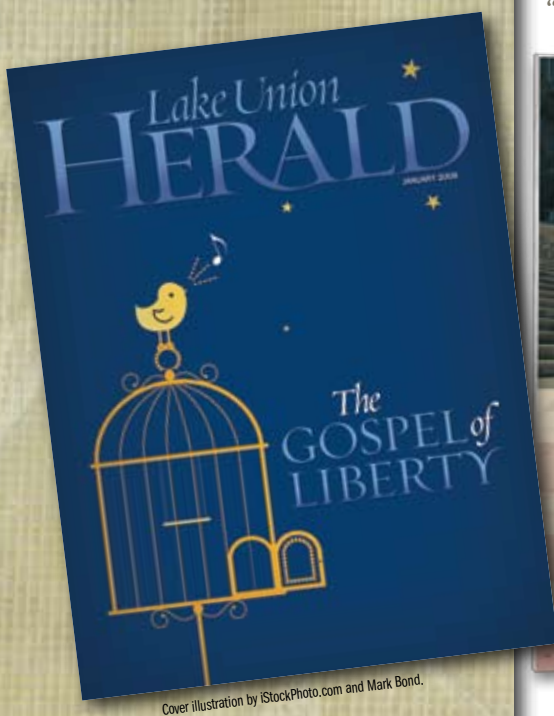


Lake Union HERALD

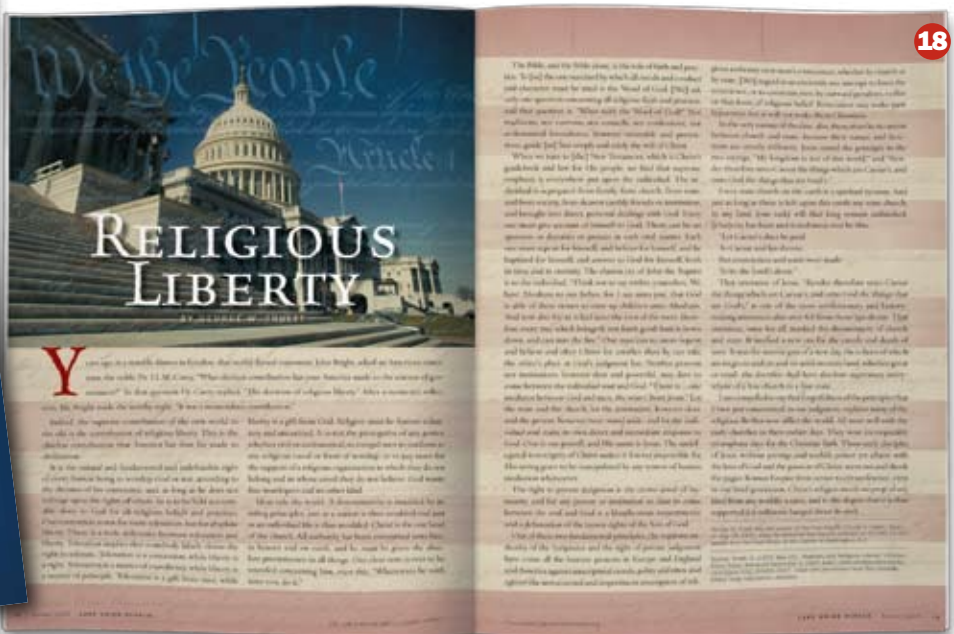
JANUARY 2008



The
GOSPEL *of*
LIBERTY



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To those who are held captive by sin, the gospel of liberty is not only their declaration of freedom, but the very means to their emancipation. Like a bird released from a cage, they can't help but sing praises to the One who gave them liberty.

In this issue, we are reminded of Heaven's good news and its implications, not only for our own freedom, but for the freedoms God has granted every one.

Gary Burns
Gary Burns, Editor



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Freedom!

It was back in the early 1960s. Several emerging nations on the continent of Africa were receiving their independence from colonial powers that had ruled over them for decades and, in some cases, centuries. There were pictures and stories in the news of thousands of these formerly oppressed peoples coming from the hills, savannas and villages to collect this newfound "freedom." There were long cues of humanity with baskets, jugs, carts and any other containers that could convey the precious "freedom" back to their homes.

It was obvious that someone had impressed upon these citizens the invaluable treasure of freedom, but they had neglected to explain it fully enough for them to grasp that it was not a commodity to be hauled away in containers. It can only be carried around in the hearts and minds of human beings.

The soil has been soaked with the blood of Americans and others who were willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom. As a youth, I was always intrigued by the ideals set forth in the "Four Freedoms" painted by Norman Rockwell, the famous American folk artist. The idea of the "Four Freedoms" was first articulated by Franklin D. Roosevelt, then U.S. president, in a speech to Congress on January 6, 1941.

There is "Freedom from Want," depicted as a smiling family gathered at a dining table groaning with all manner of delicious foods. Then there is "Freedom of Speech," probably the most emotion-laden idea in America. Rockwell saw it as a brave, lone citizen standing before his countrymen and expressing his opinion. Who could miss the passion in "Freedom from Fear," as you see two adoring parents looking down on their children tucked safely into bed?

But, of course, you would expect me to be most taken by the idea of "Freedom of Worship," which guarantees the right of each American to worship God after the dictates of one's own heart. The painting shows several seniors bowing, hands clasped in prayer. "Freedom of Worship" does not require that anyone else agree with me. It seems that the only restriction is that the practice and expression of my faith shall not infringe upon the rights and freedoms of others.

That would seem to be very straightforward, but in every age there are those who are not satisfied to allow others to practice their faith without expressions of intolerance and interference. I lost several jobs due to my commitment to keep holy the seventh-day Sabbath of Exodus 20. But the Lord finally gave me the best job of all.

I suppose there are many ways to discuss the principle of freedom, but Holy Scripture sums it up well for me. "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, 'If ye continue in my word, then ye are my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free'" (John 8:31, 32).

All I need is the truth as it is in Jesus, and I am a free man. *Hallelujah!*

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Illinois To some people, my decision to get baptized when I (**Leigh Cunningham**) did seemed sudden. But baptism was something I had been thinking about for about three years. When asked if I wanted to be a part of the baptismal group on October 20, my decision was surprisingly easy. I knew I was finally ready.

I grew up attending the Burr Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church where everyone was always supportive of me in everything I did, even though I was often the only child my age there. That support has always meant a lot to



Leigh Cunningham (pictured with his parents, Charles and Gayle) was recently baptized, but now realizes he will be studying and learning and growing spiritually the rest of his life.

me. However, the biggest outside influence on my decision to get baptized was my school, Hinsdale Adventist Academy, where I have been a student since pre-school. Every quarter the school holds a special week of prayer. That is where a guest speaker, or student or staff member, would come in and present daily sermons. Through some of those sessions, God had really tugged at my heart. Another way I had felt His leading was through various religious youth trips such as Bible Camp, Prayer Conference and Leadership Conference. Also, sometimes we would have deep discussions in class about world trends.

I had taken baptismal classes before, but didn't complete the classes because of how busy I was at the time. I sometimes think of that as a good thing in the sense that I wasn't ready to commit as much as I am now. I wasn't even so sure that I was ready when I began the first time. Right now, as I continue to take classes, I have a different view. The reason for this is that my pastor explained that my

baptism was really the start of my spiritual journey, and he asked me if I would like to be a part of his special introductory Bible class. I know that I will be studying and learning and growing spiritually for the rest of my life.

Leigh Cunningham, Burr Ridge Church member

Indiana I (**Elvira Linville**) grew up in a home where my mother was an Adventist, but my father had no particular religious affiliation. I was the youngest in my family, and when I finished high school my head was filled with dreams and projects. I felt like I owned the world, with my youth and determination to get me where I wanted to go. I walked away from God because I wanted freedom to make my dreams come true. I wanted independence, not rules and limitations. I wanted to enjoy life.

For many years I lived apart from my God, following my own desires, living the freedom I always searched for. No parents, no rules! My mother suffered a lot for my wrong decisions. She wrote me letters, reminding me not to forget God and her advice, and letting me know she prayed for me daily. It was hard for me to see my mother cry, and to read her letters, but these couldn't stop me. I was so obstinate. My desires to be a successful person filled my mind.

I knew from the beginning that something was wrong. Although I had many things I wanted, there was an emptiness that wouldn't let me be completely happy. I just tried not to pay attention to the tenuous voice in my conscience that kept becoming stronger. One day I said, "What am I doing with my life?" I felt so bad because I saw that I was doing everything wrong. I was hurting people who loved me, and hurting myself. I couldn't stop the tears that covered my face, and I knelt to pray to ask God's forgiveness.

"I want to come back to You, my Lord," I prayed, "but I can't do it myself. I am so feeble. Please take my hand and help me to walk on Your way again." (Actually, when you go away from



Gail Macomber (left) is a friend and a spiritual support of Elvira Linville (right). Elvira says she now realizes that "the best for me is to have God in my life and God in my home."

God it is very hard to return to Him. You cannot do it for yourself; you must ask God for help.)

When I met David, who is now my husband, he was like a gift from God that I didn't deserve. Before we got married I said to God, "You know how much I love this man, and I would like him to be my husband. I promise, if You allow us to get married, I will never go away from You. But if it is not Your will to give me this man as my husband, help me to accept Your decision." God gave me David as my husband. I believe in my heart that God has special plans for my husband, as He has for me. I keep praying for my husband.

I believe that the best prayer is the prayer of love because our God is a God of immense love. I am so thankful for my mother's prayers, and the people who were praying for me. I thank God for sending me Gail Macomber as a friend and spiritual support.

On November 3, 2007, I was baptized, and I feel like I never have before. I understand that the best for me is to have God in my life, and God in my home, and never again will I go away from my God.

Elvira Linville, Cicero Church member

Indiana September 15, 2007, was a high Sabbath for the Spencer Church. That afternoon we welcomed three new members to our family through baptism and witnessed the baptism of another young man. Wading out into the water of Lake Timber Ridge, Dean Whitlow, a pastor, and Charlie Thompson, Indiana Conference youth director, led the eager followers of Jesus. Dean began by describing the enthusiasm of eight-and-a-half-year-old **Nathan Huffman**. Nathan participated in Bible studies for about a year, along with other youngsters from Spencer. He says he decided to be baptized when he was about five years old, but more recently he felt "the Lord's impression on my heart." His parents Greg and Mary Huffman are more than pleased with his excitement and independent decision to make this public commitment to follow the Lord. However, Nathan did not wait until now to begin telling others about Jesus Christ.

About one year ago, during a local Magabook campaign, Nathan joined two adults in visiting homes in the Spencer area. They knocked on the door of **Christine Clarkson**. Christine explained that her late mother-in-law Edna Clarkson had been a Seventh-day Adventist and member of the Ingalls Church. Edna had been a wonderful influence on Christine, resulting in her long-term belief in the Seventh-day Adventist religion.



Recently, Spencer Church friends and family members gathered to witness four individuals commit their life to Jesus through baptism. From left: Christine Clarkson; Dean Whitlow, Spencer Church pastor; Nathan Huffman; Aaron Ward; Charlie Thompson, Indiana Conference youth director; and Daniel Fickett

Christine soon began regularly attending the Spencer Church and studying the Bible with local members. She says she feels welcome in this small congregation where it seems like family.

Jesus had been working on her heart for some time, and when Christine learned that Nathan would be baptized on September 15, the Lord impressed her that the time was right for her as well. She also wanted Nathan to realize how much she appreciated his witness to her. "[Nathan] brought me in, and this would be my gift to him. I was ready."

Charlie introduced the next candidate. **Daniel Fickett**, who is nine and a half years old, reported that he had wanted to be baptized for a long time. Then, seeing some of his friends' recent baptisms gave him the courage to go through with it. His parents Seth and Sonya Fickett say that Daniel has times when he is very open about what God means to him, often mentioning his desire for Jesus to come back soon. Following the ceremony, he told them that he felt peaceful and good inside.

We also had the privilege of witnessing the baptism of **Aaron Ward** from the Glendale Church in Indianapolis. Aaron is ten years old and in the fourth grade. Charlie noted that Aaron had consistently raised his hand at Timber Ridge Camp whenever someone asked the campers if they wanted to be baptized. One Friday evening Aaron's parents, Todd and Shelley Ward from Arcadia, visited the camp. When they were walking back to their trailer with Aaron he told his parents, "This has been the best week of my life!"

His dad asked, "How's that, son?"

Then, with great emotion, Aaron replied, "Because it's the week I gave my life to Jesus!"

It was exciting to be there when his heartfelt desire to publicly commit his life to Jesus was finally fulfilled.

Sandy Culp, Spencer Church communication leader

Confident Witnesses

BY KARA KERBS

It is a chilly fall day as 17 Indiana Academy students quickly slip out of class five minutes early, climb aboard a waiting bus, and begin eating their sack lunches. By their smiles and laughter no one would suspect that several weeks ago they were afraid to witness for Christ.

After a short drive, the students grab their Bibles, identification badges and lesson books, then head into the Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School. With smiles, ten elementary students find their academy student teachers, settle down in a quiet corner, and begin to study.

It's a typical Tuesday for these students who are part of the volunteer evangelism team at the academy. After a little more than a month of training by Peter Neri, Indiana Conference ministerial director, the students have begun to give Bible studies. The first opportunity to use their witnessing skills came when ten elementary school students expressed a desire to prepare for baptism. Now, despite the academy students' initial fears and busy schedules, they are giving Bible studies as well as continuing to attend a weekly training class.

Indiana Academy student Audrey Heinlein (a junior) said, "I love this program, I even look forward to teaching the students I have every Tuesday—even when I have a 'million' other things to do."

Ivanessa Castillo, another junior at Indiana academy, said, "The reason I wanted to join the group was because I



From left: IA students Audrey Heinlein (Plymouth, Ind.) and Ivanessa Castillo (Southgate, Calif.) enjoy their weekly study with Eunice Gomez (fourth grade) and Elizabeth Duvall (fifth grade).

want to spread the message to the world, and God gave me this great opportunity to do so."

The elementary students also enjoy the experience. Eunice Gomez (fourth grade) stated, "My favorite part is when we get to look in the Bible." She likes having a teenager teacher because "sometimes they don't know what a word means, and we learn together."

