

# Lake Union HERALD

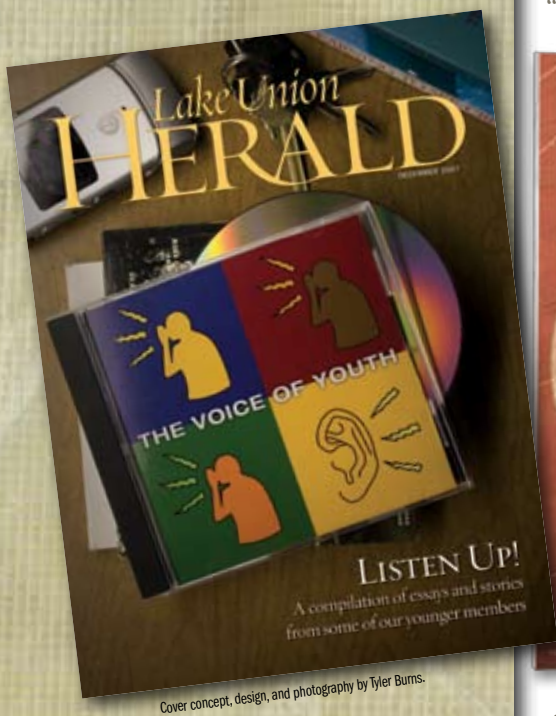
DECEMBER 2007



## LISTEN UP!

A compilation of essays and stories  
from some of our younger members

"Telling the stories of what God is doing in the lives of His people"



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## in this issue...

**W**e're excited about our "Voice of Youth" issue because it gives us all a chance to listen and learn. Their "voice" has many dimensions, each one giving insights into their hopes, values, and fears.

To help us put this issue together, we asked Heather Thompson, a communication student at Andrews University, to be our guest editor. It has been a joy for our staff to work with her on this issue of the *Herald*.

  
Gary Burns, Editor



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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY WALTER L. WRIGHT, LAKE UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

## “If You’re for Real, Bend this Dime!”

I was conducting Spring Week of Prayer at a large Adventist boarding academy in the eastern United States. It had been a fun evening. After the meeting that night the principal granted permission for the fellows in the boys’ dormitory to watch one of the “March Madness” college basketball games. I decided to join the guys for the special treat.

It must have been close to midnight when I left the dorm to walk across campus to my guest quarters. In the pitch-blackness of the night I could barely make out a figure near the flagpole located at the center of the grounds. A voice out of the darkness said, “Pastor Wright, can I talk to you?” After collecting myself, I invited the young man to speak.

“My name is Jerry,\* and I’ve got some questions about God. I’ve been praying to Him about my girlfriend, and she got worse sick anyway. Then I thought I would give Him a real test. Tonight after you preached about His power and how responsive He is to our needs, I asked Him to prove His presence by bending this dime. He didn’t bend it, pastor, and now I’m not sure He exists!”



Well, I invited Jerry to walk along with me as we talked. We ended up spending the entire night in Bible study (probably against academy rules) as God spoke to this troubled young man’s heart from the scriptures. The Holy Spirit showed His love for Jerry by completely convincing him of God’s care. Jerry also realized that our heavenly Father has far more important things to do and far more affirming ways to deal with us than bending dimes.

By the time daylight broke on the campus Jerry had shared with me about his home life, and the dysfunction there. His parents had placed him in academy, he said, “just to get rid of me so they could have freedom.” Jerry had never really been introduced to Jesus before that fateful night at the flagpole.

I’m happy to say that by Friday night of the week of prayer series Jerry had accepted Christ as his personal Savior, and I had the privilege of baptizing him along with other students on Sabbath afternoon.

Our youth are so precious. It is incumbent upon every Christian parent to model love for Jesus, not just mouth some words that are not backed up by action. Jerry didn’t even feel loved by his parents, and so it was very difficult for him to relate to God’s love. Are you reaching out to your child or some other doubting young person with real, genuine love for their souls? They desperately need to hear “Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee” (Jeremiah 31:3).

\*Not his real name

# Welcome NEW MEMBERS

**Wisconsin** Dave Wilson thought about getting baptized for 18 years, but had not made his decision. His wife Pam and daughter, Michaela, were already baptized members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but Dave still hesitated. However, Pam's Christian witness in their home and Michaela's involvement in the Pathfinder Club and at the church's Hillside Christian School caused Dave to re-think



When Dave Wilson (right) accepted Christ's salvation and was baptized, his wife Pam (left) was full of joy.

his decision to be baptized.

When Dave met Wausau's pastor, Bill Bossert, a friendship was formed, and the church's "open arms" policy bridged the gulf to his heart. Dave then made his public confession to

accept Christ's salvation and teachings, which led to his baptism. His family was full of joy and smiles.

**Allison Patchett**, a sophomore at Wisconsin Academy, responded to the Holy Spirit's wooing to live a new life in Christ, following a "Dare to Share" field trip to Chicago she participated in with Michele Bossert and the pastor. The opportunities Allison was given in Chicago to talk about Jesus Christ to strangers allowed her to experience what it means to become a new person in Christ Jesus. They also motivated Allison to ask the pastor to baptize her as a witness of her changed relationship with Jesus.



Allison Patchett asked to be baptized as a witness of her changed relationship with Jesus.

**Krista Schultz**, a sixth grader at Hillside Christian School, has always had a heartfelt desire to be a loving helper to people in need. Her tender heart causes her to witness for Jesus as she reaches out to assist others. Krista's compassion



Krista Schultz has always had a desire to help people in need. As she worshiped in church each Sabbath, she developed an irresistible urge from the Holy Spirit to be baptized.

also includes caring for animals which are distressed and need a thoughtful friend. As she worshiped in church each Sabbath her desire to be a baptized member became an irresistible urge from the Holy Spirit. Her request for baptism was happily accepted, and she became a new joyful member.

**Lydia and Brian Engen** first met in a coffee shop. As they dated their relationship deepened, and they fell in love. Lydia had been baptized in the Seventh-day Adventist Church when she was 14, but she says that as she grew to a young adult she drifted away from Christ and the church's teachings.

Recently a series of spiritual providences from God caused Lydia to realize a personal relationship with Jesus Christ was what really mattered in her life. She had a longing in her heart to be re-baptized. Lydia and Brian began to be counseled and study the Bible with the pastor. His caring friendship and clear Bible presentations led them to desire a Christ-centered marriage. Soon their new church family and guests approvingly observed as they were baptized and married, and their son, Marshall, was dedicated to God.

The power of Christ's love and acceptance as illustrated in the church family brought great blessings to these five new members of The Shepherd's House Adventist church in Wausau, Wisconsin. We praise God for each "lost sheep" that was brought into the fold of Christ's redemption.



After developing a friendship with Bill Bossert, The Shepherd's House pastor, and learning about God's design for their lives and relationship, Lydia and Brian Engen made a decision to submit their lives and home to Him through marriage and baptism. Lydia and Brian dedicated their son, Marshall, to God, also.

Diana Spieth, The Shepherd's House communication secretary, as shared with Bruce Babienko, Lake Union Herald volunteer correspondent

**Wisconsin** I (**Matthew Anderson**) was raised with my mother's belief system, but my dad's beliefs were from a different church. He didn't normally attend either church, since he was too busy running the farm. I think having parents from different churches led me to question which

church, if any, was correct.

By the time I left for college I was questioning everything. Not having any answers, I drifted along and became self-centered and godless. Yet, in the back of my mind, I held open the possibility of God's existence and was drawn to spiritual concepts. I always intended to read my Bible and started many times, but never got very far. Then circumstances began to slowly change my way of thinking. Everything spiritual started to fall into place.

My drifting along and enjoying life, but not getting anywhere, changed when I took a job at a Chicago trading company. I had a lot of debt from college, and this seemed like my big break. Yet, after a few months of high tension, stress, and little sleep, the job seemed like a cut-throat business, and I decided to resign. Although I felt like a failure for leaving, I had learned a lot about myself and was motivated to get my life in order.

I returned to my previous taxi cab job, and worked hard. After two years, I was out of debt and was saving to buy a house. Still, as I reviewed my life, I was a self-centered and godless person. I came to the conclusion that I wasn't the person I thought I should be. I stopped blaming everyone else for everything. Although I had not yet turned to God, life was starting to make sense, and I had a purpose. Things were coming together, and I was growing.

I moved from a bad situation and into my own apartment where I made some good decisions. One decision was to go without cable TV until winter to save money. That's when I discovered and began to watch a lot of 3ABN. I also listened to Christian radio at work, and was determined to read my Bible through in one year. Suddenly, my whole life was turned upside down and consumed with Christianity. I also started to attend the local Seventh-day Adventist Church, after someone at 3ABN suggested I look for the church's address in the telephone book.

Six months later I was baptized by Abraham Swamidass, pastor, and became a member of the Madison Community Church. Looking back, I wonder why it took me so long to see what now seems so obvious.



After he was baptized, Matthew Anderson said, "I wonder why it took me so long to see what now seems so obvious."

Matthew Anderson, as shared with Leslie-Anne Endres, Madison Community Church local church elder, and Bruce Babienco, *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent

**Wisconsin** Ashley Wasmund was excited to attend blind camp at Camp Wakonda, in Westfield, Wisconsin. She learned about the camp at the Janesville Public School for the Blind, where the camp advertises its summer camp program.

At four months of age, Ashley developed cancer in one eye. It eventually spread to the other eye leaving her totally blind by the age of four. As Fran Fisher, a Christian Record Services district representative, observed Ashley at camp, she noted that Ashley managed quite well—better than most Fran worked with.

Ashley enjoyed the messages given by Wendell Springer, camp chaplain. His appeal to the campers to give their hearts and lives to Jesus touched Ashley's heart, so she filled out a decision card indicating her desire to be baptized.

After camp was over, Fran received a letter from Ashley's mother who thanked her for the camp and told Fran how much Ashley really liked her and appreciated her kindness. Later, Fran personally followed up on Ashley's desire to be baptized; Fran brought Ashley a set of Bible lessons on cassette tapes. Ashley listened to each tape and later discussed each taped lesson with William Bossert, pastor of The Shepherd's House Adventist Church in Wausau, Wisconsin, when he visited. It was a glorious day when Ashley was baptized and became a member of The Shepherd's House.

Today Ashley lives on her own as a student at North Central Technical College where she is taking a course in medical transcription. Christian Record Services seeks to assist with Ashley's transportation needs by taking her to the Adventist health food store once a month, and taking her and six other blind individuals to church each Sabbath. Ashley hardly ever misses a worship service, even if it is a visit to the Green Bay Church 90 miles away.

Ashley eagerly awaits the time when Jesus will come again, and for the fulfillment of the Bible promise, "in that day ... the eyes of the blind shall see" (Isaiah 29:18).



Ashley Wasmund eagerly awaits the return of Jesus, and the promise that she will see again.

Bruce Babienco, *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent, with Fran J. Fisher, Christian Record Services district representative

# Painting in God's Honor

BY DIANE THURBER

Milton Coronado was in gangs during high school. He eventually left the gangs, but was soon with another crowd that led him into graffiti and vandalism. Graffiti was Milton's world for many years. "I was chased by other 'taggers,' youth who were also involved in this world, and chased by dogs, police officers, homeless people, and even bullets. It is only by the mercy and grace of God that I am alive and well today," he says.

After a family tragedy Milton surrendered his life to God and left spray can art. Milton believes, "If you use the talents God has given you for self-pleasure, and you're committing crime and hurting someone else, God wants you to stop." He adds, "With love, He will guide you to use [your talent] for the task He has called you to finish—to tell others about Him."

Several years later Milton, and Pastors Manny Cruz and Josh Murillo, formed a street art ministry. They clean up graffiti and, if allowed, paint a mural with a positive Christian message in its place. Milton has witnessed people of all ages open their hearts to accept Jesus through the ministry. He says, "How great a feeling it is to do something you love for soul-saving, working together with the Holy Spirit."



Recently Hispanic youth leaders in Grand Rapids, Michigan, invited Milton to speak for an area youth event. There, Milton shared his testimony with the youth and invited them to participate in an outreach project. The next day a few youth, parents, and pastors gathered, ready to paint. They asked God to bless the project, and minutes later Milton painted the first outline of the message. Onlookers soon gathered to watch, as youth, seniors, and pastors painted



Tearfully the young man told how he tried to kill himself once, but failed. Milton said, "As he was walking by, he noticed a group of young people smiling and appearing to be happy, and believed the message on the wall, that read, 'Jesus: your new awakening,' was for him." He accepted their offer to pray with him. The next day Milton learned the young man had planned to attempt suicide again the previous night, but God intervened to save him. The young man is now receiving Bible studies, and desires that true happiness received only through Jesus.

Milton encourages youth to get involved in a ministry. He suggests you first ask yourself what you really love to do. Secondly, ask God how you can use your desire or talent to serve Him better. And finally, do it to the fullest.

Diane Thurber is the assistant communication director for the Lake Union Conference. This story was shared by Milton Coronado, 27, a member of the Hinsdale (Illinois) Fil-Am Church. Anyone interested in street art ministry may contact Milton at [mcrowned@yahoo.com](mailto:mcrowned@yahoo.com).

# BEYOND *our* BORDERS

## Lessons from the Mission Field

BY RUTH ANN PLUE



A few months ago I flew to Ghana, a country very different from my own. At the airport, I experienced the first in a series of unexpected delays. No one was there to take me to the orientation site. After waiting and wondering, someone finally arrived. The lesson: I would need to trust in God.

The weather was hot and dusty with temperatures in the 90s. We saw lizards, crows, vultures, and bats. When I found a lizard in my room, I was not too pleased. The lesson: Things can be difficult in the mission field.

The streets were lined with people selling everything from food to caskets. When we changed our money, we received 9,200 *cedis* for a dollar. We thought we were multimillionaires! But we soon learned that *cedis* were practically worthless. Our hotel room cost 200,000 *cedis* a day. The lesson: Don't trust in money.

I was scheduled to preach an entire ShareHim series at the Durber Grounds in Jumapo, which was at a crossroads in town. There was a platform but no sound system, no suitable screen, and no chairs. I wondered if it would be ready by evening. When it was time to begin, the members were still getting things ready. At the last minute, a sheet was hung to serve as a screen. The lesson: Flexibility.

The roads were not paved. There were deep ruts that caused the bottom of the car to drag on the rocky ground. Cars barreled down the road, barely missing people. Cars were old and broke down often. My pastor's car had windows that couldn't open or close, a windshield wiper didn't work, and often we couldn't open the right door. The lesson: Be thankful for our roads and cars.

The electricity was rationed in Ghana, and every fifth day a community was without power. This meant we had



*This is the new church the believers in Jumapo have been building for ten years. It will seat 400 when finished.*



*Pastor Arloo (left) has six churches and is the director of stewardship and trust services for the East Ghana Conference. Also pictured: Ruth Ann Plue*

to use a generator. Our microphones often failed, but we continued to preach without them—as loud as we could. Sometimes the lights went out and we were in the dark. The lesson: Patience.

Evangelism in Ghana is not necessarily easier than in the United States. They face many of the same obstacles we have here. Other denominations opposed us and started revivals of their own to prevent people from attending our meetings. One reason evangelism was successful was because the church members actively shared their faith. They visited every home in Jumapo to invite people to

the meetings and encouraged them to make decisions. The pastors in Ghana are very busy. One pastor has 22 churches plus a conference position. The lesson: Evangelism is not just the duty of the pastor, but the church members as well.

My translator said our meetings were heard on a mountain more than ten miles away. The sound echoed off the mountains. People could hear the sermon but couldn't see the pictures. Although nightly attendance at our site ranged from 200–350, and 100 were baptized, we have no idea how many people listened to the gospel. The lesson: God can do marvelous things!



Ruth Ann Plue is a member of the Muncie (Indiana) Church.



# FAMILY TIES

## Bouncing Back from Adversity

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

*“If we think we are fragile and broken, we will live a fragile and broken life. If we believe we are strong and wise, we will live with enthusiasm and courage. The way we name ourselves colors the way we live. ... We must be careful how we name ourselves” (Wayne Muller).*

**R**esiliency is the ability to spring back from and successfully adapt to adversity. One high school student said, “Resiliency is about choosing to bounce back from problems and stuff with more power and smarts.” Resiliency studies show that families, peers, schools, work places, and other organizations have tremendous power to change the life course of those who experience adverse conditions or stressful life events. The key is to infuse individuals’ lives, including our own, and families and organizations, with these protective factors.

