visiting his neighbor in Westland, Michigan. When Joe showed an interest in spiritual things, Dennis invited him to attend the *Hope for Our Day* evangelistic series already underway.

Joe wanted to attend, but indicated he had no way to get there. Dennis was happy to provide transportation for Joe, even though it meant a one-hour commute each night after a hard day's work. It was nearly midnight by the time Dennis got home.

Dennis had overlooked the external signs that are often barriers for many church goers. To Dennis, Joe had value as one for whom Christ died. He saw Joe through God's eyes. It was Christ's compassion that moved him to care for this young man whose father died when he was only one year old, whose baby sister died in her crib, whose older sister was raped and murdered by an acquaintance, and whose mother suffered from HIV.

Because he was the primary care-giver for his mother, Joe's attendance at school was sporadic. Circumstances led him to homeless shelters and foster homes. To get away from his nightmare in Detroit, Joe even considered moving to Los Angeles to join his older brother, who was involved in the occult. Yet, with all his grief, misery, and temptations, by God's grace Joe remained out of trouble and spiritually open.

As Joe attended the meetings, his heart was drawn to accept Christ through the invitations given by Robert Stewart, Metropolitan Church pastor. Each time an invitation was given, Joe responded. Robert was sensitive to Joe's sincerity, realizing that he had much to learn. And God provided a loving community of friends to help him in the process.

Within a very short time, Joe became endeared to the Sawyer family, the pastor and his wife Sandi, and several other members of the Metropolitan Church. They knew something had to be done about Joe's living arrangement; moving to Los Angeles was not an option. It quickly became a matter of prayer.

One Sabbath afternoon, during a meeting of Metropolitan's spiritual guardianship group, Sandi shared Joe's situation. She hoped someone would take Joe into their home, but one member had an even better idea. Why not send Joe to Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA)? Someone volunteered to sponsor him and in a short time Joe was



Joe Rivera

enrolled and living at GLAA. The transformation Christ had made in Joe's life helped him feel perfectly at home with the other students and staff.

Joe's love for Jesus deepened during his time at GLAA and he looked forward to being baptized at his Metropolitan Church home at the end of the school year. It became a welcome reality for Joe and his new church family on June 4, 2005.

Joe still faces many struggles and uncertainties, but he now has a relationship with Jesus, walking by faith and trusting in his Savior each step of the way. One way Jesus has been leading Joe has been through the Magabook program. Joe was busy knocking on doors this past summer, selling Spirit-filled literature and cheerfully telling others how Jesus transformed his life.

Joy Hyde, Metropolitan Church communication secretary

Illinois As Alan "Jake" Wyse entered the water of the Nippersink Creek from the dock at the home of Jerry and Jacque Weiland, on Sabbath, August 6, members of the Crystal Lake Adventist Fellowship rejoiced and recounted their journey to this special occasion.

"Last year," recalled Dennis Fox, "while the kids played together after potluck each Sabbath at the Elgin Church, adults discussed many topics. None seemed as satisfying as those about outreach. What could we do to fulfill the gospel commission in neighboring McHenry County?" The group knew the history of the church in the county. Three evangelistic series were conducted there over the past 15 years or so, and yet a church had not been planted. It seemed that because of the ever-increasing population, God was calling them to action.

Encouraged when Ken Denslow, Illinois Conference president, committed to be their guest speaker for a series of meetings, Gabriel Bardan, pastor, helped the group organize the meetings. The group believed this would be a fine start, but also knew evangelism involves much more than bringing people into the church. People must connect and become family.

One of the first to attend the series was Jake. When members of the Elgin, Gurnee, Forest Glenn, and Elmhurst churches began to meet each Sabbath at the Country Inn

and Suites, Jake came, too, along with his wife Rhonda and two children, Tevin and Alexi. Each of the 29 charter members were delighted when they were officially organized into a company earlier this year, with Jerry Weiland as their head elder.

"Jake soon assumed one of our group's most visible roles," reports Jerry's wife, Jacque. "As greeter each week, he handed out the bulletin. Jake called it the 'Menu,'" Jacque

explained. "It is what our group does in its order of service each week, serves up a great selection of spiritual food."

The group continued to witness through more Bible studies and a consistent worship schedule. Members of the Elgin Church for many, many years, Dennis explained, "At first, my wife and I felt like we were playing hooky from our church. Now, however, we believe this group is our home ... our mission in fellowship."

"Coming to church each Sabbath," stated Jake when he gave his testimony, "is like going to a family reunion. The hospitality of everyone here is just terrific." It is ironic that Jake should say this. In distributing the "Menu" each Sabbath, he is one element of hospitality in an unentered county.

There are many unentered counties in Illinois, no doubt in the entire Lake Union Conference. According to Webster's dictionary, playing hooky means the act of running away, to play truant. The question is this ... just where will you choose to play hooky this Sabbath?

Rachel Terwilligar, Illinois Conference and Broadview Academy development director



Jake Wyse (left) was the first person baptized by Gabriel Bardan, pastor, (right) as a result of the ministry of the Crystal Lake Adventist Fellowship.



Jake Wyse was baptized in Nippersink Creek, at the home of Jerry and Jacque Weiland. His family celebrated with him. From left (back): Rhonda and Jake Wyse; (front) Tevin and Alexi Wyse.

Photos by Rachel Terwilligar

What If It Was You?

HURRICANE VICTIMS AIDED BY ILLINOIS YOUNG PEOPLE

BY RACHEL TERWILLEGAR

Steve Harkins was one of four Broadview Academy students who visited the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina just days after it passed through Biloxi, Mississippi. “Trees were knocked down on power lines, on houses, and all over the highway. Small towns were wiped out. The area looked like a war zone. There was no doubt Katrina made her way through here,” he stated.



Broadview Academy students joined a group from Andrews University on a mission trip to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina. From left (back): Sarah Crowder, Lizzette Marchan, Steve Harkins; (front): Marc Nacker

“The worst part was there was no power, water, food, gasoline, or basic supplies. I saw with my own eyes homeless families, helpless little kids, and old women walking by the road. Women with babies and pregnant women waited in hot cars all day long, just to

get some food and a taste of water,” Steve remembers.

Seeing the devastated lives caused Steve to reflect about the world he lives in. “People are wrapped up in their own lives. What do I have? How do I look? are questions they ask. There are people starving—people who don’t know where they are going to sleep tonight. The world can be a

better place if we help those in need. After all, what if it was you?” Steve asks.

Lizzette Marchan was also impacted by the trip. She wrote in her journal, “The closer we got to our destination, I kept wondering what more could we possibly see. I was shocked with what I saw at Bass Memorial Academy. The campus was a mess.”

“Even though it was made of brick, there was a huge hole in the wall of the gym,” recalled Sarah Crowder. “I was



The hurricane left a hole in the academy’s gymnasium.

shocked at all the destruction.” Students soon learned that the gym was where they would be staying.

“I usually complain if I miss a meal, or if it’s too hot or cold in my house. These people lost everything—their houses, their family, and their whole life. Yet, they were still happy and grateful for what little they had. ... We started working immediately,” Marc Nacker wrote. On Marc’s third day he helped distribute food. All the people he helped had stories to tell. One man told about a tree that had fallen on his house. Now he, his pregnant wife, and twelve children are living in a tent. He told Marc, “You guys are a direct blessing from God.”

Steve looked for blessings on the trip, but saw none. He says, “It was when I returned to my dorm room and saw my warm, dry bed, my clean clothes, and my computer that it dawned on me just how much I take for granted. I really didn’t believe in miracles from prayer, but I knew all we ate or drank that weekend was a result of prayer. How could water and food for thousands end up at a school miles from a highway, in a town that is not on most maps?”

The trip changed the students’ lives; it brought them closer to Christ. “We took care of about 5,000 people daily,” reported Steve. “It really made me think about Jesus feeding the 5,000.”

Rachel Terwillegar is the Illinois Conference and Broadview Academy development director.





Disaster Response Volunteers Respond After Hurricane Katrina Hit

BY LEEANN HEINERT

Our trip down to New Iberia, Louisiana, with the Michigan mobile kitchen, two motor homes, and communications trailer, started with only our schedule in mind. It ended on God's timetable with many miracles along the way. Like being delayed because of a broken propane tank, but making friends with several people trying to help us. Like being delayed, staying in a motel we hadn't planned on, and having a man donate \$400 to us in the lobby. He said, "I know you folks do good work, just take it." Or having a wonderful sharing time with the motel clerk about our great God. Or breaking down and being towed to an RV service center whose entire staff was so helpful we ended up taking pictures of everyone before we left. We may have arrived a few days later than we wished, but I think we were right on time in God's mind.

When we arrived at the warehouse in New Iberia, 60 miles west of New Orleans, we found an old Wal-Mart converted into a warehouse. Think about your local Wal-Mart completely empty—it's pretty big! The warehouse opened on Tuesday after Labor Day and we arrived on Thursday. It was five percent full, but by the following Tuesday it was over sixty percent full. Semi-trucks filled with all kinds of donated goods roll in an average of five to nine times daily. Some donations are stacked neatly on pallets, others are just piles of things people pushed into a semi. That's when the sorting, boxing, and inventory happens—including diapers, clothes, cleaning supplies, bedding, canned foods, bottled water, and gas generators. As of September 19, about 30 shipments were made to different shelters and organizations needing supplies.

Some of our team worked in the office and warehouse. In the mobile kitchen, we kept busy providing three meals a day for volunteers and also fed truck drivers and anyone else around at mealtime.

The neatest thing about working in an operation like this is the great people you meet. Your family grows as

you meet brothers and sisters in Christ from around the country. Arkansas, California, Idaho, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington were some of the places represented by the volunteers.

A special person working there is Cindy, an Adventist from St. Bernard's Parish, just east of New Orleans. She and several family members lost homes in the storm. Cindy is staying in New Iberia and came to volunteer. She heard about the warehouse and said she wanted to help others.

I was at the local laundromat and talked with a man who lived through Katrina. He said when the eye of the storm passed and the back-wall of the storm hit, the water rose into his house two to three feet in 20 minutes. He was grateful to God all his family is safe.

This is the reason I volunteer in disaster response, having the privilege to talk with people like that and to feel like I helped them in some small way.

LeeAnn Heinert is a Michigan Conference disaster response team member from Kalamazoo, Michigan.



The Wal-Mart in New Iberia, La., donated their old store for a warehouse. This 150,000-sq.-foot facility is very much appreciated by everyone involved.



The mayor of a town in Tennessee (in red shirt) carried a big load of food items from the truck filled with supplies his village sent to help with the disaster in New Orleans. Everyone seems to be pitching in to help.



Materials arrive at the warehouse in boxes which have been incorrectly labeled. Roland Joles (yellow shirt) and other volunteers repackage materials and label them properly so they can be disbursed more efficiently.



FAMILY TIES

IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT YOU!

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

When I turn on my computer and log onto the Internet, the words flash before me, “It’s you, you, you, it’s always about you!” Why, I can have 160,000 content choices on my log-on page! There’s also a chance I can win \$100,000. Well, count my blessings!

Walgreens is doing kids a “flavor.” Parents can order their medicines in twelve different fruit flavors. Wow! I just saw a commercial that lets kids know their daily multi-vitamin now comes in bubblegum. Should we count our blessings that medicine can not only taste good but be in the flavor of my choice? Shall we count our blessings our children don’t need to know the truth that all of life is not sweet?

My daughter was telling me she noticed her kids looking for just the right kind of yogurt at the grocery store. It wasn’t their favorite brand or flavor they were looking for, it was the yogurt that promised the allure of winning a prize.

So, if the Internet says it, the pharmacy says it, TV says it, the grocery store, and who-all-else says it, could it be God really meant it to be all about me?

What a challenge in this self-centered world to not play into the general attitude and patterns of self-centeredness, revolving our lives around what we convince ourselves will make us happy.

It is human nature to act out of self-preservation, to express and promote ourselves the ways we feel like. While as Christians we may say, “Those are the ways of the world, not how I am.” But don’t we wonder what people are thinking of us, promote ourselves by dropping names, singing loudly, dressing up to look classy, or dressing down to look cool? Don’t we let people know how well our children are doing and sometimes share our burdens in self-promoting ways?

A great challenge for individuals and families today is to live real lives in this real

world. So, where do we find balance between being real and celebrating the wonders of technology and modern society, expressing ourselves as individuals, and yet living in ways that are not self-promoting?

I think the answer is wonder. Writer Thomas Gordon had an old psychiatrist friend, Smiley Blanton, who believed wonder, or these flashes of awareness of the marvelous world we live in, are of enormous importance in determining one’s outlook on life. He believed wonder is the basis of worship. “If you’re feeling lost or lonely or confused, let wonder open your mind to the ultimate

scheme of things so comprehensive, so marvelously constructed, so generous in terms of beauty that your main response should be gratitude for being a part of it.”¹

The prize (much better than the one we might get from buying the right yogurt) is in the wonder, not on the Internet or at the pharmacy, or deciding I have a right to do and say as I like! The real prize is in realizing that the “You, you, you, it’s always about you” is about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, not about you or me! Let’s count our blessings!



Susan Murray is an associate professor of family studies who teaches behavioral science and social work at Andrews University. She is a certified family life educator and licensed marriage and family therapist.

1. Gordon, Arthur. *Return to Wonder*. Tennessee: Broadman and Holman, 1996.

Java BUZZ

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Caffeine is considered a psychoactive drug that can lead to dependency.



We live in a fast-paced society—fast cars, fast computers, and fast food. Anyone who is not pumped may be considered dull or boring. Many people get themselves artificially revved up with the use of caffeine-containing beverages such as coffee, tea, and cola beverages.

About one in five adult Americans consumes over 350 mg of caffeine per day, a level sufficient to produce dependency. A five-ounce cup of coffee contains between 60 and 150 mg of caffeine while a cup of tea has 35 to 60 mg, depending upon the methods of preparation and the strength of the brew. A cola beverage typically contains 30 to 55 mg of caffeine per 12-ounce can, while the new caffeinated beverages such as Surge, Jolt, and Water Joe all contain a little more and are intended to provide a cerebral buzz.

Caffeine produces a cluster of adverse effects.

Caffeine is considered a psychoactive drug since it stimulates the central nervous system and alters mood. Physiological effects may be experienced in adults after as little as one cup of coffee or two cans of cola. Unfortunately, caffeine has a variety of adverse physiological effects. The unnatural stimulation or high of caffeine is normally followed by a low or depression.

