



*Lake Union*  
**HERALD**

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*The*  
**GOSPEL of**  
**GRACE**

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



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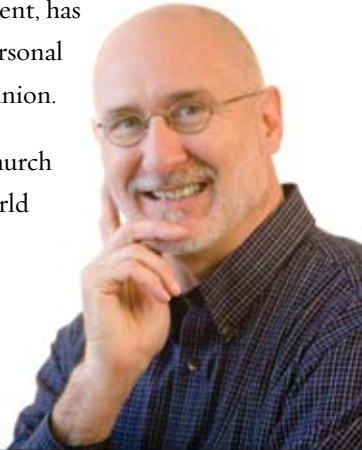
*in this issue...*

**I**n this issue, we are giving you an opportunity to get better acquainted with your church leaders. Walter Wright, our union president, has invited each of your conference presidents to share a personal story of God's grace, since this is a major theme of our union.

We've also invited Don Schneider, president of the church in North America, and Jan Paulsen, president of the world church, to share with you as well.

We trust you will enjoy reading their stories of grace.

  
Gary Burns, Editor



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## Marvelous Grace

Could there be anything more precious than the grace of God? I think not. I just thought I might consult a secular source to get another slant on this word grace. And there it was, under the subtitle “theology” in the dictionary. I quote, “The freely given, unmerited favor and love of God.” Wow, even Webster got it right!

Every one of us at some point in our life is the beneficiary of this grace. And in this special issue on grace, your elected leaders have the opportunity to share our stories of grace with you.

God has been so extraordinarily gracious to me, and the “unmerited” portion of the definition is so obvious. Personally, I want it continuously in my life.

It was November 15, 2007, and I stood before the Lake Union Executive Committee making an impassioned plea for Christian education. (I feel very emotionally involved with the importance of educating our young people in a spiritual environment by spiritual teachers.) As I made the presentation, my right arm began to swell and burn for no reason. It really alarmed me, and a few committee members noticed my discomfort.

The next morning my physician was consulted, and he ordered a CT scan with infusion to attempt to detect the problem. Well, the news came back that there was a blood clot near the port in my chest used for chemotherapy. But that’s not all. The scan detected a new cancer growth in my right lung. That made for a very anxious weekend for me and my wife Jackie.

That Sunday night I entered the University of Chicago Hospital for treatment. Prior to treating my condition, the physicians there ordered another scan. As I lay in the scan machine, once again anticipating the torturous cancer regimen, I began to pray.

It was a simple but sincere prayer to my heavenly Father, the Author of grace. “Lord, my mind is tired, and my body is exhausted. If it will please You, could we pass on this new cancer? I am asking You to please remove it this time. Since You know everything and can be trusted without question, I give it to You for divine intervention, if it pleases You.”

Surgery was done to correct the clot situation. Two days later I was informed that there was no cancer anywhere in my body! “Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace! Freely bestowed on all who believe. You that are longing to see His face, will you this moment His grace receive?”<sup>1</sup>

And so, how will I respond to this most recent evidence of His grace? The words of the apostle Paul speak for me as I gear up to conduct two series of meetings in Michigan and Indiana this spring. “Unto me, who am least of all saints, is this GRACE given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ” (Ephesians 3:8, 9). [Emphasis added]

1. Julia H. Johnston, “Grace Greater Than Our Sin,” in *Hymns Tried and True* (Chicago, Illinois: The Bible Institute Colportage Association, 1911), number 2.

# Welcome NEW MEMBERS

**Illinois** My (**Michele Sommers**) journey began 35 years ago when my parents baptized me as an infant and promised to raise me to know God and His powerful love. And that they did. As a child I loved going to church, singing songs, saying prayers and hearing stories about Jesus.

It wasn't until I left home and went to college that my unwavering faith was shaken, and I started to question the very foundation upon which I had laid my head. And just as my parents hated seeing me leave the house, I'm sure God was just as heartbroken. But He didn't give up on me. God put people, like Jeff, in my life to remind me that He was there. Not only did Jeff become my best friend and husband, he was the conduit to finding our church.

After searching for a church, Jeff's friend from Andrews University suggested the Burr Ridge Church. From the moment we stepped into that church, we were smitten. Grace oozed from that church. God's love was everywhere. From then on, we were in it for the long haul.

But there was still a fear that lived inside me that I couldn't quite put my finger on. Why would I be afraid of making a commitment to a God who loves me? And then it all became clear when we went swimming in August with our son, Ethan. I told him to float on his back, and that I would hold him up and help him. But, he kept kicking and screaming and asking me to hold him. He just couldn't trust that if he stopped fighting he'd float, peacefully, and feel the



From left: Leonardo "Leo," Michele, Ethan and Jeff Sommers discovered God's love everywhere at the Burr Ridge Church. Michele says, "From the moment we stepped into that church, we were smitten. Grace oozed from that church." On Michele's baptism day, Leo was also dedicated to the Lord.

calmness of the water around him. I felt so frustrated. I realized, then, that the frustration I felt was the same frustration God had felt with me for years. He'd given me reasons to trust Him. He'd put people in my life who encouraged me to float and feel the calmness of His grace. And so I chose to float. I chose to accept God's grace—to trust in Him, believe in Him and to share His love and mercy throughout the remainder of my journey.

