

Lake Union HERALD

DECEMBER 2005



The Greatest
GIFT



Four-year-old Khaden Bell poses with Jackie Wright, Eleanor Wright's sister-in-law, for our December cover story, "The Greatest Gift." Cover photo by Gary Burns.

COVER STORY

The Greatest GIFT

BY ELEANOR WRIGHT

THE GREATEST GIFT
By Eleanor Wright

*If you would give a gift to man,
To one who means the world to you,
But would not have you give your love,
Don't hang your head and don't be blue.
While the world is wrapped in festive bliss,
Go join them and remember this:
The greatest gift of all the gifts is LOVE.*

*Behold a mother and her child,
An aged couple side by side,
A young man with his blushing bride,
Then look to Him who gave His son.
The greatest gift to everyone,
And give the greatest you can give:
LOVE, LOVE while you live.*

LAKE UNION HERALD December 2005

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in this issue...

The title and theme for this month's issue, "The Greatest Gift," was inspired by a song of the same title written by "Aunt Eleanor" Wright. We reflect, not only on the gift of God's Son to us, but the ongoing gift of His life in us. The stories featured in this issue are designed to encourage, challenge, and inspire each of us to consider His indescribable gift. The gift of love, given freely to us, He intends to spill out of our lives to all around us.

"So, give the greatest you can give—love; love while you live."


Gary Burns, Editor



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A GIFT *Beyond Measure*

I just realized it is difficult to enumerate gifts without listing blessings, and we counted our blessings in a previous issue of the *Herald*. I suppose the reason is that most gifts turn out to be blessings. A gift is bestowed free of charge and cannot be demanded or required. It sometimes is a surprise, and is usually welcomed by the recipient. Gifts can be priceless in value or sentimentally valuable without price. My sister-in-law, Eleanor Wright, declared that the greatest gift is love in a beautiful song she composed, quoted elsewhere in this issue. Follow me as I search for the greatest gift in my life.

Immediately, my wonderful wife Jackie comes to mind, or the much-accomplished four children she has presented to me. How about the gift of horticulture? I love to see things grow, and I am at my most relaxed state while puttering in my yard with the plants I have cultivated. Then the gift of ministry comes to mind. If the Lord had not called me to ministry I am not sure where I would be today. He called me from work in a very secular environment at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where the salary was quite good. Now I am in ministry where the salary is quite good because it goes further with God's blessing.

Maybe I can consider my parents, Nathan and Willa Wright, as the greatest gift, or my six siblings who made up our household. Certainly, it is a gift from God to be raised in a Christian home where the values are Bible-based, and all your brothers and sisters wholeheartedly subscribe to the same values. Mom and Dad surely launched me in the direction that brought me to this point in my life, and the knocks and bruises and soothings of older siblings cannot be discounted in my development.

Who could forget the gift of friendships? We all have lots of acquaintances, but true friends are precious gifts that broaden and deepen our life experiences. They are real treasures.

All these are cherished gifts. But the greatest gift? I would have to say the gift that is without measure is the gift of salvation that comes through the knowledge, relationship, and acceptance of Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Welcome NEW MEMBERS



From left (back row): Mike Troxell, Paul Harvey, Jawana Smith, Reneé Hart, Darren Glascock, and Fred Troxell, Irvington Church pastor; (front): Brianna Smith, DeVonté Harpoll, Sean Hopwood, and Aaron Riley.

Indiana Mike Troxell, a pastor and son of Fred Troxell, Irvington Church pastor, conducted a Bible prophecy seminar, titled “Unfolding Revelation,” during April 2005. The community responded with a significant attendance. It seemed they wanted to know if they could really understand Bible prophecy. Amazed, they listened to each presentation, and some confessed they learned more in a few nights than they had known in their whole life. By the conclusion of the lectures, ten people surrendered their life to Jesus and joined the Adventist church by baptism. Here are some of their stories:

Paul Harvey received an advertisement to the prophecy seminar in his mail. He was interested in prophecy and the opportunity to attend an in-depth study of end-time events. The printed schedule was for a two-week series, but it was extended an additional two weeks. By the end of the seminar, Paul wanted to reaffirm his faith and be baptized. He felt he had learned so many truths, and his faith in God had been deepened.

Reneé Hart was invited by a friend to attend church in the mid-eighties. When she learned services were on Saturday, she had reservations. She attended for a while, but never making a commitment, eventually left. When the prophecy flier came in the mail, she decided to attend.

One of her sons, **Sean Hopwood**, agreed to attend with her. Without realizing it at first, she had come back to the Adventist church. The speaker was so full of energy and life that they stayed for the whole series. She says, “We both learned wonderful truths from the Bible and will always be grateful. God opened a door for us, and we walked through it and were baptized. Today, we have a sense of peace as Sean and I are members of a church family.”

Jawana Smith and her children, **Brianna Smith** and **DeVonté Harpoll**, always felt they should belong to the Seventh-day Adventist Church because Jawana had been raised an Adventist. However, there were many Bible truths Jawana did not fully understand, and she had a curiosity about their meaning as she sought for a deeper experience with Jesus. A change began in their lives when they started to attend the Irvington Church and requested Bible studies. They were excited to learn what God asked of them and looked forward to each revelation of truth. Now that they have been baptized and joined the Adventist church, they have a sense of belonging to their church family and would not want to be anywhere else. They thank God for leading them there and showing them how to experience His joy.

Edie Hammond was raised in an Adventist church in La Sierra, California, and had a caring, and dedicated Christian mother. Yet, she drifted away from the Lord. When she



From left: Fred Troxell, Irvington Church pastor; Edie and Quent Hammond

met **Quent Hammond**, her husband-to-be, in 1977, neither attended a church. Quent had attended a church in West Virginia where his grandfather was pastor, but decided to leave.

As they dated, Edie told Quent she would probably go back to church some day, and asked him to go with her. He promised he would. After being married five years, Edie attended the Adventist church each week and, by God’s grace, experienced many positive changes in her life. When she learned about an upcoming Revelation seminar, they both came faithfully.

During the pastor’s visit in their home, Quent gave his heart to Christ and asked to be baptized. Edie decided to rededicate her life to the Lord, and they were baptized together. They believe the Lord brought them together to find their way to Him.

Aaron Riley’s spiritual journey began when he was eight years old. His grandmother took him to church on Sunday mornings. He wanted to worship in the sanctuary, but was told he had to stay in Sunday school with children his age. Aaron renewed his journey with Jesus when he was fourteen by attending a church in another denomination. They cared for him there and visited him, but Aaron quit attending.

As a teenager, Aaron became involved with drugs and exhibited aggressive behavior. The most painful day of his

life came, when at seventeen, his father died. Shortly afterward, while driving at excessive speed, Aaron rolled his car. In his pride, Aaron lost almost everything he cared about.

One night he prayed for a sign from the Lord. As Aaron drove to work on the highway he saw the answer on a billboard. It read, "Looking for a sign from the Lord? This is it!" Shortly afterward, Aaron asked Jesus to save him and his life began to change.

When he received a mailed invitation to the prophecy seminar, he began to attend. There, Aaron heard many revelations from the Bible. The word of the living God set him free from the painful decisions and experiences from his past.

Today, Aaron's desire is to attend Andrews University and pursue a pastoral ministry degree. If God wills it, Aaron believes it would be an honor to dedicate his life in service to further God's kingdom. "Jesus Christ has changed my life and my outlook on life," he testifies. He adds, "I hope to help Him do the same for others."

Charlotte Dodd, Irvington Church communication correspondent, and Bruce Babienko, *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent

Michigan The South Flint Church picnic would not be complete without a baptism, and last summer's picnic was no exception! Three individuals proclaimed Jesus Christ as their personal Savior on Sunday, June 26, as they were baptized by immersion in a pond at the home of Rick Dougherty, South Flint's head deacon.

The first two baptized were **Mike Kent** and **Julie Moreau**. They began their spiritual journey when Mike visited a local restaurant where Julie was his waitress. As Julie waited on his table, a conversation about religion ensued. Mike, already an Adventist, shared his beliefs with her. Mike faced personal challenges in his life, and Julie also had struggles. When Mike gave credit to how Jesus kept his faith going on a daily basis, Julie became interested in what he believed.

Desiring to understand how the Bible could be a blessing to her, she accepted his invitation to study Amazing Facts' "Focus on Prophecy" Bible lessons. Eventually Julie became convicted Saturday was the Bible Sabbath Jesus asks everyone to observe, and approached her employer to say she could no longer work between sundown Friday and sundown Saturday. As she continued to be "discipled" by Mike, she learned more and more truths about what Jesus, her new Friend, desired her to believe and practice.

As Mike shared the Bible with Julie, he also became convicted it was time for him to renew his commitment



From left: Melvin Santos, pastor, Mike Kent, Julie Moreau, Alyssa Lively, Ryan Lively, Rick Holstedtler, and Wayland Lively

to Christ. Mike and Julie made a decision to be baptized at the close of the church's annual picnic. It is a blessing to witness how their relationship with Christ continues to grow, and see how it has also blossomed into a meaningful relationship with each other. They are planning a wedding in the near future.

The third person baptized was **Rick Holstedtler**, who was befriended by Rick and Trina Dougherty. He needed work, and they were able to give him work around their home since they board horses. During this time Rick Dougherty was able to witness and disciple him, and share the love of Jesus. Because of this Christian influence, Rick Holstedtler's heart and mind became convicted of Christ's love and truths, and he made a decision to give his heart and life over to follow Jesus. He chose to make a public profession of his faith, and was baptized at the same church picnic.

But the good news about baptisms doesn't stop there! **Ryan and Alyssa Lively**, the children of Wayland and Janice Lively, South Flint members, decided to give their lives to Jesus and also be baptized. They completed a series of children's Bible studies, and their pastor reviewed the lessons with them. At their baptism on Sabbath, August 20, the South Flint *Timber Wolves* Pathfinders stood around the baptistry. After Ryan and Alyssa entered the baptistry, their father joined them and sang a song of dedication to them. On cue, their pastor, Melvin Santos, called the Pathfinders to attention to show support. Tears of happiness flowed on this special Sabbath as both Heaven and Earth rejoiced.

Todd Ervin, South Flint communication leader, as shared with Bruce Babienko, *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent

Sharing God's Love with Every Smile

STUDENTS ANSWER CALL TO HELP HURRICANE VICTIMS

BY LISA CUNNINGHAM

When Mike Edge, Wisconsin Conference youth director, came to Wisconsin Academy to talk about his trip to Bass Academy to assist Hurricane Katrina victims, I never really thought that it was something I'd be able to do. Even though I wanted to, I didn't really see myself there. But I see now that God saw me there way before the hurricane started. I truly believe God called me there.



Paul Meulemans, Lisa Cunningham, and Jaci Martinez, unloaded boxes off the pallet to be emptied into tubs for distribution.

not like we were expecting grand hotel suites. Instead of sleeping in the gym, we decided to sleep outside under the stars in the warm Mississippi air.



The next day we headed out to a town called Waveland. About an hour into the car ride, we could really start to see some damage. Houses were totally ruined, with boards and wood strewn everywhere.

When we finally arrived at the work site, the instructor told us what needed to be done, and we started working right away. We gave out food, hygiene products, diapers, water, and other such necessities to people who drove up in cars. I worked in food distribution most of the time.

One thing I found truly amazing was that even though these people needed food so badly, they never wanted to take too much so other people would be able to have some,

too. Whenever I told them we were from Wisconsin, they were so grateful we would come all the way down just to help them.

It was just heartbreaking to hear how these people had lost their homes and family members, and to see how their whole lives were just scattered across the coast. All that was left of some people's houses was the floor. All the walls were completely ripped out.

The best part of all was that these people got to see the Lord's love in every smile we gave them. One day a group of us were sitting at a table before supper and a volunteer from another denomination came up and started talking to us. He was really interested in our religion and asked what we believed about salvation. It was really neat because we got to share our faith with someone else. We had a really nice conversation and before he left, we all prayed together. That was a real blessing for me. I'm really thankful for all the opportunities God gave us to witness that week.



Before the Wis. group left for home, they stopped for a picture in Waveland, the town which now holds a special place in their hearts.

Now, back at school, I know what it means to truly thank God for what I have. I have a bed, showers, a roof over my head, and I know every night when I go to bed I'll have breakfast in the morning.

Lisa Cunningham is a sophomore at Wisconsin Academy. She traveled to Mississippi with 20 other students and their sponsors during home leave in September.



Z Crew Leads Zambians to Christ

"WE'VE NEVER HEARD THE WORD OF GOD PRESENTED WITH SUCH POWER!"