The academy students are fulfilling a dream God has for them, as shared by Ellen White: "In our schools our youth are to bear burdens for God. They are to receive a thorough training under experienced teachers. They should make the best possible use of their time in study, and put into practice the knowledge acquired" (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 538–539).

Indiana Academy is firmly committed to train youth for Christ. In a few months, after the Bible studies are completed at the elementary school, these confident witnesses from the academy plan to go door to door to find individuals interested in receiving Bible studies.

Kara Kerbs is the religious activities coordinator at Indiana Academy.



From left: IA students Shane Chandler (Columbus, Ind.) and Rachel Smith (Columbus) present a weekly study to Colette Zimmerman (fifth grade) with Peter Neri, Indiana Conference ministerial director, answering some tough questions.





Spreading the News of “The God Church”

BY CHRISTIAN PROHASKA

Thirteen members of the Hinsdale Church *Men’s Chorus* and their families traveled to Singapore and Thailand in October to assist with evangelistic efforts of the Singapore Adventist Mission and Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM).

SAUM’s largely non-Christian territory is comprised of Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Among the Union’s challenges are varied political and economic settings against a backdrop of differing cultures. While Islam is dominant in Malaysia and Brunei, Buddhism is the major religion in Thailand, Cambodia and Singapore. Animism is strong in the tribal areas of northern Thailand and much of north Borneo, but a large Hindu minority can be found in West Malaysia. There is freedom of religious expression in this Union except in Laos and Vietnam, which have Communist governments that restrict religious activity.

In Singapore, the *Men’s Chorus* contingent held health screenings at the Toa Payoh bus and rail terminal, a modern transportation hub. Members handed out fliers for free blood pressure and body mass index screenings. Interest was very high, and long lines soon formed. Large posters surrounded the screening areas and displayed health-oriented messages pertaining to stopping smoking, getting enough rest, and recognizing skin cancer.

When the people saw who sponsored the event, they often remarked, “Oh, the God church!” They may have not known much about denominational distinctions, but recognized Christianity. At the last screening step, individuals discussed eternal matters with a pastor. In cultures steeped in Buddhism and atheism, people were very interested not only in their health, but in spiritual matters as well.

The *Men’s Chorus* also assisted with spiritual evangelism. Tenor Richard Latané presented the Sabbath morning sermon at a beautiful convention center where the *Men’s Chorus* took part in a full-day musical program.

Later in the week, the *Men’s Chorus* participated in the 50-year anniversary of the Thomson Road Seventh-day Adventist Church where the *Men’s Chorus* director Arnold Hutabarat

and tenor Francis Tham were members in their youth. There, chorus members raised funds for community education and assisted with health screenings, evangelistic sermons, health-related talks and cooking classes to strengthen community awareness.



The Men’s Chorus and their families visit Mission College, in Muak Lek, Thailand.

From Singapore, the group traveled to Bangkok Adventist Hospital and Mission College to provide a musical vespers and worship services. College personnel took the group into its “mission field” and showed them a rural branch Sabbath school.

In the affluent, hurried Singapore lifestyle, we were glad to see people respond to invitations for better health. In the fertile kingdom of Thailand, we saw God’s hand at work at the college and the hospital’s nursing program, both of which had more Buddhist students than Christian.

Although few of the men had ever been on a mission trip or to Southeast Asia, we all strongly noticed how, unlike in the United States, little is known about Christianity. Pray for God’s servants around the world as they tell the story of Jesus and how He died for all.

Christian Prohaska is a member of the Hinsdale Church *Men’s Chorus*.

The *Men’s Chorus*, which began in the early 1980s, has recently produced its second recording, a CD entitled “Christ Is the Rock.” To inquire about the CD or to schedule the Hinsdale Church *Men’s Chorus* in your church, contact Arnold Hutabarat at HinsdaleMen@hotmail.com.





Dispensing God's Blessings

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

The Bible defines stewardship as the act of serving God by carrying out a kind of household administration—the dispensing of God's riches to His family, meaning all those who have become His children through faith in the Lord Jesus (John 1:12–13). To be a good steward means we must learn to be faithful to our assignment.

One of the ways we are to be faithful in our stewardship is to focus on the coming of Jesus while caring for the precious lives entrusted to us. I found it interesting to note that the Greek word for stewardship found in I Corinthians 4:1 is of the same root as the words economy or dispensation. It means a dispensing steward, a household administrator, or one who dispenses the household supply to its members. This isn't about giving material things to our children; it is about revealing Christ through our actions and attitudes and our study of the scriptures. And it is not about "us" being "good parents," it is about revealing the truths of Christ as the Savior and of His eminent return. What a privilege and challenge!

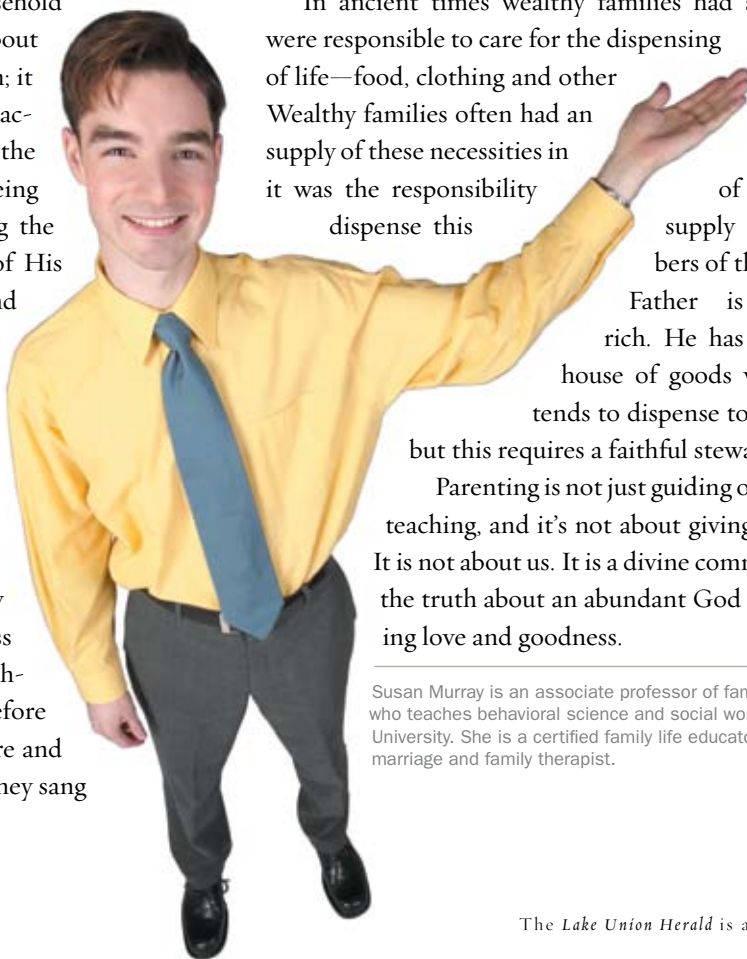
My neighbor, Jeanette, who is in her late 70s, shared a memory of her grandparents with me the other day. She recounted how she loved going to her grandparents' home, and they stopped by often. Upon arriving with her mother, often they found her grandparents sitting across the dining room table from one another, each with a Bible and hymnal before them. Each shared a verse of scripture and then the other chose a hymn which they sang

together. It wasn't that they shared just one scripture and one hymn as a routine; they read, shared and sang for some time. Jeanette loved being in their presence. She loved the sense of peace that surrounded that experience and relies on those same hymns today. Her grandparents were good stewards.

In ancient times wealthy families had stewards who were responsible to care for the dispensing of the means of life—food, clothing and other necessities. Wealthy families often had an abundant supply of these necessities in storage, and it was the responsibility of a steward to dispense this supply to the members of the family. Our Father is exceedingly rich. He has a vast storehouse of goods which He intends to dispense to His children, but this requires a faithful steward.

Parenting is not just guiding our children by teaching, and it's not about giving them things. It is not about us. It is a divine commission, to tell the truth about an abundant God and His abiding love and goodness.

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.



The fastest diet is not necessarily the best or safest!

It's Tough Losing

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG



Should one cut carbs, fat or calories?

January often means New Year's resolutions. We plan to make lifestyle changes that will improve our health. Some may need to do some damage control after stepping over the line during the holiday season. So you set a goal to "Lose weight in '08." You really want to be a successful loser this time.

But it's tough going. Losing weight is not easy. Most people find it a tough challenge. Some people can lose weight on almost any diet. But can they stick to the diet? Is it easy to follow? Can they sustain the weight loss or will the pounds come back? And will the diet become a new lifestyle?

Placing whole food groups off-limits makes a diet more challenging to follow. Almost 60 percent of dieters on restrictive diets, such as the low-carb Atkins diet and the very low-fat Ornish diet, battle with food cravings (and consequently, snack attacks) compared to about 30 percent of dieters following a less restrictive diet, such as Weight Watchers.

No one diet seems to fit with everyone's temperament. A person must truly find the diet that is best for them. When it comes to weight loss, the fastest is not necessarily the safest or the most successful program in the long-term. The following are six simple guidelines to make weight loss a realistic goal, and weight management a success.

1. Set realistic goals. Don't try to lose more than one or two pounds a week. Studies have shown that two out of every three dieters typically quit within three months, while up to 85 percent may quit by six months.

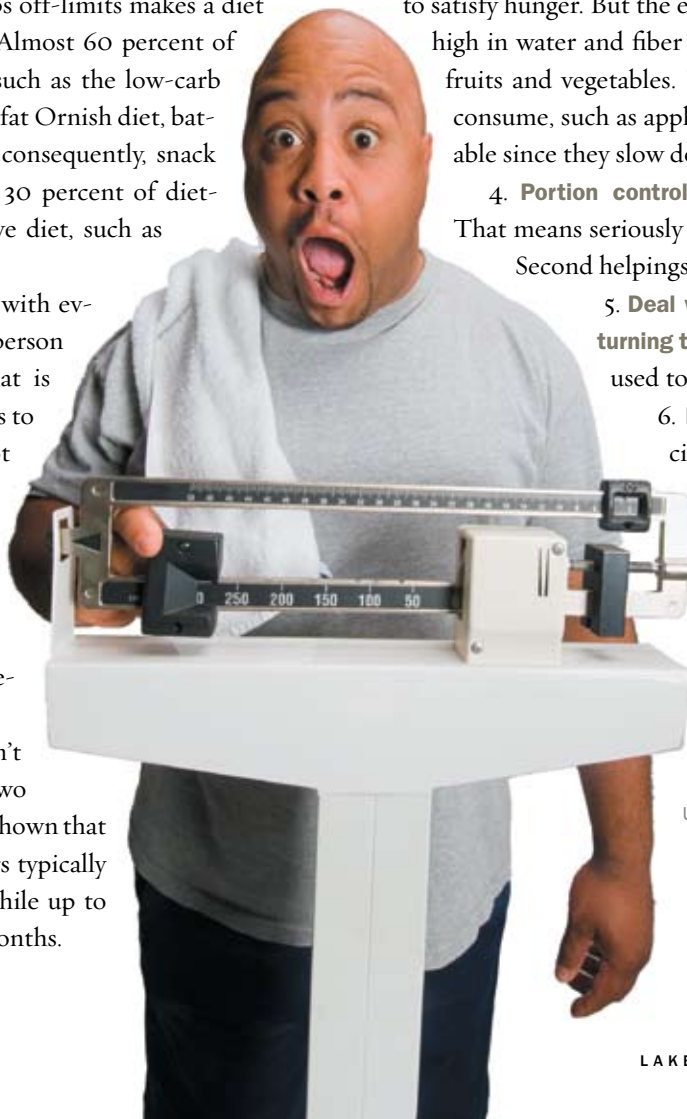
2. Exercise is essential for keeping your BMR (basal metabolic rate) from falling. Exercise does more than assist you with better weight management. It improves your sense of well-being and your mental attitude. It helps you manage stress more effectively.

3. Don't eliminate fat from your diet. Some fat is needed to satisfy hunger. But the emphasis should be on foods high in water and fiber and low in calories, such as fruits and vegetables. Foods that require work to consume, such as apples and pineapple, are desirable since they slow down the rate of ingestion.

4. Portion control is essential for success. That means seriously reducing your serving sizes. Second helpings are out.

5. Deal with life's problems without turning to food. Eating should not be used to provide emotional healing.

6. Don't go it alone. Create a circle of people around you who support your objective of losing weight, who exercise with you, who motivate you to stay on course, and who encourage you when things are not going well.



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



EXTREME GRACE

There's a Moon in the Church!

BY DICK DUERKSEN

Haven't you heard?
 Hasn't anyone ever
 told you?
 Don't you want to
 know?
*There's a Moon in
 the church, in the brand
 new almost-finished
 Seventh-day Adventist
 church on the side of Green
 Mountain!*



Last night this
 Moon came out to play in the East Garo
 Hills of India.

She flew from a very tall palm tree,
 Across three rice fields,
 Below the window of the village
 elder's quiet bedroom,
 Up over the white orchid tree,
 And along the path to *the brand new almost-finished Sev-
 enth-day Adventist church on the side of Green Mountain.*

The giant Moon Moth flitted through an open window
 and finally spied a safe landing spot where a soft, cool
 breeze offered a perfect place to take a nap.

And that's where the village elder found her on Sab-
 bath morning, sound asleep, resting from her long flight.

"There's a Moon in our church!" he exclaimed.

"God must be very happy with our new church.

"Even the Moon has chosen to come for Sabbath wor-
 ship!"

Then the village elder raised a tall, thin bamboo high to
 where the Moon Moth was sleeping in *the brand new almost-
 finished Seventh-day Adventist church on the side of Green Mountain.*

The Moon Moth felt the stick nudging her legs,

And looked down at the village elder with his long, thin
 bamboo and kind smile.

She was very still for a long minute,

And then happily climbed aboard the
 village elder's tall, thin bamboo.

Many people came to worship in the
 church that Sabbath.

Some people came singing and waving
 in the back of a giant orange truck.

Some came walking down the road
 under colorful parasols.

Others came walking along a muddy
 trail through the rice fields.

And some
 came walking
 through the dark
 green jungle.

The village elder
 met them and said,
 "Shh. Be very qui-
 et. I have something
 wonderfully special to
 show you."