Michele Sommers, member, Burr Ridge Church

**Wisconsin** I (**Kathy Meister**) would like to believe that a miracle happened in my life. This miracle consists of a course of events that occurred over a short period of time.

Stepping back in time, I can only describe myself as a person in trouble. I was addicted to alcohol and lived from paycheck to paycheck—alone in my isolated world where my dogs and my vodka were all that seemed to matter. For many years I had a pattern of getting drunk every night after work and writing sad poetry.

One night as I listened to Christian radio, a song came on that changed everything. Tears poured down my face as I listened to the lyrics that seemed to be written especially for me! It seemed that all time stood still as the words in



Michele Sommers recently celebrated the joy of her new life in Christ with former Burr Ridge Church pastor, Darryl Ward, who baptized her. Michele said, "I chose to accept God's grace—to trust in Him, believe in Him and to share His love and mercy through the remainder of my journey."

For years I continued to question and fight God's yearning for me to be with Him—to trust Him, and accept His grace. Then, one day our dear friend, Nikki (Nelson) Miller, asked me what it would take for me to feel comfortable enough to accept Him. It was then

that I realized I had come to identify myself as a fence-sitter, not having to make a commitment. I became the sheep that refused to accept what my Shepherd wanted to provide for me. Instead of eating from green pastures and drinking from still waters, I was eating the brown, dried-up grass and practically drowning in a sea of fear and anxiety. It was then that I decided to make the commitment to accept Jesus as my personal Savior, my Shepherd to lead and comfort me and restore my soul.



When Kathy Meister married her husband David, she moved to his country home. She and David became acquainted with their neighbors, Cris and Holly Roy. Conversations soon turned to spiritual matters, and the Roys invited the Meisters to their church, where they have found a great sense of belonging. From left: Cris Roy, Wendell Springer (pastor), Kathy Meister, David Meister and Holly Roy

the song spoke to me about “not going back, you can’t go back.” I felt an intense pressure upon my heart, and as the song ended, I fell to my knees. A voice seemed to speak to my heart, saying, “Don’t be afraid. I’m here to help you. You have the ability to change. Just start right now. Don’t worry. I will be with you every day.”

I knew this was the Holy Spirit speaking to me. I said out loud, “I’ve gotta quit this drinking. Help me stop destroying my body.” Right then and there, the decision was made. The rest of that night I felt an indescribable sense of peace about myself.

God took away my cravings for alcohol and was there every single day helping me, just as He promised. I never even suffered the withdrawal symptoms so many alcoholics experience during recovery. In fact, I felt great! I was finally free! God made it easy!

Soon after all this happened, I was able to relocate from my old, dumpy trailer house that I was renting. A wonderful man (**David Meister**) proposed marriage to me, and invited me to share his life at his home in the country! I was able to remove myself from my awful past and escape from entering into my old abusive habits.

We have some really excellent neighbors, Cris and Holly Roy, who often would invite us over to their house for food and fellowship. Sometimes we’d sing hymns as Holly played the piano. They answered a lot of questions that we had about their Adventist faith. Soon they invited us to attend their church with them, and shortly after that, we began Bible study lessons in preparation for baptism. We were honored that Wendell Springer, pastor, and his wife

Jollet, took the time to study with us. The lessons opened up a whole universe of valuable information that we never realized existed before!

We praise God for all the friends we’ve made at Oxford Seventh-day Adventist Church. They are a big part of why we feel a great sense of belonging here and look forward to our continued Christian growth with this church. We are in praise of God’s love.

Kathy and David “Dave” Meister, members, Oxford Church

### Indiana

In October 2006, **Rory Peterson** was invited by a friend to attend a series of meetings held by Cheri Peters at the LaPorte Adventist Church. With “nothing better to do,” Rory agreed to accompany her friend to that first evening.

The moment Cheri started talking, Rory’s indifference regarding the meeting was swept away! Her life experiences so closely paralleled those of Cheri’s that it seemed she was hearing her own story retold. Rory wept as she listened night after night and learned that there is a Savior who can heal and forgive, and she longed for a chance to start over.

During those evenings, Rory became acquainted with the friendly, caring church members and was drawn to attend Sabbath school and church. Then followed her studies with former pastor, Wayne Morrison. Amazed and thrilled, Rory learned of the complete plan of salvation.

“My baptism on October 6, 2007, was the happiest day of my life,” Rory told me with shining eyes. But Rory did not come alone on that day. She brought her two-year-old granddaughter, Maya, who was dedicated on the same day. Maya now accompanies Rory to church every Sabbath.



According to Rory Peterson, her baptism day was the happiest day of her life. Also on that date, her granddaughter, Maya, was dedicated to the Lord.

Mary Wadsworth-Cooke, communications secretary, LaPorte Church



## Share the Good News!

Do you know of someone who recently made a decision for Christ? Submit your story to the editors at our website: [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org)



# Praying for Rain

BY KARA KERBS

Indiana Academy students are praying for rainy days. No, they don't want precipitation, but the latter rain of the Holy Spirit. This school year, Student Association (S.A.) officers initiated a weekly Bible study, following the Operation Global Rain (OGR) Bible study guides. Some of the S.A. officers participated in an OGR Bible study group at Timber Ridge Camp last summer, led by Elisha Beam. Seeing the impact on the camp staff, the S.A. officers desired the same for the Indiana Academy student body.