BY REX REED AND SERGE SALLEVA

Watching 176 people make decisions for Jesus Christ and enter the water for baptism makes any discomfort, cost, time loss, or homesickness seem minor in the light of eternity. The amazing fact that God can use lay people in this type of ministry—public evangelism—is as enlightening as finding the truth that Jesus loves you for the first time.

When Adventist Zambian students arrived at the Wyoming (Michigan) Church in 2003, the seeds for a mission excursion were planted in our hearts. Perry Silozi, a pastor from the Copperbelt Mission, stirred our hearts with stories of his people's needs, and a group of Sabbath school members organized to meet the challenges of a mission trip to Zambia. Formulating concrete plans and fund-raising began as the Z Crew (Zambian mission team members) met bi-monthly to plan, pray, and seek God's directions for their 21-day mission series.

Arriving in Kitwe, Zambia, the evangelistic meetings were held in Freedom Park, within the heart of the metropolis of a million citizens. It took a variety of skills for the meetings to occur. Tom Donnelly, a physician, provided medical assistance. Lori Reed, a nurse, provided health talks. Serge Salleva took care of technical operations and answered Bible questions. Donald Helms and Tory Taggart provided special music. Paul Middleton cared for the camera and video. Rex Reed, an elementary school teacher, delivered the evangelistic sermons.

Night by night people came until the crowd swelled to over 2,000 at each service. Four nights into the meetings, 60 people came forward to accept Jesus as their Savior in response to the invitation by the evangelist. By the end of the meetings, over 200 people made their decision for Christ.

During the first invitation from the evangelist, a man stumbled forward, then collapsed on the ground. Our per-

sonnel rushed to his assistance and, after praying with him, he sat up with tears of joy and release. He was the first to be baptized the second Sabbath.

A lady who struggled with witchcraft for years brought her artifacts and burned them as a sign of victory. Through the team's prayers, God delivered her and she was baptized at the conclusion of the meetings.

It was rewarding to witness 176 baptisms and know another 40 are continuing to study in preparation for their baptism. These new believers were provided with Bibles and study resources. They commented, "We've never heard the Word of God presented with such power!"

The Z Crew plans to supply funds for Bibles and Bible workers to the area and wishes to thank the members and churches who have already donated. There are plans for future mission trips, and the Z Crew prays others will move out of their comfort zone into an outreach zone as the time of Christ's appearing nears.



Tired, but excited, the Z Crew arrived in Zambia.



A throng of over 6,000 Zambians gathered on the final Sabbath the Z Crew was in Zambia.



With God's leading, 176 individuals were baptized as a result of the Z Crew's lay member evangelism efforts.

Rex Reed and Serge Salleva, Wyoming Church members, as shared with Bruce Babienco, *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent



FAMILY TIES

GIFTS MONEY CAN'T BUY

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

During the Christmas season, many engage in thinking about, anticipating, planning, choosing, and giving gifts. That's a wonderful part of being alive—the giving and receiving of gifts. From a spiritual standpoint, we recognize the best gifts are those from God. Think how Mary anticipated the impending birth of Jesus. Certainly Heaven was abuzz celebrating God's gift to humankind.

Have you noticed how sometimes kids have more fun with the wrapping and boxes than with the toys that came in them? Is that much different from enjoying the thoughtfulness, the sense that a gift is given from the heart, or just knowing someone is excited about our life? Like the wrapping paper on a present, it's the meaning behind the gift that can give the greater joy.

Do you know what it feels like to receive a gift that's out of season, one that was obviously an unwanted gift being passed on, or getting something that is sizes too big or too small, or in a least-favorite style or color? What about one with the price tag left on? We ask, was this given out of obligation? Was getting a bargain or spending a small fortune to look good the most important thing to the giver? These experiences get added to other messages we receive about our value and importance to others.

How can you go wrong in gift giving if you choose to be genuinely excited and interested in someone's life, long term? While we get excited about the birth of a child, how long does it take to begin focusing on what sacrifices we're making, or how the child doesn't meet our expectations? When a toddler is doing the important growing that often taxes adults, are we daily and consistently excited about their life or wish they'd just get past this stage?

When a child heads off to school are we more excited about their life or more frustrated by the amount of homework they

have? What about an adolescent who appears to have forgotten everything we've worked so long to teach them? Are we really, daily, intentionally excited about their life? If so, how do we let them know?

What about our spouses? We were pretty excited in the beginning. We certainly were excited about their life and how they excited us; but, how about in the years after marriage? Does your spouse know, on a daily basis, you are excited about his or her life?

For the older adults in our lives, most of whom say they have everything they need (and many actually do have all the material things), do we half-listen? Are we full of suggestions when they just want to be listened to, when they want us to know they still have opinions and valuable thoughts? Are we truly excited about their life, or do we just want to get on with our own?

So, as you are "gifting" this holiday season, being truly intentionally interested in and excited about another's life may be gift enough, if the truth were told. Of course, you can sweeten life by the thoughtful and heart-felt, tangible gifts you give this season.

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.





10 Top Ten Foods that Pack a Punch

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Certain foods are especially rich in health-promoting phytochemicals.

According to Hippocrates, “Let food be your medicine, and medicine be your food.” With the recent discovery of thousands of phytochemicals in our food, certain foods have received a higher status and may even carry the title of functional food when found to be especially rich in certain health-promoting phytochemicals.

Regular consumption of the foods listed below provides the consumer with a variety and abundance of disease-preventing phytochemicals to protect us against heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and other conditions.

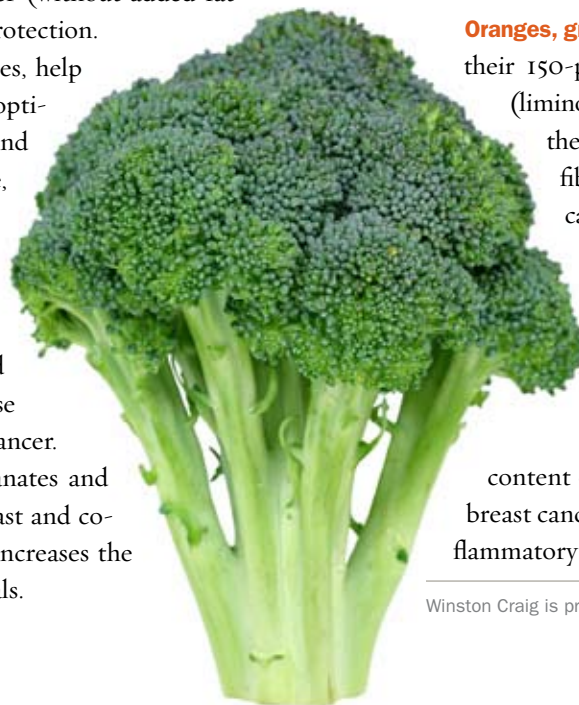
Tomatoes or tomato products, rich in the red pigment lycopene, when eaten every day lower the risk of prostate cancer in men by about 40 percent.

Nuts, eaten regularly, lower low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol levels about ten to 15 percent, and reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease by 30 to 50 percent, and the risk of diabetes about 20 to 30 percent. Peanuts and natural-style peanut butter (without added fat and sugar) provide the same protection.

Soybeans, rich in isoflavones, help maintain bone density and optimal cardiovascular function, and lower the risk of heart disease, breast cancer, and prostate cancer.

Red grapes, rich in various flavonoid pigments, decrease the risk of blood clots and hence the risk of strokes. These pigments also protect against cancer.

Broccoli, rich in isothiocyanates and indoles, lowers the risk of breast and colon cancer. Cooking broccoli increases the availability of its phytochemicals.



Barley, rich in beta-glucans, lowers LDL cholesterol and triglyceride levels, and the risk of heart disease. Barley also reduces blood glucose and insulin responses after a meal, and reduces the risk of developing diabetes.

Blueberries and cranberries, rich in anthocyanin pigments, delay age-related declines in nerve and cognitive function, help fight urinary tract infections, and decrease the risk of cancer.

Oranges, grapefruit, and other citrus fruits, with their 150-plus cancer-fighting phytochemicals (limonoids, flavonoids, carotenoids, etc.) and their rich supply of potassium, soluble fiber, and folic acid, protect us against cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Cabbage protects against stroke and cancer due to its rich content of folic acid, potassium, carotenoids, indoles, and isothiocyanates.

Flaxseed meal, with its rich content of lignans and omega-3 fat, inhibits breast cancer and possesses significant anti-inflammatory activity.

Winston Craig is professor of nutrition at Andrews University.

EXTREME GRACE

The GIFT BY DICK DUERKSEN of Peace

Last night I hung the old canvass chair to its hanger on the back porch ... thirteen months after nature's wild winds blew it down. It's one of those "California chairs," a contraption designed to swing and keep on swinging while the sitter does little more than sit and breathe. I like that, because "sitting and breathing" is about all I want to do many autumn evenings. Sit, look out at Brenda's flowers, and breathe the cool evening air. Slowly.

I've been more than a year without "sitting and breathing." Instead, I've been working during the light hours and coming home after dark has filled our back yard, and then eating supper far later than even Martha Stewart would allow. There's been little time to "sit and breathe." Not even time to hang the chair now that the porch ceiling has been repaired and re-painted a pleasant yellow. Not until yesterday.

As soon as I had it firmly connected, I sat, breathed, and sat some more.

I remember when I used to sit in the swing-chair often. I'd get a tall glass of Brenda's lemonade (or hot chocolate if the evening allowed!), take several deep cleansing breaths (like they taught us in Lamaze classes), and listen to the breezes blow in the trees behind our house. Those are all good things. Stop. Sit. Drink. Breathe deeply. Listen.

... and sleep.

The faded canvass chair is a really great sleeping chair!

According to letters written by His friends, Jesus used to "sit and breathe." After a full day telling stories to kids,



healing their parents, and confronting demons, He'd wave to the guys and head off into the hills. I'll bet He had a favorite sitting rock or listening chair somewhere in the vast outdoors, a spot where He could settle in, breathe deeply, empty His canteen, stare off into the heavens, and review the day with His Father.

Sometimes I'll bet His chin would drop and He'd sleep the sleep of the exhausted. Other times He'd talk on all night long, remembering stories He should have told and planning better responses for tomorrow's lawyerly questions. Sometimes though, I'm sure He just sat and breathed, smiling as the Wind of God filled His lungs and soul.

Maybe that is His greatest gift—permission to walk away from life's chaos into a place of refreshing peace. Permission to breathe deeply—knowing that The Father is filling us with His Spirit, and that a dose of Divine Inspiration is going to improve everything about our tomorrow! (see Luke 5:16 and 6:12)

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



Nibbling the Ropes

BY ANN FISHER

A classic fable tells of a mouse who went into a lion's cave by mistake. Before she knew what she was doing, she ran over the nose of the sleeping lion. The lion reached out his paw, caught the mouse, and was about to eat her when the mouse said, "Oh, forgive me, king of beasts. I should never have been so presumptuous as to come into this cave if I had known it was yours."

The lion smiled at the poor, frightened little mouse and let her go. Not long after that, the lion fell into a rope net left for him by some hunters, and his roars filled the forest. The mouse recognized the voice, ran to see if she could help him, set to work nibbling the ropes, and soon the lion was free.

So what does this simple fable, attributed to Aesop, a Greek slave who lived in the sixth century B.C., have to do with Christmas? *When the mouse set to nibbling the ropes, she simply showed her gratitude by doing what she could with what she had.*

God loves us so much He gave His only Son to die for us and set us free. How can we ever thank Him? By "nibbling the ropes."

When the poor widow put her last two copper coins in the temple treasury, when Mary broke the jar of perfume on Jesus' feet, when the Samaritan took the wounded traveler to the inn and paid for his care, and when Joseph asked for Christ's body and laid Him in his own family tomb, they were all "nibbling the ropes."

Adventist history is full of examples of people who did what they could with what they had. Our early pioneers sacrificed their property, their money, and their lives to spread the good news that Jesus is coming again soon.

Ellen White tells a story about Joseph Bates (1792–1872), who was convicted he should go to Vermont and preach the "truth" to the people there. Since he didn't have money to travel, he determined to set out on foot, trusting God to give him

strength. When Ellen's sister heard about the need, she quickly took a housekeeping job. Starting the next morning, she requested her pay in advance and placed the money in Joseph's hand. Ellen's sister remained at her job, working for \$1.25 a week. She did all she could with what she had.