"Last night, a very



rare Moon Moth flew from her very tall palm tree,

Across silvery rice fields,

Beneath the window of my very quiet bedroom,

And up over the tall white orchid tree,

And here she is!"

Then he pulled out his tall, thin bamboo so everyone
 could see the giant Moon Moth.

Everyone clapped loudly.

But not loud enough to frighten the beautiful, green
 Moon Moth that had come to the worship service in *the
 brand new almost-finished Seventh-day Adventist church on the side of
 Green Mountain.*

Dick Duerksen is the official storyteller and photographer for Maranatha
 Volunteers International. This month's story was written by Dick in the East
 Garo Hills of India, "just a few 'crow' miles from where Eric B. Hare worked in
 Burma. So, with apologies to Elder Hare, the story was written to be read in
 his style of storytelling."

Photos by Dick Duerksen.

Building the Beloved Community

BY CYNTHIA AND J.W. WARREN

One of the joys of being members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is its intentional diversity and multiculturalism. One hundred years before Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded the Noble Peace Prize in 1964, and coined the phrase “building the beloved community,” the Seventh-day Adventist Church faithfully pursued global peace building and reconciliation by fulfilling the Gospel Commission, “Go ye into all the world and bring all nations into the Body of Christ” (Matthew 28:18 NIV, adapted).

Paul’s declaration in his letter to the Galatians, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28 NIV), contains the germ of universal inclusion that also motivated the work of Mahatma Gandhi, César Chávez, Albert Schweitzer and many Seventh-day Adventist pioneers. As followers of Christ, it is a joy to contribute our energies, time, resources and influences to advance the humanitarian missions of the Kingdom of Grace in the Spirit of Christ, with no distinctions based on race, class, national origin or temperament.



which faithfully “build the beloved community.”

It is also a joy to have a part in the global mission of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA). ADRA, established in 1984, operates as an independent humanitarian agency for the specific purposes of individual and community development and disaster relief. With a presence in more than 125 countries, ADRA is one of the more efficient humanitarian relief agencies with more than 90 percent of every dollar going toward direct humanitarian assistance benefiting more than 26 million

The observations of Ellen White provide additional understanding to the scope of this inclusive gospel. “The life of Christ established a religion in which there is no caste, a religion by which Jew and Gentile, free and bond, are linked in a common brotherhood, equal before God. No question of policy influenced His government. He made no difference between neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 3).

As joyful recipients of this inclusive gospel, we continually place as a top priority “building the beloved community” through unselfish acts of service. Working together in our local congregations for all humankind, we take the “good news of peace to all.” We are careful to add our financial resources to area food banks and other local organizations

people through assistance valued at more than \$145 million (2006).¹

On January 21, when many other nations join us in celebrating King’s legacy of justice, respect for human life, and the fellowship of all humankind, we count it a joy to be identified with a church that embraces Christ’s description of His followers: “All the world will know that you are My disciples, because you love everyone” (John 13:35 NIV, adapted).

Cynthia and J.W. Warren co-founded Spring Hope Ministries to celebrate and promote the joys and benefits of the Adventist lifestyle. They have three adult children and reside in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

1. Source: Julio C. Muñoz, bureau chief (interim) for marketing and development, Adventist Development and Relief Agency International

A Shepherd's Tale

BY DIANE THURBER

Most teachers look forward to Christmas break, and not many fill those days with additional appointments. However, that is just what Richard Garey did in December.

During the school year, actor Richard teaches history, English and drama classes at Indiana Academy. But on weekends and during school breaks, he makes the 315-mile trek from Cicero, Indiana, to the historic village of Hannibal, Missouri. There, Richard dons a costume and heads for the Planters Barn Theater—the only non-profit, Adventist-owned theater in the lower 48 states. On stage, Richard brings to life one of several historical characters, including Joseph Bates, John F. Kennedy, David Paulson and Mark Twain. But during the holiday season, Richard portrayed a character from a little farther back in history.

Each evening, from December 20 to 29, Richard plays Esrom, a Bethlehem shepherd, in “A Shepherd’s Tale.” As Esrom, Richard paints a vivid picture of an “ordinary man who became a part of the greatest story ever told.” Esrom shares with guests “the hope of a small group of men who trace their lineage back to the great shepherd, King David.” Esrom also introduces the Christ child and the extraordinary night He arrived in Bethlehem. Richard researched the life of Palestine’s first century shepherds for two years prior to creating the script.

Before retelling the Christmas Story, Richard invites guests to enjoy a buffet of traditional Middle Eastern foods. Background music features eastern instruments and melodies. “These were the instruments that King David would have had in his court,” Richard explained. “I want to transport the audience back to the sights, sounds and smells of the very first Christmas,” he added. The audience also sniffs

a small box of myrrh as it is passed around. “I want the audience to experience the Christmas Story as it may have been told for the very first time by the men who knelt at the manger of the Christ child!”

December 2007 was the fourth holiday season Richard has dedicated his time to share the good news about the Christ child in Hannibal. Individuals and church groups travel from as far as 100 miles for the performance. One guest remarked, “You made Christmas real for me again.”

Another commented, “We should sing the Doxology after this show.”

A group of men were moved to tears and remarked to Richard, “We have been rejected at our church, but if Jesus is like you portrayed Him to be, we might just take another look at Christianity.”

Richard remembered one tearful couple who were experiencing their first Christmas since the loss of their son. He said, “They thanked me for sharing God’s Son with them.”

During spring break 2008, which coincides with the Easter season, Richard will be in Hannibal again to portray the disciple Mark in “The Gospel of Mark.” Some of his drama students will join him in the production.

Why does Richard fill his school breaks with extra “work”? He shared, “I am the one who receives the biggest blessing each night.”



Diane Thurber is associate communication director for the Lake Union Conference.

For information about Heritage Stage Productions, visit www.heritagestage.com, e-mail plantersbarn@yahoo.com, or call 573-231-0021.

Photo by Patricia Garey.



¡DEJAD A LOS NIÑOS VENIR A MÍ!

POR CARMELO MERCADO

“Eduquen obreros capaces constantemente a los niños. Pedid la bendición del Señor sobre la simiente sembrada, y la convicción del Espíritu de Dios se posesionará aun de los pequeños. Por medio de los hijos serán alcanzados muchos padres” (El evangelismo, 425).

La primera vez que vi al Abuelito Jim fue en un campamento en el estado de Michigan. Al ver la reacción no solamente de los niños sino también de los adultos me di cuenta que su ministerio era algo especial.

El ministerio del Abuelito Jim comenzó en 1987 cuando el Dr. Juan Joaquín recibió una invitación para hacer la voz de un viejecito para un programa de Navidad. A los niños les gustó tanto que siempre pedían que se pusiera al viejecito en la radio. Fue entonces que surgió la idea de crear un espacio todos los días para saludar al público.



El Abuelito Jim predicando en una campaña en Hammond, Indiana.

En 1995 surgió el personaje del Abuelito Jim, y se expandió el ministerio por medio de la radio. Como resultado, se escucha el programa en más de 150 emisoras en 20 países en el Caribe, Centro América, América del Sur y parte de Europa. Además de tener el programa de radio, el ministerio da campañas evangelísticas en las iglesias. Estas campañas incluyen música, videos, y predicaciones especialmente preparadas para que tanto niños como adultos puedan entender los mensajes presentados. Con más de 150 bautismos por año, no cabe duda que el Señor está bendiciendo este ministerio.

Hay muchos que pueden testificar de cómo el ministerio del Abuelito Jim ha impactado sus vidas. Por ejemplo, tenemos el testimonio de un joven estadounidense que vive en Alabama que por un tiempo se había burlado de la iglesia y también de su esposa que había sido adventista. Cuando el Abuelito Jim dio una campaña en una carpa este joven

comenzó a asistir, a pesar de que no entendía español. Pero su esposa le traducía fielmente y al final él entregó su vida a Jesús y fue bautizado junto con su esposa.

Otro caso es el de una joven de 15 años que había llegado al estado de Indiana desde Venezuela para estar con su hermana. Empezó a asistir a la iglesia Adventista de South Bend y su hermana le dio estudios

bíblicos. La joven sintió el deseo de bautizarse, pero sus amistades, la moda y las joyas le eran un impedimento. Cuando llegó el ministerio del Abuelito Jim a South Bend, ella fue impresionada por el Espíritu Santo y finalmente fue bautizada junto con 10 personas más por el pastor Luis Beltré. Dejó así el mundo y unió su vida con Cristo.

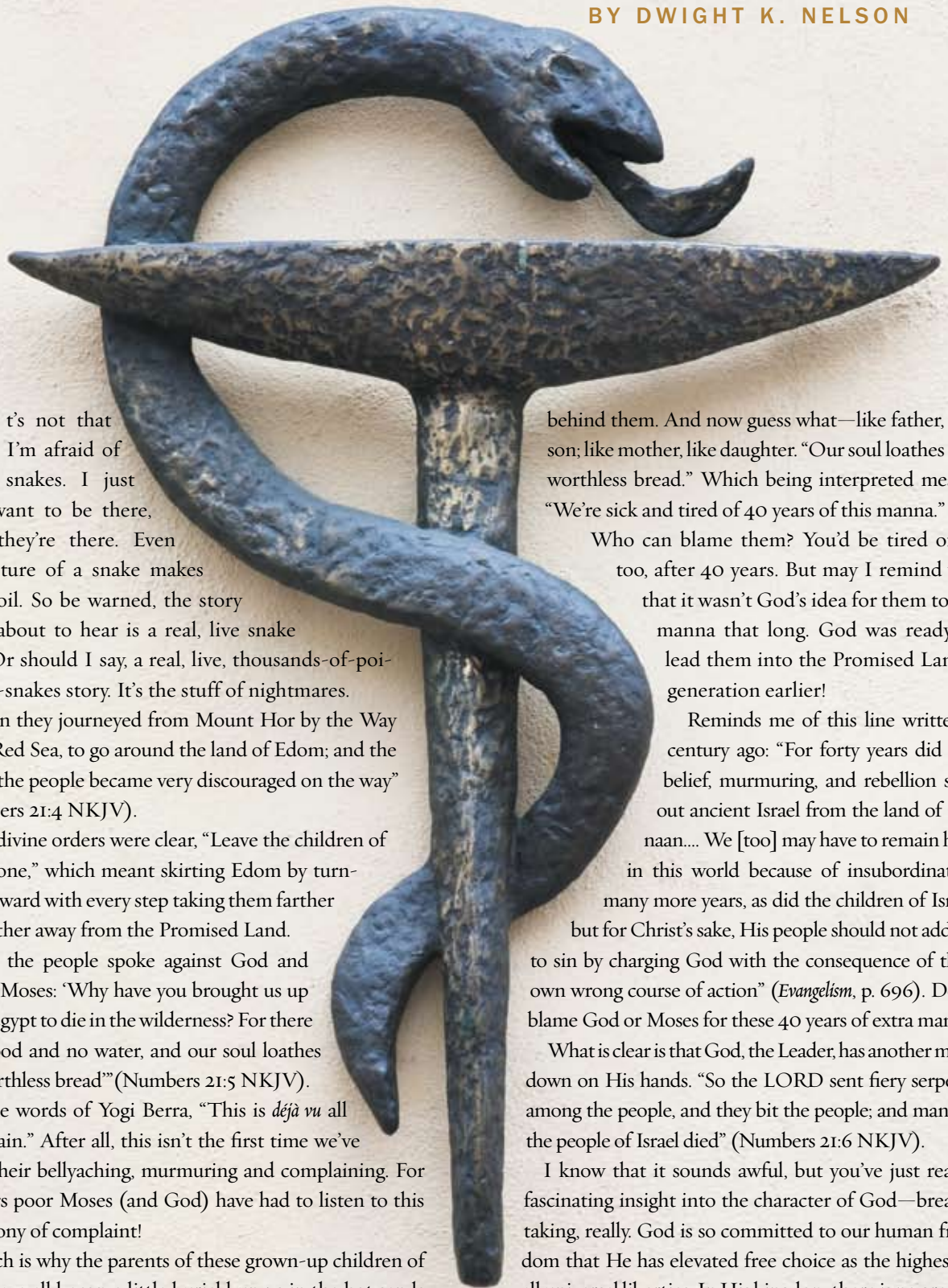
Por mi parte puedo testificar que el ministerio del Abuelito Jim me ha apoyado en varias campañas que he dado en nuestra Unión y gracias a Dios, tanto jóvenes como adultos han hecho sus decisiones de seguir a Cristo.

Si su iglesia desea tener una campaña diferente que atraiga a familias enteras, no hay duda que este ministerio cumpliría con ese propósito. Para obtener más información llame al Dr. Joaquín al 773-391-5280, o vaya a la página web www.abuelitojim.com.

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

SNAKES *in the* SAND

BY DWIGHT K. NELSON



I t's not that I'm afraid of snakes. I just don't want to be there, when they're there. Even the picture of a snake makes me recoil. So be warned, the story you're about to hear is a real, live snake story. Or should I say, a real, live, thousands-of-poisonous-snakes story. It's the stuff of nightmares.

"Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way" (Numbers 21:4 NKJV).

The divine orders were clear, "Leave the children of Esau alone," which meant skirting Edom by turning eastward with every step taking them farther and farther away from the Promised Land.

"And the people spoke against God and against Moses: 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread'" (Numbers 21:5 NKJV).

In the words of Yogi Berra, "This is *déjà vu* all over again." After all, this isn't the first time we've heard their bellyaching, murmuring and complaining. For 40 years poor Moses (and God) have had to listen to this cacophony of complaint!

Which is why the parents of these grown-up children of Israel have all become little burial bumps in the hot sands

behind them. And now guess what—like father, like son; like mother, like daughter. "Our soul loathes this worthless bread." Which being interpreted means, "We're sick and tired of 40 years of this manna."

Who can blame them? You'd be tired of it, too, after 40 years. But may I remind you that it wasn't God's idea for them to eat manna that long. God was ready to lead them into the Promised Land a generation earlier!

Reminds me of this line written a century ago: "For forty years did unbelief, murmuring, and rebellion shut out ancient Israel from the land of Canaan.... We [too] may have to remain here in this world because of insubordination many more years, as did the children of Israel; but for Christ's sake, His people should not add sin to sin by charging God with the consequence of their own wrong course of action" (*Evangelism*, p. 696). Don't blame God or Moses for these 40 years of extra manna.