**Attitude of Optimism**—Believe in the reality of resiliency and communicate that belief. With the current emphasis on “at-risk” youth, many young people receive the message they cannot overcome their life problems. What is more powerful for them to hear is, “What is right with you is more powerful than anything that is wrong with you.” Other groups besides teens are also pessimistically stereotyped. Resiliency research shows that each person has a “self-righting tendency,” a capacity to overcome problems and move towards wellness. I believe this is a gift from God.

**Perspective of Strength**—Focus attention on people’s strengths, show them how they have used these strengths, and help them find and develop their strengths to deal with current problems. One researcher recalls that when she talks about resiliency with youth, they tell her that, from their perspective, about 90 percent of the messages from adults in their lives are negative. If youth are to draw on their strengths to successfully cope with and overcome life challenges, they must be told, over and over, what those strengths are and how they have and can use them.

**Protective Builders in the Environment**—Numerous studies show that across their lifespan (from infancy through adulthood), people need to be surrounded with six elements of protection. These provide a framework for interacting in helping relationships, designing classrooms, programs, and work environments, and taking

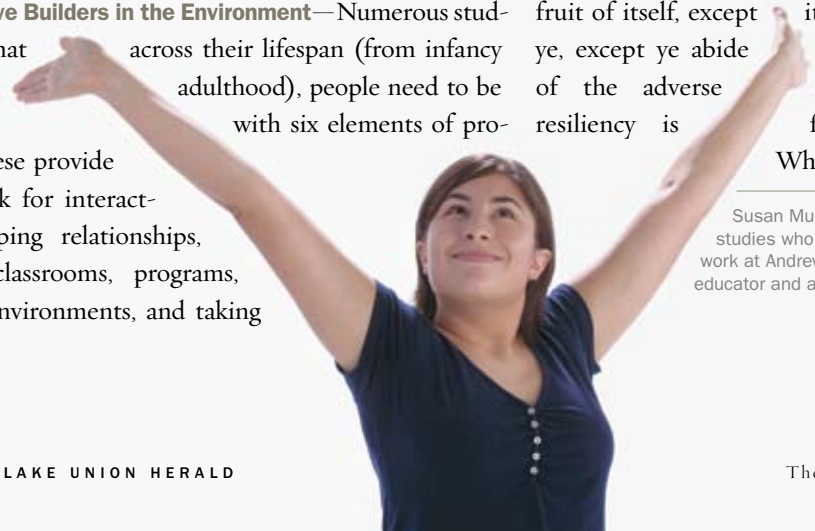
concrete action to help yourself and others overcome adversity and thrive. Briefly, they include: increase positive connections; have clear and consistent boundaries; provide for life skills development; caring and support that communicate, “I am here for you”; high (but realistic) expectations for success; and opportunities for meaningful contributions and participation (genuine, “real-world” ways for individuals to share their gifts and service with the world around them).

**Time to Turn Around**—In our “instant-fix” culture, patience is often hard to find. Yet, for any person or group struggling to overcome adversity, things take time. Some of the most powerful resiliency programs in our country that take a mentoring approach in working with young people say it takes 18 months to two years to have a significant impact on participants’ lives. We need to stay committed long-term!

If we infuse ourselves and those around us with these important factors, built upon the foundation of God’s love, we can each bounce back from adversity. I’m reminded of the text: “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me” (John 15:4). Regardless of the adverse circumstances we face, spiritual resiliency is found in a relationship with Jesus.

What a promise!

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 a licensed marriage and family therapist.





Being overweight is the major risk factor.

## Diabetes: An Impending Epidemic

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Type 2 diabetes has become a serious childhood problem.

**D**iabetes is approaching epidemic proportions. At present, 21 million Americans, or seven percent of the population, have diabetes. And nearly one-third of these people are unaware they have the disease. The rapid increase in diabetes is related to the steep rise in obesity among adults, children, and adolescents. Today, as many as two-thirds of Americans are overweight.

Diabetes is the fifth leading cause of death among women and the sixth leading cause among men. Persons with poorly controlled diabetes are at an increased risk of serious health complications and hospitalization. Complications associated with diabetes may result in blindness, end-stage renal disease, and lower extremity amputations.

Diabetes is characterized by high levels of blood glucose which results when the body does not produce or properly utilize insulin. Type 1 diabetes usually strikes children and young adults and accounts for five to ten percent of all diagnosed cases. Type 2 diabetes accounts for about 90 to 95 percent of cases. While it is more common among African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans, all Americans are at significant risk. Furthermore, type 2 diabetes has now become a serious childhood problem.

Both a family history of diabetes and environmental factors play important roles in the development of diabetes. Eating a healthy diet, regularly exercising, and proper weight management are paramount to diabetes management and reducing the risk of diabetes. Weight management is very important, since overweight persons readily become insulin resistance.

The goal for people with diabetes is to make lifestyle changes that lead to improved metabolic control. A high-fiber diet—rich in vegetables, dry beans, lentils, and whole grains—helps facilitate the management of diabetes by improving glucose tolerance and insulin sensitivity. Those with elevated cholesterol levels should reduce their saturated and trans fat intake, while those with elevated triglycerides are advised to replace some of their carbohydrates with mono fats as found in olives, avocados, and nuts.

In the Adventist Health Study, the risk of diabetes was one and a half to two times greater in non-vegetarians compared to vegetarians. The regular use of nuts and whole grain breads and cereals has been shown to significantly reduce the risk of diabetes by 20 to 30 percent. Oatmeal and barley can reduce blood lipids, as well as attenuating blood glucose and insulin responses.

The American diet tends to be low in chromium, an important mineral for insulin function. Whole grains and brewer's yeast are excellent sources of chromium. Herbs such as fenugreek, bitter melon, and prickly pear have all shown usefulness as therapeutic adjuncts in the management of diabetes. The use of sugar substitutes such as sucralose and sorbitol are safe for persons with diabetes and provide a useful way to control calorie intake.

Winston J. Craig, Ph.D., R.D., is a professor of nutrition at Andrews University.





# EXTREME GRACE

## From Resentment to Adventure

BY DICK DUERKSEN

*"I was raised a Seventh-day Adventist, but I kind of resented it. Everything was kind of trite and I really didn't feel it, and I even began to resent God for all the misery, hatred, and corruption in the world. Why would He create all this and just leave us to die!"*

Those are words every parent hates to hear, words that call question on Sabbath morning dashes to church, on the extra hours worked to pay for church school, and even the family worships where it was hard to keep the kids quiet.

I heard those words this summer from an Indiana teenager, Matt Stokes, on a church-building trip in Ecuador.

"I thought I was just going to have fun with my life and then die, and that would be it. I got into a lot of stuff I shouldn't have, and my priorities were all screwed up. Then I got into some trouble and realized this wasn't where I wanted my life to be."

Those are words parents hope to hear, words we pray for as we bail our teenager out of jail, words that offer a tiny promise of turn-around and new hope.

"I started thinking seriously, and then the Holy Spirit impressed upon my heart to read the Bible and see if God was really what my parents had made Him out to be."

Matt's life came to a "rock bottom situation" where he had nothing else to do except think and read. He chose to read the Bible. Just the choice his parents, teachers, and pastor were praying he would make.



"I had a lot of time to read, so I read Romans 8 every day and it slowly changed my life. When I read the Bible wanting to get truth from it, I felt something different. I started surrendering my life to God, and everything began getting better and better."

In the last year, Matt's life has moved to where he now has "more than enough" to do. He has finished high school, preached on three continents, and is living the peace he found in Romans.

"What I love the most is the joy and the freedom that I got from God. Teenagers, for the most part, live hedonistic lifestyles, and I have a burden to show everybody I meet the joy and contentment you can get from a life lived in God's will."

"This resurrection life you've received from God is not a timid grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a 'What's next, Papa?'" (Romans 8:15 *The Message*)

Dick Duerksen is the official "storyteller" for Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may contact Dick at [dduerksen@maranatha.org](mailto:dduerksen@maranatha.org).

Photos by Kristopher Haughton, Alan Smith, and Larry McConnell



## Dynamic vs Static

A FRESH IMPETUS

BY GARY BURNS

One of the exciting things about the church of the New Testament, was its dynamic nature. It was a time of discovery and change—a time of learning and unlearning. It was a time of embracing not only new ideas, but new people as well. It was a time of making new applications of old traditions, and even letting go of some traditions and embracing new ones. The same was true about the beginnings of the Advent Movement. That small group of young people lived a dynamic, edgy, “this is scary,” life of discipleship—just like in New Testament times.

As the Adventist Movement approached its half-century mark, it faced the growing pains caused by the tension between the dynamic and the static. One of its 17-year-old founders, Ellen G. White, was now 62, but she still had that pioneer discovery spirit. She gave the following counsel to the church in 1889, in response to what she described as God giving “precious gems of truth to His people in new settings.”

“This light from heaven by some was rejected with all the stubbornness the Jews manifested in rejecting Christ, and there was much talk about standing by the old landmarks. But there was evidence they knew not what the old landmarks were. There was evidence and there was reasoning from the word that commended itself to the conscience; but the minds of men were fixed, sealed against the entrance of light, because they had decided it was a dangerous error removing the ‘old landmarks’ when it was not moving a peg of the old landmarks, but they had perverted ideas of what constituted the old landmarks.

“The passing of the time in 1844 was a period of great events, opening to our astonished eyes the cleansing of the sanctuary transpiring in heaven, and having decided relation to God’s people upon the earth, [also] the first and second angels’ messages and the third, unfurling the banner on which was inscribed, ‘The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.’ One of the landmarks under this message was the temple of God, seen by His truth-loving people in heaven, and the ark containing the law of God. The light of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment flashed its strong

rays in the pathway of the transgressors of God’s law. The nonimmortality of the wicked is an old landmark. I can call to mind nothing more that can come under the head of the old landmarks. All this cry about changing the old landmarks is all imaginary.

“Now at the present time God designs a new and fresh impetus shall be given to His work. Satan sees this, and he is determined it shall be hindered. He knows that if he can deceive the people who claim to believe present truth, [and make them believe that] the work the Lord designs to do for His people is a removing of the old landmarks, something which they should, with most determined zeal, resist, then he exults over the deception he has led them to believe. The work for this time has certainly been a surprising work of various hindrances, owing to the false setting of matters before the minds of many of our people. That which is food to the churches is regarded as dangerous, and should not be given them. And this slight difference of ideas is allowed to unsettle the faith, to cause apostasy, to break up unity, to sow discord, all because they do not know what they are striving about themselves. Brethren, is it not best to be sensible? Heaven is looking upon us all, and what can they think of recent developments? While in this condition of things, building up barriers, we not only deprive ourselves of great light and precious advantages, but just now, when we so much need it, we place ourselves where light cannot be communicated from heaven that we ought to communicate to others” (*Manuscript 13, 1889*).

Gary Burns is the communication director for the Lake Union Conference.

## A Missionary Heart

BY MIHAIL BACIU AND BRUCE BABIENCO

**M**argaret Johnson from Two Harbors, Minnesota, is a member of the Superior (Wisconsin) Church. Her home is about ten miles from the nearest city, and is located in a forest. She used to work as a registered nurse, but now she is 91 years young, and retired. Recently Margaret told Mihail Baciu, her pastor, “You can be old, but you can live a life whose goal is more than to spend your pension. It can be a blessing for others.”

One day Mihail asked Margaret, “What do you do all day? Aren’t you bored?”

“Bored? What is that?” she answered. Then she showed him a big bunch of cards, letters, and pictures. As he looked at them, he realized they came from many different people who lived in many different states. It was then Margaret shared the facts about her retirement ministry.

Years ago Margaret decided to fill her time with something that would be a blessing to others. As a nurse she had dedicated her life to minister to others, so after Margaret retired she wanted to continue to help others. She subscribed to the magazine, *Good Old Days*, a publication for older people. In it she found the stories of people who were confronted with loneliness, depression, and sadness, or those who had recently lost a loved one. They all seemed to be desperate people. Margaret wrote down the names and addresses of those individuals and their problems in her notebook. She began to pray for the names in her notebook, and after some time she sent them a letter and a card of encouragement. Margaret wanted them to know they were not alone. Her letters also told about her faith in Jesus and how He is such a good friend and companion. Margaret added kind words of comfort that would apply to their unique problem. She would send a small book in the envelope that would be easy to read and have a strong and loving message, books like *Steps to Christ*.



At 91 years of age, Margaret Johnson still finds a way to witness to many people through her special ministry of encouragement.

Soon the responses began to trickle in. Here are a few excerpts from notes she received.

“Dear Margaret, You made me feel so special. I am just floating a foot off the ground,” sent by Ruth from Kansas.

“Dear Margaret, I am writing to thank you for the two books you sent to my mom. Reading is about all she can do as she is bedridden, and has been for four

years,” wrote Linda from Tennessee.

Mihail asked Margo, “How do you get money for your project of cards, books, and postage? Does the church help you financially?”

She looked at him with a smile and answered, “This is my missionary work. I cannot do very much, so I pray and send out cards and books. I use my pension check to cover the costs. It brings happiness to me and to others.”

At church recently Margaret greeted her pastor. Her face was shining. With joy in her eyes she said, “Pastor, I received some more cards from the people I wrote to. When are you going to visit me again so you can read them?”

So, what are you going to do when you retire? How about at 91 years old? It is a good time to plan for your future—now!

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Mihail Baciu is the former pastor of the Superior Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wisconsin, and Bruce Babienco is the *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent.



## VISLUMBRES DE ESPERANZA

POR CARMELO MERCADO

NOTA PARA NUESTROS LECTORES – Este mes he invitado a Sandra Juárez, la directora de Esperanza TV, para que nos dé un informe de lo que hace el canal para avanzar la predicación del evangelio.

Sabemos que la necesidad de predicar el evangelio no ha sido nunca tan urgente como lo es en nuestros días. Los valores establecidos desde un principio son pisoteados por la sociedad de nuestros días. Dios nos ha dado el mandato de llevar el evangelio de Cristo a todo el mundo, y Esperanza TV hace eso. La idea es ayudar a los demás para que puedan tener la esperanza que usted y yo tenemos en Cristo. La pregunta es: ¿cómo ayudarles?

Primero, hemos pedido dirección de lo alto. Segundo, hemos puesto manos a la obra, y por eso las luces ya se han encendido, las cámaras están en uso y las primeras escenas se han filmado, pues ya hemos grabado nuestra primera serie de “Vislumbres de Esperanza”. Esta programación hará que los televidentes se rían, lloren y sean impresionados en sus fibras más sensibles. Éstos escucharán



Sandra Juárez y el pastor Ernesto Castillo llevan a cabo una entrevista en el nuevo programa del canal Esperanza TV, “Vislumbres de Esperanza”.

acerca de la vida de hombres y mujeres que han enfrentado lo imposible, desde el abandono de sus padres, la violencia, la muerte de amigos, la cárcel, los vicios y hasta los más terribles obstáculos morales y espirituales.

Cada historia es una vida que encierra un misterio que será revelado con un solo propósito: inspirar a los demás a que luchan hasta lograr sus metas.

Los protagonistas de estas historias habían pensado y dicho que no podrían lograr su sueño, que les sería imposible llegar a su meta, que eran un caso perdido. Sin embargo, pudieron salir adelante porque Dios no los quitó de su vista. Cada uno de ellos llegó a escuchar la voz de Dios y se aferró de su mano... y hasta ahora no la ha soltado. Las vidas de todos ellos servirán de inspiración y motivación para muchos, para que se levanten y luchan por sus sueños.

El programa “Vislumbres de Esperanza” es una plataforma para que nuestros invitados nos abran su corazón, y es nuestro deseo que cada televidente le abra también el corazón a nuestro Señor Jesucristo.

Durante la grabación, uno de los camarógrafos, quien no es adventista, le comentó al pastor Castillo, Vicepresidente de la División Norteamericana, que los testimonios que estábamos

grabando eran realmente impactantes y que él nunca había escuchado historias como éstas. Después de escuchar las palabras del camarógrafo nos dimos cuenta que si esto sucedió durante la grabación, cuánto más impacto tendrían estos programas una vez que se lanzaran al aire.

Agradecemos todas sus oraciones por nosotros, y también cada donación que hace posible que este tipo de programa se realice. Deseamos seguir contando con su apoyo económico para poder continuar la producción de programación de primera calidad para que el nombre de nuestro Dios sea glorificado.