We can never repay what God has done for us, but we can show appreciation by "nibbling the ropes." When a student missionary returns home and sends part of her meager funds to the mission school, she's "nibbling the ropes." When a family chooses to send the money they would have spent on Christmas presents for themselves to build a church in India, they are "nibbling the ropes." When medical professionals hold free clinics for the poor around the world, they're "nibbling the ropes."

How will we thank Jesus this Christmas season? Whether our gifts are large like the gold, frankincense, and myrrh the wise men brought from the East, or small like the legendary little boy who played his drum for baby Jesus, we, too, can "nibble the ropes." As we celebrate Jesus' birth this season, like Aesop's mouse, let's do for Jesus all we can with what we have.



Ann Fisher writes from Walla Walla, Washington.

Turning Eyes Upon Jesus

LAKE UNION PASTOR MINISTERS TO SOLDIERS IN IRAQ

BY PHILIP WILLIS JR.

When I began chaplain ministry at Q-West, Iraq, the ministry's foundation was built on two elements—elevate Christ and incorporate diversity in worship. We did this in every possible way, even via Power Point; it was this key principle that drew soldiers by the hundreds to our ministry.

We began with just seven to 12 soldiers in a small conference room. I was the only musician and played a total of four contemporary worship songs on my guitar. We grew, and moved twice before we ended up in the only building on the base to hold the attendance that grew to more than 200 weekly! We were no longer just the 1,225th chapel service, we became *the* base chapel service, with a full band and three musical groups. Isn't God good?

These strategies were adopted, with the Lord's leading, to maximize the effectiveness of our ministry:

Love All the Soldiers—How else would they know I was a Christian? I made a conscious effort to make each feel they were more important than me. In this environment where rank matters, I brought them into a world that said we can even love our enemies.

Develop a Winning Team—The Lord led me to some beautifully talented and willing volunteers. We jelled instantly and became a family. That family grew to adopt the motto, "Lift Him Up," and we marched to victory from there.

Be Authentic—Soldiers can tell if you are a phony. I preached honest messages, opened up to them about my victories and failures, and led them to the Lord who covers them all.

Be Where They Are—That's how I made a connection with soldiers who would have never stepped foot in my chapel service. I gained their respect and admiration for it because when they slept under the stars, I was there, too. I was with them through thick or thin.



Benjamin Boedecker (left) and Philip Willis Jr., chaplain



The worship team circles for prayer before services begin.

Practice What

You Preach—I learned that "No deviation from strict integrity can meet God's approval." I made sure my lifestyle was in line with the teachings. There were some difficult days, but I dared to be a Daniel because I knew they were watching.

Just this past weekend the Lord blessed us with 18 precious souls at our big Bible baptism. These young Bible students all received copies of the book, *Bible Answers*. By God's grace, we have baptized 25 soldiers on Islamic ancient soil.

In retrospect, I don't think there is an effective tool to measure what we have accomplished here. If I could measure it by each smiling face, every tear that fell, every thank you I heard, every embrace I shared,

every hand that clapped, every voice that praised, or every eye that turned on Jesus then I would say measure long because it is well with my soul.

"Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring and they will hear my voice" (John 10:16).

Philip Willis Jr. has been a Seventh-day Adventist minister for ten years and is pastor of the Jackson Summit and Lansing Bethel churches in Michigan.





La iglesia sigue caminando

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Y

a se aproxima el fin del año 2005, un año que me ha presentado muchos desafíos y preocupaciones como vicepresidente de la Unión. Para mí el año 2005 será inolvidable, no tanto por los problemas que tuve que enfrentar sino por un gran milagro que ocurrió en nuestro campo.

Un día sonó el teléfono en la oficina y al contestarlo descubrí que era un pastor que deseaba hablar conmigo en persona. Cuando empezó a contarme algo de su situación me di cuenta que su historia era algo muy especial y decidí ir personalmente a verlo. Por razones de privacidad relato la historia sin revelar el nombre del pastor ni el lugar donde esto ocurrió.



Un nuevo redil

Antes de venir a los Estados Unidos, este pastor trabajaba como administrador en una de las asociaciones de la División Interamericana. El año pasado fue invitado a dar una campaña evangelística en una de las iglesias de nuestra Unión. Al terminar la campaña, se le hizo la invitación para que se hiciera cargo de una de las iglesias de nuestro territorio. Después de orar y consultar con su familia, decidió aceptar el llamado y se trasladó con su familia a su nuevo distrito.

Cuando el pastor se presentó por primera vez en la iglesia, encontró que no había nadie en la iglesia donde se pensaba que estaban alquilando. Al hacer sus averiguaciones descubrió que por razones de ciertos conflictos que había en la iglesia, todos los hermanos habían dejado de asistir como congregación hacía ya más de cinco meses.

Después de consultar con algunos líderes de la asociación decidió visitar a los hermanos. Desafortunadamente, nadie manifestó interés de regresar a la iglesia. El pastor se encontró en lo que parecía como una verdadera pesadilla—

después de venir de tan lejos, ¡ahora se encontraba en un país extraño como un pastor sin redil!

¿Qué hacer ahora? Un colporteur se acercó al pastor y le dijo: “Yo estoy sembrando muchas semillas en esta ciudad pero me queda poco tiempo para atender a las personas interesadas.

Necesito que usted me ayude a cosechar lo que estoy sembrando”. El pastor aceptó el desafío y empezó a visitar, casa por casa, a aquellas personas que parecían tener interés en escuchar la Palabra de Dios. Después de varios meses decidí reunir a los interesados para congregarse como iglesia. Oró para conseguir un templo y descubrió una iglesia bautista que estaba dispuesta a prestarles su edificio los sábados, ¡sin cobrarles nada!

Cuando visité la iglesia en el mes de octubre había cuarenta y dos personas asistiendo al culto, la mitad recién bautizados y la otra mitad estudiando la Biblia con el pastor. ¡Alabado sea nuestro gran Dios!

El Señor me enseñó una hermosa lección con esta experiencia, y es la siguiente: Aunque Satanás ataque la iglesia, no tenemos nada que temer si ponemos nuestra confianza en Dios y nuestras manos a la obra para cumplir su misión, pues la iglesia de Dios seguirá caminando victoriosa.

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

SECRETARIAT

LAKE UNION EXPERIENCES CONTINUED GROWTH

BY RODNEY GROVE

Typing! I laughed at the guys who took the typing class while I went off to football or baseball practice. Typing was for secretaries and secretaries were female. So why would a guy take a typing class?

Of course, I am dating myself to a time long, long ago, and thankfully, my attitudes have changed. In addition, I can now type 70 words per minute—if the spelling doesn't count. If I want to be able to read what I type, it is down to five words per minute using the one finger method. I wish I had broken through stereotypes and taken typing when I was in school.

Secretariat is about keeping records. At one time I didn't think this was important either. My attitude has changed here as well. When employees want to retire, it is important their records are correct. When a church or school has an insurance claim, they want to know they are properly recorded in the sisterhood of churches. When subsidies based on membership are issued by the General Conference, North American Division, or Union, correct membership figures are important. Records are even important when conducting a history of a group or organization.



Cynthia Baskin is receptionist, secretary, and an "excellent typist."

Ezra wrote a book in the Bible. Ezra was a scribe. Ezra kept records while he safeguarded the scriptures. If he hadn't, there would be no material for his book. Ezra was really a secretary. If he was responsible for the Lake Union today, he would record that during this quinquennium our membership has grown by 6,368 members so far, and now stands at 79,088. To reach this number, there were 12,334 baptisms, 8,922 transfers in, 9,119 transfers out, 3,079 apostasies, and 2,667 members resting in Jesus until He returns.

Ezra would also say this is good news because these members worship in 547 churches and companies in our sisterhood. This is an increase of 32 new lighthouses to help shine the light of Jesus throughout our territory.

Of course Ezra isn't here, so I am giving the report. Fortunately, I have Cynthia Baskin, an excellent typist and competent assistant, to help me out.

It is a good report. It shows growth; growing is what the Bible indicates we should be doing. But (yes, I had to get a "but" in there), I'm tired of the growth. I'd like to get it over with and head home to Heaven.

Now back to my typing lesson.

Rodney Grove is the Lake Union Conference executive secretary.

MINISTERIAL

EFFECTIVE TEAMWORK ENCOURAGED IN LAKE UNION

BY RODNEY GROVE

Shock! That's the only word to describe it. Ineffective was the word he used. Ineffective! For an hour after he left my office I just sat, staring at the wall. I was in shock.

Two hours earlier a friend of mine, a very successful senior pastor, came to see me. After a few minutes of the normal chit-chat about weather, families, and sports, he dropped the verbal bomb. He felt the need to leave the ministry. Yes, he was positive God originally called him, but now he felt ineffective. I reminded him he was liked by his peers and church members. Yearly, he was at the top of the baptismal list. His churches always grew—numerically and financially. Ineffective? I don't think so. I may have a right to feel that way, but not him.


The ministerial department of the church exists to help workers be effective. Providing continuing education, introducing new methodologies and technologies, and encouraging sensitivity to felt needs, cultural norms, and ethnic growths, will foster pastoral effectiveness. However, one of the biggest keys to effectiveness is the church working as a team. Working together, so much more is accomplished than when one works alone. Working together, so much more is accomplished than when one works and others cheer. Teamwork aids effectiveness.

Effective teamwork motivated the *Hope for Our Day* evangelism training convention in South Bend, Ind. The *Hope for*

Our Day training convention in Merrillville, Ind., provided advanced training for those teaching seminars and holding meetings. Added to these was the *Share the Light* church ministries convention in Merrillville, which focused on little things churches can do to enhance outreach programs.

Share the Light is more than a convention. It is the evangelistic theme for the Lake Union, leading up to our Union Session in April. To provide additional assistance in this outreach effort, the Lake Union has made available major funding to our academies involved in evangelism. In addition, the Lake Union will reimburse pastors, who meet certain conference-established criteria, up to \$1,000 for equipment purchased to conduct evangelistic meetings. This is, of course, in addition to the \$2 million in evangelism subsidies distributed to the conferences from Lake Union operating funds during the quinquennium. We believe this kind of teamwork makes us more effective.

About my pastor friend—he is still a successful pastor, more effective than ever. He now believes effectiveness can only be measured when Jesus comes. I agree.



Rodney Grove is the ministerial director for the Lake Union.

Rodney Grove is the Lake Union Conference ministerial director.



Miss Clancy's Speck of Heaven

BY CARLYLE B. HAYNES

Carlyle B. Haynes was an eminent evangelist, author, and church administrator during the first half of the twentieth century. We've reproduced this story just as he wrote it.—The Editors

One summer I conducted a series of evangelistic meetings in a large tent at Ninety-fifth Street and Broadway, New York City. To these meetings came an elderly Irish immigrant who was introduced to me as Miss Clancy. I've never met anyone who displayed a more positive confidence in the Bible than she did. She required nothing more than a clear "Thus saith the Lord" to instantly accept any truth.

During these meetings I delivered two sermons on tithing, making plain from the Bible that this requirement was for all who serve God. It soon became evident that Miss Clancy was disturbed. Her usual cheerful disposition was gone. She asked to talk with me, which, of course, I was happy to do. Although all this took place many years ago—in the summer of 1919, to be exact—I remember it clearly because it made such a vivid impression on my mind. I give you the details of our conversation and the events that happened later as accurately as if they had been recorded on tape.

“Pastor,” Miss Clancy began, “your sermon on tithing has caused me deep concern, and I need to know what the Lord would have me to do.”

“Is there something that isn’t clear?” I asked.

“Oh, it’s not that. It’s clear enough, dear knows. That’s the trouble. I know what the Bible says. What plagues me is whether it means me. And if it means me, how in the wide world am I to do what it says?”

“What do you mean about whether it means you?”

“I mean, can it possibly include anyone in my circumstances?”

“Well, Miss Clancy, of course—”

“Wait a minute, pastor. Don’t answer me until you have the whole story. Before you tell me anything, just hear my situation and then tell me whether you think the Lord would have me pay tithe.”

“Very well, Miss Clancy; I’m listening.”

“I’m a lone woman, pastor. I have no folks in this country except a niece who lives with her husband in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He has no obligation to take care of me, but he does. All the income I have in the world is what he sends me each week.”

“Do you mind telling me how much that is?”

“Six dollars a week.”

“How can you manage on just six dollars a week?”

“Ah, that’s it! How do I manage? I don’t know, but somehow the dear Lord makes it cover my needs.”

“Where do you live?”

“In a kitchenette apartment. I moved into it

years ago when rents were lower, and the blessed landlord has not raised mine. I think he’s sorry for me.”