Other adverse effects of caffeinated beverages include insomnia and disruption of sleep patterns; tremors, restlessness, and irritability; headaches; elevation of blood pressure and/or serum cholesterol levels; irregular heartbeats and palpitations, and increased risk of cardiac arrhythmia and heart attack; increased gastric acid production, aggravation of peptic ulcers, and increased heartburn; increased symptoms of Pre-

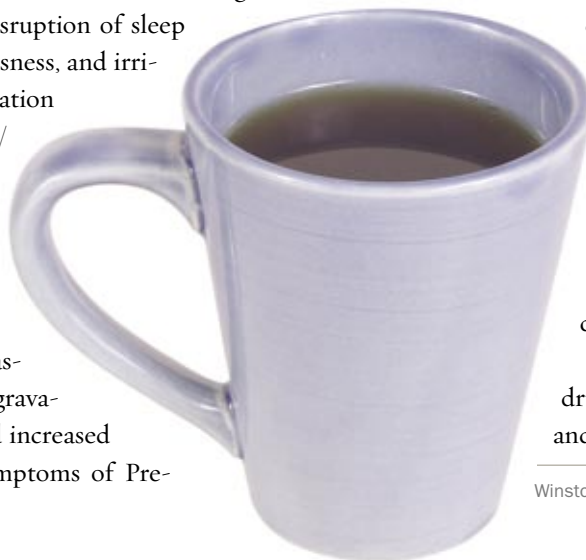
menstrual Syndrome (PMS); increased risk of bladder and rectal cancer; and increased urinary calcium losses.

Drinking one or more cups of coffee per day increases interleukin 6, C-reactive protein, and serum homocysteine levels, all considered risk factors for cardiovascular disease. The use of coffee and tea also reduces iron absorption by 40 to 60 percent, thereby increasing the risk of anemia.

Caffeine causes a worsening of fine motor coordination due to an increase in hand and arm tremors.

Children are drinking excessive amounts of cola beverages and many manifest hyperactive behavior typical of caffeinism. A young child consuming two cans of cola may receive a caffeine jolt equivalent to an adult having eight cups of coffee.

Caffeine is considered an addictive drug. Its regular use can lead to dependency and may lead to the use of stronger drugs.



Winston Craig is professor of nutrition at Andrews University.



EXTREME GRACE

Million Dollar PRAYERS

BY DICK DUERKSEN

Josh and Troy are teenagers. Eager and foolish. Superheroes emerging from phone booths. But, sailors they are not. Imagining new adventures, they leapt into the boat anyway, raised the sail, and headed from the Carolinas toward Spain. Then the riptide found them and changed their lives. They waved to friends on the beach, frantically. The friends waved back, thinking the fellows were having a great sail. They waved harder, terrified now as the tide overwhelmed their sailing skills. Certain they would be lost if they stayed in the boat, they jumped into the Atlantic and swam toward shore.

Even teenage superheroes are no match for a Carolina riptide.

The boat went its way, and they went elsewhere. Drifting far off where shouting “HELP!” is useless. Where horizons have no land. Alone in the vast ocean. Remembering *Castaway*. Wishing for Wilson.

No food. No water. No SPF32. Just “water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink.”

Five days passed and their parents began funeral plans. Six days passed before the call came from a distant fishing boat. “We have two boys, and they’re alive!”

America’s omnipresent reporters shouted questions toward the boys when they arrived at the fishing dock. “How did you survive?” “What did you think about?” “Were you worried about dying?” “What was it like?” They got superhero answers.

“We prayed,” they said. “We just prayed every day. We prayed earnestly. We prayed for our lives. We prayed for



our families. We prayed to get home.”

“... And God answered.”

Sometimes I forget what’s important and I pray quick, short, common, un-thought-through, empty prayers. “Two-bit prayers,” one of my wise friends calls them.

But sometimes, like Troy and Josh, I pray million-dollar prayers, EARNEST prayers! Like I’m in an intense personal conversation with someone I love,

someone who is leaning forward and concentrating on every word I think and say. Like this is the most important conversation of my day, and my week. Like this may be the most significant moment of my life!

I feel like I’m talking rescue with the True Superhero.

“I am with you,” He offers, “to rescue and save you” (Jeremiah 15:20).

Dick Duerksen is an assistant vice president for mission development at Florida Hospital



Friends in Deed

BY ANN FISHER

As evidenced in the life of Jesus, Adventists believe God is just as interested in the physical and emotional needs of women, men, and children as He is in their spiritual needs.

In Jesus' parable in Matthew 25, He welcomes the righteous into His kingdom with these words: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Then Jesus explains that when we minister to the least of His earthly children, we are ministering to Him.

Adventist welfare ministry is almost as old as the church itself. In 1874, the first Dorcas and Benevolent Association was formed in Battle Creek, Michigan. Its work and name were inspired by the biblical Dorcas (Tabitha) who "was always doing good and helping the poor" (Acts 9:36). Eight women became charter members under the leadership of Martha Amadon, daughter of John Byington, the first General Conference president. Their activities included making clothes, quilts, and supplying food for needy families; caring for the fatherless and widows; and ministering to the sick.

Other Adventist churches followed their example, and Dorcas societies spread all across America and eventually around the world. Every church was encouraged to organize a Dorcas Welfare Society. Recognizing a federation of local societies could accomplish more by combining resources, the first Dorcas Welfare Federation was formed in 1934 by Chicago-area churches.

Today, the Adventist Church operates two humanitarian agencies—Adventist Community Services (ACS), which operates within the United States and Bermuda, and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), an international agency specifically established for community development and disaster response. Adventist Community Services meets people's immediate needs through social services such as tutoring and mentoring programs, youth volunteer corps, health screening education and assistance, inner-city missions, and disaster response.

ADRA works in developing countries to improve the quality of life for those in need through community development initiatives targeting food security, economic development, primary health, and basic education. ADRA's emergency management initiatives provide aid to disaster survivors. ADRA is currently one of the leading non-governmental relief organizations in the world. In 1997 the agency was granted General Consultative Status by the United Nations, a unique opportunity giving ADRA added voice in the international community. In 2004 it assisted nearly 24 million people with more than US\$159 million in aid. More than 4,000 ADRA staff members currently work in 125 countries.¹

Wherever disaster strikes, one or both of these Adventist agencies will be there providing food, shelter, medical assistance, and other basic needs. Each one of us can help by becoming involved in our local ACS chapters, by volunteering for disaster relief, by donating much-needed funds, and by praying for these agencies and the people they serve.

For more information on the Adventist Church's involvement in the Katrina and Rita hurricane disasters and what you can do to help, go to www.adra.org and www.adventist.communityservices.org, or call (877) ACS-2702.

Ann Fisher writes from Walla Walla, Washington.

1. ADRA information is taken from the ADRA website: www.adra.org.

Supper Club Fosters Friendships

BY JOY HYDE

What can we do to keep people from the community coming to the church after a successful seminar? This question was pondered by Leona Bakewell, Metropolitan (Mich.) Church health and temperance leader, during a very successful Lifestyle Matters *Simple Solutions* seminar held there in April 2004. As many as 80 people attended *Simple Solutions*; Leona wanted a program to sustain the interest shown in the Adventist health message. She also desired for them to become familiar with biblical truths taught by her church.

Leona asked attendees, "Would any of you be interested in having a Supper Club once a month in which we could try different recipes that we like, and make them healthy and veggie?" Leona says, "The answer was an overwhelming 'Yes!' by 75 people."



Supper Club attendees enjoy vegetarian casseroles, salads, and fellowship at the Metropolitan Church.

basis. Guests pitch in and help when the Supper Club get-together is finished.

Leona says, "I have had the opportunity to share our wonderful health ideas with my newfound friends, and they have been able to share their

Leona sends monthly announcements to former *Simple Solutions* seminar attendees, inviting them to come to the Supper Club. Attendees are invited to bring a vegetarian dish in a specific category designated for the month. Categories have included beans/legumes, foods of color, pasta, salad dishes, sauces, toppings, soups, breakfasts, picnic food, casseroles, and desserts.

Every Supper Club includes supper, followed by a short lecture or video related to the category of the month. For the first four months in 2005, *Food for Thought*, the second phase of the Lifestyle Matters program, was presented. There was a demonstration given on making gluten and baking bread a couple of nights.

The Supper Club has been one of the most successful, monthly-recurring community outreach programs ever conducted at the church. An average of fifteen guests attend every month, but attendance has been as high as 30. The guests have become very comfortable and familiar with the members of the church and everyone is on a first name

ideas with me. As a team, we have built a trust and now have the opportunity to share our faith in an open forum that is not threatening." Leona experienced the depth of their friendship when they supported and prayed for her after a very serious accident hospitalized her for 12 days.

Sandi Stewart, Metropolitan Church Bible worker, says usually twice as many guests as church members attend the Supper Club. The guests come regularly and invite their friends, too. Sandi adds, "It is a wonderful place to bring my Bible study people. I even have one student that had quit studying that attends the Supper Club. We get into the spiritual as well as the physical and no one seems to mind. I will be offering an opportunity for 'free' study guides one of these nights and will pass them around for people to look at."

One regularly-attending lady, who has taken Bible studies, stated, "Everybody is so friendly. It feels like family."

Yes, it is God's family learning more about the bounties He has provided.

Joy Hyde is the Metropolitan (Mich.) Church communication secretary.





Tenedlos en alta estima

POR CARMELO MERCADO

El pasado mes de junio asistí al campstre de la Asociación de Michigan donde tuve el privilegio de presenciar un servicio de ordenación al ministerio. Me resultó muy interesante notar que había varios pastores hispanos jóvenes que fueron ordenados. Al leer las biografías de estos jóvenes me interesó mucho la historia del llamado al ministerio de Denis Sand.

Denis estaba en su último año de estudios en una escuela secundaria adventista en Argentina y tenía planes de entrar a la universidad para estudiar ingeniería química. Sin embargo, ese mismo año escolar, al escuchar los mensajes presentados durante la semana de oración, sintió el toque del Espíritu Santo. Denis ayunó, oró y le pidió a Dios que le ayudara a saber qué era lo que debía hacer. Al final de esa semana escuchó el claro llamado de Dios para ser un ministro del evangelio. El llamado fue algo inesperado porque nunca había pensado seguir esa carrera.



Denis y Ingrid Sand

Cuando aceptó el llamado de Dios, Denis le pidió sólo una cosa: que quería ser un pastor feliz.

Al presenciar la ordenación de Denis comencé a reflexionar en lo que es la vida de un pastor. La obra del pastor no es como otros tipos de empleo. El pastor trabaja por lo general entre 45 y 60 horas por semana y realiza una variedad de tareas. Trabaja como consejero, evangelista, maestro, obrero bíblico, dirigente de juntas, planificador de finanzas, dirigente en construcción o remodelación de templos, etc. Está presente en ocasiones de bautismos, bodas, funerales, y en momentos de enfermedad.

En 1 Tesalonicenses 5:12 vemos que hemos de tener en mucha estima a aquellos quienes trabajan arduamente entre nosotros. El apóstol Pablo dejó ejemplo para los pastores de lo que es trabajar para la iglesia. En sus cartas se puede ver que

en todo tiempo mantuvo sus ojos fijos en Cristo. En más de cuarenta versículos Pablo se refiere al gozo y cómo hemos de regocijarnos en el Señor. No hay duda que Pablo se sentía feliz al trabajar en el ministerio. Mi pregunta es: ¿Qué fue lo que lo mantuvo gozoso en su ministerio? Pablo lo explica en palabras muy sencillas: “Hermanos, orad por nosotros”. (1 Tes. 5:25)

En estos días finales de la historia nuestros pastores necesitan más que nunca nuestras oraciones. Encomiendo a los hermanos que durante este mes

de agradecimiento se acerquen a su pastor y le expresen su agradecimiento por lo que él está haciendo y le digan que están orando por él para que pueda mantenerse fiel y feliz en su sagrada labor.

RETIRO DE JÓVENES PROGRAMADO PARA EL 11-13 DE NOVIEMBRE La Unión del Lago invita a todos los jóvenes hispanos a que asistan a ENCUENTRO, un retiro de jóvenes que se llevará a cabo del 11 al 13 de noviembre en el campamento Grace Adventures, un lindo campamento en Mears, Michigan. El costo para el fin de semana es \$75, lo cual cubre el hospedaje, las comidas y una camiseta. Para más información llame a la oficina de Carmelo Mercado, vicepresidente de la Unión, al teléfono (269) 473-8249.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente general de la Unión del Lago.



SHARE THE LIGHT

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

BY DIANE THURBER

The Radisson hotel buzzed with anticipation and excitement. Smiling faces were everywhere as friends from near and far greeted one another. Over 800 individuals registered for *Share the Light*, including young people from Lake Union academies, Andrews University, and church youth groups.

The convention opened with five young people providing worship in song. Walter Wright, Lake Union president, remarked, “When we’ve got young people like this committed to the Lord, Jesus Christ, I’m not worried about a thing. We’re going places!” He added, “Let’s put them to work.”

Planners for the convention were intentional about showing the diversity in our membership. Songs were sung in Spanish, prayers were offered in a variety of languages, and radios provided translation for Hispanic members.



Ray Young, Lake Region communication director, and the Ypsilanti Church media team, provided video projection during the general sessions and archived the messages at www.ypsisda.com.

Rudy Micelli, a Brazilian-born vocal artist from Morningsong, warmed the hearts of many individuals throughout the weekend as they contemplated the Christ-focused messages of his songs.

As Roscoe Howard, North American Division secretary, shared the compelling story of his strained relationship with his father, and the healing and restoration he found through his heavenly Father, he brought tears to the eyes of many. Roscoe challenged listeners to press toward the goal—eternal life—emphasizing that means forgiving and forgetting some of the challenges faced and surrendering to the Lord's will.

Ron Smith, *Message* magazine editor, shared his personal testimony of finding healing from a ministry mindset that left him debilitated from stress and the desire to achieve. Smith reminded listeners to share the great things God has done for them.

It was difficult to select which seminars to attend among the many practical and personal growth presentations offered. Many seminars filled to standing room only. Some individuals stood in the hall or pulled up chairs outside



Rudy Micelli's music blessed everyone.