Sandra Juárez, la directora, Esperanza TV

Más información: [Esperanzatv.org](http://Esperanzatv.org), 800-803-7171, 101 W. Cochran St., Simi Valley, CA 93065



# HOLD NOTHING BACK

BY HEATHER THOMPSON

**W**HEN I WAS A FRESHMAN I ATTENDED BETHEL COLLEGE IN INDIANA. I WAS THERE ON A TRACK SCHOLARSHIP AND HAD, BY ALL OF MY PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS, “MADE IT.”

Track was my life, and in many forms it is still one of my fondest memories and deepest regrets. I dedicated six years of my being to it. Since transferring to Andrews University, where there is no track team, I have lost a tiny piece of who I am, though I’ve gained a much greater sense of who I will become.

At the end of my freshman year at Bethel, I qualified for Christian Nationals in the women’s 4x400m relay. If you’re unfamiliar with track, the 4x400m relay involves four athletes who each run one lap around the track and pass the baton to the next teammate. I was nervous, injured, and

had a pretty good idea that I would transfer to Andrews in the fall, making that relay the last race of my life.

I wanted to leave the sport a legend in my own mind. I knew I’d never be an Olympic runner, but I could win that last race. In fact, I believed I should win. We were ranked sixth; and we had practiced hard. I had spent the past six years preparing for just that moment, and it had come. I was at the meet with a college scholarship to do the sport I loved. It was Nationals, where the best athletes in that specific event in the entire nation gathered, and I was, in that moment, fulfilling a dream.

“I FELT THE METAL OF THE BATON  
PUSH INTO MY HAND, AND I TOOK OFF.  
MY ARMS PUMPED AS HARD AS I  
HAD EVER FORCED THEM TO MOVE,  
AND MY LEGS FELT STURDY.”

When the gun blared, the first leg of our relay took off and gave us a strong start. Even now as I write, I feel my heart begin to skip a beat as my mind takes me back. I was the third leg, so I watched two of my team members run their course before relying on me to do my part. When it was my turn, I felt the metal of the baton push into my hand, and I took off. My arms pumped as hard as I had ever forced them to move, and my legs felt sturdy. I sprinted as fast as I could for the first 60 meters, and then I pulled back.

I pulled back because the 400 is one of the hardest races to run, and I was extremely nervous about running out of steam and dying out on the last straight-a-way of the track (it's happened before). I pulled back, and let people pass me. I paced myself and waited for that last 150m where I would sprint into the finish line. My eyes hit my mark, and I took off as hard and powerful as possible. I felt the wind bite my face as I started to gain back the ground I had lost. The last few meters came, and I handed the baton to the finishing leg, and then I sat down and cried.

I cried because I didn't fall to my knees at the end. I didn't collapse. I didn't even feel that weak. I cried because I had saved too much. It was the last race I would ever run, and I didn't leave everything I had on that track. I cried because my adrenaline was so physically powerful that I could have run a whole other lap. I cried because in that moment I knew that “better safe than sorry” was for losers.

To this day that race makes me shudder. It stings my pride worse than the time I got disqualified at my state track meet in high school, and worse than the time I tripped over my

own shoelace in eighth grade and got that scar on my right knee. It even hurt worse than my first outdoor college meet, when I needed to show my coaches what I was made of, and pushed my body so hard that I died out, threw up on the finish line, and still got last place. You see, this one takes the cake not because we were defeated; I had been beat before. But because this time, I defeated myself.

The reason I tell this story isn't to bask in my glory days, or even to instill some lifelong lesson of tenacity. I tell you this story to show you my biggest fear in life—playing it “too safe” when it comes to God's mission for me.

At the end of this world, I want to look back and know I left it all on the track. I want to be exhausted, I want to be empty, and I want to collapse into His arms one day and know that I left no rock unturned. I challenge you to save nothing. Don't hold back anything when it comes to your loved ones, and Him. They may have their gates, but you may be their drawbridge. If you have your devotions every morning, and your vespers every evening, even better! Just make sure you are always giving away just as much of Him as you are taking in.

I'll leave you with this thought: sometimes, the closest to God someone else is going to get is you. And I can tell you one thing, Jesus was still preaching at His own crucifixion. My God saves nothing.

Heather Thompson is a senior journalism and communications major at Andrews University.





# CHRISTIANS PERFECTLY IMPERFECT

BY JANELLE COLLINS

I am a pastor's kid, also lovingly referred to as a PK. I don't think anyone can understand my situation unless they're a pastor's kid themselves. Not only have I been an Adventist my whole life, but my father is a leader in the church. Don't get me wrong; this isn't a bad thing. If anything, sometimes I feel like I have this special connection with Jesus, even though I was taught my whole life that He loves us all the same. There is a downside to being a PK, and that is the expectations that come along with your father's title.

"Do you watch movies?"

"Do you go outside?"

Yes, I've been asked those questions, and a few other bizarre ones. Usually I'd like to come back with a witty remark like, "No, I just sit in a cubicle in my room with a candle and read the Holy Scriptures 24/7." Only I know how that would make my father look as a parent. People's expecta-

tions of me are fairly high, and I try to meet them, though I've come to realize how impossible that is.

The truth is all of us, not just PKs, have people in our lives who expect something out of us. We can either go above people's expectations, meet them exactly, or disappointment tremendously. Sometimes, it's hard to meet everyone's expectations.



MEETING OTHER'S EXPECTATIONS CAN  
DRIVE EVEN THE SANEST PERSON MAD.  
SADLY, WE WILL NEVER MEET PEOPLE'S  
EXPECTATIONS OF US; WE WILL NEVER BE  
EXACTLY WHAT EVERYONE WANTS US TO BE.

People tend to quickly lose faith in us if we continue to disappoint them. And the more they lose faith in us, the less they will depend on us for anything. Meeting other's expectations can drive even the sanest person mad. Sadly, we will never meet people's expectations of us; we will never be exactly what everyone wants us to be.

Jesus, however, allows us to keep striving toward His affirmations. His expectations for humans are written out plainly in the Bible. But unlike humans, He won't turn His back on us if we don't meet those expectations word for word. In fact, He knows we won't. That's why He died for us so long ago. He knew that years down the road we were going to let Him down, and that we weren't going to meet His expectations.

Jesus also acknowledges our efforts in meeting His expectations. Many times we try all we can, but if we don't meet exactly what someone expects of us, they only see the failure not the effort. Jesus sees our effort; He acknowledges it, and He blesses us.

I don't know about you, but when I was younger, around 10 or 11, a clean room was a must—not for me, but for my parents. I never understood what the big deal was. If I want to live in my own mess, just let me. And even when I did clean my room, it never seemed clean enough for them. Some toy was always out of place, or some corner on my bedsheet was always ruffled. I didn't know what they expected of me, but I knew there was no way I could ever reach their expectations of a spotless room. It was just impossible.

Our lives, just like my bedroom, will never be spotless. We are humans, and therefore there will always be some

blemish in our spirituality that distinguishes us from perfect beings, such as angels. And yet God allows us to continue to dwell here, on Earth, even as we corrupt it. Just like my parents didn't expect me to have a perfect room every time but still expected me to try, Jesus wants us to try to become more like Him. He knows we will never be able to be perfect like Him on this earth, but He does expect us to make an effort.

So how do we try to meet the expectations of someone so great? How do we live up to something we will probably never live up to? Remember me, the PK? I'll never live up to any of those things that church members expect of me—the perfect, flawless child who follows worshipfully in her heavenly Father's and earthly father's footsteps. I mess up sometimes, sometimes I say the wrong things, and sometimes I just get too tired to try. Here's the difference between humans and God. When we mess up, when we say the wrong things, and when we get too tired to try, He doesn't lower His expectations; they stay exactly the same. Instead of being utterly disappointed in us and looking at us in shame, He pushes us along, giving us encouragement to keep going.

I may go through life constantly disappointing a lot of people. I may always say the wrong thing, never keep a spotless room, and probably continue my battle of imperfection. You see, I can live and die knowing I wasn't perfect, but I can't live with myself if I don't continue to try.

Janelle Collins is a freshman journalism major at Andrews University.





# COMFORT OR RESPONSIBILITY

MUSINGS ON MONEY, MEANING,  
AND FRESHMAN EPIPHANIES

BY ANDREW GERARD

When I was in ninth grade at Battle Creek Academy, a 45-minute religion class changed my life. My teacher showed a video of a Tony Campolo meeting from the 1980s. It blew my mind. Campolo talked about communing with the down and out. He talked about resisting the conformity of the age. He talked about not wasting your life. He said that owning a BMW was a sin. I did not know what to think. The implications of what the man said were huge, and I knew it. In Campolo's speech, BMWs were only a symbol—the point was tougher than that. Owning a BMW was not an issue for me at 15, and I didn't think it would be, but I knew that needless luxuries were certainly a temptation and could easily rob purpose and meaning from my life.

My view of the intersection of money and faith has become somewhat more complicated than it was my freshman year in high school. Questions of priority and responsibility have arisen, and continue to bother me. How do we juggle our needs, wants, desire for meaning, and our commitments to God and society? Do we have a responsibility to help those less fortunate than ourselves? Is it alright to live comfortably as long as we are generous as well?

One of the difficulties of the concepts of comfort and generosity is that they're such nebulous, relative terms. We applaud people in developing countries who live with significantly less than we do and are "happy with what they have" on our way to Wal-Mart. Most of us would theoretically stop consuming when we become "comfortable," but we view ourselves as just-above or just-below comfortable

and justify ourselves in buying the CD, backyard grill, lunch in town, or family-sized car that will help solidify our comfort.

Generosity is also difficult. We may pay an honest tithe. That's what we're supposed to do, we think. We may give \$50 to ADRA when we think of it. We may go so far as to sponsor a child in Africa or Asia. But we rarely give until it hurts, and sacrifice is rarely part of the purpose of our lives. Our jobs, education, and family provide purpose; giving time and money often just provides respite from a guilty conscience. We see service and activism as good things to do—not as our responsibility.

The same Bible teacher who introduced me to Campolo was asked in class why, if Jesus said that God knows what we need and will provide for our needs (Matthew 6:25–33),

# I AM AFRAID I WILL BE SEEN AT STARBUCKS, AT A CONCERT, OR IN THE CHECK-OUT LINE AT BARNES & NOBLE, AND SOMEONE WILL KNOW THAT I DON'T PRACTICE WHAT I PREACH.

Christians around the world lived in difficulty and pain. Why do Christians starve, the student asked, when Jesus promised that God would take care of them?

My teacher gave an answer that gave me an uncomfortable feeling, but put a thought in my head that never quite left. He said, "Maybe we as Christians, God's hands on earth, are to make sure that no one starves—maybe we are to take care of each other." This answer made me nervous, but partially because it made sense. No matter the mysteries as to why God chooses to intervene in some situations but not others, it is our responsibility to do what we can to lessen human suffering and work toward the liberation of impoverished and subjugated peoples. So what are we to do to this end, and why is it sometimes difficult to find the motivation to sacrifice for others?

Two years ago I traveled to Peru for a spring break tour with Andrews University's behavioral sciences department. We quickly traversed the lows (The Amazon River), highs (Lake Titicaca), and middle (Lima) of that amazing country. While staying in the high-altitude city of Cuzco, our group met a woman and her family who needed our help. Her daughter had a hernia which needed medical attention, but she had no way to pay for it. The small amount of money the woman made during the day selling trinkets to tourists was taken by her alcoholic husband. That mother and her children touched something in our group. We put aside our cynicisms and concerns about money and went so far as to call in a physician who came out to look at the little girl at 11 o'clock at night. He told us the surgery would cost around US\$200 and that we could transfer the money directly to the hospital. We raised the funds quickly and spent the rest of the evening celebrating with the family, dancing around in the streets with the little children.

The meaning we got out of this experience was incredible. A question, though: why were we so willing to give money to help this little girl? For some of us, what we gave her was the last of our money for the trip. Some students

begged and borrowed from friends for the rest of the tour because of their gift.

In reality, beyond the emotional effect that seeing suffering up close brings forth, the world is full of little girls with hernias, with distended bellies, with AIDS. It may be easier to make others a priority when their suffering is in our face, but people are suffering whether we can see it or not. The way we make decisions about our careers, our finances, and the way we spend money can be a reflection of our desires and feelings, or they can reflect the truth that we are the hands and feet of God. Rather than asking whether it is alright to live comfortably, we should be asking if there is more we can do. When we look at our responsibility to others in this way, we are less likely to make rationalizations for our own luxuries.

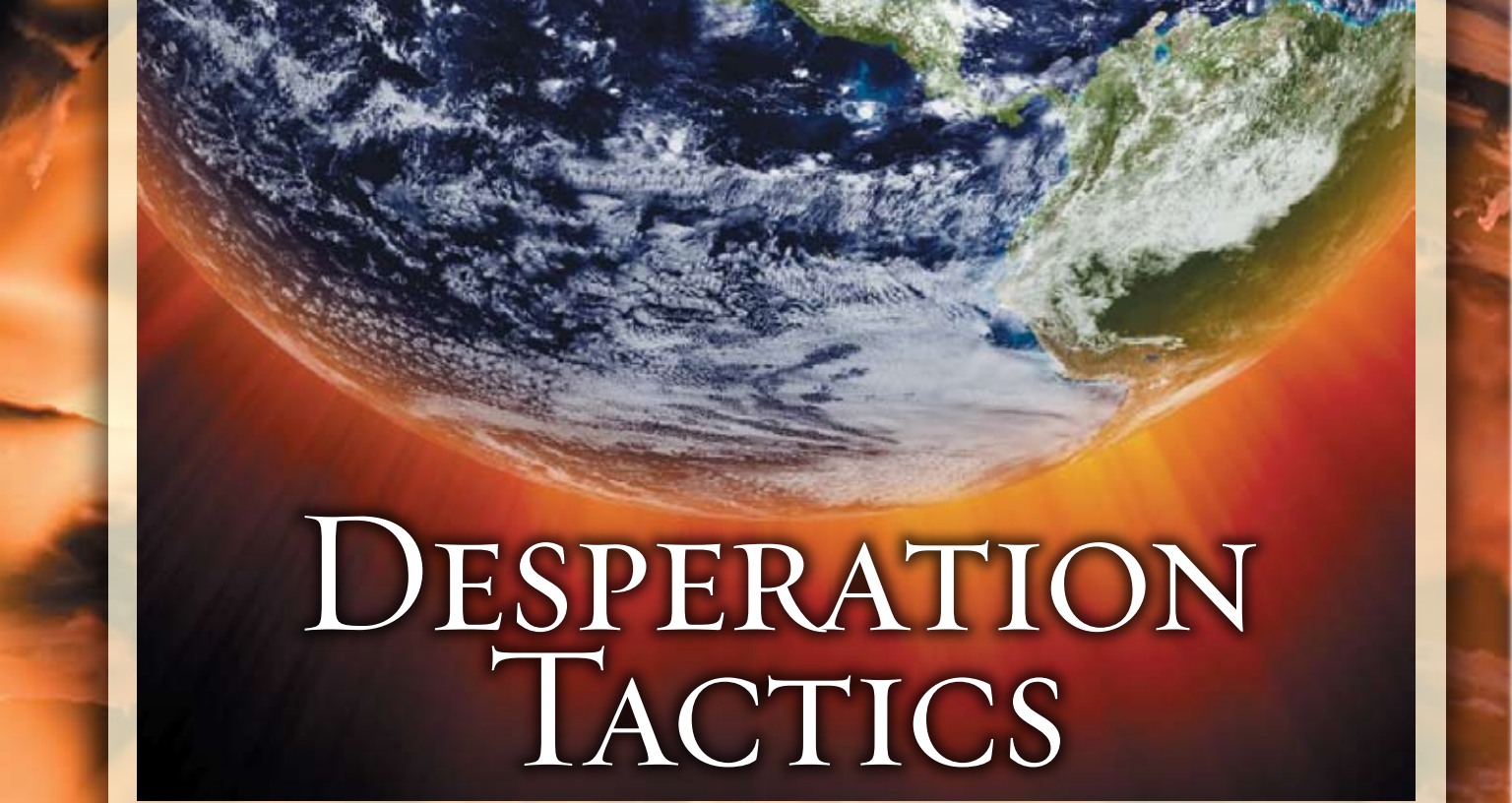
Every time I express these sentiments I feel like I should be careful or I might get caught. I believe that we as humans and as Christians who have been fortunate economically have a responsibility to put the well-being of others before our comfort. So I am afraid I will be seen at Starbucks, at a concert, or in the check-out line at Barnes & Noble, and someone will know that I don't practice what I preach. Idealism is an exercise in controlled hypocrisy, and as an advocate of self-sacrificing generosity, I am certainly a hypocrite.