“How much of your \$6.00 does your rent take?”

“It takes \$4.50.”

“Do you mean that all you have for food, clothing, and other necessities is \$1.50 a week?”

“Sure, and that’s what I mean.”

“But it isn’t possible to do it.”

“Sure, and I’m doing it. And I can go on doing it. Only now you come along and tell me I must tithe my six dollars. And look where that leaves me.”

“But I didn’t tell you, Miss Clancy, that you must tithe your six dollars. It was the Lord who has cared for you all these years who told you. It is in His Book. I just showed it to you.”

“Oh, I know that, but it comes to the same thing so far as I’m concerned. What I’m after is whether He means I should pay tithe.”

“Why do you think He would make an exception?”

“Well, pastor, don’t you see what this would mean to me? If I start paying tithe, that takes 60 cents out of my \$6.00 to begin with. My rent remains unchanged. That, with the tithe, comes to \$5.10. And I have 90 cents to live on. And for a week, pastor, for a week! Now that you know what this means to me, do you think the Lord wants me to pay tithe?”

My first impulse was to say, “No, Miss Clancy, I don’t think the Lord means this for you. I strongly believe that the Lord and His work will manage to get along somehow without your 60 cents a week. Just keep it, and I’ll try to do something to make things a bit easier for you.”

But I didn’t say that. An insistent thought prevented me: *Who are you to set aside a command of God?*

So I said, “Miss Clancy, all I can do is to point you to God’s Book and His wonderful promises, and then encourage you to do as He says and trust Him to make the impossible possible. My advice is for you to do what God tells you to do and begin paying tithe at once.”

For the first time since we had begun talking, Miss Clancy smiled. Cheerfully she said, “I’ll do it. I’ll take your advice, pastor, for I think it’s good counsel. It won’t be the first time I’ve trusted God. If He fails me, well, it

“Do you mean that all you have for food, clothing, and other necessities is \$1.50 a week?”



will be the first time He has.”

“He won’t fail you, Miss Clancy,” I assured her.

“Sure, and well I know that. Good-bye for now, pastor, and thank you.”

The following week Miss Clancy handed me 60 cents. No money I ever received was harder to take. *But*, I thought, *I’ll let the Lord manage this and not interfere*. So, the 60 cents went to the church treasurer and a receipt was given to Miss Clancy.

Week after week this determined lady brought her 60 cents tithe. Once or twice I leaned over to whisper in her ear, “Are you getting along all right, Miss Clancy?”

“Praise God, I am,” she replied happily.

The third time I asked her how she was getting along, she answered, “Pastor, something strange has taken place. The neighbors never before did the things they do now.”

“What things?”

“Why, they bring me little presents—a loaf of bread, a pound of butter, some flour, some cereal, a quart of milk. Fruit, and even cake. I really think I’m getting along better on my 90 cents a week than I ever did on that \$1.50.”

“Do you think someone has put the neighbors up to this?”

“Sure, and I do.”

“Who?”

“Need you ask, pastor? The good Lord hasn’t forgotten me, and He hasn’t forgotten His promise. If you hadn’t advised me as you did, you would have robbed me of God’s blessing.”

Three or four months later Miss Clancy knocked on the door of my study. When I asked her in, she entered with a swagger and a playful smile on her face. She stood silently for a moment in front of my desk and then said, “Pastor, you’re looking at a woman with means, a woman of wealth. Sure, and you must show me the proper respect.”

“Sit down, Miss Clancy, and tell me what has happened.”

“Sure, and it’s as I say. I have more money than I know what to do with.”

All this time she was strutting around with a humorous gleam in her eye.

“Miss Clancy,” I said. “Will you be good enough to sit down and tell me what you have come to tell me?”

“Just as you say, pastor. You’ll remember that I told you of that blessed nephew-by-marriage of mine in Connecticut?

Well, this week he wrote me a letter. In it he said, ‘I’ve felt for some time, auntie, that you must have a hard time getting by on \$6 a week, and I’ve wanted to send more. Now I can do it, for I’ve just had a raise in wages. You will find \$10 in this letter, and there will be \$10 every week from now on.’”

“Dear Miss Clancy,” I said, “this makes me happy. I’m very glad.”

“I knew you would be, pastor. But do you realize what this means? Do you see what God has done?”

“Tell me.”

“Why, now my tithe will be \$1.00 a week, no less. My rent remains \$4.50. Pastor, are you good at mathematics?”

“Well—”

“How much more is \$4.50 than 90 cents?”

“Five times as much,” I answered.

“You see, there it is! Five times more for me than I’ve had before. Five times, mind you! Sure, and I don’t know what to do with all my money. I’ve been thinking I can do more for missions than I’ve been able to do before. Oh, pastor, the Book says the windows of heaven will open and a blessing will come too great to receive. That’s what the good Lord has done for me. Aye, the windows of heaven are open upon me. You told me He would never fail

me. Nor has He. It’s a happy woman I am this day.”

That’s the story, and it happened just the way I’ve told it. I have added nothing to it nor taken anything away. Miss Clancy’s glowing face will be in my mind whenever I think of God’s tithing promise.

And you? Do you care to put God to the test? “Prove me now,” He invites. “See if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that you won’t have room enough to receive.”*

That blessing waits only for your obedience in this matter of tithing. God was faithful to His promise with Miss Clancy. He’ll be faithful with you as well.

Carlyle B. Haynes served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the eastern United States and in South America during the first half of the twentieth century.

*See Malachi 3:8–12

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Is Jesus Home for the Holidays?

BY DIANE THURBER

When my family moved into a new house in Lansing, Michigan, a friendly young man cycled into the driveway and said, “Hi, welcome to the neighborhood. I’m Shawn.” The next day he returned and introduced two more friends to our sons and invited them to play.

From that day forward, our boys immensely enjoyed Shawn’s visits. They played basketball, enjoyed dodgeball in the basement, and rode bikes around the neighborhood together. We were delighted to see Shawn’s positive influence.

When leaves covered our lawn, Shawn was there to build piles for the boys to jump in—and then he helped me bag them. One snowy morning, I heard voices nearby. Peering outside, I saw Shawn and his father clearing our driveway. They cleared other drives down the street that morning also.

Shawn was an incredible boy and it was easy to surmise things about his family. Our friendship with Shawn continued for a couple years, but we never met his parents. They lived quite a way down the street; in our busyness, our acquaintances didn’t extend much past the neighbors immediately surrounding our home.

One December morning, Shawn brought me an invitation to a Christmas open house. He said hesitantly, “I noticed you don’t decorate outside for the holidays, or put up Christmas lights. I’m wondering if you are Christians?” His comment took me by surprise. We were Christians. My husband was a pastor who worked as youth director for the Michigan Conference. It was true; we didn’t decorate outside at Christmas. We often spent Christmas and the week before New Year’s at Camp Au Sable, or out of state with extended family. Since we weren’t home to enjoy the decorations, we didn’t go to the trouble of putting them up outside. But we never contemplated our neighbors might think we didn’t believe in Jesus because of our decision.

Shawn began talking again. He said, “My family

wants you to see how we enjoy Christmas as Christians.” I was embarrassed, and sad. I thought he knew. Shawn was in our home many times. We showed Christian love, and we encouraged him, but I guess we never took the opportunity to specifically speak with him of our love for Jesus. I searched for words to explain to Shawn that we did love Jesus, too, and accepted his invitation.

When I called Shawn’s mom to thank her for the invitation, I asked what we could contribute to the party. I had learned Shawn invited other neighbors as well. She explained that since she was trying to adapt her family’s meals to a vegetarian diet, she would serve vegetarian food at the open house buffet. She was excited to learn our family ate a vegetarian diet, too, and accepted a cookbook I offered her.

We arrived at the Lynch home and enjoyed a wonderful evening. I brought vegetarian dishes to contribute, and she experimented with a few of her own. After eating and getting better acquainted, the Lynches shared the biblical Christmas story with our family and their other neighbors. Our boys searched for different pieces of the nativity during a scavenger hunt. Shawn explained this was his family’s tradition each Christmas. He and his sister look for different pieces in the days leading up to Christmas and complete the nativity with Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve.

We became friends with the Lynch family that Christmas. Their Christian witness tremendously impacted our family, a pastor’s family, and taught us to be more open about Jesus with our neighbors. This Christmas, will your neighbors know Jesus is home for the holidays? I encourage you to think about who

you could share Jesus with. He is the Greatest Gift you will ever give.

Visit www.lakeunionherald.org for suggested ways to celebrate Christmas with your neighbors.

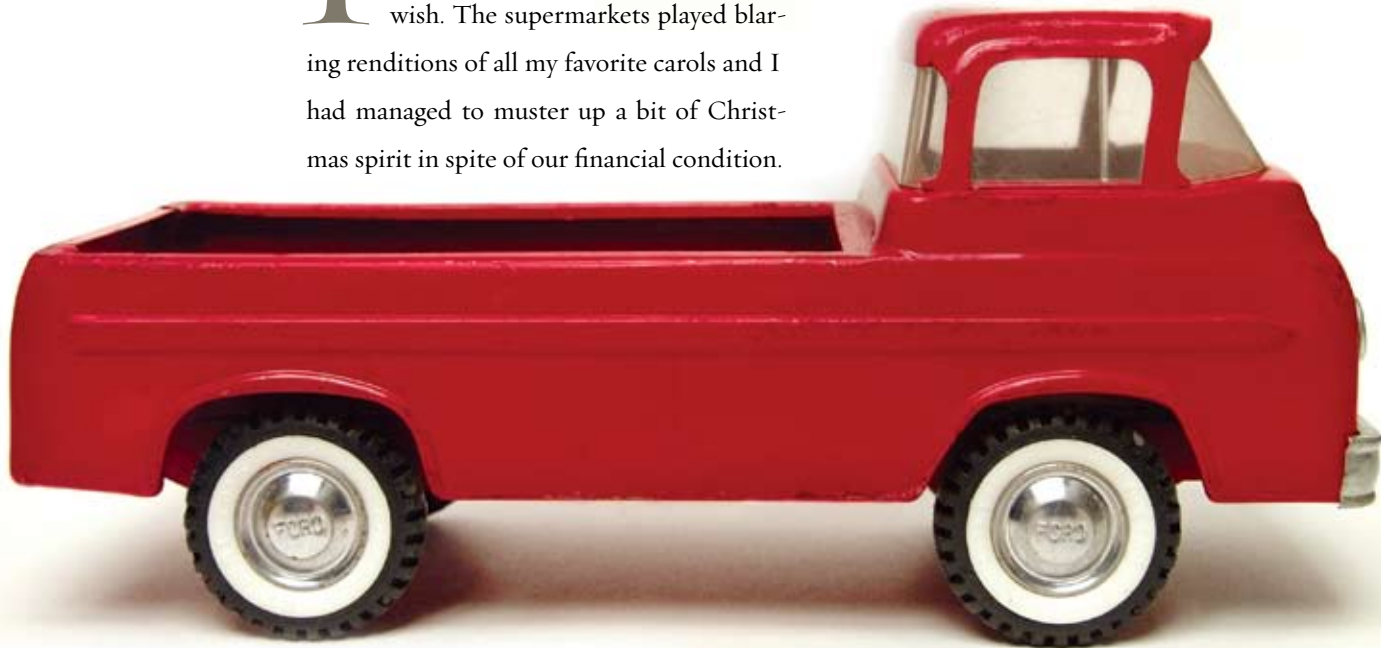
Diane Thurber is the *Lake Union Herald* managing editor.



The Greatest GIFT

BY ELEANOR WRIGHT

It was Christmas season and folks who wished for a white one got their wish. The supermarkets played blaring renditions of all my favorite carols and I had managed to muster up a bit of Christmas spirit in spite of our financial condition.



TV commercials vied for my attention with their offerings of miracle-working gadgets, twelve for the price of one, while I was faced with the decision of having to let some household expenses go unpaid in order to provide just one inexpensive gift apiece for my two small boys, Phillip and Mark. The baby girl was just old enough to be fascinated by the glitter of everything but too young to be offended by not receiving a gift. I was thankful for that.

It was the custom to gather at the grandparents' home on Christmas Eve and for a few years, now, the method of drawing names for gift exchange had been practiced in an effort to

make sure everyone had at least one gift. I could remember a time or two when some child would be left without a gift because the person who had his name didn't make it home for Christmas. Visions of my boys standing giftless and hearing the dreaded words, "Who had that name?" almost made me decide to withdraw from the gift exchange plan and buy my boys a gift and be done with it all. But I decided to go along with the plan.