OGR is a world-wide movement which began in the summer of 2007 to prepare hearts and to pray for the Holy Spirit to fall. It started when a few churches in Central California decided to hold a ten-day prayer event following the early church's model described in Acts 2. According to the website ([www.operationglobalrain.com](http://www.operationglobalrain.com)), church members participated voluntarily for ten nights. There were no keynote speakers, just men, women and children pleading for the outpouring of the latter rain. Each night for one hour a theme sheet with Bible verses and Spirit of Prophecy quotes were presented. These were read privately and then the members prayed, sometimes silently, other times in groups of two, or as a congregation. Those churches who participated "all experienced revival."



walk with God" by the end of the series. Sarah Fruth, S.A. social vice president, said, "I hope the Bible studies set the students on fire and that a passion will grow inside of them [for God]."

The S.A. officers assemble each Wednesday night for the Bible study. The voluntary meetings are held on a rotating basis between the boys' and girls' dorms, where

the groups are small enough to generate lively discussions. Freshman Ben Stieren attends the meetings regularly and enjoys participating and going deeper into spiritual issues. "It helps keep our spiritual lives strong," Ben shared.

These young people have decided to set aside extra time for God each week to explore issues from the Word of God, to support and pray for each other, and for the Holy Spirit to fall. "My favorite part is hearing the students pray," Sarah confided. "At first only S.A. officers would pray; now almost everyone prays sincere and heartfelt prayers."

Ellen White writes, "The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future; but it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it" (*Evangelism*, p. 701).

As Indiana Academy students pray, we hope they'll say, "It sounds like rain!"

Kara Kerbs is the religious activities coordinator at Indiana Academy.



So each week, Justin Thurber, S.A. religious vice president at Indiana Academy, downloads a theme sheet from the OGR website and distributes it to the S.A. officers to read and study ahead of time so they can contribute to the group study. Justin prepares questions from the theme sheets, and then leads discussions about forgiveness, stewardship, having a burden for others to know Jesus, confession and repentance, and other topics. Justin said he "hopes that each student will grow spiritually and have a closer



# Loving Arms for Baby Sammy

BY KIM DEWITT

It was a warm, dusty Tuesday afternoon. The breeze blew softly, and the big blue sky was dotted with white, fluffy clouds as we drove to the Rescue Center. I was back in Kenya again!

Seipei, an eighth grader at the Rescue Center, had become pregnant while home on break. On September 29, her son, Samwel “Sammy” Sarini, was born in a little hospital near the Rescue Center, and Seipei’s mother was called to take him home. Seipei is a Maasai girl; the Maasai tribe still practices female genital mutilation. Because she was rescued at a young age, she had not been circumcised; being pregnant and unmarried put a “taboo” on her family. Seipei must not return home before reaching adulthood, or she will be beaten severely and then circumcised.

My daughter and I came to the Rescue Center that day because Seipei’s mother was unable to care for Sammy, and she was bringing him to us to place in the care of Sicily, a lay pastor’s wife. Seipei stays in Sicily’s home during school breaks and learns how to be a mother.

We walked to the Rescue Center matron’s bedroom; Seipei’s mother sat on the couch, her face showing no emotion with eyes unwilling to meet ours. On the couch lay a bundle of blankets tightly fitted together. I unrolled the blankets one at a time. The last blanket worried me; there was no movement or sound coming from it. I carefully opened it, and there lay one of the most perfect little babies I had ever seen. There was no sign of life, though. I took



*When caring for Sammy, Kim DeWitt was reminded of God’s love for each of us. She said, “How He yearns to hold us close and keep us safe.”*



*Baby Sammy is now cared for by a loving pastor’s wife. During school breaks, Sammy’s mother Seipei, an eighth grader, will stay with the pastor’s wife and learn to be a mother to Sammy.*

Sammy’s hand, and gently moved it. There was no response. Then, slowly, his eyes opened and closed. We gently changed Sammy and wrapped him in clean blankets.

Seipei came in; I tried to hand Sammy to her, but she refused. There were no tears; there appeared to be no emotion at all. The sun was slipping away behind the horizon, and we needed to get home before dark.

For the next couple days I bathed, fed, comforted, changed diapers and rocked Sammy to sleep. Friday came, and we packed for the trip to his new home. We arrived late Friday afternoon. I wrapped Sammy in his blanket and placed him in Sicily’s loving arms. Words cannot describe how my heart felt. I knew I was doing the right thing, but in just those few days my heart bonded to his. As I lay in my tent that night, my eyes filled with tears; my heart ached with loneliness. I knew, though, that God had given me a small glimpse of the love that He has for each of us. How His heart aches when we are away from Him; how He yearns to hold us close and keep us safe. I pray for baby Sammy every morning; I know he will grow up to be a great Maasai warrior for Christ!

Kim DeWitt of Owosso, Michigan, is director of sponsorships for Maasai Development Project, an ASI-member organization. For additional information, readers may contact Kim at [letmeshine4him@yahoo.com](mailto:letmeshine4him@yahoo.com).