Change, personal and corporate, is a process. As I grow toward a more humane stance toward my fellow humans and form a more coherent lifestyle, expressing my beliefs as to my priorities, I will stumble. We all will. We can be thankful for the grace that allows us to grow toward a love and respect for humanity, and the grace which allows us to change our lives so as to change society.

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Andrew Gerard is a junior anthropology major at Andrews University.





# DESPERATION TACTICS

BY ANDRE WESTON

Anyone who knows the history of war knows it was a common practice for an occupying army to set a city on fire when a stronger oppositional army was about to siege their stronghold. The reasoning was that it is better to leave your opponents with nothing than to flee and leave them with valuable resources. Some ancient armies even found it more bearable to set their own town ablaze rather than see it occupied by the enemy. To sum up the point, it was a desperation tactic to destroy the land that would be soon be forfeited to your opponent as a final gesture of defiance.

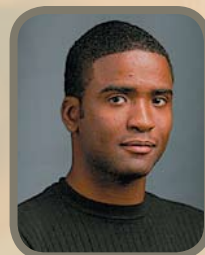
I can't help but look at our world today with horrendous catastrophes arising with the regularity of blinking. Earth itself is diseased with everything from pollution and global warming to earthquakes. And the weather is misbehaving through tantrums of hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, and drought. It seems indicative that certain powers, powers bent on destroying it, are spitting out desperation tactics.

Try to visualize this war scene with me: Satan and his kingdom of darkness respond to their knowledge of the coming of Christ with an all-out assault on the planet. The reasoning is simply this: if hell can't keep Christ from coming again, then in its venting fury, it will tear up everything in reach. Unfortunately, that means human lives lost through civilian warfare, disease, abnormal oceanic current patterns, irregular temperatures, and a billion other forms of destruction in a targeted premature burn-down—a desperation tactic from Satan.

Thankfully, I believe in the timeliness of God. I believe that He who built this world will intervene before it goes to irreparable demise. I believe that such an intervention has already taken place. Seeing a world hopelessly lost and burrowing in its own confusion, I am thankful God, in the greatest desperation tactic in the history of this world, put Himself in the way in order to pave the way. He bled to stop the bleeding. With thoughts like that, I can't help but find all the conspiracies, plots, and cruel intentions of the devil, scary though they are, to be without merit. I find them to be merely bee stings which burn for a moment and then are lost in the scars. So much is lost forever in scars. That bittersweet message has a whole lot of sweet.

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Andre Weston is a senior English major at Andrews University.





# LESSONS FROM A CONCUSSION

BY CAMDEN BOWMAN

**W**e used to visit my aunt and uncle on a ranch where they worked and lived, just outside Chicago. On one such visit I woke up early, and my aunt put me to work feeding the animals. I sort of enjoyed it; there was a worker about my age, and he showed me how to do everything. It was cold, but it didn't bother me very much.

Having emptied my feed bucket into a trough for the cows, I proceeded to walk back toward the barn. I nonchalantly jumped up onto the first rung of the gate and threw my bucket over. Unfortunately, there was still a thin layer of frost from the night before on the top few bars of the gate. As I attempted to step over the top bar, my foot slipped, and I dove headfirst over the top of the gate and onto the hard, packed dirt driveway.

The fall hurt badly, and my head bled, but I decided to keep working anyway. I finished the jobs assigned to me, and walked around for awhile. The cold weather kept the pain down for the moment. Finally, I went inside. As I warmed up, my head started to hurt more and more. My mother was worried, and thought I should go to the hospital, but my dad has had lots of experience with concussions and told her we needed to wait. Finally, he said it was time to go.

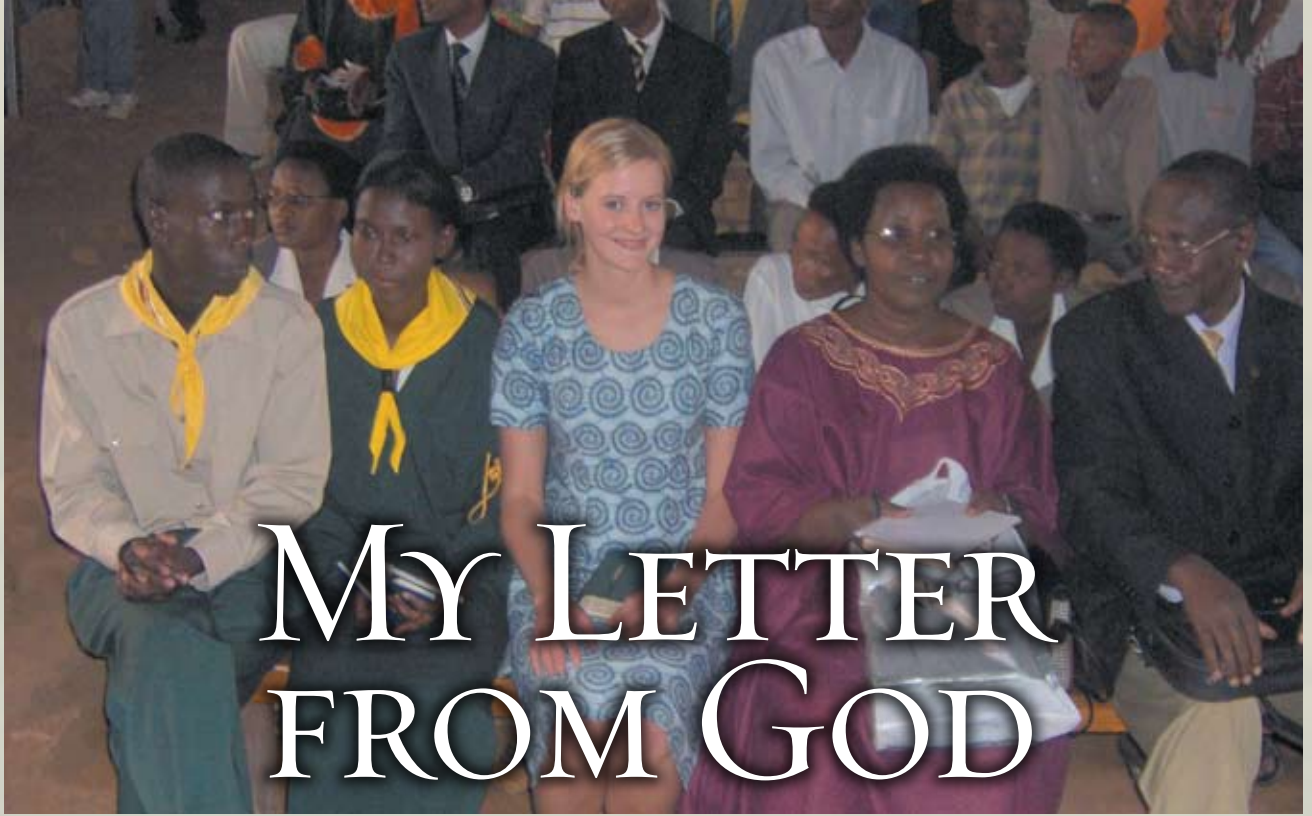
I don't remember the car ride; I guess I was in too much pain. And the only other thing I remember from that day was when they put the I.V. in. They told me they were going to give me the I.V., and I said something stupid like, "Is that a shot?"

Needless to say, I spent the weekend in the hospital. I wanted to be out four-wheeling, fishing, and enjoying nature, but instead I suffered the consequences of my little slip-up. Not only was I tied up for the weekend, but I also had to spend the next few weeks doing very little of what I enjoy. I wasn't able to run, jump, or do anything that jarred my head. I also had to put medicine on my scar to keep it from becoming permanent.

I think that's kind of how sin works. We fall hard, but we think we are still okay. The cold of this world keeps us blind to our truly miserable state. We keep on walking through life, not knowing that our brains are swelling. If we don't see a "doctor" soon, it could do serious damage. Finally, the pain brings us to God, and He begins the healing process. It hurts a lot, but He gives us what we need to make us strong enough to endure it. Finally, when He makes us whole, we are able to enjoy the wonders He made for us.

Camden Bowman is a senior at Battle Creek Academy.





# MY LETTER FROM GOD

BY LAWREN MORRISON

Just like most college students, I came to the point where I decided to change my major. It was my sophomore year at Union College, and I had no idea what I wanted to do. I called my parents to ask them to tell me what they thought my career path should be. In the past, it seemed they always knew what field would be best for my siblings before they knew themselves. So I decided to skip the objections and just do whatever they thought I should do. However, when I talked to them, they had no suggestions or pointers. It's ironic, how when you want your parents to tell you what to do that is the time when they are silent.

God seemed silent about the matter as well, except that He told me to apply to Andrews University. So I started the transfer process, feeling blind because I had no idea what program I was transferring into. I like having a plan. I like knowing what my future is looking like. God kept telling me that when the time was right He would clue me in on my future, but I decided to enroll as a photographic imaging student. I faithlessly needed a back-up plan.

Around November 2004, I found out about a mission trip to Rwanda, Africa, the very heart of where the genocide took place so many years ago. My love for travel and missions drove me to sign up. It was not until I was accepted and started going to the meetings that I found out I would preach an entire evangelistic series by myself. I had never preached in my life! Speaking up front was not something I did. I remember the day I finished my public speaking class my freshman year, I started jumping up and down in cel-

ebration. And now I was going to Africa to preach for the first time in my life. God has clever ways to help us come out of our "shells."

After the decision to go to Rwanda, my answer from God finally came about what I was supposed to do. Or rather, part of an answer. God said to wait until Africa, and then He would show me. So I did, except I couldn't let go of my back-up plan of photography.

Once in Rwanda, I had my first sermon. My pastor/translator told me there were 1,500 people present! I felt such an amazing rush. There was such a joy that I felt from being able to share who God is and how incredible He is with so many people, and all at one time!

The whole experience was surreal. Many times during that three-week time frame, my pastor and all the people I was with kept telling me to go into theology. Over and over I heard it, but I was patiently waiting for God's answer,

MUTABARUKA Aloys  
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Independent University  
in faculty of Management  
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Dear Lowren MORCONI in Christ  
Jesus,

I'm very happy to see you in our  
Country. But, I would like to tell you that your teachings  
have fortified me; I became the new creature in my life.  
That is why I'm very happy. You have preached us "how  
to start life over again". Now, I decided to follow my Lord  
from now until forever.

I pray every day our Lord may help you in his best  
work you've chosen to do. I have dream "our Lord has  
anointed and has chosen you to preach all world because  
this one needs you to survive. Many peoples are very  
interested to your preachings, your initiative to preach  
them the word of God. Then be peaceful in our God.  
I think that one day we'll meet in heaven. That'll be  
nice for us. Be courageous, act all together in your  
work. I pray for you and I hope that God will grant  
our prayers.

I wish you to close in a good way your work here in  
Rwanda, and a happy journey to your home country.  
This is my prayer to you  
May God bless you.

N.B: I'm not well in english, but I try.

“OUR  
LORD HAS  
ANOINTED  
AND HAS  
CHOSEN YOU  
TO PREACH...”



thinking it was not possible that “theology” was it. Anyway, I fought it and fought it until the last Friday night. Scared, I sat down and prayed, “God, if theology is actually what you want me to study, then I’m going to need some sort of physical sign. I’m going to need something written down on paper saying that this is what You’ve called me to.”

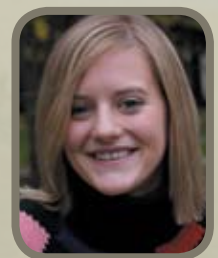
Ask and you shall receive (see Mathew 7:8). Later that night, a girl approached me with a note and told me that in a dream God asked her to write His words for me. The note said, “I have a dream. Our Lord has anointed and has chosen you to preach [to] all [the] world because this one needs you to survive....” I had my answer and an amazing call to ministry. I still have that letter in my Bible so that whenever I’m doubting or being doubted I’ll remember

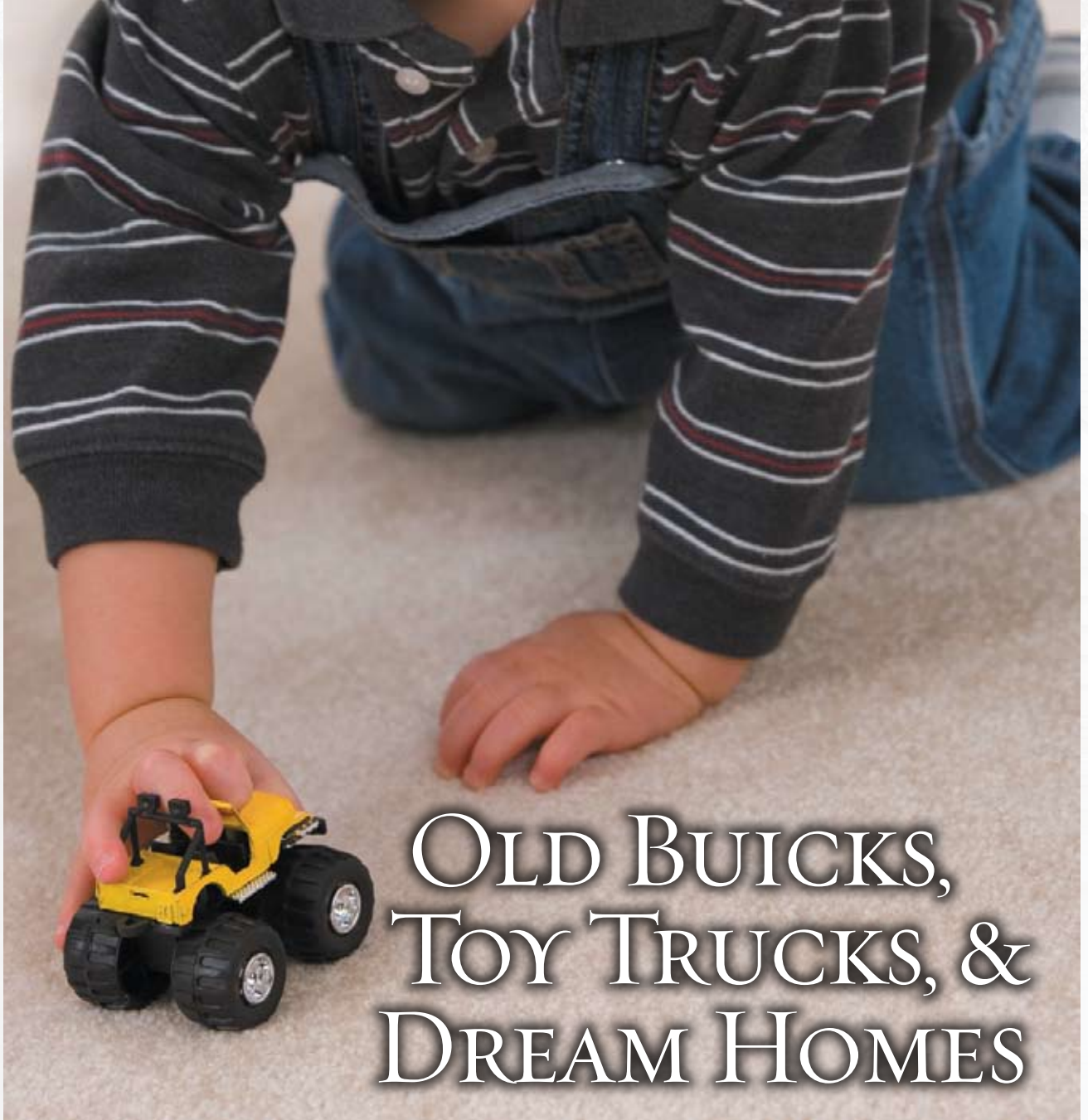
that I’m exactly where God wants me.

I graduate with my bachelor’s degree in theology this December, though I still don’t know where God wants me after I graduate. The difference is now I’ve learned to trust God. He has my future in His hand, and His plans for me are better than anything I could conjure up on my own. I just have to be patient.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (NIV).

Lawren Morrison is a senior theology major at Andrews University.