Christmas Eve came. The family gathered around Grandpa's freshly cut and sparsely trimmed pine tree. Aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, all making merry so loudly it



This sketch of Eleanor Wright was drawn by her daughter, Carla Wright.



THE GREATEST GIFT

by Eleanor Wright

was hard to hear the names being called to come forward for the gifts. Phillip's name was called early, but Mark stood patiently waiting as package after package passed by him until all had been given out. It had happened!

My heart sank as he tugged on his grandfather's pants and said softly, "Grandpa, I didn't get none." Everybody searched frantically through the discarded wrappings, yelling the famous question, "Who had that name?" They didn't see him slip away into another room to cry. I followed him and gathered him into my arms. When I realized I couldn't explain it to his satisfaction, I cried with him.

Then Grandma found us and in her hand was a bright red truck—not a new one but none the less attractive to a little boy. She held the toy out to him and said, "This is your gift." Immediately his face lit up with a big smile.

I didn't pray on my knees that night. I just sort of talked to the Lord as I lay in bed. I was resentful of our hand-to-mouth existence. Abraham was rich and so was Job. All I had wanted was to make my little ones happy. "It wouldn't have taken much, Lord, you know."

Then the Lord blessed me with a message of cheer in the words of the song, "The Greatest Gift," words reminding me that all the money in the world could not buy the one thing that I was rich in, that I gave freely and daily. LOVE!

I sang those words until I finally fell asleep. When I awoke Christmas day, it was with the joy of knowing that I could make this Christmas special for my family by giving the greatest I could give—LOVE.

"The Greatest Gift" story and lyrics were published in 1984 in a book called *The Window of My Soul*, written by Eleanor Wright. The story is published as it was written. Copyright © 1984 Eleanor Wright, used by permission.

*If you would give a gift so rare,
To one who means the world to you,
But wealth and fame are not your fare,
Don't hang your head and don't be blue.
While the world is wrapped in festive bliss,
Go join them and remember this,
The greatest gift all else above is LOVE.*

*Behold a mother and her child,
An aged couple side by side,
A creature racing through the wild,
A young man with his blushing bride;
Then look to Him who gave His son,
The greatest gift to everyone,
And give the greatest you can give:
LOVE, LOVE while you live.*



Fuller Family History Entwined with Adventist Hinsdale Hospital

The birth of a daughter to Benjamin and Kerri Fuller last Sept. marked the 115th member of the Fuller clan born at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital since 1920. Annabelle Margaret's great-great-great-great-grandfather, Benjamin Fuller, founded Fullersburg, which later became Hinsdale, where Adventist Hinsdale Hospital has served the community since 1904.

The Fuller family has played an integral role in Hinsdale commerce over the years, with businesses like the Fuller Car Washes, automobile service centers, a hardware store, and Beautiful Beginnings. Dedicated to the community, few members of the family have moved very far from their roots.



Benjamin, Annabelle, and Kerri Fuller

The first baby born in a hospital in DuPage County was born at Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital more than 100 years ago. Annabelle's great-grandfather, Lloyd Fuller, was the first Fuller baby born at the Adventist hospital in Hinsdale. In 2004, 3,073 babies were born there.

Two Fuller sisters, Debbie Feiler and Jackie Wilkinson, Annabelle's



Three generations of the Walt Fuller family are part of the Generations Wall at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. Since this photo was taken, more of his children have married and his grandchildren now number 30.

aunts and co-owners of Beautiful Beginnings in Western Springs, celebrated the tenth anniversary of their store by donating a pink or blue outfit and booties to all the babies born at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital during Sept. 2005.

"Hinsdale Hospital is near and dear to our hearts," said Feiler. "Knowing that my grandfather was born at Hinsdale Hospital 85 years ago prompted me to investigate just how many Fullers were born there. I'm the oldest of nine and my memories of Hinsdale Hospital focus on the new members of our family coming home. I was very excited when I turned 14 and was able to visit my mom in the hospital. It's nice to have a Christian hospital, with a very professional staff, in our own town. We always had good experiences there, and every time I need a hospital I go to Hinsdale. I'm very confident of the care I receive there."

BettySue Netzel, women and children services director, said, "I've never seen this many births in one family before. It speaks well for our hospital, staff, and the physicians who practice here that such a large family has chosen us to deliver their babies."

Annabelle's grandfather, Walt Fuller, can tell her stories of the wood-frame hospital where his father, Lloyd, and he was born, and where he had his tonsils removed. "We lived on Oak Street and I would ride my bike past the hospital and see the nurses in white caps out for a walk with patients in wheelchairs. We watched the old building come down and the new brick hospital go up in the fifties. We kids always told everyone that's where we were born. Then we said that's where our kids were born, and now that's where our grandkids were born."

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, a 426-bed facility, delivers a wide range of high tech tertiary care services to Chicago's western suburbs. The Birck Family Women's and Children's Center is a leader in maternity care. Its Level III intensive care nursery is equipped to stabilize and provide intense medical/surgical care for critically ill newborns.

According to Walt Fuller, "Our family just loves babies. They're a blessing from the Lord. Every time there's a new one, we're just so happy."

Lynn Larson, Adventist Midwest Health
writer/media liaison

Homecoming Weekend 2005

“Come Home for the Harvest” was the theme of the first-ever fall Andrews University Alumni Homecoming Weekend, Sept. 29–Oct. 2.

The weekend was packed full of fun things to do. A few favorite activities included the Thurs. evening *People’s Choice Concert* and dessert buffet at the Howard Performing Arts Center, the annual *Wes Christiansen Memorial Golf Outing*, Fri. evening’s *International Flag Raising Ceremony* on the campus mall, Sun. morning’s *5K Run/Walk* and *Annual Homecoming Parade*.

Along with annual favorites, several new activities were added to this year’s schedule of events, including Friday’s *Pizza, Pop, and Professionals!* Current Andrews seniors had the chance to interface with alumni professionals in an informal question and answer session. During a special missions emphasis church service on Sabbath, 62 students stood up and committed to becoming a student missionary, and \$30,200 was collected in a special offering for the missions program. Sabbath afternoon’s *Harvest-Time Picnic* provided a new twist to the annual salad supper. This year’s event moved outdoors to the backyard of the Alumni House where alumni got reacquainted while munching on a bounty of grapes, apples, and salads provided by local alumni.

“Having a fall Homecoming was the best!” said alumnae Nicola Johnson (B.S. ’95) of Berrien Springs, Mich. “It was sunny during the day and crispy cool at night. The outdoor ‘salad supper’ had great atmosphere, with hay bales and quilts, hot cider, cocoa, and doughnuts.”

On Sat. evening, alumni, students, and community members alike enjoyed a special concert featuring the *Heritage Singers* and *The Ambassadors* in an evening of gospel favorites and African-flavored contemporary Christian music.



Old friends got reacquainted while enjoying the dessert buffet after the People’s Choice Concert on Thurs. evening.

“We were blessed with beautiful sunny weather and warm fellowship,” noted Tami Condon, alumni director. “Many alumni have expressed an appreciation for the cozy festivities of the *Harvest-Time Picnic* and the overall variety of events to participate in. Numerous helpful hands went into making sure every detail was carefully orchestrated; I was especially touched by the team effort that so many individuals at Andrews put into making the weekend a success. Thank you!”

Beverly Stout, University Relations correspondent

Staff in the Spotlight: Dan and Julia Hansen

“We absolutely love Michigan,” Julia Hansen exclaimed, gesturing out the window toward a rather chilly Oct. afternoon. “And it’s truly a privilege to be at Andrews,” her husband Dan rejoins, adding, “I can hardly wait to break in my new boots this winter.” Having spent over twenty-five years serving the Texas and Okla. conferences, the couple is understandably excited over the prospect of a white Christmas, but their enthusiasm characterizes more than their attitude toward oft-frowned-upon Mich. weather. As Andrews’ newest staff couple, Dan and Julia Hansen are equally eager to “make students the first priority and demonstrate the character of Jesus in all that [they] do.”

Before moving to Andrews, Julia worked first as an executive assistant for Cadbury Beverages’ Dallas headquarters, then as a secretary at Miller Adventist School in Dallas, Texas.

Meanwhile, Dan worked in purchasing, operations, and contracts for Ericsson, a telecommunications company also based in Dallas. When the industry suffered from downsizing, Dan turned his attention to the Adventist health-care system. But while Dan was applying for a hospital position near Wash.’s Walla Walla College, his friend was forwarding Dan’s résumé to Andrews, where university administrators were quick to request an interview that the Hansens are sure was God-ordained.

After a mid-Feb. 2005 interview, Dan and Julia accepted respective positions as manager of Plant Services and administrative assistant to Francine Faehner, vice president of Student Services. Dan enjoys the responsibility of keeping the campus comfortable and orderly, and Julia enjoys assisting students on an interpersonal level.

In their spare time, the couple enjoys outdoor activities. Dan golfs and is an ardent yard worker who keeps Julia’s plants from “committing suicide.” Julia enjoys biking and bird watching, but spending time with their daughter Stevie ranks number one for both of them. In fact, that ten-year-old Stevie would be able to enjoy an uninterrupted educational experience at Andrews confirmed the couple’s decision to accept campus jobs. “At Andrews,” Julia notes, “children can go from kindergarten to doctorate school without moving.” For the Hansens, stability is vital to the success of any learning environment and is an enormous blessing. And Dan and Julia look forward to continued contribution to that stability in their new positions.



Dan, Julia, and Stevie Hansen

Elizabeth Lechleitner, University Relations student news writer

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Indiana Academy Freshmen Experience Homeless Living

Indiana—It was 7:00 a.m. on a Fri. in Sept. when a group of tattered freshmen at Indiana Academy began looking for their breakfast in the very gully that would also be their home that night. Once found, it only took minutes to eat the half-cup of cereal, quarter bagel slice, and half an orange they found. Questions like, “Is this all we get?” reflected that the decision to set aside time to experience and discuss “need” was well worth the planning. The students were already uncomfortable with even the thought of becoming hungry. This was an untraveled road that would lead them out of their present experience and into partial empathy.



The freshmen constructed walls for temporary shelters.

Classes were attended with slight hunger, no shower taken, and bodily limitations, like: blurred vision, hearing loss, blindness in one eye, desensitized fingers, and stiff knees and elbows to mimic the physical challenges that



Joey Macko (right), Philip Somers (center), and others were moved by the experiences shared by homeless individuals and offered prayers on their behalf.



Indiana Academy freshmen experienced homeless living on campus before venturing out to aid homeless persons in Indianapolis.

affect one’s ability to perform a job or schooling. Soon classes were out, supper was found, and it was time to accept the fact that flattened cardboard boxes were the only thing to help lessen the discomforts of dew and 48 degree weather. Some students engineered full enclosures, while others chose to brave the elements and sleep on top of their boxes. “It’s hard to sleep when you’re cold,” said one girl after a restless night.

As the sun was setting, students gathered around a barrel-lit fire while four adults shared their experiences with the homeless. At the conclusion, everyone held hands in prayer with the realization that the one benefit they wouldn’t want to be without, in good times or bad, was each other!



Students prayed with homeless individuals after hearing about their trials.

On Sabbath, the Glendale (Ind.) Church’s ongoing homeless ministry guided students in the organization of preparing over 100 sack lunches, making hygiene packets, and sorting clothing the church and students had donated. Soon vehicles were packed and students loaded the bus with a prayer



Crystal Cole and Kayla Engle shared a cramped shelter, but still managed to smile.

for ministry that would meet more than just temporary physical needs.

Once in downtown Indianapolis, students went into action to aid the many homeless. Seen and heard were: prayer circles, tears for a regretful past of alcohol and a torn family, wheelchair misfortune, shared stores of how God saved them from a deadly bullet, a broken arm from a mugging, waiting in lines for clothes, voices of thankfulness with “God bless you,” tiredness from sleeping in an abandoned garage, scarred fingers from frost bite, and hugs of reassurance. These were just a few of the experiences shared.

Soon resources were depleted and it was time to leave. There was no more to give, and still people were coming in anticipation of assistance. The stark reality was that to end living under bridges and digging in dumpsters for leftover food is a long time project. However, for that day, this experience was blessed with the many “Thank-you!” and “God bless you!” exchanges.

Rhonda Crumley, Indiana Academy freshman class sponsor

[YOUTH NEWS]



First NAD World Youth Prayer Conference Scheduled

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America will host its first-ever World Youth Prayer Conference Feb. 28–Mar. 4, 2007, in Dallas, Texas. Themed “Just Claim It: Experience the Power of Prayer—Claiming Communities for Christ,” youth from all over the world will participate in this power-packed experience to claim the power of God in their lives.