What is clear is that God, the Leader, has another meltdown on His hands. "So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died" (Numbers 21:6 NKJV).

I know that it sounds awful, but you've just read a fascinating insight into the character of God—breath-taking, really. God is so committed to our human freedom that He has elevated free choice as the highest of all universal liberties. In His kingdom there is no greater

freedom than the freedom to choose. Without the freedom to choose, reciprocal love could not exist, because love must not only give you the right to say YES, it must also grant you the right to say NO.

If you're a man and you put a gun up to the head of a woman and announce, "Love me, or I'll kill you," what she gives to you will not be love! You may call it rape, but you cannot call it love. Why? Because love must not only grant you the right to say YES, but also the right to say NO.

Well then, why don't you tell that to God, since it's obvious in this story that He kills the people because they don't love Him. Not so fast!

Let me show you something about the wilderness plains through which the children of Israel tramped and camped for most of those 40 years. In his farewell address to Israel, Moses reminds them of the providence of God, "who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, *in which were* fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water..." (Deuteronomy 8:15 NKJV).

Please note that these fiery serpents, so called because of the searing pain and the ensuing rapid death that their poisonous fangs inflicted on the hapless victim, are the natural inhabitants of this wilderness habitat; God did not suddenly create a slithering horde of fiery serpents to punish the children of Israel. The snakes were already there. For 40 years God's presence (and I Corinthians 10 declares it was Christ Himself), has served as a divine shield of protection against those poisonous vipers already there. But it is clear that in response to the people's dark and murmuring wishes, God honors their free choice and removes Himself from their midst, thus lifting the divine shield that had protected them all these years. Why? Because God is love, and in order for love to be love it must honor your freedom to say YES or say NO. And when Israel said NO more. God quietly took NO for an answer, and sadly walked away.

"Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, 'We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people" (Numbers 21:7 NKJV).

Moses prays ... and God responds ... in a most unusual manner ... with a three-fold instruction. "Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a *fiery* serpent, and set it on a pole; and it

shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.' So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived" (Numbers 21:8, 9 NKJV).

The End.

Because it really was the end for those who did not or would not look.

But for those victims who were tenderly carried or urgently dragged to that open tent flap... Try to imagine the desperation in your heart

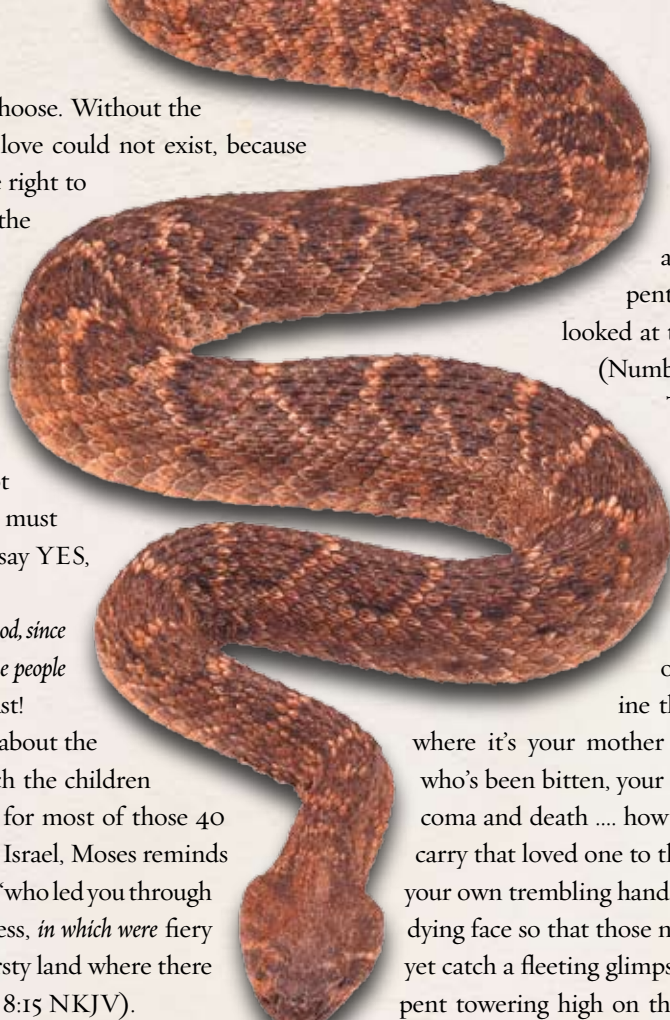
where it's your mother who is dying, your brother who's been bitten, your spouse who is on the edge of coma and death how you would have struggled to carry that loved one to the open tent flap ... how with your own trembling hands you would have turned that dying face so that those nearly-glazed-over eyes might yet catch a fleeting glimpse of that shining bronze serpent towering high on that pole in the middle of the camp... And if you had been the dying one, how desperate would have been your whispered prayer, "Take me to the pole, let me see the serpent."

Was it the bronze serpent that saved the chosen that day? Was there some sort of divine magic in that twisted brass atop the pole? Not at all. Nobody in Israel that day believed they were being cured by the bronze serpent. All who looked knew that it was by raw faith in the God who prescribed that bronze serpent that they were saved. And given the fact that Israel in murmuring complaint had just abandoned their trust in God, it is clear that this divine remedy was case specific, intentionally designed to replace their unbelief with reawakened faith and trust in God.

The remedy was simple: Look and live! Raw faith.

Which is precisely the point Jesus made in that clandestine midnight visit with Nicodemus. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:14, 15 NKJV).

Remember that the Jesus conversing with Nicodemus is the pre-incarnate Christ who devised the dramatic intervention of that bronze serpent. "I will become that serpent, Nicodemus." Can you imagine the shock on that rabbi's coun-



tenance? “As the serpent was lifted up, so I will be lifted up, Nicodemus.”

And then follow the beloved and familiar words: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Which is why the story of the serpent on the pole is much more than a snake story. It is God seizing the opportunity for another sandbox illustration.

Did they use sandboxes when you went to Sabbath school as a kid? Maybe you grew up with one in the backyard. The children of Israel had been living in one giant sandbox (literally) for 40 years. Into it God had already inserted the portable sanctuary, with all its attendant furniture, and the daily Sacrifices—all of them sandbox illustrations of God’s unfolding plan of salvation and the coming Savior. But now God thrusts into the hot sands something new—a pole with a brass snake on top.

Numbers 21 and John 3 introduce the healing metaphor into the divine plan of salvation. Whereas the lamb depicted the forgiveness of our sins, the serpent demonstrated the healing from our sins. It is the mysterious truth that in order to heal humanity, the Savior must become the very poison that was killing them (and us). It is as if an antigen (poison) is being injected mainline straight into the heart of our Savior on the cross, making available for the human race a divine antibody that might save every Earth child bitten by the dark and evil serpent.

God’s powerful healing metaphor is articulated with words like these: “Surely he has borne our griefs [the Hebrew can read “sicknesses,” for example sin’s poison] and carried our sorrows ... And by His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4, 5 NKJV).

“[Christ] Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed” (I Peter 2:24 NASB).

“For He [the Father] made Him [Christ] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (II Corinthians 5:21 NKJV).

The story of the serpent on the pole expands the shining truth of salvation. The power of the cross not only pardons us of our sins, it is also the power of God to heal us from our sins.

“Multitudes are still suffering from the deadly sting of that old serpent, the devil. The effects of sin can be removed only by the provision that God has made. Here, alone, hope and salvation can be found. As the Israelites saved their lives by looking upon the brazen serpent, so sinners can look to Christ

and live. Unlike that inert and lifeless symbol, Christ has power and virtue in Himself, to heal the suffering, repenting, bleeding sinner” (*Signs of the Times*, October 28, 1880).

How then shall the chosen be healed? Just like Israel of old, we must look to the pole; we must gaze upon the cross. It is the only antidote in the universe with the power to heal us from the poison of our sins. No matter our sins—whether they are sins of the mind or of the flesh or of the eyes or of the appetite or of the ego—Calvary is the only but all-powerful antidote to our fatal poison! Look to the cross!

And lest we conclude that our sins are hardly worth mentioning, since after all we’re “the chosen,” let us find comfort in the power of the cross to heal us of the toxicity of our spiritual pride. I am deeply concerned that with so distinctive a message and so countercultural a lifestyle—as the chosen have been called by God to embrace—the chosen are in danger of being duped into thinking that our salvation is somehow predicated upon our counterculturalness, our radical obedience, our distinctive teachings. But the serpent on the pole declares radically otherwise. For it is clear that all the righteous living in the world will never save the righteous or the wicked or the chosen. For the chosen are not saved because they are chosen—they are chosen because they are saved. Which is why we must look to the cross of Jesus—it is the only antidote that can save us.

“If you will only do your part and bow at the cross of Calvary, you will receive the blessing of God. God loves you. He does not wish to draw you nigh to Him to hurt you, oh, no; but to comfort you, to pour in the oil of rejoicing, to heal the wounds that sin has made, to bind up where Satan has bruised.... Will you bow low at the foot of the cross? Jesus will place His arms around you, and comfort you. Will you do this without further delay?” (*Review and Herald*, March 4, 1890)

Look to the cross ... and live!

What would happen if the chosen bowed at the foot of the cross every morning of this new year? A few years ago my friend, Roger Morneau, taught me to read the story of Calvary (Matthew 27:24–54) every morning. Trust me—it will change your life! Want to join me there each morning of the journey ahead? Where better to find the freedom of Christ and the healing of the Savior?

And as the story of the serpent on the pole makes clear, it’s the only way the story of the chosen can end in the Promised Land.

Dwight Nelson is the senior pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan. This article is adapted from a sermon series, “The Chosen: Snakes in the Cradle,” and the style published reflects the spoken word. Used with permission. To listen to the entire sermon series, visit www.pmhchurch.tv.



Redefining Liberty

BY VERNON L. ALGER

Where on society's scale do you place individual religious freedom relative to economics? Many issues regarding individual freedoms and rights are being decided, not on merits of principle, but on the economic implications. The Workplace Religious Freedom Act has been introduced in, but not passed by, the last five or six U.S. congresses. Labor fears religious accommodation will interfere with seniority, and management fears that it will reduce employer discretion.

Matters of religious conscience, such as Sabbath observance, are being treated as issues of social preference rather than conviction. Many employees are unconscionably being forced to choose between fidelity to God and their livelihood.

In 1985, the United States Supreme Court held that a Connecticut statute requiring employers to grant an absolute accommodation of Sabbath observance by their employees to be unconstitutional because of its "unyielding weighting" in favor of Sabbath observers over all other interests. But the pendulum has swung too far the other way! One employer presented as its "reasonable accommodation" of Sabbath observance, the sending of an "official" letter on company letterhead "authorizing" the employee's pastor to grant permission to work on Sabbath. Another employer allowed the employee time off to attend church, but fired her when she did not work after church. If the "accommodation" does not relieve the tension between the employee's entire religious belief and the employer's work rules, there is no accommodation.

A jury foreman in a case recently lost for a Sabbatarian said, "I am a religious man, and if I had to work every Sunday, I'd

be looking for a different job. But in the past 15 years, I've only had to miss church seven or eight times because of work. If you want to keep your job, you have to compromise your religion occasionally." Clearly, the religious experience of others is being applied in judging our religious beliefs and standards.

An Adventist nurse advised her employer she could not conscientiously do routine nursing duty on Sabbath, but was willing to provide emergency care. In response, the employer noted that an Adventist hospital in the region provided routine nursing care on Sabbath. I asked the employer, "Would you want her, by working here on Sabbath, to violate her conscience?" I pointed out that a person who violates her conscience in one way may be tempted to do so in other ways as well. The employer ultimately accommodated her convictions, and she was a tremendous witness when she was able to fill in for other employees during a Sabbath snowstorm.

We are in an election year. Be informed! You can expect a lot of religious rhetoric in the upcoming campaigns. Sometimes the more politicians talk about religion, the less religious they really are. We may agree with some of these political positions affecting the exercise of religion, but their negative effects on the separation of government control and religious freedom may be the germination of future problems. Free choice is a fundamental of God's love, and majorities, or vocal minorities, must never be permitted to use the government's authority to compromise our religious freedom.

Vernon L. Alger is director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Lake Union Conference. For assistance or further information, contact Vernon L. Alger at <http://luc.adventist.org>.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY:

- ▶ Be an informed and active citizen.
- ▶ Extend the same understanding and courtesy to others that you would want them to extend to you.
- ▶ Don't look to the government to legislate your religious beliefs. Live your convictions, winning people over to your beliefs rather than expecting the government to enforce them.
- ▶ Be aware of incongruent arguments, such as opposing governmental responsibility for health care while expecting the government to educate your children, which may have eternal implications.
- ▶ Be a good employee. It is much easier to defend a person who has integrity, and is an asset to the company.
- ▶ When seeking employment, be forthright and specific about Sabbath observance or any other area where your conscience may clash with duties.
- ▶ Remember that churches and 501(c)(3) organizations cannot legally participate in the political process by endorsing candidates or political parties.
- ▶ Make your voice heard as an individual, but be aware that you cannot write your congressman on behalf of your church.



RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

BY GEORGE W. TRUETT

Years ago, at a notable dinner in London, that world-famed statesman, John Bright, asked an American statesman, the noble Dr. J.L.M. Curry, “What distinct contribution has your America made to the science of government?” To that question Dr. Curry replied: “The doctrine of religious liberty.” After a moment’s reflection, Mr. Bright made the worthy reply: “It was a tremendous contribution.”

Indeed, the supreme contribution of the new world to the old is the contribution of religious liberty. This is the chiefest contribution that America has thus far made to civilization.

It is the natural and fundamental and indefeasible right of every human being to worship God or not, according to the dictates of his conscience, and, as long as he does not infringe upon the rights of others, he is to be held accountable alone to God for all religious beliefs and practices. Our contention is not for mere toleration, but for absolute liberty. There is a wide difference between toleration and liberty. Toleration implies that somebody falsely claims the right to tolerate. Toleration is a concession, while liberty is a right. Toleration is a matter of expediency, while liberty is a matter of principle. Toleration is a gift from man, while

liberty is a gift from God. Religion must be forever voluntary and uncoerced. It is not the prerogative of any power, whether civil or ecclesiastical, to compel men to conform to any religious creed or form of worship, or to pay taxes for the support of a religious organization to which they do not belong and in whose creed they do not believe. God wants free worshipers and no other kind.