# OLD BUICKS, TOY TRUCKS, & DREAM HOMES

BY STEFANIE MARSCHNER

I'VE ALWAYS HAD A STRONG NEED OF CONTROL. I WANT TO MAKE SURE THE FUTURE TURNS OUT THE WAY I PLEASE. I WANT TO MAKE SURE I GET WHAT I KNOW I NEED.

My needs are numerous during this holiday season. First of all, I need to buy a house. Two bedrooms, two baths would be nice. I'm picturing a nice, well-manicured lawn encircling the house, maybe some well-trimmed hedges beneath the windows. It doesn't have to be fancy, but I'm throwing away money on rent. It doesn't help that a friend has just given me all the details of her 15-year mortgage, her spacious deck, and her luscious lawn that wraps around the house, protecting her tanned feet from dirt and possible splinters.

I also need another car. Our newish silver Mazda6 is fine, but the 17-year-old Buick with its raspy engine and crusty roof is just plain embarrassing. My husband doesn't seem to mind it. No, he plops right into the spongy, couch-like front seat and patiently turns the key over and over again while the engine wheezes and sputters. Unfortunately, the car always manages to start and amble on down the road.

Yes, my needs are numerous. I could use some more clothes, a dishwasher, a garbage disposal, a new water softener, another



computer. And these are my “small” needs. I also need to finish my degree and make sure my husband clocks in enough hours on his internship. I need to find my husband a great job so we can move.

Ever since I was 12 or 13 I have had needs. My desires back then were as real and strong as the new needs that have replaced them today. Looking back, I am in the small gymnasium behind the country schoolhouse off Cape Ferrelo Road. As was customary for January days on the Oregon Coast, it was raining. Fifteen of us stand grouped in front of two team captains in gym class. The captains tick off names and the usual happens: two students are left standing alone. It is always the same two people: me and Crystal, the two skinniest, most unathletic girls of the bunch. Nick, a tall, lean eighth-grader, eyes us both momentarily. “Crystal,” he announces. I sigh and slowly slink toward the other team. “No one needs to say my name,” I think dejectedly, “I am last.”

As a game of dodgeball begins and balls whiz around me, I can think of only one thing: *the Cavanagh Sales*. If I can just make it through another month of school, the excitement will begin. In a month my mom, our friend, Grace, and I will cram into a red Ford Probe and drive 15 hours to Los Angeles. We will eventually end up at the Cavanagh Sales—the biggest Arabian horse auction in the Pacific Northwest. And I will find the horse of my dreams.

My reverie suddenly ends as a ball whizzes past me, hitting the wall next to where I am lazily stationed, and narrowly missing my thigh. I am usually the last one out, and this is not on account of my skill. I am not brave enough to run across the gym’s concrete floor, grab one of the many plastic balls, and hurl it with all my strength at an opponent. I don’t want to risk getting hit myself. So I stay in the shadows behind the screams and screeches, buried in my thoughts: *the Cavanagh Sales*. To my 12-year-old brain, it seems as if that horse auction will cure all my woes. It is as if the event will somehow put a different perspective on the P.E. games I dislike so much, and I will suddenly become more tolerant of my “not-so-cool” status in our small school.

I didn’t understand it then, but as I look back now I realize that my 12-year-old brain actually believed that the Cavanagh Sales would somehow change my world. “I wonder,” I ask myself, “if my perspective is really all that different today?” *But a new house would be so nice*, I think. *Especially one with a dishwasher, garbage disposal, and countertops that don’t slant and collect water. And I could finally have a decent yard, one that I am proud of. We could have a dining room and replace our “Wal-Mart Special” and the nar-*

*row, squeaky chairs, with a long, heavy, smooth oak table. I could get out my white wedding china and have people over. It would be great fun entertaining, and my starved social life would be much improved.* Caught again in my reverie, I confirm my suspicions. Although I try to deny it, deep down I really believe that a new house will change my life. Dismayed, I realize how often I wander aimlessly, trying new twists and turns that only lead to dead-ends.

I think of my little son Ethan and all his needs. Yes, he has basic needs without which he would die. Every day my toddler needs to eat, drink, sleep, and be loved. Ethan cannot forget those essential needs, but lately he has been adding other needs to the list. I remember an incident just an hour ago. Ethan toddles toward me, his chunky sausage feet slapping the hard floor. He looks up at me, a sense of urgency in his big brown eyes. His dimpled hands motion wildly toward the baby gate blocking him from the utility room. As I look toward the gate, I can quickly see the reason for his distress. His yellow truck lies on the other side, and although it is clearly visible to him, there is no way his short arms can reach over to retrieve it. As I look into his little upturned face, I can see that at this moment his yellow dump truck with the big black wheels means everything to him. When I hand him the coveted truck, Ethan smiles at me with appreciation. As I watch him proudly toddle away with his truck, I can’t help but shake my head. I know his happiness will be short-lived. Ethan confirms my suspicions, when five minutes later, as I am stooped over the kitchen sink scrubbing breakfast dishes, he pulls at my pant legs, crying and rubbing his face on my jeans.

As I scoop up my child, I can’t help but think about the temporary nature of our lives and also of the things we think we “need.” Although I am an adult, my sense of “needs” isn’t really all that different from my toddler’s desires. Both Ethan and I are convinced that satisfaction and happiness will come if we can only have what we think we “need” at the present moment. And when we get what we want we are happy for a while. Although my happiness may last longer than Ethan’s, it also eventually ends, and I, like him, come crashing down, looking once again for hope, security, and the assurance of my Father’s arms.

Life will always let us down, so we can’t count on it to make us happy. We need to make Him our glory, and He will give us fulfillment, the kind that doesn’t change from day to day. And when the time is right, He will take us from this place and we will never want again.



Stefanie Marshner lives in St. Joseph, Michigan.



# THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME

BY JOE RIVERA

**A**T THE AGE OF SEVEN, I WANTED TO GIVE UP ON LIFE. I WAS TIRED OF SEEING MY MOM CRY. I DIDN'T KNOW OF A LOVING GOD WHO WAS WITH ME EVEN WHEN MY LIFE SEEMED TO BE AT ROCK BOTTOM. THIS IS MY STORY.

My name is José Antonio Rivera Jr. I was born into a rapidly growing family on January 11, 1989. I had a mother, a father, and three older brothers. Later that year, my twin sisters, Vanessa and Bianca, were born, bringing our family to eight. Tragedy struck, and Vanessa suddenly died of crib death.

My father was a drunk and a gang member. A couple of months after Vanessa and Bianca were born my dad was shot by a rival gang. He was found a couple of days later, lying in a puddle of blood on a street corner, only a couple of blocks down the road.

At this point things went from bad to worse. My mom couldn't work; she was an illegal alien. She moved from guy to guy so we would have a place to sleep and live. She eventually married Tom,\* who raised us from the time I was four to about age seven. Tragedy struck again—Tom contracted HIV when he went to the hospital for a routine check-up. For some reason, he didn't tell my mom until after she contracted it from him.

When Tom died, my mother sued the hospital for \$400,000. We were left with no dad and a mom who didn't know how to manage money. Tom's family came from Detroit, Michigan, to stay with me and my mom for a couple of weeks to help us decide what to do.

Finally, the decision was made to move to Michigan. My mom and Bianca flew to Michigan while the rest of the family traveled there by train. It was so hard to say good-bye to all of my friends. The memories of trips to the park were all I had left.

In Michigan, we stayed with Tom's mother. It was so hard for them to find a school where our little family wouldn't be separated and where my brothers wouldn't get into trouble.

My brothers were also in a teenage gang. They seemed to follow our dad's footsteps. Finally, they found us a school. But this didn't last! We bounced from school to school because we were always moving to a different family member's home. After many moves, we settled down into a house that Tom's dad let us have, but Tom's brother lived with us to help keep the house together. That now was our home.

Things didn't seem too bad at that point. However, the neighborhood could have been better. Living in the middle of Highland Park in Detroit was not the best place to live, but to have someone give us a house was better than nothing at all.

After a couple of months living in that house, my mom decided to take my two oldest brothers back to California so she could pick up things in storage in San Diego. She left us three younger children in Detroit. She planned to be gone about two weeks.

About a week after my mom left, Tom's brother said we would be going to the zoo in a few days. We were ecstatic! My siblings and I hoped the zoo in Michigan would be bigger than the San Diego Zoo.

The night before we were to go to the zoo something strange happened. Before we went to bed, Tom's brother took us driving for no apparent reason. He stopped at a house and told us to wait. A couple of minutes later he came back with a brown paper bag. At home, we took our showers and got ready for bed. Tom's brother told me and my brother to sleep downstairs and said my sister was going to sleep upstairs. On my way down the stairs, I said goodnight to my sister and told her I would see her tomorrow.

I woke up to police officers and paramedics running up the stairs to the room Tom's brother stayed in. They wouldn't

let me up the stairs, so I told them I had to go to the bathroom, located right across the hall from his room. I glanced in the room, and saw my sister on the ground unconscious, with blue lips—she was dead. He had fed her some drugs that night in a cup of orange juice. Her young body was too small to take that kind of a dose—let alone any kind of drug. My brother, Anthony, and I were sent to foster care that very same day. *This place is hell with a fence, and we need to get out!* was the thought that ran through my head. Once again, I had no stable home.

My mom came back from California as fast as she could when she heard the news. Anthony and I were not allowed to see our mom right away for some reason. Eventually, we got out of foster care because Tom's dad took us in. Tom's brother was not convicted.

With some of the \$400,000 that we still had, Mom bought a house and she let Tom's brother move in. A couple of months later the FBI arrested him, and he was convicted on numerous accounts including murder, sexual assault, and rape. He only got ten to 15 years in prison—that was it.

We were sent to a shelter because my mom was not able to support me and my brother. There was a kind lady named Kathi at the shelter who helped me and my brother with homework. Then my mom met Bill.\* Another move for us, and we lived with Bill in his home.

Unfortunately, Bill was a smart man. Out of the \$400,000 that we started off with, we had about \$300,000 left. My mom and Bill got married, and that worked out perfectly for Bill because in the process of getting married, she signed some papers stating he had the right to withdraw money out of the account with the \$300,000 in it.

Bill told us he had a hard time living in Detroit, so he moved to Florida. Once there, he withdrew all the money from my mom's account and moved to Canada, knowing that as an illegal alien my mom couldn't chase him for the money.

Bill bought us an apartment because we got evicted from the previous house. But the location of the apartment was bad. There were shootouts at least three times a week.

I struggled in school, and temptations were thrown at me—sex, drugs, alcohol, smoking, and basically whatever the streets had to offer. But there was a small voice in my head that told me to resist. James 4:7 says to “resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” He was on the attack, but God was slowly getting me to be part of His army.

Kathi, the kind lady who helped me and my brother at the shelter, continued to stay in touch with me, and I talked to her through this whole ordeal. She invited me, my brother, and my mom to her house. There, I met her neighbors, the

Sawyer family. They were Seventh-day Adventists, and my friendship with them changed my life forever.

A year after going to Kathi's house, the Sawyers invited me to come to church with them, but I said, “No.” I felt Jesus working on me. So the next week when they invited me again, I said, “Yes.” I started going to Bible studies held at the Metropolitan Church every Wednesday night.

But I had a decision to make, because I was struggling so much in Detroit. An opportunity came for me to move to California to live with my oldest brother, Cliff, who was able to support both of us. In Detroit, I was just becoming a Christian and learning about Jesus, but my brother Cliff was a devil worshiper.

I told my church family about the possibility of moving to California to live with my brother, and that he was a devil worshiper. They came through like a true family and asked me to not make a decision for a week so they could pray about it. The next week they told me they would like to send me to a boarding school called Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA).

Through many prayers and lots of financial support, I was able to go to GLAA. What a difference to live in a place like GLAA, with Christians who share my love for God. Since I arrived, I have learned more about Jesus, and the summer after my freshman year I was baptized—June 4, 2005.

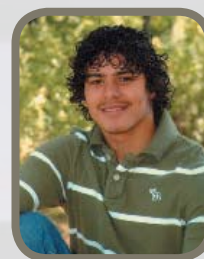
I went through my sophomore year at GLAA knowing that God loved me. During my junior year, I was AYBL (Adventist Youth for Better Living) secretary and treasurer, so that I could show how God changed my life. That year I also made the *Aerokhanas* gymnastics team. Witnessing opportunities have been awesome, traveling around and sharing about Jesus. It is now my senior year. I am sergeant-at-arms for my class and an R.A. for freshman hall, and I am still on the *Aerokhanas*. This year, just like the last, I hope I can change lives.

Even though my homes changed many times in my life, I have found a home at GLAA with a school family. I have also learned that God is preparing a home in Heaven for me where I will never again feel as if I want to give up. I have a purpose now—to share God's love and prepare for His coming. I hope that as you read my testimony it will draw you close to Him, so that you will be ready to go home with Him, also.

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Joe Rivera is a senior at Great Lakes Adventist Academy.

\*Not his real name.





## Adventist Midwest Health Looks Back at a Fulfilling, Phenomenal Year

The outpouring of God's blessings on Adventist Midwest Health during this year has been amazing. It is evident that many of you continue to pray for our mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ.

The year will end on an extremely high note with the opening of Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital. This is the first new hospital in Illinois in 25 years, and Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital will set a new standard for health and caring by placing an emphasis on the patient's experience and whole-person wellness.

The patient experience was also key to the design of the new Emergency Department at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital. Since the department opened in June, patients have responded positively to the no-waiting room concept of immediate access to a private treatment room that's spacious enough for family members to remain at the bedside. The hospital also expanded cardiac services with the opening of a new interventional cardiac cath lab.

Incredible advancements in medicine at our hospitals were made possible by the addition of state-of-the-art technology. Adventist Hinsdale Hospital is now offering digital mammography, and new 64-slice CT scanners

at both Adventist Bolingbrook and La Grange Memorial hospitals offer fast, highly-detailed images of the body, including specialized heart studies. At the Total Joint Orthopedic Center at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, orthopedic surgeons utilize the state-of-the-art image guided Brain Lab Navigation System™. Just imagine how real time 3D images of a patient's anatomy can provide enhanced precision during orthopedic surgical proce-

charts, even remotely should a physician be off-site. But what does this mean for patients? Improved quality and safety are two key benefits, but our patients will really appreciate the ability of their physician and nurse to spend more time providing direct patient care rather than performing the administrative tasks required of a paper medical record. The iConnect project puts our caregivers back at the bedside transforming lives.



David L. Crane, president and CEO of Adventist Midwest Health, listens as Intermediate Care Unit nurses Rosario Baldovino (left) and Stephanie Sanders Rawski explain how the new electronic medical record system works.

The participation in mission activities by our employees continues to expand in a very positive way. The weeks of Spiritual Emphasis held at each of our hospitals designed to spiritually nurture and uplift our employees are well attended and positively received. Our Spiritual Ambassador program that trains employees to be pastoral care representatives in their departments continues to grow. It is so fulfilling to see groups of employees meeting together and lifting up our patients and hospitals in prayer.

During the year, Adventist Midwest Health touched more than 500,000 lives. Our mission is to touch each individual with love, transforming lives through our extension of Christ's healing ministry. Jesus points the way in Matthew 22 with His directive to "Love

dures. This Center is unlike any other in the western suburbs.

Our hospitals also launched a new electronic medical record system called iConnect. The electronic medical record revolutionizes the way we care for our patients, by offering physicians and staff immediate access to patients'

the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (and) Love your neighbor as yourself." Please continue to keep our transformational mission in your daily prayers.

David L. Crane, president and CEO,  
Adventist Midwest Health



Architecture students Melody Parris, Amanda Castañon, Phil Cooper, and Keun Getz look over the project drawings.

## Architecture Students Draft Community Development Plan

From September 17–25, a team of fifth-year architecture students from the Andrews School of Architecture's Urban Design Studio was able to apply skills learned in the classroom to practical use. Led by associate professor Andrew von Maur, they spent eight days working with citizens of Michigan City, Ind., to create a community development plan.

Each night, the students presented and discussed ideas with community members in a town hall meeting. "We brought in anybody who had a stake in the downtown," says von Maur, "because in the end, the proposal is not going to be useful unless it makes sense to the people who live there." After the meetings, the students worked to incorporate the feedback and suggestions into drawings to present the next evening.

Proposals served both functional and aesthetic purposes. One was for a footbridge that would span over railroad tracks to connect a low-income neighborhood with the coast of Lake Michigan. Not only would this new waterfront access have a positive psychological impact on the residents of the neighborhood, von Maur said, but it would also improve their economic situation by raising the property value.