This young lady was one of the youngest attendees at Share the Light.

the room and strained to hear the messages spoken inside.

A rich line-up of speakers reached the hearts of young people. Lance Micheleau, a youth Bible worker, attended a seminar led by Brad Smith and Brad Bolejack, young men who shared their experiences preaching. Micheleau remarked, "While they shared the ways in which they went about their evangelistic meetings, they pushed us to think about doing them ourselves. It was truly encouraging to me, and to others I am sure, to see these youth, our peers, going out with trust in God to help finish this work and encouraging others to do the same."

Saturday evening José Rojas, North American Division volunteer and young adult ministries director, inspired attendees with his animated account of the Gideon story. He reminded those present, "If you are faithful, everything your hand touches will flourish." He added, "Go home, pick up your pitcher, hold your candle of grace high, and sound your shofar for the glory of the Lord ... then break your pitcher when the time is right." As Rojas sang a call of dedication, people pressed toward the front of the auditorium, moved by his challenge. In the quietness of the moment, just before prayer, a lone voice

near the back of the auditorium cried out passionately, "Yes, Jesus! Thank you, Jesus!" reminding everyone present of their Great Gift.

SHARE THE LIGHT RESPONSES

“When I found out about the training that we were going to receive, I never thought it was going to be so amazing. Just being there, around people my age who had the same goal—winning people to Christ—was such a blessing. I came back to school on a wonderful high from the experience I had.”

Samantha Sawyer, Great Lakes Adventist Academy senior

“I believe the Holy Spirit’s mark on these meetings was in the conviction that fell upon men, women, and children that this work needs to be done, and we are privileged to do it.”

Ron Kelly, Cicero (Ind.) Church senior pastor

“I attended the sessions with the pastors and every one of the presenters was a blessing. This was the first time I saw material Walter and Jackie Wright presented and it is great stuff! I am planning to get hold of the material and present it to the pastors! That was especially noteworthy.”

Loren Nelson, Michigan Conference ministerial director

“I have realized that one reason why I was immensely blessed was that a group of Adventists have come together and were supporting each other. I really could feel the Holy Spirit while we were there. A thank you to all who made it possible for my group to come! Your support will turn the campuses into lighthouses for God.”

Ashlee Chism, Indiana Academy senior

“I know that my vision was too small as it relates to these types of events. I recall saying again and again, ‘I should have brought a bus load’; ‘I should have asked every department leader to encourage one person to come’; or, ‘The whole church needs to experience this!’ ... [At] previous conventions, I sent the people (four participants), but this one I brought the people (21 participants, including myself). I caught a vision of what it meant to bring them and [not] simply send them.”

Ralph Shelton, Conant Gardens (Detroit) Church senior pastor

“It was a very inspiring weekend. I learned so much from the presenters. It fueled my excitement about evangelism, and encouraged me in my faith. It was a wonderful experience for me and I really was blessed.”

Michelle Roderick, Great Lakes Adventist Academy junior

“Although I did not know exactly what to expect, *Share the Light* gave me more than I could have hoped for. ... I was encouraged that the church (the people) are wanting to rise to even greater heights in their walk with God and wanting to be more effective as a movement.”

Lance C. Michleau, Fox Valley (Wis.) Church youth Bible worker

“I answered the phone early one morning and was glad I did. It was a call from one of our pastors who had taken a group of seven people to the *Share the Light* church ministries convention that very weekend. He excitedly and enthusiastically related to me what a blessing the weekend had been for both him and his members. They had learned so much and knew that this not only benefitted them spiritually, but would positively impact their church also. Everyone I talked to since, as well as my own experience as a participant of this event, expressed the exact same sentiments. This weekend was a great spiritual blessing to all and will positively impact our entire Union!”

Peter Neri, Indiana Conference ministerial director



Convention attendees visited a variety of booths with resources for church growth.

Sunday morning Frank Gonzalez, *La Voz* speaker/director, urged attendees to understand they have the fullness of God when they invite the Holy Spirit into their lives. He emphasized, “Believe you can have what the Bible says you can have.”



Ray and Debbie Young and their volunteer crew made it possible to place the video of the general sessions on the Web.

Walter Wright, Lake Union president, concluded the prayer breakfast with the remarks, “I’m celebrating already what God is going to do in this Union territory. ... This weekend is a reminder God is on the throne and He is most powerful.” Wright challenged each academy and church to conduct an evangelistic series before April 1, 2006.

Ralph Shelton, Conant Gardens (Detroit) Church senior pastor, expressed, “We departed from the convention galvanized to get out and tell someone that Jesus is coming again, soon!” He continued, “Scripture says, ‘I will pour my spirit upon all flesh,’ and this was certainly evident at the *Share the Light* convention. The electricity was in the air, the participation of every conference was evident as never before, with attendees from each academy, the university, Illinois, Indiana, Lake Region, Michigan, and Wisconsin.”

Shelton sums it up best when he said, “Satan can not stop the power of the Holy Spirit. It is my prayer that the power surge that has begun in the Lake Union is a fire that will spread across North America.”

Diane Thurber is the *Lake Union Herald* managing editor.

GRATEFUL HEARTS & CARING NEIGHBORS

WITNESSING CHRIST'S SPIRIT IN HURRICANE KATRINA'S AFTERMATH

BY BEVERLY STOUT AND JOSE VAZQUEZ

Many of us have seen the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf States. As I watched the news-casts played before and after the storm, there was an inner conviction we must do something to relieve the suffering and loss many thousands experienced.

The Indiana Conference community services and disaster response leadership team began to mobilize disaster teams and laid out plans to help from Indiana. Conference administrators also responded by suggesting we collect a special offering in our churches. The response has been overwhelming. After two special offerings were collected, church treasurers notified the conference that at least \$41,000 was donated for relief efforts.

On Tuesday, September 6, Jerry Higgs, a pastor, Mike Hughes, Paul Fruth, and I drove to an Adventist disaster warehouse in Louisiana, more than a thou-



Hotel guests in Texas received blankets, clothes, and personal care kits, distributed by Indiana's disaster leadership team and others.



Kathryn Ratliff and José Vazquez pause for a photo with a hotel guest (Hurricane Katrina victim) who appreciated the supplies offered her.



Paul Fruth, a member from the Noblesville (Ind.) Church, helped deliver supplies to the Adventist warehouse in New Iberia, La.

sand miles away, to deliver 954 blankets and close to 600 personal care kits. While we were there we helped unload several truckloads of supplies. The days were long and the hours full of activity, but we were glad to be the hands of Jesus to bring relief to the people.

The relief efforts will continue for several months to come. We set up a warehouse to collect donated items in Cicero, Indiana, and collection operations continued at the warehouse until September 25. Many churches across the state conducted food drives in their communities and the response has been overwhelming.

One day Randy Barr, a young man from Columbus, Indiana, called and said, "We must do something. I want to collect items needed and take them down there." The Columbus community responded in a marvelous way. Someone donated the use of a truck. Another person got in contact with the



Sarah Stout, fifth and sixth grade teacher at Cicero Adventist Elementary, mobilized her students to collect funds for the hurricane victims.

local country radio station and they ran advertising spots free of charge. In a matter of 24 hours, more than 20 tons of water and diapers were collected! So, on Saturday, September 3, three truckloads of water and diapers were delivered to the fairgrounds in Jackson, Mississippi, where many evacuees were housed.

Jeff Smith, a Fort Wayne Church member who works for Triple Crown trucking company, made arrangements to bring the supplies to our warehouse. He also contacted his company to deliver the supplies that we collect to the effected states for a very reasonable amount. Volunteers from the church set up a semi at a local mall and ran ads on the radio and newspapers. They collected close to 100,000 pounds of much-needed supplies. I had the distinct privilege to meet the team from Ft. Wayne when they came to drop off the supplies at the warehouse.

Many Indiana schools are participating in fund drives and food drives in their communities. There is a spirit of service that has taken hold in our schools and churches. Sarah Stout, fifth and sixth grade teacher at Cicero Adventist Elementary, mobilized her class to go door to door for donations. They were able to fill over 60 grocery bags with needed items in a short amount of time.

Indiana's leadership team participated in the North American Division's disaster response coordinator's meeting in Dallas, Texas. We were surprised to find many of the hotel guests were actually evacuees from New Orleans. They were there with just the clothes on their back. We were moved as we listened to their stories. We offered prayers and hugs, but one of our own coordinators, Kathryn Ratliff, was inspired to do something more. She said, "Why not bring the disaster truck from the Texas depot with blankets, clothes, and personal care kits to them?" We made arrangements with hotel management, and the next

day the disaster truck was brought in and close to 100 people were helped.

In the days ahead there will be many opportunities to serve, not only here in our state, but also in the effected states. Several hundred individuals have moved into our communities. This presents an opportunity to help them. There will be opportunities to go as volunteers and serve in warehouses and distribution centers.

The North American Division will embark on the most ambitious plan yet to make a difference in the lives of people. "We must go beyond just providing food and supplies. We must provide a tangible impact in their lives through our churches," urged Sung Kwon, North American Division Community Services executive director.

Three strong entities in our church are partnering to make a huge impact in the effected communities. Maranatha International, Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries, and Adventist Community Services are joining forces to help rebuild churches and the houses in the immediate vicinity of those churches. Contact one of these organizations to learn how you can become involved.

I leave you with the words of Jesus, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28). All of these disasters are just reminders Jesus is coming soon. Let us serve while we have the opportunity until He comes.

José Vazquez is the Indiana Conference community services and disaster relief director.

On Thursday, September 1, an equipment truck, a van, and two busloads packed with almost 100 students, faculty, and staff from Andrews University, Andrews Academy, Broadview Academy, and Great Lakes Academy drove the 20 hours to Bass Memorial Academy in Lumberton, Mississippi. They were filled with desire to do something to bring relief to the thousands left behind to pick up the pieces of their lives in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. With media flashing images of devastation and depression—a city under water, whole neighborhoods flattened to the ground, looting, people desperately searching for food, the horrors of life in the Superdome, and shootings over bags of ice—we didn't know what we would find when we arrived. Every mile we drove further south, the worse the countryside began to look, the weaker our cell phone signals grew, and the rarer became our chance to purchase gas.

Originally asked to help repair and clean up the academy grounds, our group, as well as a crew of 40 students and five faculty and staff from Southern Adventist University,

ended up doing much more. Joining forces with Adventist Community Team Services (ACTS), we went into the surrounding community to distribute water and food, worked in one of two mobile soup kitchens, unloaded semi-trucks full of donated food and water, and performed a variety of other tasks.

The devastation and depression experienced by the rural communities of Lumberton and Purvis, Mississippi, were heart-breaking. Cars lined up for over a mile each morning, waiting to drive through the distribution line based on the Bass campus, where community members' car trunks were stuffed full of canned goods, baby food, water, toiletries, and other basics that had suddenly become luxuries. Thousands waited in line for a hot meal served up from one of two mobile soup kitchens. But, as I served up spoonfuls of goulash and string beans onto Styrofoam plates, I never encountered a harsh word. Instead, I received grateful smiles, humble spirits, and a restored faith in the goodness of people who lived out Christ's admonition to "love thy neighbor as thyself."

I'll never forget my encounter with a particular elderly man who passed through the lunch line on Saturday. He was thin, his face filled with wrinkles, and a baseball cap covered his white hair. As I began to pile macaroni on his plate, he pulled back saying, "that's enough, thanks." I looked down at his small amount of food and scooped up another spoonful, unconvinced one tiny scoop was enough to fill this hungry man. But, despite my encouragement to let me give him another scoop, he just smiled and insisted he didn't need more. My heart was touched by his unselfishness, his desire to take less for himself so that someone else might have a little more.

Amazingly, this happened more than once. Where were the people pushing and shoving each other, the fighting over loaves of bread and gallons of milk I'd seen on the tele-



Semi-trucks from all over the country dropped off donations of all kinds to help meet the needs of the community.



Two hot meals a day were served to the community from a mobile kitchen on the Bass Memorial Academy campus.



A large tent provided shade for the makeshift dining area.



Volunteers filled up cars with food and supplies in a drive-thru distribution line.

vision and read about in newspapers? The entire time I was in Mississippi, I never heard one angry word spoken about another person. Instead, I encountered grateful hearts and caring neighbors. People came for miles around to fill their cars not only with food and supplies for themselves, but for their neighbors and friends. Extra plates were requested for the elderly woman who lived next door who couldn't get out; neighbors directed us to the woman with the baby next door who might need some water.

As we were getting ready to leave, I stood in the food line for what would be my last hot meal from the makeshift kitchen. Because we didn't have much time to eat before we needed to pile on the bus, our leaders instructed us to politely make our way to the front of the line. I couldn't help but feel a little guilty cutting in front of those who had been waiting so long, but I knew I had to if I was going to eat at all. I turned to the couple next to me and apologized for jumping in front of them, explaining that our group was leaving. I expected them to be angry or at least annoyed. But instead of anger, I met smiles of gratitude, something I'd never experience had I been in line for a burrito at Taco Bell. They insisted I go ahead and thanked me for what our group was doing. I know each one who went on this trip could relate a similar story.

There were many incredible miracles that occurred that weekend in the form of semi-trucks of food and water, clouds to cover the sun and make the heat a little more bearable, or a supply of gas to fill our almost-empty tanks and carry us home. But one of the greatest miracles I experienced was seeing, in the midst of what can't be described as anything less than a disaster, the spirit of Christ alive in the hearts of the people I encountered, who gave me much more than I ever could have given them.

Beverly Stout is a University Relations correspondent.

Reflections & Mission

REFLECTIONS ON GOD'S GUIDANCE AND BLESSINGS
BY ANN FISHER



Jim and Ann were married in August just before they left to start an English language school in Osaka, Japan.

It was my senior year in college, and like most college girls in the 60s, I was looking forward to that big day in June when the two most coveted degrees would be mine—the B.A. and the M.R.S. I was doing fine on the first one. In fact, the Northern California Conference gave me a scholarship in return for my promise to teach for them following graduation. It was the M.R.S. that concerned me. Not that

I didn't have a boyfriend. God had seen to that. But he was one of those idealistic males determined to walk down the aisle to *Pomp and Circumstance* before *The Wedding March*.