Ideas rule the world. A denomination is moulded by its ruling principles, just as a nation is thus moulded and just as an individual life is thus moulded. Christ is the one head of the church. All authority has been committed unto him, in heaven and on earth, and he must be given the absolute preeminence in all things. One clear note is ever to be sounded concerning him, even this, “Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.”

The Bible, and the Bible alone, is the rule of faith and practice. To [us] the one standard by which all creeds and conduct and character must be tried is the Word of God. [We] ask only one question concerning all religious faith and practice, and that question is, "What saith the Word of God?" Not traditions, nor customs, nor councils, nor confessions, nor ecclesiastical formularies, however venerable and pretentious, guide [us], but simply and solely the will of Christ.

When we turn to [the] New Testament, which is Christ's guidebook and law for His people, we find that supreme emphasis is everywhere put upon the individual. The individual is segregated from family, from church, from state, and from society, from dearest earthly friends or institution, and brought into direct, personal dealings with God. Every one must give account of himself to God. There can be no sponsors or deputies or proxies in such vital matter. Each one must repent for himself, and believe for himself, and be baptized for himself, and answer to God for himself, both in time and in eternity. The clarion cry of John the Baptist is to the individual, "Think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." One man can no more repent and believe and obey Christ for another than he can take the other's place at God's judgment bar. Neither persons nor institutions, however dear and powerful, may dare to come between the individual soul and God. "There is ... one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Let the state and the church, let the institution, however dear, and the person, however near, stand aside, and let the individual soul make its own direct and immediate response to God. One is our pontiff, and His name is Jesus. The undelegated sovereignty of Christ makes it forever impossible for His saving grace to be manipulated by any system of human mediation whatsoever.

The right to private judgment is the crown jewel of humanity, and for any person or institution to dare to come between the soul and God is a blasphemous impertinence and a defamation of the crown rights of the Son of God.

Out of these two fundamental principles, the supreme authority of the Scriptures and the right of private judgment, have come all the historic protests in Europe and England and America against unscriptural creeds, polity and rites, and against the unwarranted and impertinent assumption of reli-

gious authority over men's consciences, whether by church or by state. [We] regard as an enormity any attempt to force the conscience, or to constrain men, by outward penalties, to this or that form of religious belief. Persecution may make men hypocrites, but it will not make them Christians.

In the very nature of the case, also, there must be no union between church and state, because their nature and functions are utterly different. Jesus stated the principle in the two sayings, "My kingdom is not of this world," and "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's."

Every state church on the earth is a spiritual tyranny. And just as long as there is left upon this earth any state church, in any land, (our task) will that long remain unfinished. (Our) cry has been and is and must ever be this:

"Let Caesar's dues be paid
To Caesar and his throne;
But consciences and souls were made
To be the Lord's alone."

That utterance of Jesus, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's," is one of the most revolutionary and history-making utterances that ever fell from those lips divine. That utterance, once for all, marked the divorcement of church and state. It marked a new era for the creeds and deeds of men. It was the sunrise gun of a new day, the echoes of which are to go on and on and on until in every land, whether great or small, the doctrine shall have absolute supremacy everywhere of a free church in a free state.

I am compelled to say that forgetfulness of the principles that I have just enumerated, in our judgment, explains many of the religious ills that now afflict the world. All went well with the early churches in their earlier days. They were incomparably triumphant days for the Christian faith. Those early disciples of Jesus, without prestige and worldly power, yet aflame with the love of God and the passion of Christ, went out and shook the pagan Roman Empire from center to circumference, even in one brief generation. Christ's religion needs no prop of any kind from any worldly source, and to the degree that it is thus supported is a millstone hanged about its neck.

George W. Truett was the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, on May 16, 1920, when he delivered this historic address to 10,000-15,000 people from the East Steps of the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Source: Truett, G. (1920, May 16). "Baptists and Religious Liberty." *Christian Ethics Today*. Retrieved December 3, 2007, <http://www.christianethicstoday.com/Issue/032>. ©2000-2007. Used with permission from The Christian Ethics Today Foundation, adapted.



Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital Opens its Doors

After three decades of planning, the community of Bolingbrook, Ill., finally has a hospital to call their very own. When Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital opened this month, it was the first new hospital to open in the state in 25 years. Today, the residents of this growing suburb of Chicago have access to exceptional medical services close to home.

“Everything within the hospital has been chosen to create a better healing environment for the patient, from the state-of-the-art medical equipment to the amenities in the private patient rooms,” said Isaac Palmer, CEO of Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, “To every thing there is a season.” Based on that verse, the hospital’s floors are themed by a season. Winter means hope, which is what Jesus brought to us. Spring means cheer—something new is coming. Summer reflects love—the essence of what Jesus taught while on Earth. Autumn is about change; in life, sometimes we have to adjust ourselves to be successful.

At a special dedication event held in November, guests received a stone engraved with “hope,” “cheer,” “love” or “change.” Palmer asked that the stones serve as reminder of how God can touch lives in the community as

the hospital extends Christ’s healing ministry to the people it serves.

“In almost every story about Jesus, He reached out and touched those He healed—even a man with leprosy,” said David L. Crane, president and CEO of Adventist Midwest Health. “Two thousand years later, a small group at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital has the chance to do the same thing. It’s a unique opportunity to serve a God who loves us.”



Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital celebrated its grand opening with several special events, including a special dedication ceremony. Pictured (from left): Roger Claar, mayor of Bolingbrook; David L. Crane, president and CEO, Adventist Midwest Health; Walter L. Wright, chairman, Adventist Health System; David Hankus, minister, St. Francis Church in Bolingbrook, Ill.; Isaac Palmer, CEO, Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital; and John Rapp, regional vice president, Ministries & Mission, Adventist Midwest Health

In the weeks prior to the opening, many celebrations were held, including a grand opening event where hundreds of community members toured the facility. Guests were impressed by the special touches throughout. Nature-inspired respites help promote serenity, while large windows in each patient room produce a tranquil atmosphere to encourage healing.

“It used to be that hospitals were a place you went to die,” said Walter L. Wright, chairman, Adventist Health

System. “Now it is a place that brings hope. There’s hope you’ll be able to return home better than you were before.”

With amenities such as high-quality linens, robes and gowns, as well as Internet service and flat screen televisions, patients will feel like they are at home.

“We are moving away from the institutional and towards the personal,” said Palmer. “It’s those special touches

coupled with advanced technology and outstanding, expert physicians and nurses that will help us set a new standard for health-care.”

At each pre-opening event, prayers were given to bless and dedicate the facility to the community, physicians and staff. One special guest, Rear Admiral Barry C. Black (Ret.), chaplain of the U.S. Senate, gave this blessing:

“Help us build a place where people will not only be healed, but where people will be

whole,” Black prayed. “May this house of healing be a redemptive force in a troubled world.”

“We know through our prayers we can unleash great things,” Crane said. “We want to take this hospital and present it to our Father and say, ‘Lord, we want You to bless this hospital each day.’ This is a spiritual journey, not only for us, but for our community as well.”

Julie L. Busch, public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health

Questions on Doctrine Conference Opens Way to Healthier Theological Dialogue

More than 200 scholars, pastors, administrators and lay members of the Adventist church gathered at Andrews University from Oct. 24 to 27, 2007, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Seventh-day Adventists Answer Questions on Doctrine*, a book released as a response to doctrinal inquiries by conservative Protestants in the mid-1950s. During the past half-century, the book has been the subject of an intense debate among many Adventists—centering on the book’s treatment of the human nature of Christ.

Many of the participants at the *Questions on Doctrine* 50th Anniversary Conference had been part of that contentious debate. “I think it is safe to say that no prominent players in the controversy ... were left out,” said Robert Johnston, professor emeritus of New Testament at Andrews University who chaired a panel discussion. “Every possible view that could be reasonably discovered was credibly represented.”

Though there were some concerns that this conference would itself lead to new controversies, the spirit

Dana Kendall Returns to Her Alma Mater

This fall Andrews welcomed back Dana Kendall as an assistant professor of psychology. Kendall returns to the Behavioral Sciences Department, where she spent her undergraduate years from 1995 to 1999. “I liked it so much, I had to come back,” she said.

After graduating from Andrews in 1999, Kendall attended graduate school at the University of Central Florida, where she specialized in industrial/organizational psychology. For her graduate research, Kendall conducted a study in which she paired freshmen with seniors in an anonymous, online mentoring program. She was aided by her husband Scott, a computer programmer, who set up the technical end of the experiment.

Kendall hopes to set up a similar mentoring program at Andrews. Rather than teaming up students with other students, however, Kendall envi-

sions a system that connects students with alumni out in the working world. She also hopes to initiate various support groups on campus, to reach out to people in the Adventist church who suffer from problems that they keep to themselves. “If you are not broken, why do you need any grace?” she asks. “The Bible is so clear about comforting one another,”

Kendall says. “I don’t think we do that as much as we could.

“Psychology is just such a fascinating field, and so intertwined with spirituality, mind and heart,” says Kendall. “I like to get students to stretch their minds.”



Dana Kendall

Anthony James

Robert Moncrieff, student news writer,
University Relations

exhibited by the participants of the conference was anything but contentious. Colin Standish, president of Hartland Institute who presented a paper, remarked that this was “one of the most inspiring conferences” he has attended. Roy Adams, associate editor of *Adventist Review* who also gave a presentation, observed that such an

atmosphere was possible because “just about everyone was compelled to adjust their attitude” to be more sensitive toward each other’s views, “even if minds may not necessarily have changed.”

Not only did cordiality mark each session, but also some healing took place among participants. “This conference ... gave people the long-needed

opportunity to share their views, listen to others’ positions, and start to heal relationships that have been damaged for so long,” said Bronwen Larson, an attendee from Loma Linda, Calif.

Another attendee, Lisa Clark Diller of Collegedale, Tenn., observed that “there was so much tear-shedding and constant reaffirmation of the Christian love that we share that I know the Spirit moved in really powerful ways.” She continued, “Hopefully, from now on, people will recognize that it is too easy to caricature people you disagree with and that face-to-face prayer and study are the way to have unity in diversity.”

All the papers presented at the conference and the video recordings of all the sessions will be available in January on the conference Web page at <http://qod.andrews.edu>.

University Relations staff



Attendees at the conference participated in Communion during the final Sabbath morning service in the chapel of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

Rebekah Heblis

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Television Judge Greg Mathis Honors His Alma Mater

Lake Region—Millions have seen him on his nationwide TV show, dispensing justice in his own charismatic style. But Greg Mathis' own rise to success has been a trial by fire. Even jail couldn't keep him from doing wrong over and over again. It was then that his mother (the late Alice Mathis) enrolled him at Peterson-Warren Academy for one of his many encounters with God. Later in years, when his beloved mother got sick, Mathis was shaken with the threat of losing her. He remembered the religious teachings of this God-fearing woman and the church school he came to love. Mathis thus offered a prayer and a promise to God to save his mom, and in return, he would straighten up and make something of his life.



William Joseph (right), City Temple Church pastor, thanks Greg Mathis of the "Judge Mathis" television show for his generous financial contribution to Peterson-Warren Academy.

It was with this thought in mind that Mathis, of the CBS hit program the "Judge Mathis" show, pledged to



Juanita Martin, Peterson-Warren Academy principal (right), greets Greg Mathis of the "Judge Mathis" television show, and accepts his generous offer to match funds raised for the school before the next alumni weekend.

give his alma mater, Peterson-Warren Academy, located in Inkster, Mich., one percent of his salary for the next year. In his moving speech at City Temple Church's 100 Years of Glory and Praise Celebration banquet on Oct. 22, 2007, Mathis expressed his appreciation to the school and especially to Juanita Martin, now principal, for teaching and mentoring him while a student in her classroom. He also encouraged the audience of more than 600 in attendance at the banquet to appreciate and respect what our church school teachers are doing for our children. It's because of this positive influence and the love of his dear mother that Mathis was compelled to make a generous donation to Peterson-Warren Academy.

In speaking with the audience, Mathis challenged each one of them to likewise follow his lead by pledging one percent of their salary for a year as well. Mathis, who was obviously moved and touched by his own words, and to everyone's surprise, promised that along with the one percent of his salary he would also match dime for dime whatever dollar amount Martin and her staff could raise by the next Peterson-Warren Academy Alumni Week-

end, Sept. 12-14, 2008. Martin, with the help of God, is looking forward to raising \$200,000!

This is not the first time that Mathis has been a generous alumnus; however, this latest gift will be his greatest contribution to any one organization. We thank God that Mathis has not forgotten his ties to Peterson-Warren Academy nor his warm regard for its faculty.

Ray Young, Lake Region communication director, as shared by Juanita Martin, Ed.D., Peterson-Warren Academy principal

Battle Creek Academy Students Enjoy Harvest Festival

Michigan—As an alternative activity, Battle Creek Academy (BCA) held its annual "Harvest Festival" in October. Students were invited to stay after school and dress up as a biblical character of their choice. The program began in the BCA chapel where the Witnessing class led the elementary students in songs and prayer. Students then were involved in various activities, from an outdoor scavenger hunt to decorating (and eating!) cookies. Students learned, through skits and games, to celebrate Christ's love and sacrifice



Omar Perez and Isaac Gillett have fun decorating cookies at the Harvest Festival.

for them. Each student left the festival with a small gift and a renewed appreciation for the stories of the Bible.

Wendy Keough, marketing and recruitment co-director, Battle Creek Academy

Students Band Together at Battle Creek Academy

Michigan—Christian instrumentalists in grades seven through 12 have been invited to attend the annual *Band Together* festival at Battle Creek Academy (BCA). From January 31 through February 2, young Christians will gather at the academy with the common goal of musical performance.

Band Together participants will come from many southwest Michigan schools to enhance their musical performance skills. In years past, more than 100 students have attended the event. The number is expected to be even greater this year.