Crime, violence, drugs, and sexual immorality have plagued all homes, communities, schools, and even churches. “The purpose of this prayer congress is two-fold. First, it will draw serious attention to the challenges of senior youth by reintroducing them to a love relationship with Christ. Second, it will empower them to reclaim their cities through service to others while bringing a message of hope,” said James Black Sr., North American Division youth ministries director.

This new and unique spiritual experience will draw over 60,000 attendees to begin a five-day prayer journey to “Just Claim It” (JCI) in the name of Jesus. In addition to 120 hours of organized prayer, organizers have coordinated 15 workshop tracks (225 workshops), a special com-

munity mission project called “Just Make-Over,” speaking opportunities for teens called “Youth Preach-Out,” drama presentations focusing on biblical prayer encounters, a parade with 500 biblical floats, and a music festival with a 3,000-voice JCI mass choir, accompanied by a 1,000-piece orchestra (translations provided for international attendees).

To ensure the JCI impact, special invitations have been sent to the president of the United States, his Cabinet, members of Congress, the Senate, governors, state legislatures, mayors, city councils, community activists, and world leaders of every nation. “We want leaders to come and have our youth lay hands on them and pray for their leadership,” said Black.

“Also, delegates are encouraged to bring non-Adventist relatives and friends to JCI—this voids the “just for us” mentality. It’s time our youth know that their prayer can literally impact the entire world,” he said.

To raise seed funds for this new experience a donation initiative, *Dreamers 1000*, has been established. For more information on the conference, registration, schedule details, or to be a volunteer, please visit: www.justclaimit.org; send an e-mail to: info@justclaimit.org; or call: (301) 680-6420.

George Johnson, media relations director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.

General Youth Conference Promotes Urgency

An army of youth will assemble at the Chattanooga Convention Center, Dec. 28, 2005–Jan. 1, 2006, for the fourth annual *General Youth Conference*.

This year’s theme is “Now Is the Time.” The worsening conditions of the world and current events are leading this generation’s young people to watchfulness, prayer, and a deeper



Attendees will search the scriptures to obtain a closer walk with Jesus.

commitment to share the message of Jesus’ soon coming with the world.

Attendees will hear speakers such as Mark Finley, General Conference vice president for evangelism; C.D. Brooks, former speaker/director for *Breath of Life* telecast; and David Gates, a missionary pilot from South America. Young people who attend this conference will not only be blessed by seminars and plenary meetings, but they’ll also network with other young people from around the world who share the same vision.



Food for thought at GYC seminars provides fuel for discussion among attendees.

If you are a young person in high school or college, a young professional, youth pastor, or youth director, you won’t want to miss this chance to learn something new, or just recharge your spiritual batteries!

Now is the time to register. Visit www.generalyouthconference.org to register on-line, download a registration form, or for more information.

Joelle Damsteegt, General Youth Conference advertising director

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Princeton Church Is on the Move

Illinois—The Princeton Church is on the move—literally. The members of the church, including Jack Blume, retired program director of the School of Medical Technology at Hinsdale Hospital, are determined to revitalize their church.

“Our church is old, small, and rather uninviting,” states Blume. “It’s no wonder it is hard for us to attract new members. One of the last things I want to do before my days come to an end is to help our congregation in a campaign to replace our nearly 100-year-old church building.”

To date, more than \$100,000 has been raised for a new church. Property has been purchased. Plans have been drawn up for the new structure, which is estimated to cost more than \$200,000, even with volunteer labor. In Apr. 2006, the Adventist-Laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI) organization plans to erect the new church building. Students from Broadview Academy, Hinsdale Adventist Academy, and other academies from throughout the Lake Union will be invited to participate in the project. The plan is to build the church in three weeks. During that time an evangelistic campaign will be conducted in Princeton by academy young people. They plan to work on the building project during the day and will speak at night.



Todd and Cherri Olin lead a song in the neighborhood garage Bible club.

Members of the small church are on the move, too. For the past several years they have operated a booth at the Bureau County Fair. Each year, in



On location at the new Princeton Church site (from left): Viorel Catarama, Lake Union ASI president; Todd Olin and Lee Dorff, church elders; Ron Dobrydnia, deacon; and Fred Miller, from Madison, Wis., general contractor for the project

addition to giving away literature and Bibles, they also conduct church services at the fair on Sun. morning. This year Todd Olin and Harlin Hudson led music and Michael Weakley, pastor, delivered the sermon.

This small church also conducts an active Voice of Prophecy DISCOVER Bible School, and sent out more than 12,000 invitations to study the Bible last year.

Members conducted evangelistic meetings the last two years, with Harlin Hudson as speaker. They have an active Bible study group of nine who meet each week.

“Children are important to our ministry in the community too,” states Blume. “That’s why we are involved in garage evangelism during the summer on Sabbath afternoon.” Todd and Cherri Olin lead out with music and stories. Other members help children with crafts and supply snack food and punch. “Because of family vacations, the same children do not always attend every week,” explains Blume, whose garage houses the Bible club.

Celebrating 59 years of marriage, Jack and Gwladys Blume’s four daughters put on an anniversary party after church in that same garage. Members look forward to the day when the new Princeton Church is built with a large fellowship room for Bible clubs and anniversary parties. If you’d like to help the Princeton Church by donating construction skills or contributing funds for its completion, contact the pastor, Michael Weakley, at (815) 431-1365.

Rachel Terwillegar, Illinois Conference development director

Terre Haute Reaches Out to India

Indiana—Early last Dec., Ernie Peckham, Terre Haute Church pastor, challenged the church family to adopt a Christmas project with the purpose of reaching out to help someone in need. With prayer for the Holy Spirit’s leading, it was decided the church would raise money for the India Church Building Project.

“God would be well pleased if on Christmas each church would have a Christmas tree on which shall be hung offerings, great and small” (*Adventist Home*, p. 482). Inspired by this quote from Ellen White, Peckham asked Terre Haute Adventist School students and church members to creatively decorate envelopes and boxes in which to present their monetary gifts for the India project. The gifts were to be given in commemoration of Jesus’ birth at a special Christmas Sabbath service.

A beautiful praise service with instrumental music was highlighted by the talent of visiting musicians, Kirsten and Terry Burns, and Sean Amlaner. They delighted and inspired all with violins and a French horn, while young and old presented their gifts to Jesus. Each specially adorned parcel was carefully placed on or beneath the boughs of a ten-foot fir tree dressed in sparkling white lights.

When the parcels’ contents were later counted, the gifts exceeded \$1,500! With such a wonderful response, the hope was born to raise enough to build an entire church in India! So, as the Easter season approached, the church family was once again challenged by their pastor—this time to honor our Lord’s resurrection with additional gifts to reach a project goal of \$3,000.

The Terre Haute Church family is happy to report that they reached their goal, with the Lord’s help. A gift from the Terre Haute Church, exceeding \$3,200, has been given for a new church building in India!



Charles Amthier

Members of all ages brought gifts for India in commemoration of Jesus' birth.

This Christmas season, the Terre Haute Church plans to erect another fir tree and will again collect funds for missions. Peckham says, "We feel that it is important to be giving to missions, and Christmas is a good time to focus on others."

Karen Peckham, Terre Haute Church communication leader

[UNION NEWS]

Lake Union Hosts Marriage Conference

About six years ago, the North American Division (NAD) family ministries advisory committee established goals for the upcoming quin-quennium. One goal was to conduct marriage enrichment events throughout the NAD, in every Union Conference. Willie and Elaine Oliver, and a team representing couples, instituted *From This Day Forward* marriage conferences, designed to "encourage stronger, healthier marriages and families." Couples were provided the opportunity to "experience practical, professionally-sound, biblically-based direction for their marriage."

From This Day Forward marriage conferences were held in every union except the Lake Union. However, on Oct. 8, 2005, Lake Union couples were invited to participate in this one-day celebration of marriage commitment, open to the general public and held at the Marriott in South Bend, Ind. The

NAD department of family ministries, Lake Union, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin conferences sponsored the event.

Over 70 couples participated. Most couples were from the Lake Union territory, but there were couples from as far away as California and New Jersey. Most couples were Seventh-day Adventists, but other denominations were represented, invited by their Adventist friends. Reger Smith Sr. and his wife Katherine attended to celebrate the gift of their 55-year marriage; one couple was engaged and wanted to learn necessary skills for a strong marriage before they even started. Many couples were in between and came for a variety of reasons.



From left: Willie Oliver, Elaine Oliver, Mike Aufderhar, Brenda Aufderhar, Susan Murray, Don Murray

Presentations were made by Elaine and Willie Oliver from the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, Brenda and Mike Aufderhar from Wenatchee, Wash., and Susan and Don Murray, certified family life educators who currently commute between Mich. and Md. Musical selections were provided by Mike Brown and John Diller of the South Bend Church.

The event lasted from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. During this time, the speakers presented topics, such as: "The Joy of Oneness," "Communication," "Problem Solving," "Sexual Oneness," and "Forgiveness." The couples appreciated the presenters' enthusiasm for marriage, openness, and real-life examples shared to help illustrate the principles taught. The seminars also included video clips, group exercises, couple dialogue time, prayer, role playing, and much more.



Some couples found the couple exercises fun, while others found them more challenging.

The day concluded with a recommitment service, where couples were invited to stand together and read marriage vows provided on "Our Marriage Covenant." Some sealed their agreement with a kiss, at the invitation of Willie Oliver.

The marriage conference impacted those present in a variety of ways. Here are a few comments shared when asked for thoughts about what the couples experienced:

"I sensed a closeness and a bonding with my husband. Also, I believe the presence of the Holy Spirit was evident as the group shared with each other throughout the conference. I appreciated the 'together' times."

"It's been a good experience. I feel very positive about the tools my husband and I are taking with us."

"Unforgettable! Wonderful! Inspiring! Very instructive!"

"Excellent! I realized I love my husband more than I thought I did (a lot)."

"God has a plan and this was timely."

"My wife and I have a wonderful marriage, and today helped us to preserve the joy that we now experience."

If you missed this wonderful opportunity to enrich your marriage, you may take advantage of similar conferences offered in 2006. Visit www.adventistfamilyministries.com for information about events scheduled.

Diane Thurber, *Lake Union Herald* managing editor



From left: Mario Martinelli, book division vice president; Lloyd Jacobs; Bob Smith, president; Mark Thomas, former book division vice president

[NAD NEWS]

Review and Herald Honors Retired ABC Manager

Lloyd Jacobs retired as Indiana Adventist Book Center (ABC) manager on Aug. 31, 2005. Shortly thereafter, he and his wife Ingrid took a much-anticipated vacation to Bermuda to celebrate this milestone. On the return trip home, Lloyd stopped by the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Md. to visit a few friends and former colleagues. He slipped into worship on Mon., Sept. 18, and was surprised when he was summoned to the front to receive a plaque from the Review and Herald, in recognition for his faithful service to the publishing ministry.

As manager, Lloyd followed a family tradition. His father, Carl Jacobs, was manager of the Kentucky-Tennessee Book and Bible House the month Lloyd was born. His father retired with 27 of his 43 years of church employment in Book and Bible House and ABC management.

Lloyd has managed the Northern New England, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Indiana ABCs, with 38 and

one-half years of continuous ABC management.

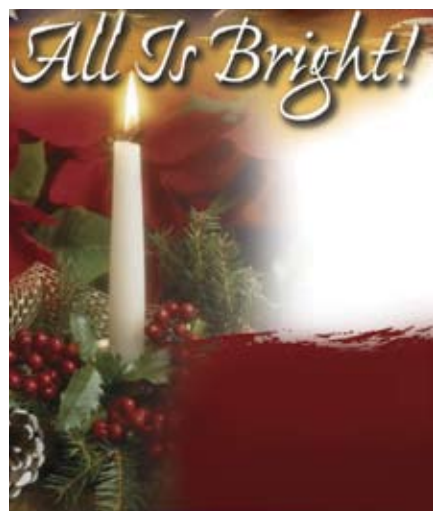
Lloyd's brother, Frank Jacobs, was also a manager for the Southern New England and Carolina ABCs. Lloyd's son, Bruce, was promoted to manager of the Georgia-Cumberland ABC in Dec. 2005. In all, the Jacobs family celebrate over 83 years of ABC management for three generations. Lloyd says, "Yes, we have our degrees in business, but we always recognized that ABC work is a very important ministry."