We started our freshman year at Pacific Union College (PUC) together, but after an adventurous year abroad in Australia at Avondale College our sophomore year, he chose to take off a few months to tour the world, while I dutifully returned to my studies at PUC. So now I was going to graduate without him, and it looked as if I was also going to have to face my first year teaching on my own without him, too. It was a frightening thought.

I still remember that interview in the girls' dorm parlor. The conference educational secretary and school principal came to interview me for a teaching position. They asked

me about my marriage plans; I assured them I would not be getting married and promised not to leave them in a lurch during the school year. They hired me to teach first and second grades.

Sometime after that interview my boyfriend, Jim, and I were invited to the home of one of our Bible teachers, Wilbur Nelson, a former missionary in the Far Eastern Division.¹ The student missionary program was just being de-

veloped, and the college religion department received a request for a married couple to work in Hong Kong. During the conversations that evening, Wilbur mentioned he would like to send Jim and me; but, since we weren't getting married, the idea was dropped.

Jim and I spent the next weekend at Jim's home in Tracy, California. Both of us had become interested in missions as a result of our travels to and from Australia. That weekend we had time to talk and pray. We decided that if God wanted us to go to Hong Kong that next year, we would go. We wouldn't tell anyone of our decision. It would be up to God to work out the details.

It was spring quarter—the last before graduation. I was required to spend a certain number of hours working one-

on-one with young children, so I had gone to the Nelson's home that afternoon to teach their young son. When the session was finished and I was getting ready to walk out the door, Wilbur said, "We feel that you and Jim are the right people to go to Hong Kong. Would you be willing to go?" Would I?! I was so excited, I could hardly wait to tell Jim. Maybe I wouldn't have to be a lonely, "old maid" school teacher after all.

Before long I heard news that threatened to burst my bubble. For some reason the religion department was unable to come up with the funds to sponsor a couple to Hong Kong. At the beginning of the student missionary program, students were sponsored and not required to raise their own funds. Meanwhile, another call came from Japan for a student missionary to help establish an English language school in Osaka. The student association became involved, opening the call up to others. They would hold an election, and the whole student body would vote at a Friday evening vespers. My marriage plans were now hanging on a vote at the ballot box!

No one knew about my stake in the election. I was fearful. Jim was a quiet, straight-A student, a talented, consecrated Christian, but not the outgoing type that wins elections. I held my breath. At last the ballots were counted, and the announcement was made. Jim Fisher would be PUC's third student missionary. As we left the chapel that evening, our stern, matronly dean of women, who had also been my mother's dean a generation before, came up to me and exclaimed, "I voted for Jim tonight, but I feel sorry for you, Ann." When I told her I was going with him, she gave us permission to leave campus together that night—a miracle in itself back in 1966. We drove to the Nelson's home and called our parents to announce we were getting married and going to Japan.

Now I had the unpleasant task of informing the conference I was getting married and wouldn't be teaching for them as planned. They were not pleased and asked me to return my scholarship money. I didn't know how I could do that,



Through divine providence, Jim and Ann Fisher were led to Japan where they served as student missionaries and established an English language school in Osaka, Japan.



Ann and her friend model their Japanese kimonos.

but God did. A few days later an envelope from Social Security arrived in my mail box. I opened it and pulled out a check for the exact amount I needed to pay back the scholarship. Congress had passed new legislation entitling me to a small amount of educational assistance, since I was a college student with a father over 65. The payment was retroactive, making it larger than it normally would have been.



Photos on this page by Jim Fisher

Ann Fisher visits with her English students in Osaka, Japan.

And so I marched down two aisles that summer—once to Elgar and once to Wagner. God was leading in a way I had scarcely dared to dream. I wish there was room to tell how God miraculously intervened when Jim received notice he was being drafted into the Vietnam war just days before our August wedding, or how a teaching position opened up for me at PUC Elementary when we returned from Japan too late to interview for teaching jobs, or how the conference returned my scholarship money when I taught for them after all, or how, after seminary, we

received a call to return to the Far Eastern Division where we spent 17 years as missionaries.

"If you want favor with both God and man, and a reputation for good judgment and common sense, then trust the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself. In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success" (Proverbs 3:4–6, *The Living Bible*). As I look back on my life, I am thankful God has blessed and directed my paths, giving me confidence that I can trust Him with my future, too.

Ann Fisher writes from Walla Walla, Washington.

1. The Far Eastern Division has since been split into two divisions—Northern Asia Pacific and Southern Asia Pacific.



Hospital Staff Blessed by Former Patient's Performance

It has been said that music has the ability to transcend all languages, cultures, and many other barriers. No one can attest to that more than Elina Gaile. Recently, the bubbly and charming 15-year-old, whose fingers gracefully danced over the piano keys, communicated the deep gratitude she felt for the care she received at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital over a decade before. With beautiful music permeating the room, listeners who knew Elina's story could only envision the events that began thousands of miles away.

In 1995, Walter Thomson, a family practice physician, was part of a team conducting evangelistic meetings and health lectures at the Kremlin in Moscow. Having participated in numerous mission trips and evangelistic teams throughout the world, he was accustomed to being approached for help. "There are so many hurting people all over the world, no matter what you do, it doesn't seem enough," said Thomson. "While I realize that we personally cannot help everyone, we still must do what we can to the best of our ability because that is our responsibility as Christians."

When Ainars Gaile, a local pastor serving as an interpreter, approached Thomson about his daughter's medical condition, Thomson promised to help. Ainars' five-year-old daughter had osteomyelitis of the left hip, an orthopaedic condition that resulted in chronically dislocated joints. She underwent several surgeries, but due to lack of proper technology and practices, infections affected the development and growth of her left hip.

Upon returning to the United States, Thomson approached a colleague regarding Elina's condition. Kamal Ibrahim, a pediatric orthopaedic



Elina Gaile returned to Adventist Hinsdale Hospital and blessed those who had blessed her by her delightful piano playing.

surgeon, looked at Elina's x-rays and agreed to donate his services. Ibrahim said, "It is extremely rewarding to help children from other countries where these types of services are not easily available. I have been so blessed. I simply believe that Christianity is key to the purpose of my profession."

Within a few months Elina and her mother Gita traveled to the United States through the generosity of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, the Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church, and physicians donating their time and skills.

Upon seeing Elina, Ibrahim realized this was not a reconstructive procedure, but a salvage operation to make the best of the situation. "Our goal was to alleviate her pain and provide her with the best possible way to walk," said Ibrahim.

The surgery was successful and after three months of rehabilitation in the United States, Elina and her mother returned home.

The story doesn't end there ... fast forward ten years to 2005. Victor Moreno, Hinsdale Adventist Church minister of music, envisioned local performances of various compositions, including one requiring eight pianos and 16 hands, only performed once in Prague. Not knowing where to find pianists with skills for the piece, Moreno offered up a prayer request during a

prayer meeting at the church in January 2005. He was partnered with Thomson who, over the last ten years, kept contact with the Gaile family and knew of Elina's development as an accomplished young pianist. Upon further discussion with Thomson, church leadership, and other musicians, plans were laid to bring Elina and other young musicians from Eastern Europe.

Through much generosity, hard work, and providence, Elina returned to Adventist Hinsdale Hospital where she was first enabled to walk pain-free. Performing at various venues throughout the Lake Union, including the hospital's Week of Spiritual Emphasis, Elina returned the gift and blessed those who had blessed her.

"I am glad I was able to come back to do this, I want to use the talent God gave me to bless other people the same way I was blessed by Dr. Thomson, Dr. Ibrahim, and the many other people who helped me," Elina stated. After two weeks performing and touring the United States, Elina returned to Latvia.

Moreno summed it up well when he said, "There is no coincidence in the life of a Christian. Music is one of the many ways that unites people, and only God can make it happen so beautifully."

Crister DelaCruz, Adventist Midwest Health public relations regional manager



Patrick Murphy

Andrews Welcomes New Campus Chaplain

Each school year brings new faces to the campus of Andrews University. Along with new freshmen and transfer students, this year Andrews is happy to welcome a new chaplain, Patrick Murphy.

However, to say Murphy is new to the Andrews campus is not exactly accurate. Having received both his undergraduate degree and master of divinity from Andrews, Murphy has merely come back home.

Murphy graduated from Andrews with a degree in religion in 1997 before returning to his native Battle Creek to serve as a youth pastor at the Battle Creek Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church. A few years later, he married his wife, Heidi, a graphic designer, and made a return to Andrews to study in the Seminary. Before coming back to Andrews as the new chaplain this year, Murphy pastored and lived with his wife in Michigan's Upper Peninsula since 2002.

In his role as chaplain, Murphy will focus on outreach, which includes ministries such as AU-Outreach, the

Easter Passion Play, Impressions drama ministry, student missions, as well as weekly chapels.

Murphy is looking forward to the "opportunity to lock arms and be shoulder to shoulder with the movers and shakers of the church—the youth."

With a tangible passion for God and his ministry, it is Murphy's goal that upon graduation, students will leave "on fire for God, and that within their profession, no matter what that is, they will draw others to Christ."

Beverly Stout, University Relations correspondent

New Student Financial Services Director Appointed

Figuring out how to finance college education can be one of the most stressful aspects of a student's college experience. So, it can mean a lot to have the experience and caring touch of someone like Elynda Bedney to help guide the way. Bedney has helped Andrews University students manage their accounts and figure out how to pay for college for the past 18 years. When Andrews needed a new Student Financial Services director, Bedney was just the one for the job.

Before coming to Andrews, Bedney was a student at Oakwood College, in Huntsville, Ala., where she graduated with a B.S. in business administration. After spending three years as an administrative assistant at Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Penn., Bedney came to Andrews to join the staff as Student Accounts manager in 1987. In 1989, Bedney took the position of associate director of Student Accounts. Following the merger of Student Accounts and Student Financial Aid, Bedney became associate director of Student Financial Services, a position she held until July 2005 when she was appointed director of Student Financial Services.

Amid the busy life of a Student Financial Services full-time staff member, Bedney was able to complete a M.S. in administration with an emphasis in management from Andrews. In 2005, Bedney received the Employee of the Year award, evidence of her years of leadership, hard work, service, and dedication to the students of Andrews.

"I am excited about the challenge of helping Andrews' students access all available financial resources to help them obtain a Christian education," Bedney notes.

Beverly Stout, University Relations correspondent



Elynda Bedney, the new Student Financial Services director at Andrews University

[EDUCATION NEWS]



Tifanie Overmeyer was so happy when a relative gave her a \$100 bill for the Dollar Drive. She brought in over \$250 for Hurricane Katrina disaster relief.

Dollar Drive for Disaster

Michigan—“Everyone can give a dollar.” That was the premise on which the Niles Seventh-day Adventist School students and staff set out to raise money for Hurricane Katrina disaster relief. For two weeks they were to ask friends and family to each give them one dollar for disaster relief.

It didn't take long for the dollars to add up. Of course, many generous people gave them more than just one dollar. By the end of the two-week period, the school had raised \$1,141. The money was given to the Michigan Conference disaster relief team.

Katlyn Pascucci shared with fellow students an answer to prayer during the Dollar Drive. She and her two cousins went door to door in their



Molly Tyson added her contributions into the jar for disaster relief.

neighborhood, asking for dollar bills. It was hot and they were tired and thirsty. They did not want to quit until they had raised \$100, so they stopped to pray for the rest of the money and for a drink of water. At the next house, the woman wrote them a check for \$50 and also gave them three bottles of water.

Another student, Tifanie Overmeyer, asked a relative for one dollar and he handed her a \$100 bill. God is good! The 54 students and four staff members at Niles School would like to encourage everyone to give. Even one dollar bills add up to bless others.

Denise Kidder, Niles Seventh-day Adventist School kindergarten teacher

WA Receives over \$95,000 in Scholarship Funds

Wisconsin—Pathways to Success, a division of the Commonweal Foundation based in Silver Springs, Md., has just granted Wisconsin Academy (WA) over \$95,000 in student scholarships. Twenty-two students are receiving scholarships and most are receiving the maximum scholarship a student can receive.

“Pathways to Success has been such a blessing to us this year. There is no way that these students could be here without this program,” stated Delcy Gillen, WA accountant.

Pathways to Success is a scholarship program that offers funding of up to \$4,745 per year to students who are experiencing boarding school for the first time. To qualify to be part of this new exciting program, you must be a first-time boarding school student in grades 9–12 and have a family income at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level.

Considering that over 50 percent of WA students receive some level of financial assistance, this program is extremely beneficial to many incoming students and students who might not have been able to attend otherwise.

“The faculty and staff are extremely excited, not to mention honored, to

have this program move onto the WA campus,” says Derral Reeve, principal. “Now more students have the opportunity to enjoy the WA experience that has been shared by so many before them!”

To learn more about how to qualify for Pathways to Success, please contact Michelle Shufelt, WA director of development, by calling: (920) 623-3300; or e-mail: development@wisacad.org.

Michelle Shufelt, Wisconsin Academy development director



The three wisemen (Joe Carr, Maynard Morauske, and Matthew Klug) prepare for their Savior's arrival.

WA Christmas Pageant Offered Again

Wisconsin—Wisconsin Academy's eighth annual Christmas pageant is scheduled for Dec. 2–3, 2005. Titled “A Walk Through the Christmas Story,” students, faculty, and church members decorate the chapel and center campus and dress in biblical clothing. The campus is transformed back to the year of our Savior's birth.

The pageant is open to the public. Last year over 900 people attended the pageant. The pageant is held the first Fri. and Sat. evenings of Dec. For more information on how you might be able to get involved this year, please contact D.J. McKenzie at (920) 623-3300; or e-mail: chaplain@wisacad.org.

Michelle Shufelt, Wisconsin Academy development director



Blindfolded seniors try to find their way by working together.

WA Seniors Survive the Wilderness

Wisconsin—The 28 members of the Wisconsin Academy Class of 2006, along with their sponsors, headed to Buckhorn State Park in Necedah, Wis., on Sept. 2, for *Senior Survival* weekend. The weekend was designed for the senior class to bond together as they practiced team-building skills through different activities.

A group of four from Andrews University, headed by Maria Long, came to help out with worships. For vespers and church, the theme of the activities and messages dealt with building relationships and what makes a good relationship. In Sabbath school, one of the activities was to locate hidden items, with everyone blindfolded except the leader who shouted out directions. That activity taught the seniors to be careful about who they trust and the importance of sticking together.