## Transforming Grace

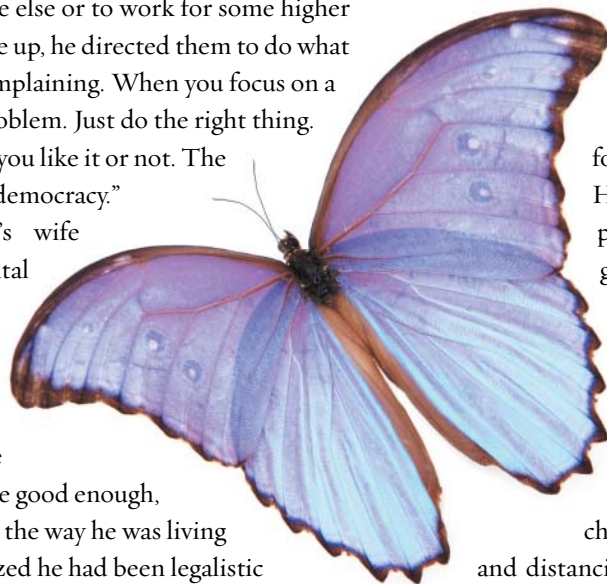
BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

When people spend their lives trying to transform or fix their spouses and kids, the natural result is exhaustion, depression and the hopeless sense of wanting to bail out of it all. In the book, *Families Where Grace Is in Place*, Christian author, Jeff VanVonderen, suggests that God’s grace can transform relationships within a marriage and family. He says, “The first step is learning the simple difference between God’s job and ours. God’s part is to fix and change. Our responsibility is to depend on the Holy Spirit, serve our families, and help equip them to be all they can be. The Christian family’s ultimate goals of harmony, obedience, and full potential can be arrived at without using legalistic and manipulative methods.”

Jeff shares his experience with a dedicated, well-meaning Christian father who often sacrificed his own comfort and needs to help someone else or to work for some higher goal. When problems came up, he directed them to do what he did by saying, “Quit complaining. When you focus on a problem, you become a problem. Just do the right thing. It doesn’t matter whether you like it or not. The Kingdom of God is not a democracy.”

It wasn’t until Jeff’s wife checked herself into a mental health facility with symptoms of a physical and emotional collapse, and his children revealed that he made them feel like they were never going to be good enough, that Jeff began to examine the way he was living his Christian life. He realized he had been legalistic and harsh. Jeff believed with all his heart that the Bible was true—but there was something missing in the way he had been taught to apply biblical principles. “I always thought I was doing the loving and right thing by directing my family to just act on godly principles. I thought that doing and obedience were the simple answers to all our needs and problems. I didn’t see that I was making them perform right on the outside, while inside their hearts were still ach-

ing for real compassion. If I’d given them the compassion first, as a foundation to stand on, they would have had more real power inside.”



Jeff is one of many Christian men and women who were taught that spiritual life results from performing according to certain principles. He gaged spiritual success by outward performance standards, and had not given his family the emotional and spiritual fuel to get them through life’s challenges.

This father came to realize that denying a problem only prolonged it and strained relationships. He learned that “fixing” his spouse and children only led to disappointment and distancing in the relationship. By not allowing himself to submit to the discomfort of honest dialogue, Jeff could not understand the hearts of his family members. This father accepted God’s grace and began offering it to his wife and children. It was then Jeff became free from the burden of pressuring, controlling and manipulating his spouse and children. Praise God!

Susan Murray is an assistant professor of behavioral sciences and social work at Andrews University.



Red grape juice reduces the risk of blood clots and lowers blood pressure.

## Good News from the Grapevine

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

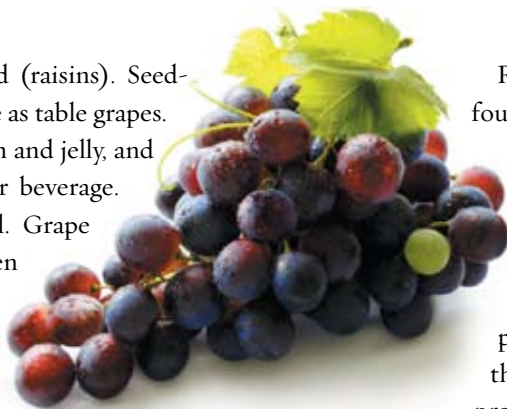
Grape skins concentrate the healthy substances.

**G**rapes grow in clusters on a deciduous, woody vine, *Vitis vinifera*, with as many as 300 grapes in a cluster. While the original grapes were red, they now come in many colors. Blue, red, purple, black, green and golden are the most common. The dark grapes contain a rich supply of anthocyanins, the antioxidant polyphenolics that possess health-promoting properties. Grapes rank with blueberries and blackberries as excellent sources of antioxidant activity.

Grapes are eaten fresh or dried (raisins). Seedless grapes are highly desired for use as table grapes. Grapes are also used for making jam and jelly, and the juice of the grape is a popular beverage. Grape seeds provide an edible oil. Grape seed extract appears to strengthen capillary walls, so it is used in the treatment of venous insufficiency and edema following surgery. The extract also reduces the risk of blood clots.

Many of the health benefits attributed to red and purple grapes are due to the pigments that are concentrated largely in the skin and seeds. The skin and seeds contain about a 100 times higher level than the grape pulp. Anthocyanins tend to be the main polyphenolic in red grapes while catechins are the most common in white grapes.