Diane Thurber, Lake Union Herald managing editor

Adventist Christmas Television Production Scheduled

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America is releasing its fourth Christmas program entitled "All Is Bright." The hour-long program will be broadcast during the month of Dec. on many local affiliate stations in the United States, Canada, and Bermuda, as well as the Trinity Broadcasting Network.

"All Is Bright" is a heartwarming holiday story for the whole family.



The premise of the story surrounds a father who is enlisted in the military and is trying

to get home to his family for the Christmas holiday. "All Is Bright" features an all-star cast, including Tony and Emmy nominee, Joseph Campanella, Latin Grammy nominee, Patty Cabrera, and seven-time Grammy winners, Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr.



Tony and Emmy nominee, Joseph Campanella



Latin Grammy nominee, Patty Cabrera



Seven-time Grammy winners, Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr.

The musical production will be taped on a closed set at the Adventist Media Center in Simi Valley, Calif.

Check your local listings to find out when "All Is Bright" is scheduled to air, or visit www.nadadventist.org. You may also call your local station to request "All Is Bright."

George Johnson, media relations director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.

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 www.LakeUnionHerald.org. Conference addresses and phone numbers are in the masthead on page 39.

Anniversaries



Gerald and Marian Wilkinson celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Aug. 25, 2005, with a Hawaiian dinner at Morning Pointe at Shallowford where they reside in Chattanooga, Tenn. Gerald grew up in the Saginaw (Mich.) Church and Marian attended the Charlotte (Mich.) Church.

Gerald Wilkinson and Marian Satterlee were married on Aug. 25, 1940, in Nashville, Tenn., by Elder C.V. Anderson. Gerald served 35 years for the denomination, in various printing operations, until his retirement in 1979. Marian was a magazine leader and an elementary teacher in several locations.

The Wilkinson family includes Clairce and Dan Esquilla of Collegedale, Tenn.; Jim and Cindy Wilkinson of Half Moon Bay, Calif.; Irene Wilkinson of Arden, N.C.; seven grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

Birthdays

Esther (Hurley) Ourada celebrated her 100th birthday on Sept. 15, 2005, by a birthday party for 25 at Grancare Nursing Home, Green Bay, Wis. She has been a member of the Green Bay Church for 53 years.

Esther was married to the late Joe Ourada. Esther has worked as a telephone operator and in her husband's business. Esther has no children.

Obituaries

GREGOROFF, Paul, age 89; born June 10, 1916, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada; died July 26, 2005, in Springfield, Ill. He was a member of the New Hope Company, Springfield.

Survivors include his wife, Neitha M. (Laursen); daughters, Carolyn Yeager and Cheryl Kister; stepsister, Zena Shufelberger; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Paul Saint-Villiers, and interment was in Panther Creek Cemetery, Scotville, Ill.

HAWKINS, Lloyd G., age 91; born Oct. 8, 1913, in Chesterfield, Ohio; died Sept. 14, 2005, in Inverness, Fla. He was a member of the Adrian (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mildred E. (Pangburn); son, David L.; daughters, Shirlee J. Heiney, Betty J. Breakey, and Joan M. May; brother, Donald; eight grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Jim Campbell, and inurnment was in Oak Grove Cemetery, Morenci, Mich.

JORGENSEN, Hans F., age 76; born Feb. 12, 1929, in Eau Claire, Wis.; died Sept. 14, 2005, in Eau Claire. He was a member of the Eau Claire Church, Altoona, Wis.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Jean (Voss); son, James; daughter, Sandra Johnson; stepdaughters, Trudy Porter and Karen Nicoletti; sisters, Marie Mayer, Thelma Johnson, and Ruth Ackerlund; three grandchildren; and three step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Brian Carlton, and interment was in Lakeview Cemetery, Eau Claire.

KOLMODIN, Walter A., age 86; born May 23, 1919, in Joliet, Ill.; died Sept. 19, 2005, in Indianapolis, Ind. He was a member of the Brownsburg (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Grace H. (Leech); son, Walter D.; daughters, Gloria J. Bolejack and Debra S. Kolmodin; brother, Ray; sisters, Doris Johnson and Ruth Poeski; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Todd Stout and Elder Jerry Lastine, and interment was in Lincoln Memory Gardens Cemetery, Whitestown, Ind.

MALONE, Rosemary (Brooks), age 74; born Oct. 8, 1930, in Jackson Cty., Ind.; died Sept. 17, 2005, in Commiskey, Ind. She was a member of the North Vernon (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Terry, James, Michael, and David; daughter, Katrinka Cottongim; 24 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Scott Brown, and interment was in Mitchell Cemetery, Monroe Cty., Ind.

PETERS, Anne, age 90; born May 6, 1915, in Sheboygan, Wis.; died July 9, 2005, in Sheboygan. She was a member of the Sheboygan Church.

Survivors include her brothers, John, Anthony, and Frank Peters; and sisters, Helen Danci and Rose DuBois.

Funeral services were conducted by local elder Carroll Wheeler, and interment was in Wildwood Cemetery, Sheboygan.

PIERCE, Arlie Ammi, age 104; born Sept. 18, 1900, in Riverdale, Mich.; died Apr. 12, 2005, in Alma, Mich. He was a member of the Frost Church, Stanton, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Edna Mae (Booth); sons, Rhonald and Audley; daughters, Jewel Buck, Ramona Snively, and Juanita Retzlöf; brother, Hubert; 14 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and 20+ great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ken Micheff, and interment was in Cedar Lake (Mich.) Cemetery.

REEDY, Virginia D. (Drury), age 81; born Aug. 1, 1924, in Springfield, Ill.; died Sept. 18, 2005, in Middletown, Ind. She was a member of the Anderson (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Clarence L. Jr. and Steven D.; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Clinton Meharry and Elder Maynard Powell, and interment was in Miller Cemetery, Middletown.

REINEKING, Myra (Hinz), age 88; born July 20, 1917, in Sheboygan, Wis.; died Sept. 1, 2005, in Sheboygan. She was a member of the Sheboygan Church.

Survivors include her sons, Ralph and Randall; daughter, Rogene Schmitt; sister, Esther Reineking; 13 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Delmar Austin, and interment was in Wildwood Cemetery, Sheboygan.

SHEPARD, Ruth L. (Williams), age 80; born May 31, 1924, in Ionia, Mich.; died Dec. 6, 2004, in Palatka, Fla. She was a member of the Frost Church, Stanton, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Edward; son, Robert Witzel; daughter, Connie Carr; stepdaughters, Linda Barber, Vicki Nichols, Mary Waldron, and Joyce LaLone; four grandchildren; nine step-grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; several step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ken Micheff, and interment was in Forest Hill Cemetery, Stanton.

STOY, Bonnie Jean R. (Brockway), age 70; born Feb. 12, 1935, in the town of Empire, Fond du Lac Cty., Wis.; died Sept. 14, 2005, in Fond du Lac, Wis. She was a member of the Fox Valley Church, Neenah, Wis.

Survivors include her son, Bruce; daughter, Debra Bartow; step-father, Lee Dunn; brother, James Brockway; step-brother, Donald Dunn; step-sisters, Linda Lenkail, Joyce Prill, and Mary Moder; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Samuel Garbi, and interment was in Ledgeview Memorial Park Cemetery, Fond du Lac.

VOSS, DuWayne A., age 72; born June 13, 1933, in Eau Claire, Wis.; died Apr. 11, 2005, in Menomonie, Wis. He was a member of the Eau Claire Church, Altoona, Wis.

Survivors include his sons, Keith W. Berg, and Todd A., Tim W., and Russell J. Voss; daughter, Kimie J. Nimmo; brother, Gene; sister, Betty Jean Jorgenson; and many grand- and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Brian Carlton, and interment was in Rest Haven Cemetery, Eau Claire.

WAGONER, Doris M. (Fultz), age 92; born Jan. 5, 1913, in Lawrence Cty., Ind.; died June 22, 2005, in Bedford, Ind. She was a member of the Bedford Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Patty Stultz; brother, Orin Fultz; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Merla Craig, and interment was in Mount Pleasant Baptist Cemetery, Silversville, Ind.

WILSON, Grace, age 91; born Sept. 28, 1913, in Monon, Ind.; died Sept. 19, 2005, in Monticello, Ind. She was a member of the Monticello Church.

Survivors include her sister, Mary M. Clark. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Blake Hall, and interment was in Bedford Cemetery, Monticello.

WOHLFEIL, Theresa J. (Cesario), age 76; born May 27, 1929, in Detroit, Mich.; died Aug. 25, 2005, in Bridgman, Mich. She was a member of the Stevensville (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her daughters, Wanda Christensen and Carol Kenyon; and four grandchildren.

Private inurnment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Sunset Calendar

	Dec 2	Dec 9	Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 30	Jan 6
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:16	5:14	5:15	5:18	5:22	5:28
Chicago	4:20	4:20	4:20	4:23	4:28	4:34
Detroit	5:01	5:00	5:01	5:04	5:08	5:14
Indianapolis	5:21	5:20	5:21	5:24	5:28	5:34
La Crosse, Wis.	4:29	4:28	4:28	4:31	4:36	4:42
Lansing, Mich.	5:02	5:01	5:02	5:05	5:09	5:15
Madison, Wis.	4:24	4:23	4:23	4:26	4:31	4:37
Springfield, Ill.	4:35	4:34	4:35	4:38	4:42	4:48

Classifieds

All ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$25 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$35 per insertion for all others. A form is available at www.LakeUnionHerald.org for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order/check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The *Lake Union Herald* cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The *Lake Union Herald* does not accept responsibility for typographical errors.

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 Pete McLeod, Christian comedian and 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, and Kumasi; Adventist communities; villages; nature preserves. \$2,499 includes airfare from Chicago, lodging, meals,

ground tours. For more information, contact People and Places Worldwide at (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.

2006 GREAT CONTROVERSY TOUR, June 15–29, with Gerard Damsteegt of Andrews University. Prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come alive! Visit Rome and the Reformation sites in the Walden-

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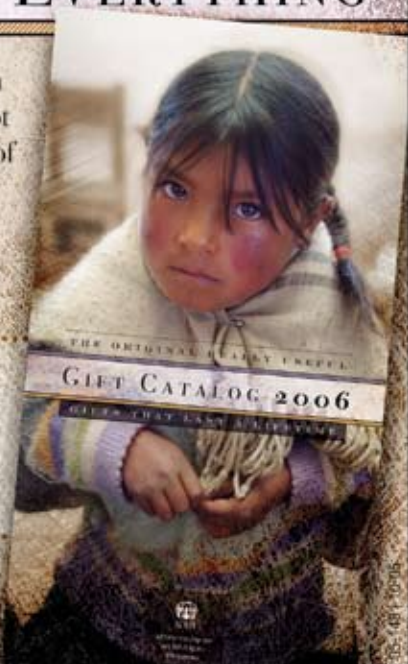
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Wishing You a Joyous Season of Love!
 The Lake Union Herald Team

PARTNERSHIP *with* GOD

BY GARY BURNS



Our daughter Josie surprised us with her announcement following a reception for Southern Asia Division delegates to the General Conference Session, "I want to volunteer for a year at an orphanage in India." Within a few days, she was accepted into the student missionary program at Andrews University and on her way to the REACH International hostel in Madurai, India. We were excited to discover she would go to a school Maryann and I visited in 1993.

I just spoke with Josie this morning and she gave me a most incredible report of what God is doing in her life. Josie said she feels like she is God's partner. Circumstances have forced a dependency and relationship with God she has never experienced before. "Now I know what Paul meant when he said to pray without ceasing. I don't even say,

'Amen,' because I'm never finished," she said, almost surprising herself at how close she and God have become.

Josie spent last weekend fasting and praying for the children and staff, recognizing she is in the middle of spiritual warfare for their souls. "I pray for God to be so evident in my life that when the children observe me, they see His character. I pray for His protection, and thank God for the food; I ask Him to bless the hands that prepared it, and I always add, 'Please don't let it kill me,' and I'm not kidding!" She's been to the hospital twice.

Josie has challenged us to consider our own partnership with God, and to ask ourselves, "How dependent am I on God? How essential is my partnership with God to my work, my family, and the everyday things of life?"

Gary Burns is the *Lake Union Herald* editor.

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 www.LakeUnionHerald.org and submit the announcement online. Readers may verify dates and times of programs with the respective sources, as these events are subject to change.

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. From **Jan.-Mar.**, only the Dr. John Harvey Kellogg Discovery Center and the James and Ellen White Home are open for tours. To schedule a group tour, call (269) 965-3000; or e-mail: adventistvillage@tds.net. A donation of \$5/person helps keep the Village open.