On Sun. morning, the class divided into two teams for the *Airplane Crash*. It was a mix between *Survivor* and *The Amazing Race*. Each team was in an “airplane crash” and team members had to choose which people had different ailments. One person was comatose, another had a broken leg, and yet another was blind. The seniors used compasses to guide them from point to point through the woods while car-



Safety first! Ben VanderVenter, a senior, hauled life jackets.

rying and leading the injured. At each stop they collected a different piece of survival gear. One stop had firewood and at another a pitcher for water. At the end of the race they boiled water in their pitcher. “It was exhausting and a good learning experience. It taught us how to really work together, and now if I’m lost in the woods, I can survive!” Blake Martin enthusiastically stated.

The rest of the weekend was filled with swimming, canoeing, playing volleyball, making meals, and sitting around the campfire. Erin McLean summed it up quite nicely when she said, “This weekend helped me to know the people in my class on a new level, helped me build trust, and I grew closer to God.”

Michelle Paulsen, Wisconsin Academy student correspondent

Flame Keepers Shine Brightly at GLAA

Michigan—The boys’ animated conversation behind a closed dorm room door surprisingly has nothing to do with the females across campus. Their muted voices rise and fall, but all are definitely tuned in. If you could put your ear to the door, you would hear the sound of pages turning and earnest discussion. If you could turn the door-knob and stick your head in, you would see a group of boys flopped on bunks, stretched out on the floor, or leaning back in a chair, all with Bibles in their hands. If you could see what God sees, you would see the Holy Spirit in great measure. This is an example of one of many groups belonging to *Flame Keepers* at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA).

Flame Keepers started in 2002 when Jeremy Hall,* the head dean, became concerned over the spiritual low that often follows Week of Prayer. As he sat at his desk, deep in thought as to how to keep the fire going, Richard Ongwela, boys’ club pastor, came by. It was a divine appointment. As Hall and Ongwela shared the same concern and talked extensively about their ideas for keeping the campus spiritually vibrant, *Flame Keepers* was born—a grass-roots, dorm-based, student-led, hall-by-hall, Bible study group.

Hall and Ongwela chose a group of young men, committed to spiritual leadership, to be lay pastors in the



Boys study Bible truths together.



A girls' Flame Keepers group discusses Bible truths.

dorm on various halls. These *Flame Keepers* are assigned, two per hall, to reach out to struggling students, conduct Bible studies, and facilitate prayer.

Daniel Barlow, a graduate of GLAA, wrote a charter for *Flame Keepers*. The students involved receive *Flame Keepers* T-shirts to encourage a tangible sense of meaning. *Flame Keepers* provides further evidence young people are effective in reaching their peers. Their influence is often at a level not available to a chaplain or teacher. *Flame Keepers* take personal risks to step out and serve their fellow students. Their commitment, sincerity, and willingness to serve have a profound impact on their peers.

When the leaders of the *Flame Keepers* showed the '04 *Revival!* series by Doug Batchelor during dorm worship, six young men decided to commit to a personal walk with God. When they designated a day of fasting and prayer for a fellow student diagnosed with cancer, it resulted in spiritual renewal for students and staff, and the doctors indicated the cancer went into remission. Things have not always gone smoothly for the *Flame Keepers*. As can be expected the enemy has attempted to step over their efforts and spread discouragement, but the boys have held true. Despite many obstacles, *Flame Keepers* has been a consistent factor in the boys' dorm over the past few years. Not only are these young men maintaining the spiritual flame, but the fire is spreading!

Flame Keepers is now a viable program in the girls' dorm! The spiritual outreach is now campus-wide and emphasizes a one-on-one relationship

with Jesus through personal devotion and prayer time. It is having powerful results and provides a place where young people can share and find support for all of life's challenges.

Steven Coy, junior, says he has been very blessed to be a part of the study group on junior hall. "I really enjoy being able to discuss Bible topics with my friends and talk about how it applies to our daily lives."

Graduations come and go, but the flame continues to burn bright. "There is so much I could say, but in short, it is absolutely faith-strengthening and encouraging to see the commitments young people are making to God and the way He is using them to finish up His work," Hall said.

We would all do well to follow the *Flame Keepers'* motto text: "Choose you this day who you will serve; as for me and my house we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

Arlene Leavitt, Great Lakes Adventist Academy
assistant development director

*Jeremy Hall is now the campus chaplain
and Bible department chairman at
Great Lakes Adventist Academy.

[YOUTH NEWS]

BAYDA Plans Youth Congress

In its 30th year of operation, the United Youth Congress will hold its eighth convention on Apr. 19–23, 2006, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Ga. Themed "No More Chains," this Congress will provide its participants a unique learning experience through leadership development and education that many will cherish.

"The purpose for the United Youth Congress is to increase awareness of the needs of youth within our community and to equip them with the tools



Delegates will pray together at the Congress.

to break the shackles that stifle their potential," said Claude Harris II, chairperson of Black Adventist Youth Directors Association (BAYDA), the parent organization of the United Youth Congress, and director of youth ministries for the Allegheny East Conference.

Topics for workshops will include: single parenting, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS awareness, employment, family and spiritual decline, gangs, homelessness, community and financial empowerment, and sexual promiscuity, just to name a few. Other events will include an oratorical contest, drum corps and drill team exhibition, health fair rally, youth parade, and Bible Bowl. In addition to the planned "fun" activities, attendees will participate in community service projects in the greater Atlanta community. "Service teaches kids life skills," said Roger Wade, BAYDA program director. "This is needed more and more in our kids today," he said.

Each evening, attendees will experience powerful presentations of "spiritual vitamins" from various ministers across the United States. Speakers will



Adventurers enjoyed a former youth congress.



Attendees enjoyed Sabbath worship services last year.

include James Black, North American Division (NAD) youth ministries director; Jeannine Reid, Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy Bible teacher; Jose Rojas, NAD volunteer ministries director; Carlton "Buddy" Bird, Bellfort (Texas) Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor; and Paula Olivier, associate pastor of the Church of the Oranges in Orange, N.J. Additional speaker information is available at website: www.unitedyouthcongress.org/workshops.asp.

BAYDA's mission is to promote the spiritual, physical, academic, moral, and cultural development of the NAD youth. BAYDA's members include youth leaders of the NAD regional conferences as well as youth leaders



Pathfinder drill teams will demonstrate precision marching at the Congress.

in Southern, Southeastern, Central, Northern California, North Pacific Union, Bermuda, and Ontario conferences.

For registration information for the United Youth Congress in Atlanta, please visit website: www.unitedyouthcongress.org/register.asp.

George Johnson Jr., media relations director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. George has attended these Youth congresses since 1993.

Youth Groups Urgently Needed for WE CARE Katrina Response

Ron Whitehead, Center for Youth Evangelism executive director, met with Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Adventist Community Service, and Adventist Community Team Services officials in Sept.

Needs on the ground are changing daily due to weather, relief product suppliers, state and federal government regulations, equipment, communication, fuel, electricity, insurance, natural gas, and safety issues. Brit Steele, WE CARE Katrina Response director, is working full time to offer your senior class, college/university, church youth



CENTER FOR YOUTH EVANGELISM

group, academy, or teen Pathfinder club one of the most important outreach opportunities ever available in North America.

This outreach opportunity is planned for young people, ages 13 and older. Young people ages 13–17 must be accompanied by an adult over 21 at a one to seven ratio. Everyone under 18 must also come with a medical release form. The "on-site mission" will change from week to week because local needs change.

This mission project began Sept. 25; God needs 125 people every seven days. Mission locations will be in La., Miss., and Ala. Local communities, relief agencies, etc., are begging for immediate help. As this article is published, we are happy to announce that several corporate sponsors are willing to help reduce the cost for volunteers. A per person fee will include food, water, primitive tent and/or building lodging, medical support, secondary insurance, relief supplies with supervision, training, and worship/witness opportunities. Ground transportation is the responsibility of the attending group.

If you want your young people to experience cutting-edge, front-line, service evangelism, contact Brit Steele as soon as possible to reserve a date. Space and time is limited for this important WE CARE project. For the latest information, visit website: www.AdventistYouth.org; call (800) YOUTH.2.U, ext. 3 or (269) 470-5904; fax: (269) 471-8355; or e-mail: wecare@andrews.edu.

Ron Whitehead, Center for Youth Evangelism executive director

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Children Visit Jewish Village

Indiana—It has been said it takes an entire village to raise a child, but when children gathered in the Elkhart Adventist Church for Vacation Bible School, they discovered it takes 35 adults to make a Jewish village come alive!



The children were shown games played in Bible times.

Under the guidance of Sue Nelson and Nancy Hile, the children were dressed in period costumes and directed by their respective tribe leaders to one of several shops in the village. The children were taught how to pound metal into coins and how to make a pouch to carry the coins. There was also a metal-smith shop, and what would a village in old Jerusalem be without a carpenter shop? Spiritual lessons were learned as the children reflected on young Jesus working in His father's carpenter shop.

Everyone practiced weaving while they learned weaving was originally done to meet practical needs, but in time weavers produced wall-hangings made of linen and goat hair. The children also visited a music shop and learned what instruments may have looked like in Bible times. By far, the oldest known Jewish instrument is the shofar, or ram's horn, which was blown by ancient Hebrews in battle and during religious observances. It is still used in synagogues today, especially during Rosh Hashanah and at the end of Yom Kippur. There were also harps, lyres, flutes, drums, and metal rattles.

Instruction was given on games children played in Bible times. Attendees learned how to construct a pocket kite, which does not require a tail.

A favorite shop was the bakery. From earliest times, bread has been a basic food. The children learned that in old Jerusalem people usually made bread from wheat flour or barley meal. The poorer class usually used barley meal, mixed with pea and bean seeds to increase bread production.

Each evening the children were served a snack of one or more fruits and/or nuts mentioned in the Bible, still available today. A visit to the Elkhart Jewish village was truly enjoyed by not only the children, but by the adults as well.

Clareen Colclessler, Elkhart Church communication leader

Student Missionary Learns Lessons In Palau

Michigan—Chad Higgins wanted to serve as a student missionary because he desired to give of his time and talents, and to lead a more purpose-filled life. The question was, where? Chad, a member of the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Mich., was encouraged by his parents, Ellen and Bruce Higgins, to go to Palau where Chad's grandfather, Ed Higgins, served as academy principal. However, Chad was not sure.

While attending Southern Adventist University during the 2003–2004 school year, Chad and his classmate, Jeremy Micheff, were looking at a wall map of the world. Jeremy pointed to Palau and said, "I'm going there to be a student missionary ... way out there!" Chad could not believe his eyes or ears and exclaimed, "You're going to Palau? My grandfather is the principal there!" Jeremy then said that his cousin, Jason Micheff, was also going to Palau. That sealed it. Chad was going, too.

The 2004–2005 school year found Chad teaching 16–18 fourth graders at



Chad (back) stands with his fourth grade class at Palau Mission School.

Palau Mission School. While "standing in front of those kids day-in and day-out," Chad realized what a great responsibility he was carrying. Chad declared, "This was not like being a counselor at camp. These kids were looking at me as their Christian example all the time." The text, "Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly" (James 3:1 NIV), kept coming to his mind, and he knew this was no trivial task. Chad realized he must live what he believed and needed an even closer walk with Jesus to enable him to stand under the pressure.

In Palau, Chad learned lessons no book could teach. He feels he has grown in Christian character. As he continues his education at Andrews University, he realizes that no matter what path he chooses in this life, he must totally depend on Christ to succeed.

Joy Hyde, Metropolitan Church correspondent

Church Members Witness at Clinton County Fair

Indiana—Members of the Frankfort Church maintained a booth at the Clinton County Fair and had many memorable experiences. Frankfort members were encouraged as they visited with community residents.

The week included giving away back scratchers and applying smiley-face, temporary tattoos on children.

In addition, bookmarks with a Bible verse on them and various literature pamphlets and books were also a huge hit. Many people took literature for themselves or family members.

Members found opportunities to share what Jesus means to us through a variety of experiences. "We spent time learning to work together as a team and how to be visible in the community. This was a great experience for our youth. Alexis Roark and Jeffery and Craig Pearson helped throughout the week. It's important to have our youth learn to work and witness within the community for personal growth," stated Derek Brant, Frankfort Church elder. He continued, "It helps them get a better understanding of how they can share their faith in many different ways."

Fifteen-year-old Jeffery said, "We had one guy, about 20 [years old], that kept coming back to our booth. I think he came back five or six different times. He was having a really hard time because he can't find a job and has two kids. He took every piece of literature



From left: Derek Brant, Glenda Roberts, and Glen Roberts took a break while waiting for more visitors to stop by the Frankfort Church fair booth.

we had. I think God is working on him. Oh yeah, we had a book give-away with five different books in a drawing. The name was pulled and arrangements were made to deliver the books. Guess who it was ... it was him. I think God is really working to help this guy."

It is through these experiences that God has touched our lives spiritually.

Debra Pearson, Frankfort Church communication secretary and Sabbath school superintendent

Pork Festival Attendees Discover Healthful Opportunities

Indiana—Five years ago, the Cicero (Ind.) Church purchased a building just off the town square in Tipton, a community ten miles north of the Cicero Church. It was named the Tipton Living Center. Since that time, Cicero church members have held many cooking schools, stop smoking clinics, and Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) programs, besides renting it out to other groups that have appreciated the facilities.



Todd Warner, of Cicero, Ind., stopped by to have his blood pressure taken by Donna Ferguson, a registered nurse. "It is a little high," Donna said, so she offered him a CHIP program bulletin to think about.

Each Sept., the town of Tipton hosts the Pork Festival, which attracts thousands of people to the many booths, parades, and activities. This year, Sept. 8–10, the Cicero Church opened the Tipton Living Center doors during the festival and offered free blood pressure screenings, free bottles of water, scripture balloons, and resources on physical health and spiritual health.

Several young people, Justin Thurber, Alex and Joseph Hoover, and others, enjoyed greeting the people as they passed by, surprising festival goers with their offers for bottled water, balloons, resources for better living, and wishing each a happy day. A lot of useful information went into the hands of the people who passed by, and now we pray that God will use it to bring each one a better life.

Ramona Trubey, Cicero Church correspondent



Church members and academy students got better acquainted as they played games together.

Church Welcomes Academy Students Back

Indiana—When dorm students arrived at Indiana Academy last Aug., they were greeted by church members waiting to help carry belongings to their dorm rooms. Entering their rooms, the students found other church members had already been there to deposit a friendly welcome greeting and a plate of cookies.