Students will maintain a rigorous schedule of rehearsals and sectionals before closing the festival with a



Battle Creek Academy band students look forward to playing new music and seeing old friends at the 2008 *Band Together* festival.

final concert, but they will not only be thinking about music while at the festival. They will also have the opportunity to meet many young Christians and focus on teamwork. Michele Stark, BCA band director and *Band Together* coordinator, says the festival is “a wonderful opportunity for our students to come together with a common goal.”

To ensure that the 2008 event would run smoothly, Stark began planning this year’s event as early as last school year. Housing at the Historic Adventist Village has been reserved for

some festival participants and their sponsors. Meals for the participants will be provided by the BCA “Band Boosters” and various donors. The *Band Together* clinician will

be Jerry Rose, band director at Pennfield High School in Battle Creek.

The festival is a chance for BCA and Seventh-day Adventists to make a lasting impression on the community. The *Band Together* concert will be open to the public and is scheduled to take place on Sat., Feb. 2, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at BCA. Please show your support for the students by attending this important event in historical Battle Creek.

Wendy Keough, marketing and recruitment co-director, Battle Creek Academy

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Groups Give Thanks by the Plateful

Michigan—Lisa Henderson, her husband and five children moved into a new house 11 days ago, and since the family doesn’t have a stove yet, they were grateful for the hot meal that the Detroit Northwest Seventh-day Adventist Church offered to them on Thanksgiving Day.

“Yams, macaroni and cheese, cake and pie and juice,” said Henderson, 42, of Detroit. “You name it, we ate it.”

The church served meals to about 97 people by 4:30 p.m. as part of its first Brightmoor Community Thanksgiving Feast. It was among several organizations that offered meals to the needy on Thursday.

At the Masonic Temple, the Salvation Army served breakfast to 1,500 people and then dinner to about 500 at the Harbor Light Center in Detroit.

“We had wonderful volunteers,” said Cindy Mainville, administrator of the Harbor Light program. “Everything is done by volunteers.

They did a wonderful job.”

Mainville said after the meals were finished, some of the people who received them stayed to help clean up.

Cory Jackson, pastor, tried to foster the same type of community spirit at the Detroit Northwest Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“Our goal is to nurture and feed people one at a time—spiritually and physically,” Jackson said.

Jackson, who has served as pastor for about a year, came up with the Thanksgiving event as a way to engage the neighborhood, said Deborah Cole, the church’s communications director.

“He came in with a real fire to do something for the community,” Cole said. “And Brightmoor is one of the poorest neighborhoods in Detroit.”

Organizers also wanted to encourage healthy eating and created a vegetarian feast, Cole said, especially since African-American families are plagued by elevated rates of high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol.

“We want people to know they can eat well, it can be very tasty, and the food can be healthy,” Cole said.



Detroit Northwest Seventh-day Adventist Church members opened their doors on Thanksgiving to provide a hearty vegetarian meal to those in need.

The church also handed out boxes of food, including cans of tomato soup, chili and corn, to all the families who attended.

Henderson said her family had a “lovely” time.

“We got to meet a lot of different people,” she said. “They are so helpful and friendly. I think this is a beautiful thing.”

Jackson said he plans to have the event grow each year.

“We are commissioned to reach out to the community,” he said.

Jennifer Mrozowski, reporter, *The Detroit News*. Reprinted with permission, originally published Nov. 23, 2007.

A Night of Reformation Provides Positive Alternative to Halloween

Michigan—Oct. 31 is a significant day, but not because of Halloween!

Joni Rogers, a Cedar Lake Church member, was tired of being bombarded with trick-or-treaters every Oct. 31. She and her husband Steve took their daughter, Josi, to the nursing home dressed as an angel in an effort to teach her to think of others, instead of ghosts and goblins, and lots of candy. When Josi got a little older, Steve and Joni read to her about Martin Luther and showed her videos about him and the Protestant Reformation. But it seemed way over her head.

Glancing through *World* magazine one day, Joni came upon a curriculum for *A Night of Reformation*. Something stirred within her as she read. Was



Visitors had an opportunity to nail the "95 Theses" to a replica of the Wittenberg Castle Church door.

this what God was leading them to? As she looked into it further and prayed, God seemed to be saying, "Go for it!" The idea was to provide a positive activity for young people on a night when so many celebrate a non-Christian holiday. As Family Ministries leader at the Cedar Lake Church, Joni approached her pastor, Mickey Mallory, with the idea to make our Protestant heritage come alive and provide a positive

alternative to Halloween. Mallory was enthusiastic, and after presenting it to the church board he gave them the "green light."

But by then it was already August, so the Rogers began to plan in earnest! Scouring every second-hand store and garage sale for period costumes and props, they also wrote their own script around the program they had purchased. Hours of research were invested.

But this was for the kids! So, Joni asked the Cedar Lake Elementary School to get involved. They responded enthusiastically, and created art projects to display, wrote stories about Martin Luther, and enjoyed reading a special book Joni loaned on Martin

Luther's life. Church members were also invited to get involved. During an announcement for volunteers, Joni asked the children to raise their hand if they were Protestant. Very few raised their hands. When Joni asked the "Something Else" Sabbath school class to participate, they were happy to join, and someone said, "There's a group of us who still like to play dress-up!"

It was decided that the elementary school gymnasium was the location. After much work and preparation, Oct. 31 finally arrived. With more than 40 volunteers, the gym was transformed into a dimly-lit version of the 1500s, and adults and children began to experience what life in Martin Luther's time may have been like. Visitors were handed a brochure, explaining the ten stops, and each group had a youth tour guide. The stops included stations



Monks in costume helped A Night of Reformation visitors "go back in time."

depicting the lightning bolt that struck Luther at age 19, a bishop's table, the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church, the Elster Gate, the Diet of Worms, the Kidnapping, Luther Translates the New Testament, Luther Returns to Wittenberg, the Monk Marries a Nun, and the Protest of the Princes.*

Interwoven into the fabric of the night was live music by local musicians, ranging from harp, hammered dulcimer, mandolin and recorders, to a saw played with a violin bow. A town crier roamed the gym heralding different messages, such as "You left your carriage lights on," or "Someone's pig is loose!" "Tetsel" roamed around trying to sell "indulgences" to the visitors. The room was filled with monks, nuns and cardinals who wanted to dress like the time period. This all added to the feeling of going back in time.

On the back of the brochure was a quiz to test the visitors' knowledge after their journey. In a separate room, visitors could watch the video, "Where Martin Luther Walked," view craft projects made by the Cedar Lake Elementary students, or learn more at another table about Martin Luther's life. At 7:30 p.m., everyone came together and sang "A Mighty Fortress Is our God," which was written by Martin Luther. This was a fitting end to the evening.

That was all last year. On Oct. 31, 2007, *A Night of Reformation* came alive a second time. This year it was opened to the community with advertisements



A royal couple, Lyris and David Barroso, supervised a table where the children made the "stained glass" windows.

on the radio, posters in area businesses, and by personal invitations. Again, a huge crowd turned out and was blessed.

So what's the impact of the evening? "I think it was a marvelous, educational alternative to Halloween. The kids not only got treats, but are learning something important along the way in a safe environment," said Bob Jensen who played the part of the cardinal.

"It helps our children to know their Christian roots," stated Cindy Peterson, Bible teacher at Great Lakes Adventist Academy.

"This was great! I didn't know Martin Luther got struck by lightning!" said Donovan Smith, a sixth grader at Cedar Lake Elementary.

"Halloween has changed since I was a kid," said Rodney Allen, a sophomore at Great Lakes Adventist Academy who was a tour guide. "Kids can stay in a safe environment and not go out and knock on scary people's doors."

Joni and Steve have seen God's hand in this endeavor. "It was such a blessing to do God's will," said Joni. "I

felt called by God to do this—to see that learning history through experience is so beneficial for both kids and adults. I learned so much about Martin Luther and the Reformation, and it really took me to *The Great Controversy* to read how much Ellen White had to say about the Reformation and how we need to see a reformation in our hearts."

Joni's favorite quote throughout this was, "We dare not tamper with God's word, dividing His holy law; calling one portion essential and another nonessential, to gain the favor of the world. The Lord whom we serve is able to deliver us. Christ has conquered the powers of the earth; and shall we be afraid of a world already conquered?" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 610)

Yes, Oct. 31 is a significant day—it's the day Martin Luther nailed the "95 Theses" to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. If you're interested in providing a positive alternative for the young Protestants in your church or community, e-mail Steve and Joni at lrbgeh@yahoo.com. See what God can do through you!

Arlene Leavitt, Cedar Lake Church communication leader

*Station descriptions are available online at www.lakeunionherald.org

Capitol City Church Hosts Veteran's Appreciation and Awareness Day

Lake Region—Sabbath, Nov. 3, 2007, was Veteran's Appreciation and Awareness Day at Capitol City Seventh-day Adventist Church in Indianapolis. Phillip Willis Sr., a retired Air Force chaplain and Lake Region Conference personal ministries director, spoke for divine worship.

Salient points of Willis' message reminded us of the appreciation due to veterans for the freedom and democracy

we enjoy as a direct result of their service and sacrifice. Willis struck relevant chords with other veterans with his citations of some military chants and his sharing of heroine experiences as a "grunt" or infantryman in the Vietnam War. Willis underscored that the shed blood of Jesus is the only life-saving and emancipating blood of people and all nations.



Phillip Willis Sr., a retired Air Force chaplain and present Lake Region Conference personal ministries director, delivers the keynote message, "Be Strong in the Lord," at the divine worship service.

The afternoon program featured Thomas Harris. A former Vietnam War veteran, Harris presented a seminar titled, "The Veteran's Spiritual Disconnection (VSD)," answering questions such as: How does it feel to fight a war that you know very little about, much less agree with, and were drafted to fight? How do you recognize the signs? and How can the church help?

According to Harris, being a participant of war can drastically and dramatically affect the mental, emotional, psychological and ultimately the spiritual well-being of veterans of war. Harris identified several causes that may contribute to VSD, including steps the military uses to indoctrinate soldiers with a "killer instinct." According to Harris, the instinct is designed to prepare the soldier to survive unfriendly territory, protect his comrade soldiers, and seek out and destroy the enemy.



The afternoon program featured Thomas Harris, who presented the topic, "The Veteran's Spiritual Disconnection." Harris stated that the love of Christ shown him through members at Capitol City Church assisted his spiritual reconnection with Jesus Christ.

In many cases, such indoctrination, combined with combat fighting on the battlefield, results in "psychic numbing." "You are psychically numbed when you can cut off the ears and fingers of the enemy and wear them as a necklace around your neck," recounted Harris of his own war interactions.

Harris cited mental health experts describing the disconnection of one's conscious or feelings apart from being affected by human suffering and even taking the life of another. "This numbing also results in perhaps the deepest level of numbing," said Harris. This is "spiritual numbing" where the seat of one's conscious resides. Spiritual deadening ultimately results in "the veteran's spiritual disconnect," said Harris. While often a very slow process, it may only be cured by helping those who are disconnected to reconnect with Jesus Christ.

Harris informed that many Vietnam War veterans experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). PTSD is a normal, psychological and emotional reaction to something traumatic over a period of time. According to Harris, some of the signs and symptoms are flashbacks, inability to sleep, mistrust, emotional irritability and periods of unexplainable rage, among other emotional problems. These are debilitating effects of war on many veterans which also contribute to VSD.

Early on, many Vietnam War veterans were misdiagnosed with substance abuse or other problems, rather than PTSD, said Harris. He stated that much

of this emotional dysfunction could have been helped if there were adjustment services for veterans. Such services were vital to a veteran's ability to return to normalcy before returning them to the U.S. and their family only days after having been involved in graphic combat. According to Harris, these factors also contribute to VSD. Exposure to machine gun fire, running for cover, bombing plans, being awakened in the night to enemy warning sirens, and killing and witness of same can contribute to VSD.

In the mid 1980s, Harris worked as a Veteran Center Team leader in Indianapolis. In the early 1980s, veteran centers were set up nationally to assist the return and readjustment of Vietnam War veterans back into civilian life.



Veterans present at the evening program represented former and retired veterans of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Army reservists. From left (back): Jessie Moore, James Ockletree, Tom Harris, James Cartwright and Carl Wofford; (front) Rafael Warrnick, Charles Anderson, Barbara Woods, Sherry Hayden and Ulysses Chapman

This meant helping the veterans cope with the deep impressions and mental scars of firefights, and literal bloodbaths resulting in the loss of limb, the lives of fellow soldiers, the "enemy," and innocent children.

In some cases, the mission of veteran centers meant helping veterans diffuse sheer hate and forgive themselves for a cause which they were forced to participate, but did not agree. Harris shared stories of how he received calls to his home phone in the middle of the night from Vietnam War veterans in

crisis who felt they would kill somebody or themselves unless help reached them fast. Harris recounted how he responded to many such calls.

Harris' presentation was strategic to the bottom line of ministry everywhere. Jesus' example shows that effective ministry is meeting the needs of people. This follows a decision for Christ. Harris' presentation addressed current and past needs which often confront veterans of war, and their families.

Effective church response begins with awareness, followed by understanding, fellowship, supportive congregational integration and professional referrals, where appropriate. Harris shared how he suffered from VSD for more than 40 years, and that it was just five years ago that he finally met restoration of his mind and soul and reconnection with Jesus through the love shown him at the Capitol City Seventh-day Adventist Church.

On multiple levels, Harris' presentation produced an appreciation for veterans' service and sacrifice, awareness of emotional and spiritual challenges which confront veterans of war, discussion of how the Adventist Church may meet present needs of war veterans, and steps the Adventist Church may take to expand its ministries by preparing to meet the projected increased demand for spiritual-based

services being requested by veterans of Desert Storm and the current Iraq War.

Bryan Chapman, communications department,
Capitol City (Indianapolis, Ind.) Church

Thomas Harris is a former Veteran Center Team leader, former member of the National Advisory Committee on Veteran's Readjustment, and Executive Board member of the Congressional Black Caucus Brain Trust on Veteran's Issues. Readers may contact Tom Harris by e-mail at Harris746786@aol.com.

Hinsdale Church Celebrates Centennial

Illinois—The hymn, “Great Is Thy Faithfulness,” repeated three times throughout the weekend, and was tied into the theme, “Celebrating God’s faithfulness,” for the centennial celebration at Hinsdale Adventist Church Friday and Sabbath, Oct. 26 and 27.