The project in Michigan City follows an important tradition in the Andrews School of Architecture of

giving students opportunities to make positive contributions in the community. Last year, von Maur worked with a team of students on a similar development project in Saucier, Miss., which earned them a Charter Award from The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU). The county adopted the plan and zoning ordinance in May of this year, making it a legal tool.

And if the plans in Michigan City are similarly adopted, how long will it take to implement them? "Building a community takes generations," von Maur says. "There has never been a plan I know of that has been fully implemented according to the original drawing." Rather than provide a stringent architectural checklist for the citizens of Michigan City, von Maur hopes the plans will be enough to give the project direction, "creating a sense of vision that is specific enough to help guide all the small decisions in between."

Robert Moncrieff, student news writer,  
University Relations

## Andrews Dairy Celebrates 100 Years

When the Andrews University Dairy opened in 1907, it housed 40–50 cows. Now the Andrews Dairy houses approximately 1,250 cattle at two separate farms, and Andrews is, in fact, the only North American college or university with a farm.

A lot has changed in the past 100 years. But change is good.

In spring 2007, the Dairy received \$1 million from William Colson's \$8.5 million donation to Andrews. This gift will provide a new milking parlor to reduce milking time and allow for improved herd management and valuable research opportunities.

Plans for a visitors' center have also been finalized. Construction on both facilities began this fall.

"We are honored that Mr. Colson saw fit to entrust such a large gift to our dairy and then to request that our new parlor and visitors' center bear his name. We will do all we can to make this a model dairy and continue to justify his trust in us," says Tom Chittick, agriculture department chair and dairy co-manager.

The agriculture department offers five academic degrees, including dairy herd management and animal science. Undergraduate animal science students participating in the John Nevins Andrews Honors program presented research projects at international meetings of the American Dairy Science Association. Results of research projects were published in *Hoard's Dairyman*, the leading lay journal of the dairy industry.

"We have received positive feedback from the research results we have presented at international scientific meetings and in industry journals. We are glad that we can demonstrate the excellence of the academics offered at Andrews University to those outside our region and our faith community," says Katherine Koudele, animal science/pre-vet advisor and co-manager of the dairy.

Gillian Sanner, student news writer,  
University Relations



A student milks the cows in the college dairy, 1914.

## [ EDUCATION NEWS ]

### Students Express Appreciation to Police and Fire Departments

Lake Region—Several years ago Reginald Gilliam of the Gary (Ind.) Fire Department agreed to teach art for grades one to four at Mizpah Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy. The students later baked cookies to show their appreciation not only to Gilliam, but to all the firemen who risk their lives to fight fires in Gary. The children and their teacher agreed to provide two dozen of their favorite home-baked



Cookie bakers for Team One, A'na, Laronda, and Stephen, placed their oatmeal cookies in the containers for delivery to the Gary, Ind., police station. From left (front): Sydney Smith, Daniel Smith, Joshua Jamison, A'na Scott, Leland Calhoun, Laronda Moore, Stephen Scott, and Josie Washington; (back) Beverly Smith, Mizpah Junior Academy principal, Kaleb Jamison, Kyran Gibon, Marcia Sackie, teacher for grades one to four, and Morgan Bryant



Students in grades pre-K through four listened to Marilyn, one of the knowledgeable tour guides at County Line Orchard.

cookies. There were enough cookies to deliver to every fire station, and the students were proud of this act of kindness.

The inspiration for this project came last year when their teacher, Marcia Sackie, attended the National Seventh-day Adventist Teacher's Convention in Nashville, Tenn. Ron Clark, a motivational speaker at the convention, shared 55 essential acts in his book, *The Essential 55*. Sackie said, "Currently we are following the rules we have read and discussed in class. Rule 11, 'Surprise others by performing random acts of kindness,' motivated

12 students in grades one to four have been divided into teams of three, and the first team baked six dozen cookies on September 19 for the Gary Police Department. Baking cookies provides many teachable moments for

us to strive to do deeds of kindness at home, school, and church weekly. We have decided to perform a 'Random Act of Kindness' for the service workers in the city of Gary once a month. The children are to seek a job that will pay them at least a quarter each month in order to subsidize the baking of cookies. The

giving instructions in math, especially when recipes must be doubled or tripled."

At the beginning of every school year pre-school through grade four students go on a field trip to County Line Orchard in Hobart, Ind. This year the tour was scheduled for September 20. The students not only saw hundreds of different kinds of apple trees, but they were also able to pick two different types of apples, Golden Delicious and Gala. Prior to starting the tour Sackie told one of the ladies about the class'



After delivering their cookies and apples, Mizpah Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy students took a picture with police chief Thomas Houston and Marcia Sackie, their teacher. From left (front): Stephen Scott, Joshua Jamison, Sydney Smith, Leland Calhoun, Daniel Smith, A'na Scott, Morgan Bryant, and Josie Washington; (back) Kyran Gibon, Kaleb Jamison, and Laronda Moore

## Students Participate in Prayer at the Pole

Michigan—The students at Battle Creek Academy got up early on Wednesday, September 26, for a very special event. The campus ministries department held its annual Prayer at the Pole ceremony at 6:30 a.m. It was a chilly morning, but students were eager to take part in this nationwide event where students were encouraged to gather around their school's flag-pole and pray for national leadership, schools, friends, and families.

Camden Bowman, campus ministries president, provided this great opportunity for students and faculty, and gave Battle Creek Academy the opportunity to send out a message to their community and nation about how important prayer is.



Several students gathered around the flag pole at Battle Creek Academy for Prayer at the Pole on September 26.

Coty Day shared what Prayer at the Pole meant personally, "It means to me that we are not only coming together as friends to pray together, but coming together as family members of God, to worship Him and share our faith."

Marie Palfi added, "Prayer at the pole was a very moving experience! I wish there were more people. Being around the pole, listening to everyone pouring their hearts out to God was very reassuring for the Christian growth in our school."

Prayer at the Pole started in 1990 as a student-initiated, student-organized, and student-led event that takes place at both private and public schools nationwide.

Wendy Keough, director of marketing and recruitment, Battle Creek Academy



Cookies and apples were presented to police commander Samuel A. Roberts Jr. and Juanita Ratney, administrative assistant to the police chief. From left (front): Josie Washington, Morgan Bryant, Matthew Smith, Joshua Jamison, Leland Calhoun, and Kyran Gibson; (back) Sydney Smith, Daniel Smith, Kaleb Jamison, Stephen Scott, Samuel A. Roberts Jr., Juanita Ratney, Laronda Moore, and A'na Scott

planned random act of kindness for the Gary Police Department and requested to see a manager or supervisor. Sackie thought it would be wonderful to take apples with the cookies when they delivered them to the police station. She met with Ryan Richardson, County Line Orchard owner. Sackie shared the class' plans and requested the apples. Excited about their project, Richardson asked, "How many apples do you need?"

Afraid to ask for too many apples, Sackie responded, "If you could match the number of cookies we baked with apples, that would be appreciated."

Richardson had six bags of beautiful red apples in a wheelbarrow waiting for the students when their orchard tour ended. The apples were loaded into the teacher's car, and the caravan with parents and students proceeded to the Gary police station.

Once the students passed through security, a receptionist contacted the police chief's department. The group was escorted into a large room where they were introduced to Sam Roberts, a public information officer.

Kaleb Jamison, a fourth-grade student, was elected by the class to make the presentation, and Sackie says the students and teacher were very proud of him. The students were later introduced to the deputy chief, Thomas Branson. Everyone they met was so appreciative. Each student received a junior policeman sticker, a special pencil, and 100-year celebration pins.

Special arrangements were made for the students to also meet the police chief, Thomas Houston, who demonstrated that he truly loves children. All the children made a semi-circle around the police chief, and pictures were taken.

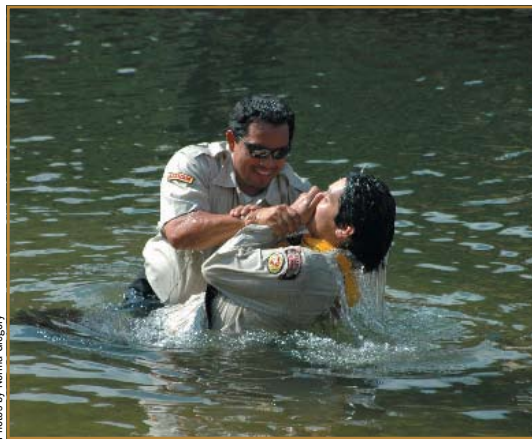
Mizpah Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy was invited to schedule a tour of the police station, and Sackie plans to do that soon. The students, parents, and teacher had an unforgettable experience, and plan to continue to do random acts of kindness at school, at home, and at church.

Ruth Horton, Ed.D., superintendent of education, Lake Region Conference, as shared by Marcia Sackie, teacher, Mizpah Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy

## [PATHFINDER NEWS]

### Pathfinder Baptism Occurs at Camporee

Illinois—Carefully organized each year by Pathfinder leadership, Camporee is a special weekend at the beginning of the Pathfinder season in which Pathfinders earn honors and receive awards for their accomplishments. This year Christine Taube received her Master Guide, and Javier Alencastro received the Pathfinder Leadership Award. The high point of the 2007 Fall Skills Camporee did not, however,



Photos by Norma Gregory

Oscar Fuentes was baptized in a pond at Camp Akita by Adilio Herrera, pastor.

appear on the schedule of events—the baptism of 20-year-old Oscar Fuentes.

Although Fuentes attended numerous church services as a child, he felt a void in his life. When he got older, Fuentes decided he would no longer attend church. At age 13, his mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, and the family prepared the best they could for her death. *Where is God?* Fuentes wondered. When his mother’s “Last Will and Testament” was read, she left him with these words, “Just find God, my Son.”

After his mother’s death Fuentes met an Adventist young lady. He was impressed with her lifestyle; she exuded a peace he desired to experience himself, so Fuentes began to study about Adventists. He searched the Internet for information, read many articles, and became impressed

with the church’s history. Fuentes even submitted a school paper on the information he discovered.

Soon Fuentes began to attend the Berwyn Seventh-day Adventist Church and started Bible studies with Gabriel Rodriguez. After the Bible studies were finished, Fuentes was ready for baptism, but the church was without a pastor. His baptism had to wait.

Majoring in education, Fuentes decided he could gain valuable experience for his chosen occupation if he worked with the Pathfinder program at church. Fuentes discovered that he must be a



Guide class prepares for the flag raising ceremony on Sabbath morning at the 2007 Fall Skills Camporee.

baptized member to continue in club leadership.

On Sabbath morning at the camporee, pins were given to Pathfinders who were baptized to go on their dress uniform. A pin was offered to Fuentes. “I can’t wear this pin,” he said as he handed it back. “I’d like to be baptized, but our church has no pastor.”

“There are two pastors here,” the club leader suggested. “Why not get baptized here, now?”

*Wow!* the desire of his heart would be fulfilled. Although caught off-guard, Fuentes was ready. During the next couple of hours a flurry of activities ensued; phone calls and arrangements were made so Fuentes’ baptism could be held at Camporee during the worship service. At the conclusion of the worship service, surrounded by more than 500 Pathfinders and staff members, Fuentes was lowered into the water for baptism by Adilio Herrera, a pastor who was no stranger. The two had met once before at a youth event at Camp Akita.

Illinois Pathfinders continue to be flexible in their ministry, touching lives for Jesus at any time and at every level of their organization—even prompted by such a simple thing as a lapel pin.



As her husband, Gurnee club director Nathan Taube watches, Christine Taube receives her Master Guide pin from Beth Ann Smith.

Rachel Terwilligar, former assistant to the president for communication, Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



## [LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

### Concerned Citizen Offers Free Clothes

Michigan—Her parents' examples and her own visits to homeless shelters as a child planted a seed of concern for others in Fenton resident Lida Athearn—a seed that has grown into the Livingston Adventist Community Closet, which offers free clothes to families in need.

"My parents were always giving," she said. "I think that rubbed off on me."

Athearn started the program in May, but moved it from the basement of the Livingston Seventh-day Adventist Church to a Hartland Township storefront about four miles east of the church in August.

She said one of her reasons to start the store was to have an activity she could share with her three children, ages five, three, and eight months. Plus, she simply likes to try new things.

"I'm always trying to do something new," she said. "I wanted to teach (my children) about giving to others."

Unlike some social service agencies, Athearn doesn't run intensive background checks on the income or employment status of the people who come into the store. She just asks for name, address, and phone number, and then verifies the address.

If people come in who don't really need the clothes but take them anyway, that's a matter for their own conscience, she said.

"I am not going to play the police," Athearn said. "If people don't need it, that's on them."

The real goal, she said, is to provide a high-quality store and clothing for people who are suffering through tough financial times. She insists that the clothes on the racks are "new or like-new."

"I didn't want a place where people had to sift through junk to find something good," Athearn said. "I wanted



Fenton (Mich.) resident Lida Athearn directs the Livingston Adventist Community Closet, which offers free clothes to families in need.

a place where people would feel good about shopping."

Donations of clothes are not a problem. In fact, Athearn often gets more than she needs. Donations should be made only by appointment, or during the store's open hours, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Wednesday.

Athearn said she may add another evening of open hours later in the fall.

She emphasized that the store is open to everyone, not just the extremely poor. "You don't have to be destitute," she said. There are limits, though. An individual can only fill one bag per person in his or her household, and can only visit the store once per month.

Athearn is from the Howell area, and briefly attended Howell High School. Aside from the community closet, Athearn works part-time as marketing manager for a nonprofit organization in Fenton called the Eating Disorders and Education Network.

Dan Meisler, reporter, *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus*, (Reprinted with Permission)

The Livingston Adventist Community Closet is located at 9552 W. Highland Road (M-59) in Hartland, Mich. For more information, call 810-523-8206 or e-mail lacc@charter.net.

### The "Something Else Class" Is Really Something Else!

Michigan—Bob Jensen had an idea that was bound to develop into something really great, once he got the ball rolling in Edmore and the surrounding community.

Bob and his wife Debbie are members of the Cedar Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church; they developed a concept and made it happen. The beauty of it is that members of other Christian churches may see the fruits of the organization they founded and



Claudia Cruz visits her mother at the Schnepf's Health Care Center every day. They look forward to the monthly visits and song services by the *Something Else* class.



Reaching out to residents at Schnepf's Health Care Center is only one of many outreach activities planned by the Something Else class.

organize similar groups within their own churches.

Bob and Debbie were frustrated with the traditional Sabbath school they attended every week. They wanted something different, but they didn't know just what. Then one day Bob read an article entitled, "The Little Sabbath School that Could," by Chris Blake, published in the February 1999 issue of the *Adventist Review*. It was about a group of church members in Lincoln, Neb., who formed a Sabbath school based on two mission statements: "The kingdom of God does not consist in talk, but in power" (1 Corinthians 4:20, RSV), and "Christianity is always intensely practical" (*Messages to Young People*, p. 200). At that moment Bob found what he was looking for! He wanted to step out of the traditional parameters of Sabbath school and form a group that would be participatory, practical, and personal, and would work toward a community outreach, with Edmore and the surrounding community as the focus.

For three or four more months after reading the article, Bob studied and prayed about what to do. Then one day he heard Jay Gallimore speak. Gallimore is the Michigan Conference president. The message Bob heard was, "Get involved! ... Be challenged to do something for the Lord!"

Bob was encouraged and motivated at that point. He talked to his pastor,

Mickey Mallory, who encouraged the Sabbath school council and church board to support Bob's idea for a new group. Thus, the Something Else group was formed on July 1, 1999. Weekly, there are about 25 core members of the class, along with visitors, and even a curiosity seeker or two. Members of the Something Else group include church members 20–80 years old. This dramatic range of ages is beneficial to breaking down barriers that often exist between generations. The central focus is always Jesus.

The group begins their meetings with song service followed by prayer time. Prayer time is essential to the group, because there is incredible power in prayer. An active prayer list is kept as well as a list of answered prayers. After prayer, time is spent discussing community service/outreach projects and upcoming events. Finally, they get into the Word, studying and discussing the weekly Sabbath school lesson.

One example of outreach ministries they are involved with is prison ministries. Members of the group provide Sabbath services to a group of prisoners at a St. Louis, Mich., correctional facility.

They also visit Schnepf's Health Care Center in St. Louis once a month where the Something Else group plays music for the elderly residents.