This was just the beginning of fun activities planned for the 2005–2006 school year to build community between Cicero Church members, academy students, and faculty. In Sept., a gym night was sponsored by the academy-church relations committee, and included basketball, volleyball, ping pong, foosball, table games, and refreshments.

Other activities planned include joint potlucks, miniature golfing, a progressive Sabbath dinner, dorm worships, Prayer Warrior program, Christmas caroling, breakfast in the dorms, etc. In addition, a monthly prayer focus in the church bulletin encourages members to remember the academy faculty on a rotating basis.

Some students are from communities near Cicero, but others are not. One student's parents are serving as missionaries in Sudan. The Cicero Church members want the students to feel the church is their home away from home, and hope they make an impact in the students' lives all year long.

Cicero Church academy-church relations committee

Elkhart Hat Lady Encourages Food Donations

Indiana—Kathy Currier, Elkhart (Ind.) Church community services leader, is known as the hat lady. When she comes before the congregation on Sabbath morning wearing the wide-brimmed red hat, everyone knows the community services box in the foyer is full and overflowing! But if she steps up to the podium in the black pill-box hat, the message is loud and clear that the bin is only half full.

Currier hesitates to wear her garden bonnet, which she refers to as her “poor hat,” since it is a sign the box is nearly empty or depleted. At those times, she pleads her case to try to encourage the members to bring food and/or cash to replenish the box.

Currier is just one of many leaders in Elkhart County who works hard to keep an ample supply of both food and cash available, not only in the local box in the church foyer, but



The red hat signifies the church's community services box is over-flowing.



The black pillbox hat indicates the box is only half full.



The garden bonnet, “poor hat,” is a sign the box is nearly empty or depleted.

she also makes certain the Church Community Services’ (CCS) shelves are kept full as well. Currier explains that the Elkhart Adventist Church is not big enough to support a community services center of their own so they have joined with about 50 area churches and together they formed CCS. They are involved in providing assistance to low income families, whether it’s for food, rent, or utilities. They have counselors at CCS who evaluate the people’s needs and then they assist according to the need. They even help with prescriptions or money for gas when needed.

There are several volunteer opportunities for church members at CCS and they often come together on specified evenings to help in a variety of ways. CCS has a project called, “Soup of Success,” which helps low-income ladies get back into the workforce by teaching them job skills and/or computer skills.

So, no matter which hat Currier is wearing on any given Sabbath, the church can be sure she is doing her very best as the church community services leader and as a representative of their church at CCS.

Clareen Colclessler, Elkhart Church communication leader

Paw Paw Members Adopt White Home

Michigan—The Paw Paw Church recently decided to adopt the James and Ellen White Home in the Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek. Sun., Apr. 24, 2005, thirty volunteers from the church gathered to clean, paint, remove shingles, and do needed repairs on this historic home.

Ken Randall, head deacon, said, “Historic Adventist Village relies on volunteers and donations to keep this ministry going. We decided that our church should help to preserve this property for the visitors who come to experience where our church began in the nineteenth century.”

Approximately 10,000 people will visit in 2005 and nearly 2,000 people were scheduled to visit this summer

because of the General Conference Session held in St. Louis, Mo. Ron Fleck, Paw Paw Church pastor, commented, “When we heard of the need, our church members responded. We are hopeful that this adoption will become a trend that other churches will follow by adopting other properties within the Historic Adventist Village.”

Paw Paw members intend for this adoption to be long term. In October, they met at the Historic Adventist Village for Sabbath school and church.



Restoring the James and Ellen White Home requires a variety of skills. Paw Paw members who volunteered included: Shadi Khillah, Rod Vietz, Ron Fleck, Jon Gibson, Chris Kniss, Randy Jones, Kai Steele, Kevin Siver, and Bernie Overacker.

Possible future plans include improving the landscaping at the White Home.

Opportunities abound for other adoptions. At the Historic Adventist Village site, there is a replica of the church where the Michigan Confer-



ence and the General Conference were established. James White's parents built a small home across the street to be near their son and became Sabbath keepers while living there.

One of the historic homes in the Historic Adventist Village features William J. Hardy. He was one of the most prominent Black citizens in Mich. and a faithful Seventh-day Adventist.

Future projects include building replicas of the first Adventist publishing house, which was the motivation for the pioneers to move to Battle Creek, and the Western Health Reform Institute which began in 1866.

If you are interested in volunteering at Historic Adventist Village, please contact Stanley Cottrell at (269) 965-3000.

Chuck Randall, Paw Paw Church head elder

[UNION NEWS]

First Adventist Publishing House Replication Planned



Historic Adventist Village (HAV), located in Battle Creek,

Mich., shares with visitors the story of "A People Who Lived to Honor God." Since its inception, Village planners have looked for creative, interactive ways to share the story of the history of the Adventist Church.

The Village currently has several original or replicated sites on the grounds, including: a Welcome Center, The Log Cabin, James and Ellen White Home, William J. Hardy Exhibit, 19th Century School House, The Meeting House, and Parkville Church. Other exhibits under development include a two-story, two-stall carriage shed, and Deacon John and Betsey White House, parents of James White.

The latest project on the drawing board for the Village is the replication of the first Adventist publishing house, originally constructed in 1855. In the proposed structure, the first floor will include a printing press, bindery, and accounts section. The second floor will accommodate the composing room with type cases, galley cabinet, lockup table, and proof press. The editorial office and proof reader will also be on that level. The proposed layout of the basement level includes a small amphitheater for video viewing, a rest room, and mechanical room.

Plans also include restoring the hand press to operable condition, now on display in the museum at the Village Welcome Center; Village visitors could then see facsimile prints produced. At the replicated publishing house, Adventist publishing history will be portrayed, showing how "the leaves of autumn," have traveled round the world in so many languages. Adventist literature will also be made available to visitors who visit the publishing house.

Someone has donated a two-story pole barn with the same type of construction as the original publishing house, built around the same time. A volunteer team dismantled it in Apr. 2005, and stored the building materials to be used as soon as the foundation and basement are ready. But before that can happen, \$150,000 needs to be raised to fund the full cost of the replication project. This amount includes the cost of the project and an additional 25 percent to help pay for maintenance for several years after its completion.

When looking for someone to spearhead the fund-raising for the publishing house, Tom Nestlund, HAV president, and Alice Voorheis, HAV vice president, knew just where

to turn—Noble Vining. Before his retirement as manager of the College Press in Collegedale, Tenn., Vining accumulated a lifetime of publishing experience managing publishing houses in this country and abroad. Since his retirement, 87-year-old Vining is still connected to the printing world with Worthwhile Publications. Vining hopes "this [replicated] publishing house will be a witness to thousands of visitors to the power of the printed page."



SDA Press lapel pin

One of the ways Vining will raise awareness and funds for this project is the development of the SDA PRESS lapel pin, created to honor those who participate in this project. The pin displays a silhouette of a press similar to the press James White purchased. Vining would like to invite individuals who were ever involved in communications, in any way (print, radio, television, or Internet), to make a \$120 donation to the project and a lapel pin will be sent to them. Honorary members may send a minimum of \$500 to receive a pin. Donors will be displayed on the donor wall in the Welcome Center.

Donations may be sent to: Adventist Heritage Ministry—SDA Press, P.O. Box 1414, Battle Creek, MI 49016-1414. You will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

For additional information about this project, and to see architectural drawings of the proposed building, visit website: www.sdapress.org; or e-mail: nvining@mindspring.com.

Diane Thurber, Lake Union Herald managing editor



Delegates to the special session showed newly-elected president Jerome Davis their vote of support.

New Lake Region Conference Leadership Affirmed

On Sun., Oct. 2, 2005, delegates to a special constituency session of the Lake Region Conference (LRC) gathered at the Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church in Chicago, Ill., to vote on recommendations from the constitution and by-laws committee. The meeting began with music, prayer, and a thought-provoking, faith-inspiring message by Roscoe Howard, North American Division secretary. He ended his talk with a call for delegates to pray for and bless one another.

As prescribed by the constitution and by-laws, Jerome Davis was duly elected president of the Lake Region Conference at a scheduled meeting of the special committee to elect a president on Sun., Sept. 25, 2005, at Camp Wagner. Walter Wright, Lake Union president, introduced Davis and gave him an opportunity to address the delegates.

Many prayers had ascended asking God to fill the leadership vacancy with the person we needed. The answer to our prayers stood before us to share his background.

A native of Baltimore, Md., Davis was the first and only Seventh-day Adventist in his family, baptized at age 16. Passionate about the message of



Walter Wright, Lake Union president, introduces Jerome Davis, newly-elected Lake Region Conference president.

salvation, he began giving Bible studies and was privileged to see 17 family members follow his example.

After graduating from Columbia Union College, Davis began his ministry in the Allegheny West Conference in 1970. Six years later he was called to our conference by the late Jesse Wagner, husband of Eloise Wagner, secretary to each of the LRC presidents since Charles Bradford. He recounted fond memories of his experience as pastor in Ill., Ind., and Wis. churches. For the past two years he has served the Independence Boulevard church in Chicago, Ill.

Davis comes to office with experience in caring for the business of the church, serving six years as a Lake Region executive committee member, five years on the Lake Union execu-

tive committee, ten years on the North American Division executive committee, and five years as a member of the Black Regional Caucus. For the past five years, Davis also served as ministerial director for the conference.

Inviting his wife Dorothy to join him at the podium, Davis announced they are soon to celebrate 36 years of marriage. The Davises have two daughters, Jenelle and Joyce, and four grandchildren, ages five to 13 years—the youngest being fraternal twins. Davis himself has a twin brother.

At the end of his biographical sketch, Davis announced, “They say the Lake Region Conference is in a mess, but the God I serve knows how to bless a mess.” He went on to say that his ministry has been blessed with the gifts of reconciliation and healing. Recognizing that filling the office of president between regular sessions was by a special committee as provided by the constitution and by-laws, Davis called for a vote of confidence from those attending the special session. “If you are willing to work with me over the next 18 months [until the next triennium session in 2007] to bring the elements of this conference together in unity and love,” he said, “I would like you to stand or raise your voting card.” By observation, it seemed nearly all stood to their feet and waved their cards. This vote of confidence sent a positive signal that we were about to embark on a new and exciting adventure in the LRC.

Davis then introduced Theodore “Ted” Brown, the newly-appointed conference treasurer. Brown is also a first generation Adventist, born in Lake Region territory in Hamtramck, Mich. One of 11 children, he was baptized in 1979 at the Burns Seventh-day Adventist Church in Detroit, Mich. A graduate of Oakwood College with a degree in business administration and a minor in theology, Brown first interned in New Orleans, La., in 1984. He joined the Southwest Region Conference as auditor in 1985.



Newly-elected president Jerome Davis begins his responsibilities at the Lake Region Conference office.

After performing auditing responsibilities in the accounting office, Brown became conference treasurer in 1989.

Brown leaves an impressive legacy of treasury performance. In addition, he holds two masters degrees and just completed his doctorate at Andrews University. His wife Vickie is a registered nurse and they have three children: Theodore, 17; Victoria, 15; and Vanitra, 10.

As the meeting progressed, it was noted upon roll call that only 406 of the 512 delegates needed for a quorum were present and the business for which the meeting was called could not be accomplished. While there was a sense of disappointment, many comments from delegates and attendees confirmed that the time together was productive, encouraging, and unifying. There was a sense that "God's Spirit ruled over the day." Many appreciated the opportunity to meet and get to know the new officers of the Lake Region Conference.

In addition, I especially appreciated the thoughtful recognition extended by Davis to George Bryant, acting president during the vacancy and current conference executive secretary, for his faithful service during probably the most difficult months in the history of the LRC.

The administrative team is now complete. Thousands of people have prayed diligently for God to put in

place a leadership team to meet the unique, and yes, desperate needs of this conference. It was apparent God blessed us with His presence, and that our prayers had been answered. Hope has been rekindled in our hearts and we continue to pray as we prepare to face the challenges yet before us.

Ray Young, Lake Region Conference communication director



Theodore "Ted" Brown begins his responsibilities as newly-appointed treasurer for the Lake Region Conference.



The new building is located next to the old ABC on Old US 31 in Berrien Springs, Mich.

New ABC Building

Michigan—Ground was broken for a new Berrien Springs Adventist Book Center (ABC). It was a day long-anticipated by both the store manager and the people who shop there.

Sometime during the 1970s, the ABC opened in an old building at the Old US 31 location. A lot of remodeling has taken place over the years, and it has served the area well. Prior to the official opening in the 1950s-era building, the Lake Union publishing director's wife kept a small selection of general books on hand at the office for those in the area.

The 7,000-square-foot new store will have a more open and roomy atmosphere, which will allow for more variety in book displays and an expanded gift area. With its prominent location near Andrews University, the Berrien Springs ABC has many walk-in clients. Students from all over the world come there to shop for materials to send or take back home with them.

The ABC operates two stores, one in Berrien Springs and one in Lansing. The Battle Creek Tabernacle Church and the Cedar Reader (a student industry at Great Lakes Adventist Acad-

emy in Cedar Lake, Mich.) also keep a supply of books. Each store serves the Michigan Conference in their respective ways. For example, the Lansing store is responsible for Sabbath school periodicals, camp meeting books, the bookmobile, food items, and textbooks for Michigan Conference schools. The Berrien store is more adapted to walk-in customers, and takes care of Internet orders. Both stores fill phone orders.

"I want this new store to continue to be distinctly an Adventist Book Center, while enlarging its service to the community," Gary Hillebert, ABC manager, says. "When I see [non-Adventist guests] come into our store, ... [I want to] make their visit more appealing, without compromising our store's inventory—having products that would go against our beliefs."

A grand opening for the new store, to be located right beside its current location, will be held sometime in Nov. of this year. The address for the new store will be: 8998 Old US 31, Berrien Springs, Mich., 49103. The telephone number will remain the same (269) 471-7331 or toll free (800) 876-9222.

Michael Nickless, Michigan Conference communication director

[NAD NEWS]

ASI Convention Highlights

As many as 3,300 Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) members and guests gathered at the Sacramento Convention Center Aug. 3-6 for the annual international convention, "Christ's Power ... Our Hands." ASI is an organization growing in popularity among Adventist business people and other individuals.