The pigments in red and purple grapes and grape juice protect the cardiovascular system by a number of mechanisms that include the suppression of blood clots, inhibition of LDL cholesterol oxidation, and reduced homocysteine levels. Grapes stimulate endothelial nitric oxide production which induces relaxation of the blood vessel walls, and hence reduces blood pressure levels. Recently, it was shown that a Concord grape extract lowered LDL cholesterol, raised the good HDL cholesterol, and decreased plasma inflammatory biomarkers.



Resveratrol, a dietary constituent found in grapes, is an effective agent for prevention of cancer. Resveratrol has been shown to inhibit prostate cancer cell growth, and induce apoptosis. Anthocyanins and proanthocyanidins are two groups of polyphenolics in Concord grape juice that show cancer preventive and anti-proliferative properties and can detoxify the activity of some cancer-causing substances.

Grapes are also rich in ellagic acid, a potent flavonoid that helps the body fight cancer.

Concord grape juice can protect healthy breast cells from DNA damage. Grape juice also suppresses the growth and development of breast cancer cells in laboratory animals given chemically-induced tumors. The grape juice reduced both mammary tumor size and the number of tumors per animal.

Promising data suggests the use of grape juice to promote brain health and delay neurodegenerative diseases. Participants that drank purple grape juice and similar fruit juices three times a week were about 70 percent less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease. When laboratory animals were fed Concord grape juice they showed significantly improved scores on memory and coordination tests.

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



# EXTREME GRACE

## Praying the Impossible

BY DICK DUERKSEN

“The day’s adventures completely drained me.”

Hernán shivered as he told me the story, remembering the stress and hope of that day in Cuba.

“I was there to help the church with evangelism, but they had also asked me to look at the Mission’s press. It was their only press, and it was very old. God had kept it working for more than 35 years, but it would no longer move paper through the rollers. The young men working in the Mission office now looked at me and asked for a miracle.”

Hernán, the visiting printer from Ecuador, tried every solution he could imagine, and then gave up. Almost.

“Maybe if we take it completely apart,” he suggested, “we might see how to fix it.”

By noon the trustworthy old press was an iron skeleton, its innards strewn across the storeroom like a printer’s junkyard. Hernán and his four teenage assistants stood among the parts, sweating bare-chested in the oppressive heat.

“When we took it apart,” Hernán told me, “I discovered the problem. A small lever was missing so the press couldn’t feed the paper!”

That’s when the Mission president walked into the room.

“What have you done to our press?! We use that press to print Voice of Prophecy Bible lessons and Sabbath school lessons for all the Adventists in Cuba. You have destroyed our press!!!”

Hernán shivered again, re-living the worst moment of his life.

“It may be your only press,” he said kindly, “but it doesn’t work, and I am trying to fix it.”

His explanation brought much waving and shouting that the press be “put back together right now!”

Hernán explained about the missing lever, and said that he thought they ought to pray before he started re-assembling. “They looked at me shocked,” he remembered. “And then everyone left! I was standing alone in the press room, and they all ran away when I said we ought to pray!”

Hernán prayed, alone, press parts strewn around him and hope his only friend.

“Several eternities later,” Hernán continued, “[my assistants] walked back into the room. But this time their faces were washed, their hair combed, and despite the heat they all wore shirts. They looked at me, and said, ‘Okay, now we’re ready to pray. Hernán, you start.’”

But Hernán couldn’t pray. He was too busy wiping his eyes.

When the prayer was over, Hernán wiped his eyes again, and then looked down at the floor. There, right between his feet, where a few minutes ago there had been nothing but floor, lay the missing part.

That evening, when all of the parts were together, everyone watched as Hernán guided a blank page through the “renewed” press. It came out looking awful.

“The first one is always bad,” Hernán encouraged as he twisted dials and adjusted rollers. “Let’s see what it does now.”

The celebration began moments later as God’s ancient press once again produced a perfect Voice of Prophecy lesson page.



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

Laura Noble/Maranatha Volunteers International

# Why God Loves Being Unfair

BY CYNTHIA AND J.W. WARREN

Currently, some intellectuals are claiming that Jehovah God is unworthy of worship and obedience. The principle thesis of C. Hitchens' *God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything* and similar books is that man's global inhumanity to man confirms that God is unloving and unfair. Sadly, some Christians are doubting their faith and slipping into a post-modern rejection of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church remains faithful to its mission to carry the Good News of unmerited grace to the entire world. Through many practical ways, we give rational proofs why God loves being unfair. For example, Adventists draw great joy from the text, "Jesus had equal status with God but didn't think it unfair to surrender the advantages of that status. When the time came, He set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave ... became human and died a selfless, obedient death" (Philippians 2:6–8 MB, adapted).

One conclusive evidence of God's unfairness is His universal amnesty plan. Though "the wages of sin is death," and "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God," God persists in offering "His free gift, which is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 3:23; 6:23 NLT). The abundant life that millions of practicing Adventists enjoy seems unfair in contrast to the lifestyle dysfunctions that afflict billions who denounce God as unfair. The individual Adventist who practices a balanced Bible-based lifestyle, and practices common-sense health laws taught by Ellen White, is living proof that God's generous unfairness is His foundational blessing.