There are about ten song service band members who play guitars, banjo, mandolin, autoharp, dulcimers, and flute, and singers who lead the elderly residents in praise and worship. They ask residents for their favorite selections and sing songs such as *The Family of God*, *Holy Grace*, *Shout to the Lord*, *I'll Fly Away*, *Redeemed*, *Mansion Over the Hilltop*, *Life's Railway to Heaven*, and *Amazing Grace*. Residents sing, clap their hands, and tap their toes, and enjoy every minute of the song service. Afterward the Something Else group visits with the residents.

Claudia Cruz of St. Louis looks forward to the group's song service every month at Schnepf's. She said, "It gets me through the rest of the week." She visits her mom, Sadie Husted, a resident, every day.

Sue, a CNA at Schnepf's, says the residents are truly blessed and their spirits are uplifted. Many of the elderly residents expressed their joy in participating in the song service.

At Christmastime the Something Else class goes caroling in surrounding neighborhoods near the church. Another project was to purchase new or used dressers and fill them with baby items for unwed mothers. The group has a missing members ministry where they try to re-establish relationships with former church members. They have also provided financial assistance and physical assistance for people with special needs.

The Something Else class enjoys lots of social activities together, such as backyard Saturday night vespers, and potluck meals, which gives them opportunities to get to know one another better outside church.

The various outreach ministries are led by members of the group who listen to the Lord prompting their hearts, and lead when God calls them to use their talents. "The goals are His goals," says Bob. "The key is to take time in prayer to find out how to minister to others. God will speak to you." Faith builder scriptures such as Hebrews 11 inspire the Something Else members.

Bob and Debbie are quick to point out, “This [Something Else class] is not about us, it’s about Jesus. We are called to minister to others in His name and to introduce them to Jesus.”

That must be the foundational principle of our Sabbath schools, worship services, and evangelism. If not, then what is the point? Matt. 22:37–40 tells us to love the Lord and love others, and if we do that, it will change our lives and the lives of those we come into contact with. 1 John 3:18 says, “Let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth” (NIV).

Catherine Gruesbeck, Cedar Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church member

## Ten-Year-Old Chicagoan Invited to Jeopardy!

Illinois—Harry Haghanegi, one of the youngest *Jeopardy!* contestants ever, is an active member of the Pathfinder Club at the North Shore Church in Chicago.

In March of this year about 10,000 10- to 12-year-old children took an online test for *Jeopardy! Kids Week*. Two



Harry Haghanegi, a member of the North Shore Church in Chicago, was the only Illinois child invited to participate in *Jeopardy! Kids Week*.

*Week 2007*, which aired the week of October 8. Harry had the lead going into Final *Jeopardy*, but was stumped on a question about the book, *Sarah Plain and Tall*. He finished in second place.

Harry’s favorite subject in his home-school curriculum is science. This past summer he studied genetics on his own, even extracting DNA from a strawberry.

“At first I was interested in genetics because I wanted to find out if recreating dinosaurs was really possible,” Harry says, “but now I want to become a geneticist to help others.”

As a bilingual child who helped welcome the Olympic Committee to Chicago, Harry plans to be a full-fledged geneticist by 2016 when he hopes the Summer Olympics will be held in Chicago.

Kathy Thomas, North Shore Church communication secretary

### [LAKE UNION NEWS]

## New Site Director Selected for Historic Adventist Village

Michigan—A historian with a strong background in maintenance.

A man who thrives on mowing lawns and telling great stories.

Who better than Garth “Duff” Stoltz to be the next site director of Historic Adventist Village, the west-side Battle Creek attraction that draws

Seventh-day Adventists from around the world?

Stoltz, 73, took over September 1 as director of the four-block “village,” centered on the 1850s home of Ellen and James White.

Ellen White was the visionary founder, with her husband, of the Adventist church. Her writings are held as spiritual guidance in the church. The Whites are buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, and their home and graves are the highlights of tourists’ visits, Stoltz said.



John Grady/Battle Creek Enquirer

Garth “Duff” Stoltz became director of Historic Adventist Village on September 1, replacing Stanley Cottrell. “I am thrilled that Duff is taking over,” Cottrell said. “He knows more about the operation than anyone in the area and knows the history of Dr. John Harvey Kellogg and of course the Adventist history.”

Stoltz replaced Stanley Cottrell, who said he was worn down by eight years as leader of the village.

“I am thrilled that Duff is taking over,” Cottrell said Tuesday. “He knows more about the operation than anyone in the area and knows the history of Dr. John Harvey Kellogg and of course the Adventist history.”

“I lobbied very hard to get him in when I knew I was going to be stepping back.”

Cottrell said he’ll work occasionally as a visiting preacher around the Midwest, talking about the history of



After participating in several selection tests, Harry Haghanegi was invited to test his knowledge during *Jeopardy! Kids Week*, which aired the week of October 8.



John Gray/Battle Creek Enquirer

Garth "Duff" Stoltz has been taking care of maintenance needs at Historic Adventist Village for almost 30 years. He is known for his natural story-telling ability.

the Adventist faith. There's much less strain in such work than in managing the operations of the village, he said.

For Stoltz, the tours are an opportunity for his natural story-telling ability to shine through.

"I started mowing Ellen White's lawn close to 30 years ago," Stoltz

said. "I brought my mower down here. That's all we had."

Later, he started volunteering at the village.

"Stanley Cottrell was here doing the tours, and he didn't have anyone doing the maintenance," Stoltz said.

"And hey, maintenance and I get

along pretty good, for several reasons. I know a little bit, but you know what: I've learned to call on the master mechanic when I get in trouble. And He's bailed me out more times; he's saved my face more times."

Pressed for a clarification, Stoltz says, "The master mechanic is our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. He's a good one to lean on."

Stoltz spent the past eight years as maintenance manager at Kellogg's Cereal City USA, which closed in January.

Immediate priorities for Stoltz include dealing with some nonhistoric buildings on the village property; learning the complete tour routine and calendar system; fixing up a couple of home exteriors; and preparing for a new event, a Fall Festival, to be held in the village October 7.

Robert Warner, news reporter, *Battle Creek Enquirer*

Historic Adventist Village is open Saturdays year-round and by appointment on other days from Labor Day to Memorial Day. Located at Wood Street off West Van Buren Street, just west of downtown Battle Creek, Historic Adventist Village tours are free; donations accepted. For information, call the office at 269-965-3000.

Photos and story published with the permission of the *Battle Creek Enquirer*.

## Lake Union Launches New Website

On October 17, just one day after the Seventh-day Adventist Church voted to accept full ownership of the netAdventist software, the Lake Union Conference communication department activated its new website: [www.luc.adventist.org](http://www.luc.adventist.org). In doing so, the Lake Union joins more than 1,000 churches in North America who already use netAdventist to spread the Gospel and to inform and unite their members.

The new Lake Union site incorporates cutting edge web technology. Podcasts and Media Libraries will be added to increase the avenues for visitors to receive spiritual help, encouragement, information, and resources. By using the netAdventist product, the Lake Union site has the capability to offer

other features such as links to global church news, polls, photo albums, online forms, and much more. In addition, Three Angels Global Network (TAGnet) offers unlimited storage and bandwidth to netAdventist users.

The netAdventist software was developed by TAGnet to enable and empower "Seventh-day Adventist churches, schools, organizations, and ministries who want to have a presence on the World Wide Web." To learn how your organization



can utilize this new software for only \$35 per month, visit [www.netadventist.org](http://www.netadventist.org).

Diane Thurber, assistant communication director, Lake Union Conference

## [NAD NEWS]

## LEAD Meets Needs of Local Leaders

*LEAD*, a quarterly journal, is the newest ministry resource published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association to help administrators and local leaders fulfill the goals of evangelism and discipleship through local churches. The acronym stands for Leadership, Education, Advent, and Discipleship. *LEAD*, 100 pages from cover to cover, replaces the monthly *Sabbath School Leadership* magazine.

*LEAD* provides two full Bible studies based on the *Adult Bible Study Guide* manuscripts: (1) "CLAIM" continues to provide models for using the principles of the daily lesson studies for daily outreach as well as a new case study segment based on the lessons for the quarter; (2) The "Conversations" Bible studies address the 18–35 age group and the postmodern mindset.

In addition, *LEAD* carries two full sets of programs for adults: the standard format carried over from *Sabbath School Leadership* plus "A.M. Buzz," prepared for and by postmodern 18- to 35-year-olds or those who work closely with them. "Front Lines" are reports about training for local churches by conference and union Sabbath school leaders. "Tool Kit" provides training for Sabbath school coordinators/superintendents. The "Legacy" section by Julius Nam of Loma Linda University brings church history alive. Exegesis and hermeneutics sections continue to train Bible students and witnesses who need strong skills for engaging in deep Bible study. "Hands On" addresses the

tactile-kinesthetic learning mode, and "Emmaus Eyes" provides Bible study aids for adults who have suffered head trauma or experience other physical problems resulting in educational difficulties.

*LEAD* is Sabbath School's collaboration with children's ministries, disabilities ministries, community services, and personal ministries. Ma-



terials in "The Bridge" are provided by the North American Division leaders, a youth ministries segment is provided by Dwain Esmond, editor for *Insight* magazine, and the "Witnessing Survival Guide," by John Nixon II, addresses the sources of trauma that church members may encounter when they take Christ to a dying world.

*LEAD* may be ordered through local church Sabbath school secretaries or through local Adventist Book Centers. A yearly subscription is US\$34.95 plus US\$7.00 for addresses outside the North American Division. Contact Faith Crumbly, editor, at fcrumbly@rhpa.org or 301-393-4094.

Faith Crumbly, *LEAD* editor



## Special Communion Event Scheduled

On Friday, December 28, a special communion event will link Adventists across North America in a service of joyful dedication. This event, carried live on the Hope Channel, will unite hundreds of thousands of Seventh-day Adventists in North America in the experience of rededicating their lives to Jesus at the same time.

The service will be broadcast live at 5:00 p.m. Pacific, 6:00 p.m. Mountain, 7:00 p.m. Central, and 8:00 p.m. Eastern, and repeated two hours later in each time zone. The ordinance of humility should be completed by the time the program begins, and the emblems of Christ's sacrifice should be distributed 15 minutes prior to the end of the 60-minute broadcast, making it possible for people across North America to participate together in this event of spiritual renewal. For more information, visit [www.nad.adventist.org](http://www.nad.adventist.org).

Fred Kinsey, assistant to the president for communication, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists

## Church Approves Full Ownership of Web Software

Last year the Seventh-day Adventist Church agreed to accept a software package that would connect Adventist communities globally over the Internet. On October 16 delegates to the church's Annual Council voted to accept full ownership of the netAdventist software. The transition of software ownership will start in 2008 and will come under full ownership of the church by 2009.

"This software was developed by lay people who have provided the multiple millions of dollars required to produce this and they are giving it as a gift," said Jan Paulsen, Adventist world church president.

The software was developed for and given to the church by Three Angels Global Networking, or TAGnet, a lay-owned, supporting ministry. The license agreement makes a software package available to denominational entities at no cost. The software combines localized Web sites with live streams of information and resources from the global church. The software permits local churches to tailor the



A presentation by Dan Houghton, chief executive officer of Three Angels Global Networking, was well received by world church leaders October 16. Houghton said the netAdventist software is the realization of a dream to harness the Internet for the church's use.

software to meet their individual needs.

By owning the software, Lowell C. Cooper, a world church vice president, said the world church will "have a common platform of communication globally. It will be easier to establish global branding for churches around the world and it is the easiest way of providing global connectivity."

Cooper said ownership would also mean "the [world church] would be responsible for modifying, substituting, or discontinuing use of the software."

Delegates raised questions on what kind of support the world church would give to local users of the software.

Cooper explained that while the church's headquarters will be responsible for the "provision of some technical support to [regional] technicians we certainly cannot provide technical support for the entire range of church use."

Because the software has an open license, churches can host the software on whatever server they need to. It will also allow church programmers worldwide to make updates and add new applications to the software core.

Already the software is being used in more than 1,000 churches in North

America and more than 1,000 churches in the South Pacific regions of the church with plans to start use in three or four more regions in 2008.

On a similar note, delegates also voted to establish in 2008 an Office of Global Software and Technology to be based at the church's headquarters. Cooper said the decision came about after church leaders realized similar software was being developed and duplicated in different parts of the world.

The role and function of the office's staff has not yet been established. However, Cooper said, "Someone based at the world headquarters would have the responsibility of creating the networking and the discussion forums in which software development questions could be addressed and collective decisions made about what kind of software would be developed."

"Today our communication needs to reflect that we are at the same time a global and a local faith community," said Rajmund Dabrowski, communication director for the world church.

"The two actions today show the Adventist Church's efforts to be proactive and better organized in developing software and using Internet technologies," he said.



Lowell Cooper, a vice president for the Adventist world church, tells Annual Council delegates that the netAdventist software is the next step in the church's mission to share the gospel. Cooper also says "the Internet is increasingly important to the life of the church."

Taashi Rowe, editorial coordinator,  
Adventist News Network

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](http://www.lakeunionherald.org). Conference addresses and phone numbers are in the masthead on page 47.

## Birthdays

**Flo (Talley) Kane** celebrated her 100th birthday on Oct. 4, 2007, by a church service and potluck at home with family and friends in Plainwell, Mich. She has been a member of the Delton (Mich.) Church for eight years.



Flo was married to the late Archie Kane.

Flo has been a summer youth camp cook and caretaker with her husband for 22 years in Ill., Mich., and Wis.; "retired" at age 90 from working in the Dorcas Society and Good Neighbor Centers; and still writes encouraging letters and cards, reads the Bible, and watches Adventist satellite television.

Flo has seven children: Helen Eschief of Wichita Falls, Texas; Kenneth and Ruth Ann Kane of Sparta, Ill.; Bob and Virginia Kane of Hastings, Mich.; Joe Kane of Belleville, Ill.; Carlin and Diane Kane of Loma Linda, Calif.; Bonnie and Stan Lysiak of Homedale, Idaho; Marcia and Ron Slaughter of Plainwell, Mich.; 32 grandchildren; 76 great-grandchildren; and 40 great-great-grandchildren.

## Anniversaries



**Melvin and Rosella Durland** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 18, 2007, by a surprise church dinner at La Grange-Brookfield Church, La Grange, Ill. They have been members of the La Grange Church for 60 years.

Melvin Durland and Rosella Barron were married July 27, 1947, in Chicago, Ill., by Elder Theodore Carcich. Melvin, who is semi-retired, has been the owner of Ever-Redi Printing since 1948. Rosella has been an office manager of Ever-Redi Printing, retiring in 2006.

The Durland family includes Marcia and Michael Belmonte of Crest Hill, Ill.; Timothy Durland of Brookfield, Ill.; and two grandchildren.



**Knobby and Pat Mauro** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 8, 2007, and went with their entire family to Sante Fe, N.M., to spend the Thanksgiving holiday to celebrate their anniversary. They have been members of the Pioneer Memorial (Mich.) Church for 48 years.

Knobby Mauro and Pat Rodenberg were married June 8, 1947, in Richmond, Ind., by Pastor Albert Tyson. Knobby has been a principal at Andrews Academy until 1969; counselor and English teacher at Benton Harbor (Mich.) High School for 21 years; is a World War II veteran, and served in the Army as a dental technician; he is currently a realtor with Keller-Williams Realty in Berrien Springs, Mich. Pat has been a home economics teacher at St. Joseph (Mich.) High School and Andrews University. They are both active in church and are involved in community volunteer projects in local schools and the Optimist Club of Berrien Springs.

The Mauro family includes, Steven and Mary Elizabeth Mauro of Berrien Springs; Nancy and Greg Gerard of Calhoun, Ga.; and four grandchildren.

## Weddings

**Linda J. Gotshall and Sean A. Reed** were married Aug. 5, 2007, in Cedar Lake, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor David Gotshall.

Linda is the daughter of David and Karen Gotshall of Vestaburg, Mich., and Sean is the son of George and Deborah Reed of Corinth, Miss.

The Reeds are making their home in Jasper, Ga.

## Obituaries

**CASLOW, F. Irene**, age 89; born Mar. 18, 1918, in Rochester, Ind.; died Oct. 4, 2007, in Tell City, Ind. She was a member of the Tell City Church.

Survivors include her sisters, Vera Terry and Mary Clayburn.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Robert Helm, and interment was in Greenwood Cemetery, Tell City.

**GARDNER, Francis H.**, age 100; born Mar. 25, 1907, in Ingalls, Ind.; died Sept. 21, 2007, in Spartanburg, S.C. He was a member of the Cicero (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his son, Charles F.; daughters, Valerie G. Smith and Kathleen G. Tamayo; and one grandson.