Highlight of the Friday evening event, titled “Our 100 Years,” was *Dr. David Paulson Live*, a one-man show, performed by Richard Garey. In David Paulson’s words, the audience learned that this Adventist medical pioneer laid the foundation for Adventism in Hinsdale by starting the Hinsdale Sanitarium (now Adventist Hinsdale Hospital). The employees, all Adventists, met as a small group for three years before organizing the church in 1907. The group also started a Christian school that evolved into today’s Hinsdale Adventist Academy.

The audience learned about David’s business partner—God. David and his wife Mary (both physicians) came to Hinsdale with no money. None. Their first need was for \$100 to clear the property from overgrown weeds and grass. Together David and Mary walked

into the midst of the overgrowth, knelt and prayed. Two days later, someone walked into David’s brother’s office in Chicago and asked, “Does the doctor need some money out in Hinsdale?”

His brother responded, “My brother always needs money.”

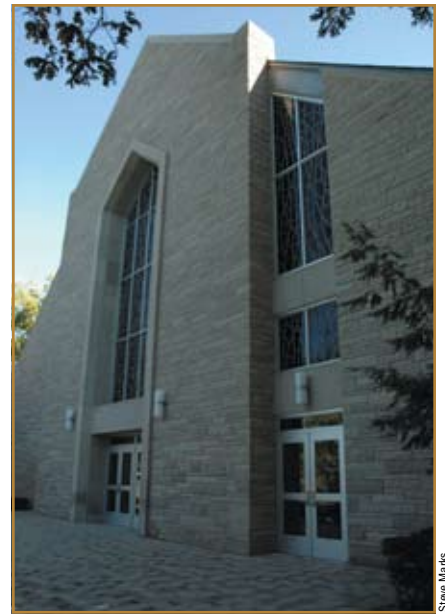
The man plunked down exactly \$100. When they built a wing of the hospital, they ran out of money before the roof was installed. David called his employees together for a prayer session. Within a week, they were offered a \$1,500 loan. This happened over and over and over again.

A few years later, David said, “If we take courage, we can know that God is working out a pattern that will last for eternity. ... To all outward appearances, we may not seem very promising, but if we are willing to be placed.... You see, we are in Hinsdale; God placed us here. He placed this church here.”

Friday evening special music came from *Ladies of the Sanctuary Choir*, *One Faith* and the *180 Worship Band*. Josie Plass led the congregational singing and responsive readings.

Sabbath morning began with “Reflections of God’s Guidance” as Richard Habenicht, associate pastor 1978–1985, led a session that reflected on Hinsdale Sabbath schools of 100 years ago. Cherry Habenicht read a

1907 secretary’s report that revealed an attendance of 40 and a mission offering of \$1.05, an average of 2¢ per person. Compared to the same Sabbath this year, attendance was 251 with 157 in the adult division, and a mission offering of \$157 or \$1 per adult member. But that’s not the entire story. Richard revealed that the Hinsdale Church has spawned six congregations: Downers Grove, Burr Ridge, Bolingbrook, Fil-Am,



Hinsdale Church members met in various parts of Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital for 40 years. The present Hinsdale Church building was completed in February 1970.

Steve Harris

a Korean group and the All Nations Church. Add the membership of these six churches to the mother church, and the total membership comes to 1,419.

A panel of past pastors, led by Larry Milliken, reviewed the week’s Bible study. Mel Palmer was Sabbath school superintendent. Vocalist Jackie Denis provided special music.

Richard Fearing, senior pastor 1957–1963, presented the message from God’s Word, entitled “A Small Black Cloud,” the manner of Christ’s Second Coming. Fearing emphasized, “When that small, black cloud appears, history as we know it will be culminated. ... And that small, black cloud grows and fills the sky. It’s beyond picturing. We cannot fully grasp the sight, the reunion of the ages—lasting forever. ... The hopes, the beliefs, the dreams of millions, since the time of Adam, will be realized.”

One Faith led the praise singing. *Ladies of the Sanctuary Choir* and violinist Roxanna Goldstein provided special music.

Dignitaries at the worship service included Judy Biggert, congresswoman;



Hinsdale Sanitarium leaders in 1910 were also church members. From left (seated): Caroline Clough, secretary to David Paulson; Rosa Andre, matron; D.K. Pearsons, a physician and patient; Lucy Page Gaston, patient; Mary Paulson, physician; Lillian Santee, head nurse; (standing): Horace E. Hoyt, treasurer; David Paulson, physician, superintendent, church pastor; A.V. Oliver, nurse; and N.W. Paulson, business manager

There's More Online!
 >> More Photos >> More Inspiration
 >> www.LakeUnionHerald.org



Past and present pastors pose for a group photo at the centennial wreath and scroll showing the weekend theme, "Celebrating God's Faithfulness." From left (seated): Ron Schultz, senior pastor, 2006-present; Alger Keough, senior pastor, 1994-1999; Larry Milliken, senior pastor, 1979-1988; and Richard Fearing, senior pastor, 1957-1963; (standing): Tricia Trefl, associate pastor, 2001-2007; Kenneth Parker, youth pastor, 2002-present; J.D. Westfall, associate pastor, 1964-1968; David Glass, associate pastor, 1998-2003; and Richard Latane, youth and associate pastor, 1986-1991

Kenneth A. Denslow, president, Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; Todd Werner, CEO, Adventist Hinsdale Hospital; David Crane, CEO, Adventist Midwest Health; and Patricia Williams, principal, Hinsdale Adventist Academy.

Debbie Englekemier, with husband Kevin at the organ and piano, led a spiritually uplifting evening vespers titled "Anticipating His Glorious Return."

In reflecting, current senior pastor Ron Schultz had each of the pastors carry a large stone to the platform to build a "pile of stones," as Joshua did when he had one man from each of the 12 tribes of Israel bring one stone from the middle of the Jordan River to build "a memorial to the people of Israel forever." Schultz used this pile of stones to represent the different congregations that flowed through the present building and the buildings next door, through the years. He said, "I want to think with you about this weekend, this 100 years, as our pile of stones, our monument to the faithfulness of God."

He continued, "I am grateful to God that those stones were on the other side of the Jordan River, on the Promised Land side. ... And as we conclude this wonderful centennial celebration, I want to make sure we're on the Promised Land side ... not a monument anchored in history, but a people of hope, a people who have our eyes on

the horizon because we know Jesus Christ is coming again."

The special music and hymn-sing focused on Christ's Second Coming. In addition to the Englekemiers, musical performances came from Victor Moreno at the piano, Alexej Muran on classical guitar, and the Hinsdale Men's Chorus. Messages from past pastors and past

members were interspersed throughout the program. The evening ended with an organ postlude of "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," the weekend theme song.

Each family in attendance at the 100-year celebration received a special centennial publication, *Celebrating God's Faithfulness, 100 Years, Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church*.

The Hinsdale Church is unique. In the early years, the church and hospital were totally intertwined. Employees were the church members, and most members were employees. For more than 40 years, members actually met in hospital facilities before building the first church structure on hospital property in 1947. When membership outgrew that facility, the church purchased property across the street to build the present church at 201 North Oak Street. The congregation has been meeting in this building since 1970.

Dorothy Deer, communications ministry director,
Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church

[NAD NEWS]

VOP Tackles the Childhood Obesity Epidemic

Today's kids are setting a new record, but it's not one we should be proud of. Young people today might actually live shorter life spans than their parents!

Childhood obesity is reaching epidemic proportions and making headlines across North America. Experts are calling it the gravest public health threat of our time, impacting the lives of millions of children. Fueling the crisis are sugary snacks, fast food and the sedentary lifestyle accompanying a generation brought up on computer games and videos.

Voice of Prophecy tackles the tough issues of "Keeping Our Kids Healthy" in the 21st century by exploring the Bible's timeless answers for eating right and staying active. Throughout the week beginning Jan. 7, Lonnie Melashenko shares insights straight from the Scriptures to help parents and other



family members keep the waistlines of their loved ones under control. Melashenko also speaks of biblical solutions for helping kids maneuver through this fast-paced world and dealing with the stress of being young, which often leads to poor eating habits.

Providing input to this Voice of Prophecy series was Joseph G. Herman, a medical journalist who has researched and written on many health-related topics, and who recently became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

To find a local radio station airing the Voice of Prophecy daily broadcasts, visit www.vop.com or phone 1-800-SDA-PLUS.

Voice of Prophecy press release

Within the Lake Union, the officiating pastor or church communication leader is responsible for submission of information to this column. Forms are available in print format, or they can be filled out and submitted directly online. Milepost forms are available at www.lakeunionherald.org. Conference addresses and phone numbers are in the masthead on page 39.

Birthdays

Crystal (Rose) Hoskins celebrated her 100th birthday on Sept. 22, 2007, by an open house at the Riverview Manor Nursing Home. She has been a member of the Kalamazoo (Mich.) Countryside Church for three years.



Crystal was married to the late Arthur Hoskins.

Crystal worked at Hudson's for over 30 years. She enjoyed doing crafts, crocheting and gardening.

Anniversaries

Harold and Evelyn Lutz celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on July 25, 2007, by a church family potluck at the Holly (Mich.) Church on Aug. 18, 2007. They have been members of the Holly Church for 65 years.



Harold Lutz and Evelyn Bigford were married July 25, 1942, in Grand Blanc, Mich., by Elder N.R. Dower. Harold has been a finish carpenter contractor. Evelyn has been a journalist with several area newspapers and staff writer for the Grand Blanc School District.

The Lutz family includes Cheri and Kris Lindsted of Cherry Valley, Calif.; and three grandchildren.

Leon and Dolores Slikkers celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 5, 2007, with an open house hosted by their children and families, and attended



by their entire family, relatives and friends from the church and community. The open house was held at Haworth Inn and Conference Center, Holland, Mich. They have been members of the Holland Church for 60+ years.

Leon R. Slikkers and Dolores E. Parker were married Dec. 6, 1947, in Holland, by Elder Earl Reynolds. Leon is founder and chairman of the board of S2 Yachts, Inc. (est. 1974), dividing his time between the two

manufacturing facilities in Holland and Ft. Pierce, Fla., and has worked in the boating industry for 60+ years. Dolores, in addition to being wife and mother, assisted Leon for many years as he started Slickcraft Boat Co. in 1955. She has devoted much of her time to her passion, the Adventist church, and has served in countless ways on every level from her home church to the General Conference. Both Leon and Dolores have filled many roles in their local church, and also stay physically active by walking, cycling and snow skiing.

The Slikkers family includes David and Mary Slikkers, Bob and Barb Slikkers, and Tom and Barb Slikkers, all of Holland; Susan Slikkers and Mark Ringwelski of Green Bay, Wis.; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Thomas and Genevieve Starkey celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Aug. 26, 2007, by a 70th wedding anniversary and 90th and 91st birthday celebration open house at Chan Shun Hall, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich. They have been members of the Pioneer Memorial and Benton Harbor (Mich.) Fairplain Churches, for 59 years.



M. Thomas Starkey and Genevieve E. Edgecomb were married Nov. 27, 1937, in Madison, Wis., by Pastor Roscoe Moore. Thomas has retired after 22 years as a Berrien County juvenile probation officer. Genevieve retired in 1987 after 37 years working in various positions at Lakeland Regional Hospital in St. Joseph, Mich. She founded the Volunteer department and was the department head for the last 20 years of her employment.

The Starkey family includes Joan Banks of Berrien Springs, Mich.; Barbara and James Martz of Darien, Ill.; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Weddings

Pauline N. Van Damme and Charles A. Curtis were married Oct. 21, 2007, in Warren, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Ron Blankinship.

Pauline is the daughter of Sandra and the late Raymond Van Damme of Sterling Heights, Mich., and Charles is the son of Toni and the late John Curtis of Huber Heights, Ohio.

The Curtises are making their home in Sterling Heights.

Obituaries

BAUER, Carol M. (Froehlich), age 81; born Feb. 2, 1926, in Sheboygan, Wis.; died Oct. 4, 2007, in Lafayette, Ind. She was a member of the Lafayette Church.

Survivors include her sons, John and Mark; daughter, Christine Bauer; and four grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Clinton Meharry, with private inurnment.

CLEVELAND, Melbourne "Mel", age 87; born July 17, 1920, in Richfield, Wis.; died Sept. 23, 2007, in Hemet, Calif. He was a member of the Wisconsin Rapids Church.

Survivors include his sons, Alfred and Melbourne Jr.; daughter, Carol Rippier; nine grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor David Gerrero, and interment was in Fort Snelling Military Cemetery, Minneapolis, Minn.

FITZSIMONS, William D., age 71; born Oct. 29, 1935, in Eva, Ala.; died Oct. 16, 2007, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his former wife, Joann; son, Jeffrey A.; daughters, Barbara L. Halaberda and Diane D. Bramham; four grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and three step-great-grandchildren.

A private memorial service was held, with private inurnment.

FURMAN, Mildred M. (Summerville), age 90; born Sept. 15, 1917, in Harbor Beach, Mich.; died Oct. 14, 2007, in Kissimmee, Fla. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her son, Lee; daughter, Donna Lutz; brother, Joseph Summerville; five grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; 13 step-great-grandchildren; and one step-great-great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Joseph Wamack and Gilda Roddy, with private inurnment at White Fish Point, Mich.

GILLILAND, Maxine B. (Bell), age 87; born Oct. 21, 1919, in Fredricktown, Mo.; died Sept. 23, 2007, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her son, Farrell L. II; daughter, Anne G. Kantor; brother, Gene Bell; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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

HAINES, Wilbur E., age 85; born Oct. 22, 1921, in Livonia, Ind.; died Sept. 25, 2007, in Berrien Center, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Iva (Churchill); son, Dale; daughters, Janet and Evelyn Haines; and Wanda Agee; brother, Russell; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Esther Knott, with private inurnment.

KNIGHT, George H., age 73; born July 2, 1934, in Benton Harbor, Mich.; died Oct. 8, 2007, in Pine Grove Twp., Mich. He was a member of the Gobles (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Carole (Evans); daughters, Denise K. Carrion, Michele K. Seely, Carol K. Joyce, Connie K. Hodges and Stephanie K. Moore; and sister, Anne Forrest.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Ken Miceff and Don Williams Sr., and interment was in Kendall Cemetery, Pine Grove Twp.