However, it would be irresponsible to suggest that an individual Adventist will never suffer sickness and disease. The "glorified body," free of illness, is the exclusive privilege of those who choose the First Resurrection (1 Corinthians

15:51–57). God's liberally unfair grace is confirmed by the fact that Adventists, as a group, develop major lifestyle diseases later than the general population. *National Geographic* and other reputable secular organizations have repeatedly documented the "Adventist Advantage" which results in overall better health.

Adventists hold no copyright on God's passion to be lovingly unfair to others. His name is gloried when Adventists invite others to share in Heaven's showers of blessings. According to Ellen White, "Grace is unmerited and the believer is justified without any merit of his own, without any claim to offer to God. He is justified through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, who stands in the courts of heaven as the sinner's substitute and surety ... Christ [not the Seventh-day Adventist Church] is the great depository of justifying righteousness and sanctifying grace" (*Amazing Grace*, p. 182).

Adventists know, without any reservation, that Jehovah God is great and worthy of praise. We joyfully worship the Creator-God who provides new blessings everyday and the assurance of eternal life. As members of the universal Body of Christ, we proclaim that "surely the Lord blesses the righteous and surrounds them with His goodwill, pleasures and favor" (Psalm 5:12 AMB, adapted).

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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.

## Messengers of Hope

BY DIANE THURBER

**O**n the last Sabbath afternoon of each month a group of women from the Glendale Church in Indianapolis visit the Julian Center, a safe shelter for abused women and children. According to Paulette Taylor, the Glendale Church women's ministries director, the Julian Center provides "phenomenal, state-of-the-art protection and assistance." The shelter temporarily houses women and their children who also receive meals, counseling services, clothing and so much more.

This is the third year the Glendale Church women will visit the Julian Center residents. "What a wonderful group of women!" remarks Paulette. "These ladies have really special needs, and we wanted to service their spiritual growth and development by initiating a monthly Bible study," shares Paulette. "We discovered, though, after a few months, that the ladies responded more to a realistic approach, so we try to reach the ladies in ways they can directly relate to."

The Glendale Church women's group follows a special theme at each session. One month they discussed "Hope in Jesus." Other topics include "Prayer Life," "The Blessed Love of Jesus," and "Real Strength Found in the Lord." Paulette says "many of the ladies already have knowledge of the Lord, but need the communion found only in study, discussion, sharing and meditation on the Lord and all He can do for them."

The visiting group of women varies each month. And some Sabbaths, violin music is provided by Somer Taylor, a Glendale Church women's ministries committee member. Other times, Paulette visits alone. She says, "That is fine, because I believe in these ladies and truly love them as my Christian sisters. I want to nurture their spiritual growth and personal development because they deserve it."



The outreach session normally begins at 3:00 p.m. and usually lasts 30 to 45 minutes. If some of the Julian Center ladies have a lot to discuss or if there are many who want to testify, the session continues longer. Paulette says a few times they stayed until dinnertime. "Sometimes the ladies just did not want us to leave. The Holy Spirit was really with us those Sabbaths, even more than usual." She adds, "The testimony and sharing time in each outreach session is priceless. ... God is doing a mighty work at the Center, and we are so pleased to be a part of it." Several ladies have asked about the church they represent and inquired about coming to services.

Participating in this outreach ministry has changed the lives of not only those at the Julian Center but also the messengers of hope from the Glendale Church. Some have expressed to Paulette that the outreach experience has strengthened them spiritually. As for Paulette, she says, "I have been blessed many, many times by the light I see in the ladies' faces and eyes as we express hope in the Lord, and assure them that no matter what they have been through He is ALWAYS there for them, no matter what."

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Diane Thurber is the assistant communication director of the Lake Union Conference.



## ALCANZAR A CADA UNO PARA CRISTO

POR CARMELO MERCADO

*Hemos de considerar nuestro deber especial el de trabajar por nuestros vecinos. ... Al visitar a vuestros amigos y vecinos, manifestad interés por su bienestar espiritual y temporal. ... Convidadlos a que se unan con vosotros en canto y oración. En estas pequeñas reuniones, Cristo mismo estará presente, tal como lo prometió, y su gracia tocará los corazones... (La maravillosa gracia, p. 310).*

No hay duda que algo especial está ocurriendo en la Asociación de Illinois. Uno no puede visitar ninguna iglesia en la Asociación sin ver banderines con el lema: “Alcanzar a cada uno para Cristo.” Este lema describe una iniciativa que las iglesias se han propuesto cumplir: alcanzar para Cristo a *todas* las personas que viven en Illinois.

No hay duda alguna que es gracias al liderazgo del coordinador de la Asociación, el pastor Justo Morales, que las iglesias hispanas y sus pastores están haciendo su parte para cumplir esta misión. El pastor Morales y su esposa Rosa son oriundos de Perú, donde ellos comenzaron su ministerio. Él empezó sus responsabilidades administrativas como director



Patricia y Jorge Enríquez junto con sus hijos Leslie y Jorge, Jr. estudian la Biblia con Rosa y Justo Morales.

de jóvenes, luego fue presidente de Asociación, después fue profesor de teología en la Universidad Peruana Unión y luego como director de educación y mayordomía de la Unión Incaica.