Indiana

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, 24445 S.R. 19 North.

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. New scenes this year. Event times: **Dec. 3, 6:00-9:00 p.m.**; **Dec. 4, 5:00-8:00 p.m.** at the Cicero Adventist Church, 24445 State Road 19 North. For more information, call (317) 984-4860; or visit website: www.sda.church.com.

Winter Ski Fest will be held **Jan. 26-29** at Timber Ridge Camp for youth in grades 7-12, with supervision. The weekend includes Fri. skiing at Paoli Peaks, and will be full of spiritual programs. Options available. Contact the Indiana Conference youth department at (317) 844-6201 for an application.

Lake Union

Offerings:

- Dec. 3** Local church budget
- Dec. 10** Inner City
- Dec. 17** Local church budget
- Dec. 24** Local conference advance

Dec. 31 Local church budget

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering:

Dec. 24 Southern Asia Pacific Division

Special days:

Dec. 3 Bible Sabbath

North American Division

Oregon Conference Family Ministries: Go to LoveTakesTime.com or HopeForTheFamily.com for free marriage, family, parenting, and single's resources. Also, we now have *Marriage Matters* resources by Harvey and Kathy Corwin. For more information, call toll-free: (800) 337-8225.

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. The focus is on attracting men and women to the nursing profession and supporting and encouraging those who are in practice. 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 that it grows into a beneficial service worldwide. Website address: www.adventistnursingconnection.org.

AdventSource and PlusLine are pleased to announce their upcoming merger, which will officially take place **Jan. 1, 2006**. For more than 24 years AdventSource has concentrated solely on the distribution of ministry resources in North America, equipping local leaders in ministry with the tools to succeed. PlusLine began as an experimental question and answer service in the Pacific Union Conference in 1993, but was expanded the next year to all nine union conferences. Since then it has grown to include information services, event registration, and event planning services for the Adventist church throughout the North American Division (NAD). In June 2005, the NAD decided to combine these two efforts and their funds. AdventSource will soon be known as the one-stop source of information for everything Adventist. Visit www.adventsource.org.

Union College Homecoming Weekend:

Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited to *Celebrating a Century of Service—Golden Cords (1906-2006)*, **Apr. 6-9, 2006**. All Union College alumni who had a golden cord hung in their honor are invited to this special celebration. Special honor classes: 1936, '46, '51, '56, '66, '76, '81, '86, and '96. For more information, contact the Alumni office at (402) 486-2503; 3800 South 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or e-mail: alumni@ucollege.edu.

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Thank You, Tyler

BY MORGAN STEELY

A little less than one year ago my sister's best friend, Tyler Day, died. She was heartbroken. To see her heartbroken made me angry. At the time, I wasn't on the right path to righteousness. I saw no point in class prayer or chapel time, and church was boring to me.

It all started after everyone found out Tyler had a tumor again—for the third time. This time, it turned out to be malignant. My sister's heart was torn when she heard those terrifying words. That same year his physical health declined.

The principal, Kevin Kossick, called everyone to the chapel unexpectedly. As we walked down the hall to the chapel, you could feel apprehension in the air. You could tell what everyone was thinking and how he or she was feeling by their facial expressions and the way everyone walked. The principal went up to the front of the chapel and gave us the feared announcement—Tyler's life had ended. I turned around and looked at my sister, and I could tell her heart just fell apart into a million pieces.

That day was the quietest day I have ever seen at Battle Creek Academy. Everyone was thinking, remembering, and asking all sorts of questions. Many people asked their questions, but I kept mine inside.

Tyler's experience changed many people, including me. I also think Tyler was changed through this whole thing. Tyler became a strong Christian man through his work-out with God. His mother told us at the funeral that

Tyler became much closer to God in his last days.

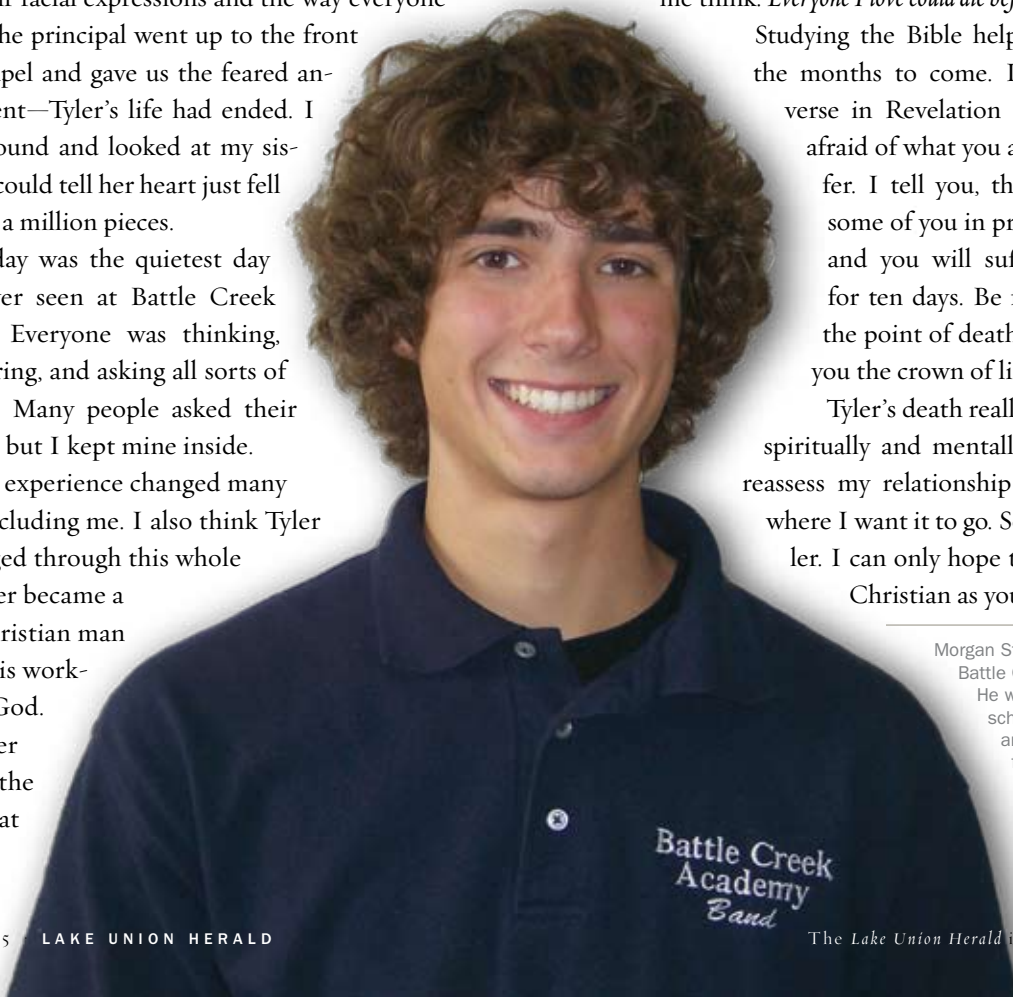
After his funeral I tried to just forget about it, but that didn't work. Tyler kept popping back into my head, making me think: *Everyone I love could die before tomorrow.*

Studying the Bible helped me through the months to come. I came across a verse in Revelation 2:10: "Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Tyler's death really helped me out spiritually and mentally. He made me reassess my relationship with God and where I want it to go. So thank you, Tyler. I can only hope to be as strong a Christian as you.



Tyler Day



Morgan Steely is a junior at Battle Creek Academy. He will receive a \$100 scholarship since his article was selected for publication.

Edgar Mercado, son of Eduardo and Jenny Mercado, grew up in the Gage Park neighborhood of Chicago, Ill. A member of the Spanish Central Church, Edgar wants to become an x-ray technician.



Edgar Mercado

At the recent Lake Union Prayer Conference, Edgar took a new direction in life. Wanting a clear, receptive mind, he discovered some of his music was a problem. Removing all the negative and questionable music he had with him, he discussed what he had done with the academy pastor, who agreed that he, too, had things that hindered his relationship with God. Together, they decided those things needed to be destroyed.

Out in nature on Sabbath, Edgar prayed before writing a letter to God. For the first time in his life there was silence; he could hear God speak to his heart.

Back on campus, a small group of students gathered around as Edgar and the pastor started a fire. As the group began to grow, some went back to their rooms and grabbed movies, games, magazines, clothing, make-up, and other personal stuff, following Edgar's example.

"I've learned that people are watching me," stated Edgar, "not only when I'm bad, but also when I'm good. It is exciting to see how my experience has helped those around me. One of my friends is being baptized. Students are no longer popular for their lack of spirituality."



Donna Coon

Donna Coon, daughter of Donald and Denise Coon, continues a Coon legacy. Her father is one of seven siblings who are Broadview Academy graduates. A member of the Downers Grove (Ill.) Church, Donna's ambition is to become a nurse. Donna loves to listen to people and genuinely cares for them. She is a member of the writing and photography clubs, and is an editor of the school newspaper.

One of Donna's favorite activities is evangelism. Donna is excited about her upcoming trip to Panama, where she will be involved in evangelism, community outreach, and church building.

Although music is important, her favorite class is Bible. She is fascinated at how Bible stories pertain to her life today. The *DEEP* (Drop Everything Except Prayer) prayer experience, a random call to prayer, was started so students could pray for Hurricane Katrina victims. It has helped Donna develop her prayer life.

With her beautiful smile, industrious nature, devotion to her work and school, love for people, and deep desire to put God first, Donna is a student educator's hope to replicate in their classrooms.

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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THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF

Box C, Berrien Springs, MI 49103; (269) 473-8242

Editor Gary Burns editor@luc.adventist.org
Managing Editor/Display Ads Diane Thurber herald@luc.adventist.org
Circulation/Back Pages Editor Judi Doty circulation@luc.adventist.org
Art Direction/Design Mark Bond mark@bondesign.com
Proofreader Candy Clark

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Adventist Midwest Health Michael Krivich Michael.Krivich@ahss.org
Andrews University Rebecca May rmay@andrews.edu
Illinois Ken Denslow KDenslow@illinoisadventist.org
Indiana Gary Thurber GThurber@indianaadventist.org
Lake Region Ray Young LakeRegionComm@cs.com
Michigan Michael Nickless MNickless@misa.org
Wisconsin James Fox JFox@wi.adventist.org

CORRESPONDENTS

Adventist Midwest Health Lynn Larson Lynn.Larson@ahss.org
Andrews University Beverly Stout StoutB@andrews.edu
Illinois Veryl Kelley VKelley@illinoisadventist.org
Indiana Judith Yeoman JYeoman@indianaadventist.org
Lake Region Tonya Nisbeth TNisbeth@lakeregionsda.org
Lake Union Bruce Babienko BBabienko@luc.adventist.org
Michigan Jody Murphy JMurphy@misa.org
Wisconsin Kitty Cray KCray@wi.adventist.org

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Illinois: Ken Denslow, president; Kyoshin Ahn, secretary; Duane Rollins, treasurer; 619 Plainfield Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527-8438; (630) 734-0920.

Indiana: Gary Thurber, president; George Crumley, treasurer; street address: 15250 N. Meridian St., Carmel, IN 46032; mailing address: P.O. Box 1950, Carmel, IN 46082-1950; (317) 844-6201.

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Michigan: Jay Gallimore, president; Fred Earles, secretary; Leroy Bruch, treasurer; street address: 320 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing, MI 48933; mailing address: P.O. Box 19009, Lansing, MI 48901; (517) 316-1500.

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Framed Lithograph:
29 x 37 1/2 \$ 339.95

• Studio Canvas Giclée • Image size: 40 x 29 5/8 \$ 1,495 • Image size: 24 x 17 3/4 \$ 695

“The Senior Partner”

“In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:6). This painting acknowledges the importance of involving Christ in the professional arena. In this striking image, Jesus is introduced as “The Senior Partner.” Displaying this piece prominently in your business will convey your Christian principles and values to your business associates, customers, and staff.

Limited Edition Lithograph

- 3,000 signed and numbered
Image size: 31 3/4 x 24 7/8 \$ 150
- 200 signed and numbered artist's proofs
Image size: 31 3/4 x 24 7/8 \$ 200
- Studio Canvas Giclée • Image Size - 31 x 38 5/8 \$ 1,495 • Image Size - 19 5/16 x 24 \$ 695



Rarely does an artist emerge with the balance of strengths and emotional intensity of Nathan Greene. His large, luminous paintings of Christ in modern settings combine his unique style with the painting traditions of the old masters to deliver powerful images that go straight for the heart.

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