LEAMAN, David T., age 64; born Oct. 21, 1942, in Bay City, Mich.; died Aug. 31, 2007, in Saginaw, Mich. He was a member of the Vassar (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Janet M. (Cowper) Spencer; stepson, Leon H. Spencer; daughters, Jean A. Hebert and Marlene K. DeArk; stepdaughter, Sandra R. (Spencer) Reeves; sisters, Blanche Krygler, Muriel L. Ayers and Alice Lamont; seven grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; and one step-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Bob Quillin and Frank Lugo, and interment was in Tuscola Twp. Cemetery, Vassar.

LEE, Bruce E., age 81; born Aug. 14, 1926, in Soonan, N. Korea; died Sept. 19, 2007, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara (Hunter); sons, Bruce "Skip" E. Jr., Steven H. and Mark E.; daughter, Yvonne D. Pichette; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Nov. 23, 2007, with private inurnment.

SELESKE, Roxie G. (Rollins), age 81; born June 25, 1926, in Freedom, Neb.; died Oct. 6, 2007, in Olmito, Texas. She was a member of the Village Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Levi W.; son, Kenneth L.; daughter, Sharon L. Hollibaugh; brother, Kenneth Rollins; sister, Anita Worley; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at a later date, with private inurnment.

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 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.

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Sunset Calendar

	Jan 4	Jan 11	Jan 18	Jan 25	Feb 1	Feb 8
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:27	5:34	5:41	5:50	5:58	6:07
Chicago, Ill.	4:32	4:38	4:46	4:55	5:03	5:12
Detroit, Mich.	5:12	5:19	5:27	5:35	5:44	5:53
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:54	6:02	6:10
La Crosse, Wis.	4:40	4:47	4:55	5:04	5:13	5:23
Lansing, Mich.	5:17	5:23	5:32	5:40	5:49	5:58
Madison, Wis.	4:42	4:42	4:50	4:59	5:07	5:17
Springfield, Ill.	4:46	4:53	5:00	5:08	5:16	5:24

▼ **Sabbath, January 12**

8:30 am* Randy Roberts, *Senior Pastor*
Loma Linda University Church
"The Purpose Which Drives Him"

11:15 am Repeat of 8:30 a.m. program

6:00 pm Hyveth Williams, *Senior Pastor*
Loma Linda University
Campus Hill Church
"Tough and Tender"



8:30/11:15 a.m.
*Sanctuary Choir
and Orchestra*

6:00 p.m.
Wintley Phipps



Wintley Phipps

▼ **Monday, January 14**

11:00 am Dwight Nelson, *Senior Pastor*
Andrews University
Pioneer Memorial Church
"When Mercy Grew on Trees"

7:00 pm Craig Newborn, *Senior Pastor*
Oakwood College Church
"Don't Wash Your Hands"



Denver &
the Mile High Orchestra

▼ **Tuesday, January 15**

11:00 am Gordon Bietz, *President*
Southern Adventist University
"The Danger of Being Right"

7:00 pm Andy McDonald, *Senior Pastor*
Florida Hospital College Church
"Life Outside the Bubble"



Steve Green

▼ **Wednesday, January 16**

11:00 am John McVay, *President*
Walla Walla University
"Alabaster Disaster"

7:00 pm Mic Thurber, *Senior Pastor*
Southwestern Adventist University Church
"When Jesus Enters Your Story"



The King's Heralds Quartet

▼ **Thursday, January 17**

11:00 am Tim Mitchell, *Senior Pastor*
Pacific Union College Church
"The Heavenly Host"

7:00 pm Pat Morrison, *Senior Pastor*
Atlantic Union College Church
"Oh, To Be Young Again"



Selah

▼ **Friday, January 18**

11:00 am Dan Smith, *Senior Pastor*
La Sierra University Church
"The All-Star"

7:00 pm Ron Halvorsen, *Senior Pastor*
Union College, College View Church
"The Painful Paradox"



Chiz Rider, Trumpet
and Michelle Tumes, Vocalist

▼ **Sabbath, January 19**

8:30 am Karl Haffner, *Senior Pastor*
Kettering College of Medical Arts
Kettering Church
"The Gospel of Getting Stoned"

11:15 am Repeat of 8:30 a.m. program



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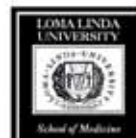
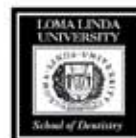
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FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES seeks full-time assistant program director for the Nurse Anesthesia Dept. beginning Mar. 1, 2008. Minimum requirements: master's degree in Nurse Anesthesia (doctorate preferred) and three years clinical experience. Send résumés to Dr. Kathleen Wren, Chair, Nurse Anesthesia Dept., FHCHS, 671 Winyah Dr., Orlando, FL 32803; or e-mail kathleen.wren@fhchs.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Embedded Systems professor for School of Computing. Master's de-

gree required, doctorate preferred, in computer engineering, electrical engineering or computer science with embedded systems experience. Responsibilities include teaching embedded systems and electronics courses, academic advisement and professional development activities. The successful candidate will be a member of the Adventist church. CVs or requests for more information should be directed to Dr. Richard Halterman, Dean, School of Computing, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370; or e-mail halterman@southern.edu.

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a **blind man** to Him, begging Him to **touch** him.

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— MARK 8:22-25 —

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

Andrews University

2008 Natural Remedies and Hydrotherapy Workshop. Andrews University Seminary offers this popular workshop **May 4-9**. For more information or to register, go to www.andrews.edu/go/nrhw/, e-mail fran@andrews.edu, or call 269-471-3541.

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**. 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, 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**. The retreat, under the direction of Peter Neri, Indiana Conference ministerial director, is held for the purpose of praying together as a conference-wide church family. To register, call Sheri DeWitt at 317-844-6201, or e-mail sdewitt@indysda.org.

Winter Ski Fest for youth in grades 7-12 is **Jan. 25-27**. For applications, go to 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.

Sabbath Celebration and Musical Festival is **Mar. 8** at Indiana Academy in Cicero. Guest speaker for the worship hour will be Troy Fitzgerald, youth pastor at the Walla Walla University Church in Washington. Pastor Fitzgerald will speak to the young people from grades 6 to 10 beginning Thur. evening as they come together at IA from around the state to practice and prepare for the music festival concert to be held Sabbath afternoon. Guest choral clinician will be Gale Murphy, and guest band clinician will be Steve Martin. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top songs in the 2nd Annual Scripture Song Contest. For information regarding the contest, contact Mark Haynal, education superintendent for the Indiana Conference, at 317-844-6201. For information about the music festival, contact Andrew Lay, music director at IA, at 317-984-3575.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Jan 5** Local Church Budget
- Jan 12** Local Conference Advance
- Jan 19** Local Church Budget
- Jan 26** Religious Liberty

Special Days

- Jan 5** Day of Prayer
- Jan 20-26** Religious Liberty Week

The annual Lake Union Academies Alumni Reunion (formerly Michigan Academies Alumni Reunion) will be held Sabbath, **Mar. 1**, in Schmidt Auditorium at Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, Fla. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., come to greet old friends and make new ones, hear reports from your alma mater,

and enjoy a wonderful Sabbath program. A potluck lunch will be held in the school cafeteria following church. For information, contact Becky Snyder Becker at 407-814-1859 or e-mail rebecca.becker@flhosp.org.

North American Division

Seventh Annual North American and Inter-American Division Health Summit, Feb. 1-9, at the Sheraton Orlando North. Learn cutting-edge methods for health evangelism, discuss health strategies with nationally recognized experts, and update your skills. If you want to be certified and effective in health education, you'll want to be at this health summit. Twenty-nine seminars (several in Spanish), limited enrollment, register early. Costs will increase after Jan. 8. CEUs available. To register, go to www.plusline.org/eventdetail.php?id=1027, or call 800-732-7587.

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Union College Homecoming: Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to come for *Remember When*, **Apr. 3-6**. 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.

Music at the 2010 GC Session in Atlanta, June 23-July 3, 2010. Needed: high-quality sacred music from vocalists, instrumentalists, choirs, ensembles, etc. Please visit 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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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

I Should Do What?

BY GARY BURNS



I was a late bloomer. The morning of my wedding, I decided to shave my peach fuzz for the pictures. I shaved again every Sabbath morning for the next few weeks and came to the realization that shaving wasn't any fun. What eventually appeared on my upper lip looked more like a shadow cast by my rather substantial proboscis than a mustache, but over the next 27 years it became a part of my permanent identity—that was until I heard the words, "I think you should shave it off."

I was on an island halfway around the world to make arrangements for a series of evangelistic meetings and health presentations by 25 teenagers to take place a couple of months later. I met the delightful people we would be working with and everything was coming together just fine, until my host said, "You know, your mustache and beard make you look like

a bandit. I think you should shave it off for the meetings or the people will not believe you are a preacher."

Shave off my mustache? I've had my mustache for 27 years and my beard for 26. I don't even know how to shave!

Two months later, I arrived at the airport with a face that looked similar to the one I had in high school. My kids wondered what had happened to their dad, and my youth group asked why I would let someone tell me to shave it off. So I explained, "I will put up with any inconvenience rather than hinder the gospel of Christ" (1 Corinthians 9:12).

That's what you do when you are in partnership with God. Besides, it grew back on the way home.

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

I Do: The Birth of a Journey

BY TONYA SNYDER

My son said “I *do*” for the first time today. After enjoying a few moments of parental pride over the forming of his first phrase, I looked down the road and became anxious. All I could think of is the rest of the things in his life that he will *do* or be presented with the opportunity to *do*, and a chill ran down me. I am a first-time parent, and he is only 18 months old; this will be a long journey.

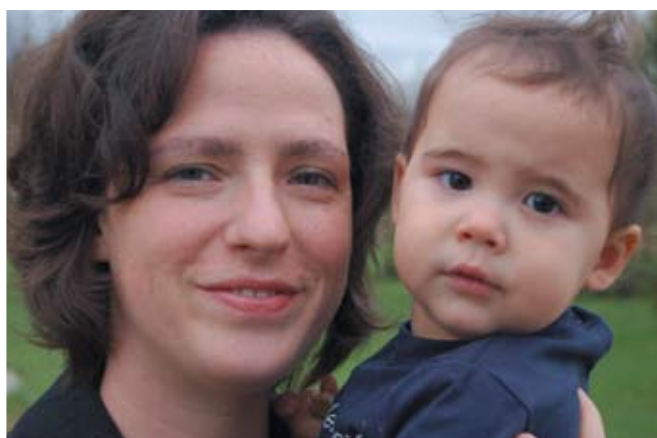
I read once that the human brain is not capable of playing out a situation completely (meaning from action to consequence to much later consequence) until it is 28 years old. This means that my son still has 26-plus years of saying “I *do*” or *doing* things before he fully understands the implications of what he’s done. Again, let me reiterate, this will be a long journey.

I am writing on the cusp of my 30th birthday—a year and a half into full consequence understanding, and it is an enlightening state. I realize that I am almost too old to be writing for “One Voice,” but I figured I’d better *do* one final “youthful” thing before I jump whole-heartedly into my 30s—which I’m sure will prove to be a long journey.

I am a person who struggles with giving up control. It is a continuous struggle between God and myself to get it all figured out. I have started to come to the place where I recognize God’s goodness and blessings in my life and realize they are better than what I could have planned or controlled into existence for myself. Letting go will continue to be a life-long journey.

One area, however, that has been easy for me to give up complete control is when it comes to my boy. I was warned that once he came, I would not be able to live another day

without thinking about him. This is the truth. Every second is spent obsessing about Max and willing his life (every part of it) into God’s gracious and loving hands. I *do* my part to make sure he is safe, and I’ve begun the process of instilling in him a sense of respect and obedience—yet another long journey. However, divine protection and direction in his life are certainly in God’s capable hands. I have come to the realization that as



a parent, I can only *do* so much—eventually he will be on his own (I hear from more experienced parents that this is the goal). More than anything, it is up to me to give overall control to God and raise Max with the tools to *do* the right thing on his own journey.

Don’t get me wrong, I have not been a *doer* of the right for my whole life, but once I passed the “full consequence understanding” threshold, things have become much clearer, and I realize in my “enlightened” state that I wouldn’t change a thing. I own my journey with all of its imperfection, and pray that as Max continues on his journey into full consciousness that he will tightly hold Jesus’ hand the entire time and say “I *do*.”

Tonya Snyder resides in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and is the coordinator for the Berrien County Mathematics & Science Center.

Justin Michael Erhard Lawson, 16, from Ada, Mich., is a junior at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy (GRAA) and has been a student at GRAA for three years.

Justin has been the Student Association social (athletic) vice president and is currently the president of his class. Sports is an important part of his life both in and out of school. His most memorable experience in school was scoring 23 points at the student-alumni game last fall.

In his behavioral science class, Justin enjoys studying people. In addition to realizing how serious life is as he gets older, he has learned the importance of Christ and his friends in his life. He succeeds well in others knowing him as a good friend.

Justin feels strongly about putting God first in his life. He wants to honor Him and keep the commandments God gave us to follow. He understands how very important prayer is in communicating with God.

The son of Michael and Marie Lawson, Justin is a baptized member of the Lowell Riverside Fellowship Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Justin Lawson



Samantha Snelling

Samantha "Sami" Snelling, 17, from Marne, Mich., is a junior at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy and has been a student there since second grade. Sami, as she is better known, has been on the yearbook staff for three years and is editor this year. She has also held both class and Student Association offices in the past.

While Sami is quite an intellect, she has learned that it's not enough to be smart. She has found that she also needs to be able to work well with and get along with other people. Sami wants to be remembered not only for her academics, but also that she does have a life outside of school. A couple of Sami's hobbies are archery and painting.

Last spring Sami went on the school mission trip to the Yakama Indian Reservation where she had fun while experiencing mission work and discovering that she didn't have to preach to be a missionary. God is a very real part of her life, and Sami sees God as doing the heavy lifting if she just puts her trust in Him. Sami claims His promise to give her conviction and help her change.

Sami is the daughter of Mike and Lynn Snelling. She is a baptized member of the Grand Rapids Central Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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

Address Correction

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

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