Graveside services were conducted by Pastor Mike Hill, and interment was in Greenlawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Spartanburg.

**HOFMANN, Craig M.**, age 55; born Oct. 31, 1951, in Deep Gap, N.C.; died Jan. 20, 2007, in Deep Gap. He was a member of the Buchanan (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Ann (Berger); daughters, Lorraine and Rachel; and brothers, Herby and Dean.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Tony Cirigliano, with private inurnment.

**KELLER, Alfred P. "Pearl"**, age 94; born July 20, 1913, in Clay Cty., Ind.; died Aug. 12, 2007, in Cory, Ind. He was a member of the Lewis (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth M. (Edelman); sons, Charles D., Ronald L., and Roger W.; daughters, Phyllis Wrate, Wilma J. Rasmussen, Frances M. Shaver, and Janet S. Williams; 18 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ron Kelly, and interment was in Keller-Edelman Cemetery, Jasonville, Ind.

**KELLY, Lawrence M.**, age 65; born Aug. 5, 1941, in Detroit, Mich.; died June 13, 2007, in St. Claire Shores, Mich. He was a member of the Warren (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his sister, Paula Kelly. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Paul Larsen, with private inurnment.

**OXLEY, Marian (Nelson) Rueckert**, age 92; born Jan. 13, 1915, in Clear Lake, Wis.; died Sept. 9, 2007, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Emerald L.; sons, Keith Rueckert, and Sherwood, Richard, Lawrence, and Roger Oxley; daughters, Carol (Rueckert) Rideout and Lynda Teter; brother, Douglas Nelson; sister, Georgia Pfister; 22 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and

one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dwight K. Nelson, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

**PAPENDICK, Alberta J. (Evans)**, age 80; born June 16, 1927, in Hazel Park, Mich.; died Sept. 15, 2007, in Cedar Lake, Mich. She was a member of the Cedar Lake Church.

Survivors include her sons, Mark, Fred, Ted, and Bradley; daughter, Carolyn Colburn; sister, Elaine DeVries; 12 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Mickey Mallory, and interment was in Richland Twp. Cemetery, Vestaburg, Mich.

**RENTON, George W.**, age 92; born July 20, 1915, in Brooklyn, N.Y.; died Sept. 8, 2007, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Frances (Norman-McCann); daughters, Ronnie Rosado and Suzanne Renton; sister, Lilian McAnaney; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dwight K. Nelson, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

**SIMMONS III, Cyrus**, age 81; born June 5, 1926, in Washington, D.C.; died June 11, 2007, in Battle Creek, Mich. He was a member of the Battle Creek Tabernacle Church.

Survivors include his wife, June C. (Shasky); daughter, Julie M. Simmons; and brothers, Clarence and Curtis.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Danny Velez, and inurnment was in Ft. Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, Mich.

**WITTUM, Judy (Breedlove)**, age 82; born Nov. 30, 1924, in Rockingham, N.C.; died Sept. 1, 2007, in Flint, Mich. She was a member of the First Flint Church.

Survivors include her daughters, Cathy Wilhelm and Nancy Wittum; sisters, Patricia Habada and Belva Deavers; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Bruce Babienco and Justin Ringstaff, and interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Grand Blanc, Mich.

# 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: \$28 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$38 per insertion for all others. A form is available at [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://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.

## Miscellaneous

**THE QUIET HOUR** is looking for a diesel-powered sailboat, 45-55 foot, for medical work in remote Solomon Islands. If you have one to donate, contact Michael Porter or Charlene West at 800-900-9021, ext. 116 or 111, respectively.

**FREE VOCAL MUSIC CONCERTS WITH PERSONAL LIFE EXPERIENCES.** A former voice instructor from Andrews University with his wife and sister will give free Sat. evening vocal music concerts with testimonies. Two music CDs and a DVD music video are available. For more information, contact Vladimir Slavujevic at 269-473-2826, or e-mail him at [vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com](mailto:vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com).

**1-10,000 BOOKS WANTED TO BUY:** Used Adventist books, songbooks, cookbooks, schoolbooks, and old ABC catalogs. Used Adventist books for sale. If interested, contact John at 269-781-6379. Book sale at Urbandale Church Dec. 24, 6:00 p.m. (M-37, Battle Creek, Mich.) If you have questions or need driving directions, call John.

## Human Resources

**DENTAL PROFESSIONAL NEEDED:** Exceptional opportunity for a quality applicant to join our large, fee-for-service dental practice in Frederick, Md. Applicant must be competent and productive in all aspects of comprehensive dental care. Six-figure starting salary with 401K and pension and profit sharing. Excellent opportunity for higher income and equity posi-

tion as potential future partner. For more information, contact Dr. Peter J. Trepper, Kershner and Trepper Dental Associates, at 301-667-8600, or visit [www.KTDental.com](http://www.KTDental.com). Résumés may be faxed to 301-371-9533.

**PARKVIEW ADVENTIST MEDICAL CENTER,** located in the heart of beautiful Mid-coast Maine, allows you the opportunity to get back to hands-on, community-based nursing care. At this time PAMC has openings for RNs. Requirements include Maine RN license or eligibility and BCLS; some positions may require ACLS. Prior experience required for all positions. We offer competitive wages, sign-on bonuses, and relocation—EOE. For information, contact HR Department, 329 Maine St., Brunswick, ME 04011; fax 207-373-2188; e-mail [hr@parkviewamc.org](mailto:hr@parkviewamc.org); or visit [www.parkviewamc.org](http://www.parkviewamc.org).

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATION DEPT.** seeks faculty beginning July 2008 or sooner. Responsible for teaching courses in Communication. Earned masters is required and doctorate preferred. At least two years teaching experience preferred, but not required. Adventist candidates may apply online at [www.andrews.edu/HR/em\\_jobs.htm](http://www.andrews.edu/HR/em_jobs.htm).

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	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 28	Jan 4	Jan 11
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:14	5:15	5:17	5:22	5:27	5:34
Chicago, Ill.	4:20	4:20	4:22	4:26	4:32	4:38
Detroit, Mich.	5:00	5:00	5:02	5:07	5:12	5:19
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:20	5:20	5:23	5:27	5:32	5:39
La Crosse, Wis.	4:28	4:28	4:30	4:34	4:40	4:47
Lansing, Mich.	5:05	5:05	5:07	5:11	5:17	5:23
Madison, Wis.	4:23	4:23	4:25	4:29	4:35	4:42
Springfield, Ill.	4:34	4:34	4:37	4:41	4:46	4:53



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— LUKE 5:17-19 —

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# Announcements

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](http://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.

## Illinois

**Broadview Academy Alumni Association is alive and well!** Our school still binds us together! Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend is the **first weekend of May 2008**. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars. Call your classmates and start planning for this weekend now. Honor classes: 1948, '58, '68, '78, '83, '88, and '98. Friday night Vespers, Sabbath school, and Church. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, we need your e-mail addresses. Send them to [scross@broadviewacademy.org](mailto:scross@broadviewacademy.org), or call Shona Cross at 630-677-4387. More information to come. Don't miss it!

## Indiana

**Second Annual New Year's Prayer Retreat** will be held at Timber Ridge Camp **Jan. 11-12, 2008**. The retreat, under the direction of Peter Neri, Indiana Conference ministerial director, is planned to provide an opportunity to

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pray together as a conference-wide church family. To register, call Sheri DeWitt at 317-844-6201, or e-mail [sdewitt@indsyda.org](mailto:sdewitt@indsyda.org).

**Winter Ski Fest** for youth in grades 7-12 is **Jan. 25-27, 2008**. For applications, go to [www.trcamp.org](http://www.trcamp.org) and click on "Youth Events." You can download and print an application and all other necessary paperwork. Or you may contact Trish Thompson at the Indiana Conference youth department at 317-844-6201.

## Lake Union

### Offerings:

- Dec 1** Local Church Budget
- Dec 8** Inner City
- Dec 15** Local Church Budget
- Dec 22** Local Conference Advance
- Dec 29** Local Church Budget

### Thirteenth Sabbath:

- Dec 29** Southern Asia Division

### Special Days:

- Dec 1** Bible Sabbath

## North American Division

### Health Summit Orlando, Feb. 1-9, 2008:

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**Union College Homecoming:** Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited

to come for *Remember When*, **Apr. 3-6, 2008**. Honor classes are 1938, '48, '53, '58, '68, '78, '83, '88, and '98. For more information, contact the alumni office at 3800 South 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; phone 402-486-2503; or e-mail [alumni@ucollege.edu](mailto:alumni@ucollege.edu).

### Music at the 2010 GC Session in Atlanta,

**June 23-July 3**. Needed: high-quality sacred music from vocalists, instrumentalists, choirs, ensembles, etc. Please visit [www.gcsession.org](http://www.gcsession.org) for details and application. Send all requested materials to NAD Music Coordinator, Attn: Ron Christman, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600. Deadline for application: January 31, 2009.

## Wisconsin

**Legal Notice:** Notice is hereby given that a special session of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day

Adventists and the Wisconsin Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at Wisconsin Academy in Columbus, Wis., on Sun., **Mar. 9, 2008**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Delegates will be asked to vote on matters relating to the dormitories at Wisconsin Academy. Delegates will also transact such other business as may properly come before them. Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for the church organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof. Duly accredited delegates and delegates-at-large who served at the Oct. 1, 2006, regular session are authorized by the constitution to serve again at this special session.

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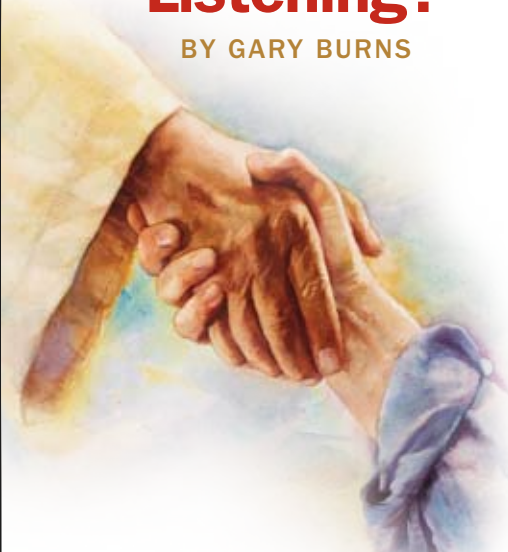
– Rebroadcast Times EST

- Dec 28 – 10:00 PM
- Dec 29 – 6:00 PM
- Dec 30 – 11:00 AM
- Dec 31 – 8:00 PM
- Dec 31 – 10:00 PM

## PARTNERSHIP with GOD

### Are We Listening?

BY GARY BURNS



My family gets rather annoyed at me at times—especially when they come in and begin talking to me and I don't respond; never mind the fact that I am in another world crafting words for the *Herald*, or in a meeting with my staff on my iChat screen. What we have here is “a failure to communicate!” I need to ask myself if my partnership with God is directing my priorities.

I wonder if the disciples ever got annoyed at Jesus? “There He is again, off by Himself while we're stuck here with all these people.”

Or maybe, “C'mon Jesus, we've got to go. We don't have time to listen to that lady tell her whole life story.”

Or, “Jesus, don't you even care? Wake up! We're going to die!”

As you read the gospel stories, you get the impression that Jesus was listening to the beat of a different drummer. He was in sync with what His Father was doing, but out of sync with human traditions and expectations.

It occurs to me that when God needed to break through and get our attention, He often partnered with the young to be His voice; Joseph, Samuel, David, Esther, and Jeremiah come to mind. We should note that He chose a humble group of 17- to 25-year-olds to lead out in The Great Advent Movement.

By all estimates, we are on the brink of something new. Could it be that God has already begun to speak? Are we listening?

Gary Burns is the communication director for the Lake Union Conference.

# He Shall Direct Thy Paths

BY JENNY L. DENSMORE

THE MORNING DAWNED CLEAR. I HAD MY WORSHIP, AND THEN LEFT FOR MY MORNING WALK. AS I WALKED DOWN THE ROAD, I HEARD A LADY SCREAM “HELP!” FROM THE WOODS. I STOPPED STONE STILL, SHOCKED.

*Am I hearing things?* I thought.

Then again, “Help! I need help!”

I started hollering back, “Hello? Hello? Are you okay? Hello? I’m here.”

Once more she hollered for help.

*What should I do?* I thought. Unsure of the circumstances, I decided to get help.

I heard a motorcycle coming down the road, so I started waving both arms. The driver waved and continued on.

“NO!” I screamed, waving my arms frantically. “Please stop.”

He stopped. He had a weird smile, like “What do you want?”

“Oh no,” I thought. I wouldn’t stop a motorcycle guy if I had a choice. He was a real Harley guy in full outfit. But it was for the lady...

I went to him and said, “I need help; there’s a lady screaming in the woods.”

He gasped, “Are you sure?”

“I’ll go tell the Hoffmans,” he offered. The Hoffmans were my neighbors.

Silence. I almost panicked. *What if she’s already dead, passed out, or something.* “God, please help me!”

“Thanks,” I yelled to the driver, whose name I learned was Jeff.

I ran toward home to get more help and continued to pray, “God, please help her to be okay!”

I was almost hysterical when I reached home. The door was locked, so I started banging on it and ringing the doorbell. Mamy (my mother) opened the door. “There’s a lady screaming for help in the woods, and I don’t know what to do!” I sobbed, out of breath.

We jumped in the truck and left for the neighbors. Just then, Jeff came out of the woods and up to the house. “Found her,” he said. Soon the fire truck, ambulance, and a horde of police arrived.

Later, I asked Trisha Hoffman about her and learned the woman’s name was Twila. She was on the news the previous night because she had been missing for two days! Twila had left Kalamazoo (Michigan) to go to a dialysis appointment in Battle Creek (Michigan), but disappeared. Evidently, she had passed out, and didn’t know how she ended up where she did.

I praise God that Twila was found, and I’m glad He led me to walk that way at the right time and that He sent Jeff, too. I’m glad that God’s in control.

“In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:6).



Jenny L. Densmore, 17, is a member of Rayborn Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church in Coldwater, Michigan. Jenny attends the Christ Our Teacher Home School. She will receive a \$100 scholarship since her article was selected for publication.

**Ashleigh Brooke Jardine**, 17, a four-year senior at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA), is from Berrien Springs, Mich. She is the daughter of David and Lisa Jardine.

Sietie Heslop, math teacher at GLAA, describes Ashleigh as someone who is friendly to everyone, sensitive to the needs of others, and not easily swayed. "Ashleigh lives by example. She is not shy to speak out about her friend, Jesus."

Ashleigh has shown leadership at GLAA from the start. She has held many offices, such as freshman pastor, sophomore vice president, head of *Flamekeepers* (a Bible study group) in her junior year, and this year is the editor of the *ACADIA*, GLAA's school newspaper. She is also the program director of the *Aerokhanas* gymnastic team.

"In my time at GLAA, I've learned how important friendship is and that sharing the same belief in God is the key to having good friends," says Ashleigh. She enjoys playing sports, playing guitar, hanging out with friends, and going to the beach.

Ashleigh plans to attend Andrews University and major in physical therapy.



Ashleigh Jardine

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Jose Rivera

**Jose "Joe" Antonio Rivera Jr.** was born in San Diego, California. His current hometown is Westland, Mich., and he attends the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Plymouth, Mich.

As an 18-year old, four-year senior at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA), Joe's time at GLAA has been an amazing spiritual journey. Known by students and teachers alike to be unafraid to share his love for God, Joe is often seen praying with someone. His easy-going, friendly disposition makes him easy to talk to, and he loves to hang out with friends. Joe especially enjoyed Bible III classes because they really made him think and study. "Drawing close to God and making personal devotion time a priority is something I've learned while at GLAA," said Joe. "Coming here was God's plan."

Joe has held many offices and is currently a resident assistant in the boys' dorm. Being a member of the *Aerokhanas* gymnastic team has made the greatest impact on Joe. For two years, Joe has enjoyed giving sermonettes, encouraging high school young people to be drug free, and sharing his faith in many ways. Joe also enjoyed being part of GLAA's witnessing program.

During the summers, Joe has worked hard to earn money for his tuition. He sold Magabooks one summer, and worked at Camp Au Sable another.

Joe enjoys playing soccer, drawing, working out, and studying the Bible. Joe's future plan is to attend Southern Adventist University and major in theology and psychology.

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