"The average church member usually discovers that they can become involved in witnessing once they hear the testimonies of others," says Sharon Robberson, convention coordinator. "Hearing all the diverse ways God is working through ordinary business people—well-diggers, artists, health professionals, car dealers, builders—is truly inspirational."

There are approximately 1,000



Michael Catarama, a 13-year-old from Hinsdale, Ill., told how he preached a complete evangelistic series in Africa when he was 12; 291 people were baptized at the conclusion of the meetings. It was part of a special missions report during the Sabbath school program.

members in the nearly 60-year-old organization. ASI's mission is to inspire and train professionals and private sector business people to integrate their vocations with the gospel commission—to "Share Christ in the Marketplace."

"I liked the way the speakers explained our responsibilities," said Charles

Downing, Portland, Ore. "I contact many new customers and have opportunities to witness beyond just being friendly. I'm interested in discovering how to share Christ's message with unbelievers. This convention is first class."

ASI is an eye-opener—people attend, listen to testimonies, visit exhibits



Don Schneider, North American Division president, congratulates Debbie Young of Quiet Moments Ministries, Ypsilanti, Mich., who stands with her husband Ray, after she is re-elected president of ASI.

(295 of them this year), and they think, "I bet I could do that, too!" They go home and give it a try. The Member in Action segments, where stories are shared, is one of the most popular parts of convention programming.

Harold and Helen Clark, Tempe, Ariz., came for inspiration and ideas on church planting; some came to see what new products are out, and to "fellowship and meet people," said Serita Katz, Sacramento, Calif. She is starting a child care center and came to look for children's materials. And some, like Susan Kochenower with ShareHim of Gaffney, S.C., came to exhibit and recruit people for evangelism.

The convention includes programs for children ages birth to 18. Also, the ASI youth evangelism program, "Youth for Jesus," mobilized 40 high school and college students during the month before the convention. They knocked on doors, gave Bible studies, and in-



Chet Damron, volunteer voice of Uncle Dan on the Your Story Hour radio program, who often makes appearances as Abraham Lincoln, talks about the story hour ministry during a Members in Action segment at the 2005 ASI Convention.

vised people to evening meetings. The result: 30 baptisms with more than 50 continuing to study.

ASI supports ministry projects all over the world. The Sabbath morning offering will help finance 40 diverse projects during the next year. Totaling more than \$2.3 million, it will be divided among ministries like Calexico Mission School on the border of Mexico, which will receive \$25,000 for new

classrooms and kitchen; \$10,000 will be given to the Central Nyanza field in Africa for audio/visual equipment for remote areas; Gospel Outreach will



Samuel Koranteng-Pipim, Michigan Conference public campus ministries director, presented the early morning devotionals.

sustain ten evangelists for three years in the Sunderban Islands with a grant of \$23,000. And the list goes on. The overflow offering will fully fund It Is Written and Maranatha Volunteers International's joint project, *Impact India 2006*, at more than \$700,000.

"If you're serious about your relationship with Christ and want to give life to the gospel commission, then connect with others that are living that passion," suggested Debbie Young, ASI president. "Seeing the excitement people have about sharing Christ with others is my favorite part of the convention."

For more information about ASI, visit: www.asiministries.org; for convention photos, visit: www.pacificunionphoto.com.

Alicia J. Adams, Pacific Union Recorder editor

Within the Lake Union, the officiating pastor or church communication leader is responsible for submission of information to this column. Forms are available in print format, or they can be filled out and submitted directly online. Milepost forms are available at luc.adventist.org/mileposts. Conference addresses and phone numbers are in the masthead on page 43.

Birthdays

Elsie (Padgett) Wollens celebrated her 100th birthday on July 29 by a potluck after church at the Berrien Springs (Mich.) Village Church. She has been a member of the Berrien Springs Village Church for 38 years.

Elsie was married to the late Harold Wollens.

Elsie enjoys reading and misses not being able to volunteer at the Adventist Community Services Center (Neighbor to Neighbor).

Elsie has two children: Joyce and James Campbell of Berrien Springs; Jack and Charlsie Wollens of Calif.; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Weddings

Amber L. Pfeiffer and Thomas A. Bartoli were married Sept. 4, 2005, in Warren, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Paul Larsen.

Amber is the daughter of Robert and Karen Pfeiffer of Warren, and Thomas is the son of William and Dale Bartoli of Fenton, Mich.

The Bartolis are making their home in Warren.

Cassandra L. Larson and Jason J. Jakobsons were married Aug. 28, 2005, in Janesville, Wis. The ceremony was performed by Pastor William J. Ochs.

Cassandra is the daughter of Myron and Linda Larson of Fort Atkinson, Wis., and Jason is the son of Hans and Clocille Jakobsons of New Berlin, Wis.

The Jakobsons are making their home in South Bend, Ind.

Charlotte O. Tillman and Ernest H. Rollenhagen were married Aug. 1, 2004, in College Place, Wash. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Ed Geinger.

Charlotte is the daughter of the late DeWitt and the late Margaret Osgood, and Ernest is the son of the late Ernest and the late Edna Rollenhagen of Muskegon, Mich.

The Rollenhagens are making their home in Muskegon.

Obituaries

COHLER, Lilla Mae, age 89; born Sept. 4, 1915, in Wis.; died Aug. 29, 2005, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Berrien Springs Village Church.

Private interment was in Easton Twp. Cemetery, Ionia, Mich.

DODGE, Kenneth D., age 86; born Mar. 5, 1919, in Ravenna, Mich.; died Apr. 16, 2005, in Nunica, Mich. He was a member of the Grand Haven (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Edna L. (Hippler); sons, Norman, Terry, Dwight, and Bruce; daughters, Marriann Lawson and Pat DeCan; sister, Joyce Amantrout; 16 grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Tony Rodríguez and Allen Lincoln, and interment was in Maple Hill Cemetery, Wright Twp., Mich.

DUNLAP, Lyle A., age 83; born Apr. 12, 1922, in Grand Rapids, Mich.; died Aug. 21, 2005, in Wyoming, Mich. He was a member of the Wyoming Church.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn K. (Young); sons, Bruce and Jeffrey; daughters, Barbara Dunlap and Kimberly Mol; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Marilyn K. Dunlap, and inurnment was in Rosedale Memorial Park Cemetery, Grand Rapids.

ERHARD, Daniel R., age 62; born Aug. 5, 1942, in Royal Oak, Mich.; died July 13, 2005, in Jackson, Mich. He was a member of the Jackson Church.

Survivors include his wife, Eloyce E. (Barber); son, Todd; daughter, Tina Hanson; foster child, Bill Jones; brothers, W.O. (Sonny), David, and Edward; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Donald Dronen and Gene Hall, and inurnment was in Roseland Cemetery, Jackson.

GRAHAM, Elizabeth (Howard), age 79; born Apr. 19, 1926, in South Bend, Ind.; died Aug. 11, 2005, in South Bend. She was a member of the Berean Church, South Bend.

Survivors include her daughter, Rosemary D. Graham; and sister, Armentha Smith.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Richard Sylvester and Jerome Davis, and interment was in Highland Cemetery, South Bend.

JOHNSTON, Uneta B. (Kern), age 89; born June 24, 1915, in Norwich Twp., Mich.; died May 30, 2005, in Fremont, Mich. She was a member of the Muskegon (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Melvin D., Joseph, and Storm; and many grand-, great-, and great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ryan Counsell, and interment was in Stitsville Cemetery, Lake City, Mich.

MUFFO, Paul, age 85; born Sept. 30, 1919, in East St. Louis, Ill.; died July 22, 2005, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Berrien Springs Village Church.

Survivors include his son, Jim; daughter, Cheryl Lockwood; brothers, John, William, and Tom; sisters, Carmen Muffo, Aileen Sarga, and Josephine Bays; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Nick Nicholas and Irv Young, and interment was in Mission Hills Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Niles, Mich.

NASH, Alfred J., age 82; born Nov. 3, 1922, in Detroit, Mich.; died Aug. 7, 2005, in Livonia, Mich. He was a member of the Metropolitan Church, Plymouth, Mich.

Inurnment was in Harry Wills Funeral Home Mausoleum, Livonia.

PLEASANTS, M. Wayne, age 82; born Feb. 4, 1923, in Pontiac, Ill.; died Aug. 20, 2005, in Tulsa, Okla. He was a member of the Carthage (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include his daughters, Vicki McDougal and Lori Knight; brothers, Richard and Lloyd Pleasants; sisters, Mildred Schram and Nancy Kendall; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Elder Jake Knight, with private inurnment.

REAGAN, Helen M. (Hiza), age 76; born June 2, 1929, in Muskegon, Mich.; died June 27, 2005, in Fremont, Mich. She was a member of the Muskegon Church.

Survivors include her husband, Walter I.; sons, David, Brian, Rex, and Ron; daughters, Pam Reagan and Connie Thompson; brothers, Frank and George Hiza; sisters, Irene Skipper and Chris Fowler; 18 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ryan Counsell, with private inurnment.

ROUSH, Diana G. (Houghtaling), age 58; born Oct. 5, 1946, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died Aug. 1, 2005, in East Ridge, Tenn. She was a member of the Lansing (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Duane L.; sons, Michael and Steven; daughters, Michelle Meese and Julie Roush; father, Robert Houghtaling Sr.; brother, Buddy Houghtaling; sisters, Linda Jerzyk, Robin Barrett, and Betty Eberhard; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Gary Thurber, and private interment was in Memorial Park Cemetery, Battle Creek.

SPILLMAN, Hazel E. (Colhower), age 83; born Nov. 3, 1921, in Hartford City, Ind.; died Apr. 2, 2005, in Anderson, Ind. She was a member of the Anderson Church.

Survivors include her husband, Joseph W.; son, David J.; daughter, Diana L. Spillman; sister, Kathryn Wood; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Clinton Meharry and Don English, and interment was in Anderson Memorial Park Cemetery.

STOREY, Hattie (Brown), age 96; born Jan. 14, 1909, in Goodman, Miss.; died May 8, 2005, in Muskegon, Mich. She was a member of the Muskegon Church.

Survivors include her son, Eugene McQuillar; sister, Hannah Neal; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Ryan Counsell. Her body was donated to science.

WEIN, Mary L. (Delgatto), age 92; born June 3, 1912, in Chicago Heights, Ill.; died Mar. 16, 2005, in LaFox, Ill. She was a member of the North Aurora (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Howard; daughters, Yvonne Rippinger and Karen Wein; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ken Veal, and interment was in Garfield Cemetery, LaFox.

WHITE, Christopher J., age 54; born Nov. 26, 1950, in Cortland, N.Y.; died Apr. 30, 2005, in Warren, Mich. He was a member of the Warren Church.

Survivors include his wife, Katharina Z. (Quast); stepson, Kenneth G. Zatina; stepdaughters, Cynthia K. Spezia, Crystal J. Delgudice, Debrah K. Zatina, and Mary C. Zatina; brother, Terry; sisters, Judy Witherspoon and Holly Schanz; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Paul Larsen, with private inurnment.

Sunset Calendar

	Nov 4	Nov 11	Nov 18	Nov 25	Dec 2	Dec 9
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:38	5:30	5:23	5:19	5:16	5:14
Chicago	4:43	4:35	4:29	4:24	4:20	4:20
Detroit	5:24	5:16	5:09	5:04	5:01	5:00
Indianapolis	5:41	5:34	5:28	5:23	5:21	5:20
La Crosse, Wis.	4:53	4:45	4:38	4:32	4:29	4:28
Lansing, Mich.	5:27	5:19	5:11	5:06	5:02	5:01
Madison, Wis.	4:47	4:40	4:32	4:28	4:24	4:23
Springfield, Ill.	4:55	4:47	4:42	4:37	4:35	4:34

Classifieds

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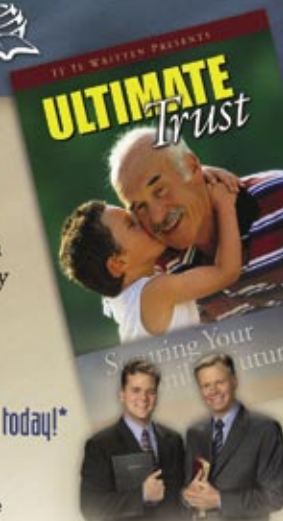


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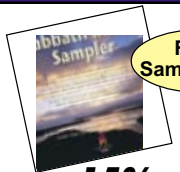
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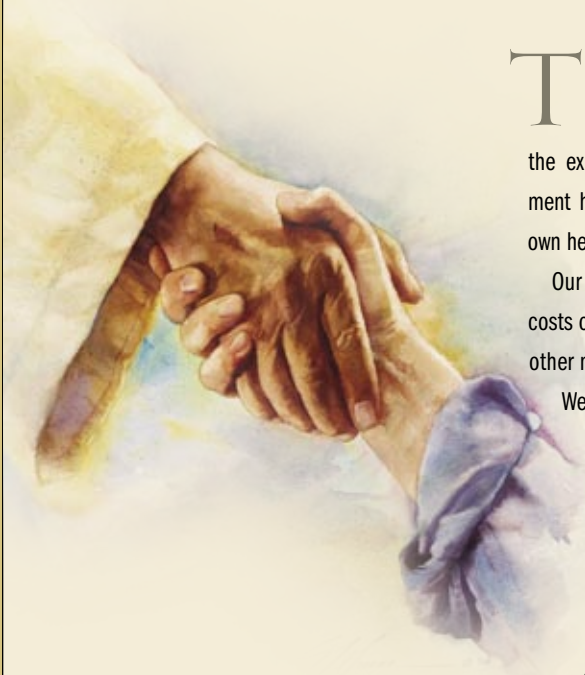
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PARTNERSHIP *with* GOD

A Dependent Partnership

BY GARY BURNS



The other evening my son, Tyler, reminded me of the story of Gideon. As he shared the experience of this unlikeliest Old Testament hero, God's Spirit began to convict my own heart of an unexpected biblical principle.

Our family has struggled with the rising costs of gasoline, healthcare, education, and other necessities, as I'm sure your family has.

We've faced a number of unexpected and costly repairs to the furnace, our septic system, and a couple of vehicles. At a time when we need extra cash the most, we have less.

Which brings us to the biblical principle found in the story of Gideon. My son was quick to recognize it: "God reduced Gideon's army so they

would not feel self-sufficient and take credit for the victory."