En el año 1997 la familia Morales se trasladó a los Estados Unidos y trabajó en la Asociación de Southern New England. En el año 1999 aceptó el llamado de la Asociación de Illinois para ser pastor del distrito de Fox Valley y allí continuó hasta el año 2005 cuando fue elegido como coordinador hispano de la asociación de Illinois. Le pregunté cuál era su visión para la obra hispana. Él respondió inmediatamente que su sueño era alcanzar a todos los hispanos en el estado de Illinois con las buenas nuevas de Jesús y establecer nuevas congregaciones. Sabiendo que hay más de 1.7 millones de hispanos en Illinois le pregunté que cómo se podría implementar esa visión y me contestó que necesitamos pedir que “el Espíritu de Dios

deposite su poder en nosotros, como lo hizo en el día del Pentecostés.”

Los esposos Morales sí viven de acuerdo al lema de alcanzar a cada uno para Cristo. Un ejemplo ocurrió cuando se trasladaron a la ciudad de Dekalb. Al mudarse a su nueva casa una de las primeras cosas que hicieron fue arrodillarse y pedir a Dios que les ayudara a ganar a uno de sus vecinos para

Jesús. Al poco tiempo un vecino hispano llegó a la casa de ellos. Lo invitaron para que fuese a escuchar una plática que se iba a presentar para la comunidad acerca de la crianza de los niños. El vecino se interesó en estudiar la Biblia y así se comenzó una serie de estudios bíblicos. Como resultado, esos vecinos, los esposos José y Patricia Enríquez, se bautizaron en febrero del año pasado. Cuando le pregunté al pastor Morales si él continúa dando estudios bíblicos, me contestó: “en todos mis años de ministerio yo siempre he apartado tiempo para dar estudios bíblicos a los que buscan a Dios.”

No cabe duda que Cristo viene pronto y como resultado es urgente que cumplamos su misión. Mi oración es que cada hermano en nuestra Unión tome “alcanzar a cada uno para Cristo” como su lema personal.

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

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,*



# How I Found Grace

BY KENNETH A. DENSLOW

**I**n the 1960s and 1970s when I was growing up, there were many in the church who focused primarily on behavior. The implicit message that was left in my head was that if you were good enough, God would love you and save you. People who knew me back then would tell you that I was a well-behaved kid. For the most part, they were right, but I have to confess that it wasn't always for the right reasons. Often, I got my kicks vicariously from the "bad" actions of my friends. I noticed that no matter how "good" I acted, often I felt empty and fearful.

It was while I was a student missionary in Puerto Rico that I came to a new understanding of salvation. That year Morris Venden was a week of prayer speaker at my college, Andrews University, and the school sent out cassette tapes of

the series to all the student missionaries. Many nights I lay in bed listening to what Morris had to say about a God who loved me only because I was His son, and He is love. Morris said also that He made complete provision through the

# That saved a wretch like me...

death of His Son Jesus for the pardon of my sins. It was that series of sermons that made something click in my head.

I know now that while I had misunderstood salvation, it had been clear to many Seventh-day Adventists since our denomination was founded. Ellen White was very clear on the subject when she wrote: “Nothing but the righteousness of Christ can entitle us to one of the blessings of the covenant of grace. There are many who have long desired and tried to obtain these blessings, but have not received them, because they have cherished the idea that they could do something to make themselves worthy of them. They have not looked away from self, believing that Jesus is an all-sufficient Saviour. We must not think that our own merits will save us; Christ is our only hope of salvation. ‘For there is

vision for my salvation that did not depend on my merits, I often struggled with the whole idea of “feeling saved.” It wasn’t until my last few months as a ministerial student in the seminary that I was finally able to come to grips with this issue.

I was taking a course from Mark Finley, and we were discussing in class how to lead someone to accept Christ. The discussion led to my asking the question, “If someone doesn’t feel saved, does that mean that he isn’t saved?” My burdens were lifted that day as Mark took me and the rest of the class through passage after passage of Scripture that underscore that we are saved by grace. He suggested a practice that I have followed ever since—the rehearsing of those passages again and again, so that they become the audio re-

In some circles today, grace has become a scary word. That is primarily because of the abuse of the word. It has come to be seen by some as an excuse for lawless living—living without boundaries. But true grace is transforming grace, it is the power to live a life of discipleship to Jesus.

none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved’ (Acts 4:12).

“When we trust God fully, when we rely upon the merits of Jesus as a sin-pardoning Saviour, we shall receive all the help that we can desire. Let none look to self, as though they had power to save themselves. Jesus died for us because we were helpless to do this. In Him is our hope, our justification, our righteousness. When we see our sinfulness we should not despond and fear that we have no Saviour, or that He has no thoughts of mercy toward us. At this very time He is inviting us to come to Him in our helplessness and be saved” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 431).

## FEELING SAVED

While I now understood the theology of salvation and accepted in my head that God loved me and had made pro-

viding that plays in my head. One of those Bible verses, Ephesians 2:8–9, has become my mantra: “For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Ellen White, in the same passage of *Patriarchs and Prophets* quoted earlier, wrote: “When we trust God fully, when we rely upon the merits of Jesus as a sin-pardoning Saviour, we shall receive all the help that we can desire. Let none look to self, as though they had power to save themselves. Jesus died for us because we were helpless to do this. In Him is our hope, our justification, our righteousness. When we see our sinfulness we should not despond and fear that we have no Saviour, or that He has no thoughts of mercy toward us. At this very time He is inviting us to come to Him in our helplessness and be saved. While the sinner cannot save himself, he still has something to do to secure salvation. ‘Him that

# Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,

cometh to Me,' says Christ, 'I will in no wise cast out' (John 6:37). But we must come to Him; and when we repent of our sins, we must believe that He accepts and pardons us. Faith is the gift of God, but the power to exercise it is ours."