I recalled the wisdom recently expressed by my wife Maryann: "I think God wants us to be more dependent on Him so there is no question that He is the One who provides for all our needs."

Total dependence on God, along with a spirit of self-denial and self-sacrifice, combine to create a perfect partnership—a dependent partnership. The kind of partnership that protects us from the temptation of presuming for ourselves what can only be attributed to God. A partnership that becomes a living testimony to His power and grace.

Gary Burns is the *Lake Union Herald* editor.



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SINGLE AND OVER 50? The only interracial group exclusively for all singles over 50. Stay home and meet new friends in the U.S.A. with a pen pal monthly newsletter of members and album. For information, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to ASO-50 and Ebony Choice Singles Over 50, 2747 Nonpareil, Sutherland, OR 97479.

Vacation Opportunities

HERITAGE SINGERS 35-YEAR CELEBRATION CRUISE: Join us Mar. 19-26, 2006, for

a seven-day Western Caribbean cruise featuring special *Through the Years* concerts and Christian comedian, Pete McLeod, former *Heritage Singers* member. Call Inspiration Cruises today and join *Heritage Singers 35th Anniversary Celebration*—(800) 247-1899.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY: Visit Ghana, West Africa, Feb. 26-Mar. 9, 2006. Companion tour for Lake Region Conference 2006 Ghana Mission Trip. Tour includes historic sites in Accra, Elmina, Kumasi; Adventist communities; villages; nature preserves. \$2,499 includes airfare from Chicago, lodging, meals, ground tours. For more information, contact People and Places Worldwide: (708) 922-1522.

ADVENTIST GROUP VACATIONS! Seven-day Hawaiian Islands cruise, sailing from Honolulu, Apr. 9, 2006; hosts: the Dan Matthews. Seven-day Voice of Prophecy Alaska cruise, sailing from Seattle, Aug. 13, 2006; hosts: the Lonnie Melashenkos. For more information, contact Mert Allen, Mt. Tabor Cruise, at (800) 950-9234 or (503) 256-7919; or e-mail: mert@mttabortravel.com.

Churches, schools, conferences, institutions, and organizations may submit announcements to the *Lake Union Herald* through their local conference communication directors. An easy way to do this is to visit the *Lake Union Herald* website at luc.adventist.org announcements and submit the announcement online. Readers may verify dates and times of programs with the respective sources, as these events are subject to change.

Andrews University

Paying for College 2005-2006: Seminars to begin the process of gathering information to fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will be held by Andrews University at the following locations. A second set of seminars will take place in Jan. and Feb. to help fill out the forms. Those dates and times will be in future editions of the *Lake Union Herald*. Both parents and their academy/high school seniors are encouraged to attend regardless of which colleges they are considering applying to for the fall of 2006.

- Andrews Academy:** Wed., Nov. 9, 7:00 p.m.
 - Battle Creek Academy:** Tues., Nov. 15, 7:00 p.m.
 - Broadview Academy:** Sun., Nov. 20, 1:00 p.m.*
 - Chicago Academy:** Wed., Nov. 9, 3:00 p.m.*
 - Grand Rapids Adventist Academy:** Tues., Nov. 8, 6:00 p.m.
 - Great Lakes Adventist Academy:** Sat., Nov. 19, 6:00 p.m.
 - Hinsdale Adventist Academy:** Thurs., Nov. 17, 7:00 p.m.*
 - Indiana Academy:** Sun., Nov. 20, 1:00 p.m.
 - Peterson-Warren Academy:** Thurs., Nov. 17, 6:00 p.m.
 - Wisconsin Academy:** Sat., Nov. 5, 6:00 p.m.*
- *Central times

Historic Adventist Village

Dec. 10 and 11, 4:00-7:00 p.m.: Victorian Christmas—carols, choirs, Village lantern tours, Food Bank offering, Chet Damron as the Story Teller. For more information on this event, contact Stanley Cottrell, Village director, at (269) 965-3000; or visit website: www.adventistheritage.org.

From **Nov.-Apr.** the Village is open only on Sabbaths from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and for specially scheduled group tours during the week. To schedule a group tour, call (269) 965-3000; or e-mail: adventistvillage@tds.net.

Indiana

Disaster Response Training: The Indiana Conference community services department invites all community service leaders and disaster response volunteers within the Lake Union to come and enjoy a weekend full of blessings, **Nov. 4-6**, at Timber Ridge Camp, Ind. Sung Kwon, NAD executive director for community services, will speak on the subject, "Community Services and Disaster

Response: Making an Impact in the 21st Century." There is a cost for the weekend, which includes all meals and lodging. For more information, call Julie Loucks at (317) 844-6201; or e-mail: communityservices@indianaadventist.org.

Tri-Town Christmas Program: Enjoy the beautiful music of the season with an adult mass choir, the Indiana Academy *Keynotes*, band, and bell choir on Fri., **Dec. 2**, 7:00 p.m., at the annual community musical program held at the Cicero Adventist Church, 2445 State Road 19 North, Cicero, Ind.

Journey to Bethlehem: Come experience a bustling Judean village. Meet Herod the Great, and search with the shepherds and wisemen for the real meaning of Christmas. Enjoy live animals, a narrated tour, and more than 100 costumed cast members. Event times: **Dec. 3**, 6:00-9:00 p.m.; **Dec. 4**, 5:00-8:00 p.m., at the Cicero Adventist Church, 2445 State Road 19 North. For more information, call (317) 984-4860; or visit website: www.sdachurch.com.

Lake Union

Offerings:

- Nov. 5** Local church budget
- Nov. 12** Annual Sacrifice
- Nov. 19** Local church budget
- Nov. 26** Local conference advance
- Special days:**
- Nov. 5-26** Native Heritage Month
- Nov. 5** Stewardship Sabbath
- Nov. 6-12** Week of Prayer
- Nov. 19** Human Relations Sabbath
- Nov. 26** Welcome Home Sabbath

North American Division

International Website for Adventist Nurses: Adventist Nursing Connection (ANC) is the name of the new website designed specifically to link the world-wide community of Adventist nurses. Visitors will find a variety of information plus a discussion forum. This virtual community should prove especially welcome to those nurses who practice in isolated areas of the world. ANC needs your assistance in reaching all Adventist nurses with the news of this new virtual community so it grows into a beneficial service world-wide. Website address: www.adventistnursingconnection.org.

Discovering My Passion of LOVE

BY ERICA SMITH

I knelt down next to my bed in prayer, knowing my connection with Christ was quickly fading and that the time of the end was close—but I was not ready. I prayed hard for the answer to my problems. “What must I do Lord?” I prayed. “How can I be ready for Your coming and spread Your word to others?” Getting no immediate answer, I became discouraged. I knew I had a big problem; the things that would make most believers more excited seemed boring to me.

After continued prayer for the next several days, my friend Seth (whose dad owns an Adventist printing press) came to me with *The Passion of Love* books that were not sellable, but still had the message. Seth asked if I would help him give them away. By the end of the day I had passed out 50 books, and over 1,000 by the end of the month. I was in shock at how inspiring the experience was.

One of the most encouraging encounters was at a county fair in Hillsdale, Mich. We split up and walked down the rows, each with 100 books. As I walked through the food stands, I noticed two young girls with earrings, tattoos, and very suggestive clothes. “Those two will never take one,” I said to myself. “There is no point in trying.” But as I started to walk past, my legs suddenly stopped. I couldn’t move them; it seemed as though I had walked into fast-drying cement. I looked

again at the two girls, sighed deeply, then turned and walked over to where they were.

“Hello,” I began shyly, “my name is Erica Smith. A friend and I are passing out this book, *The Passion of Love*; this book is about what our Savior went through for us. I was wondering if you would like one?”

“There, I finally said it,” I thought to myself.

“Hey!” said the first girl, “That’s the book that goes along with the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*.”

“Oh yeah, I have been wanting this book for a long time, but we never had the money. Thank you,” replied the second girl, tears in her eyes.

I smiled, and with tears in my eyes turned and walked away. After that day, I was changed. I just want to say to all of you who are struggling, God can and will help you, but you have to ask through prayer.

Erica Smith is a junior at Battle Creek Academy. She will receive a \$100 scholarship since her article was chosen for publication.

Shayna Butler, 18, from Muskegon, Mich., is a senior at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy (GRAA). During her three years at GRAA, she has been very actively involved with her class and the newly-formed senior academy by holding the offices of sophomore class secretary/treasurer, junior class president, senior class secretary/treasurer, year-book editor, and Student Association social vice president. To keep herself busy, Shayna also serves as the Muskegon Adventist Church bulletin editor and teaches either the Youth or Cradle Roll Sabbath school class.



Shayna Butler

When it comes to Shayna's academy experience, she will remember her chemistry and advanced math class the most because her teacher, Dale Vinton, always finds a way to make class more interesting and challenging. Academy life has taught her that "no matter how stressful school is, just pray about it."

Next year, Shayna plans to go to Southern Adventist University. Shayna is the daughter of Jason and Leslie Wolf.



Andrew Leffler

Andrew (Andy) Leffler, 17, from Jenison, Mich., is the only senior at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy (GRAA) who has attended there since kindergarten. During his academy years, Andy has been sophomore class religious vice president, junior class vice president, and senior class president, as well as Student Association sergeant-at-arms.

Andy is actively involved playing the guitar and/or drums for assemblies; his love of singing earned him the choral award his sophomore year. Andy has been on two mission trips to Peru, has spoken for an evangelistic series, and currently serves as a deacon in the Grand Rapids Central Church.

The friends Andy has made in academy are some of the most important in his life. His favorite memories include a prayer conference with Grover Wilcox, and history tours to Boston and Washington, D.C. As he looks forward to college next year, he plans to take aviation maintenance at Andrews University.

As a leukemia survivor, Andy has been actively involved in the Leukemia Lymphoma Society, earning the title "Honored Hero" while inspiring marathon participants along the way. As a team captain for *Light the Night*, he raised thousands of dollars for blood cancer research.

Andy is the son of Rick and Marilyn Leffler. His grandmother, mother, aunts, uncle, and cousins all attended GRAA (formerly Grand Rapids Junior Academy) as well.

These students were selected and profiled by faculty members at their school. To recommend outstanding students for recognition, speak with your pastor or a faculty member. Visit www.lakeunionherald.org for selection criteria.

Address Correction

Members of the Lake Region Conference and paid subscribers should contact the *Lake Union Herald* office with their address changes. Members from the Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin conferences should now contact their local conference membership clerks directly for all *Lake Union Herald* address changes. Contact phone numbers are listed below for your convenience, and addresses are listed to the right.

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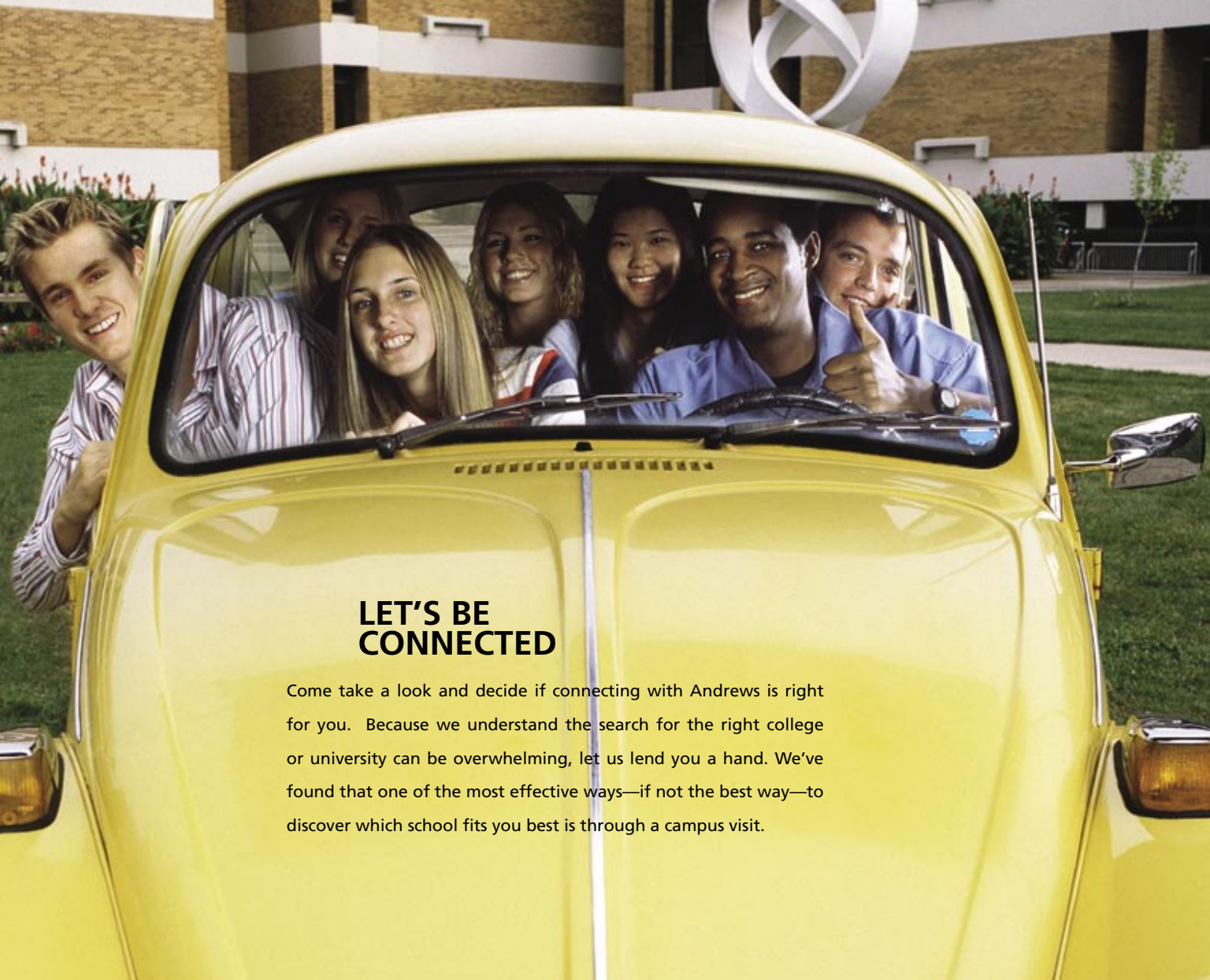
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