## SIMPLE TRUTH

Several of us young ministerial interns were standing around talking at a pastors' retreat at Camp Au Sable many years ago. Newly graduated from the Seminary, we were sharing our deep theological knowledge with each other. After a while, we were all called back to our meeting. Jim Danforth, one of the experienced pastors had stood there listening quietly to us as we talked. He said as we were dispersing, "Guys, I never went to the Seminary, and I don't understand all the things you have been talking about. I just

out boundaries. But true grace is transforming grace, it is the power to live a life of discipleship to Jesus.

Ivan Blazen's class on Romans was another place where I learned about grace. It seemed like the entire first two weeks of the class he simply took us from one passage to another that spoke of God's great gift, and he would punctuate the study by saying, "When I think what God has done for me through the gift of His Son, it takes my breath away."

I don't believe that anyone who grasps what Jesus did on the cross for him or her can help but be transformed into a follower, someone who is being transformed by that amazing grace. Conversely, I don't think that someone who is tied up in knots trying to earn their salvation through their good actions can have joy or peace. They, above all people, are miserable.

I don't believe that anyone who grasps what Jesus did on the cross for him or her can help but be transformed into a follower, someone who is being transformed by that amazing grace.

want to say that I stand with H.M.S. Richards Sr. who quoted these words: 'Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so.'

While the subject of our salvation through the grace of God is profound enough to spur our study throughout eternity, it is also easy enough that someone can understand it right now. When Paul and Silas were asked by the jailer, "What must I do to be saved?" they replied, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:30, 31). And the Bible says they believed and were immediately baptized.

## TRANSFORMING GRACE

In some circles today, grace has become a scary word. That is primarily because of the abuse of the word. It has come to be seen by some as an excuse for lawless living—living with-

At a camp meeting not too long ago, a preacher spoke on the topic of God's free gift of grace. He explained it well. Later in the day, a church member stopped me and told me what an impact the message had on her. She told me of the nights she had lay awake worrying that there might be some unremembered and therefore unconfessed sin in her life that would cause her to lose her salvation if she died during the night. She told me that now she felt freed from an immense burden. But then, she added that she was angry that no one had explained this to her before. We need to be telling the story that, as the song says, "Burdens are lifted at Calvary."

Today, I am not perfect, but Jesus is. And as I abide in Him, He is transforming me from day to day. My job is to cooperate, and let Him finish the good work He has begun.

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Kenneth Denslow is the president of the Illinois Conference.



*That saved a wretch like me...*



Diane Thurber

## A Turning Point

BY GARY THURBER

**H**ave you ever messed up royally, and then someone you hurt responded not how you deserved to be treated but rather with kindness and trust? I experienced this kind of unreasonable grace when I was a 16-year-old sophomore at Mount Pisgah Academy, and I can tell you it had a profound affect on me.

It was a great year for me. I was no longer a freshman; I had my driver's license, and I was fairly confident I knew most everything I needed to know about life! A new dean arrived that year, Bill Wolcott, and even though he was nice enough, I felt sorry for him, since I knew many of the boys would take advantage of his lack of experience. I

was asked to be an RA (resident assistant) that year, and looked forward to the challenge.

I thought of myself as a cooperative student who really tried to be a good citizen. It is amazing, however, how quickly one can turn their life upside-down with a few poor choices and a substantial dose of rationalization. For

# *Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,*

me, my troubles began shortly after being asked by the faculty to also join the night-watch team—a group comprised mainly of seniors who liked to have a good time and were intent on being sure the girls’ dorm was safe. I will never forget how nervous I was on my first night of training with the head night watchman. More than anything, I hoped we would not find any trouble. But sure enough, as we passed by the cafeteria that evening, my trainer said, “I think I hear someone in the cafe! Let’s go check it out.”

I had not heard anything, and I certainly did not want to catch anyone in the cafe. But he insisted we go in. He

one in the cafe every night! I wish I could tell you we just ate a sandwich each time, but as the year progressed, we became bolder. One night, we figured out how to pick the lock on the walk-in refrigerator, which opened up a whole new world for us. We also discovered a way to get into the storeroom, and the baking business began. We learned we could supplement our income by selling leftovers to the guys in the dorm. We were so “smart,” and after all, we were only getting what was “rightfully ours.”

Somehow, it escaped us that perhaps the kitchen staff might notice food was missing. A faculty “plant” was put

I then saw myself as a common thief who had let down his friends, his parents, the faculty and my dean who had put so much confidence in me. Worst of all, I knew I had let my Lord down.

pulled out his knife and, with a quick twist, picked the lock. We crept around the kitchen until we were certain nobody was there. Boy was I relieved!

A funny thing though, the next night my trainer thought he heard someone in there again. So, he picked the lock, and soon we were inside. We walked all around the cafe, but again found no one. As we prepared to leave, he said to me, “Gary, one thing you will find unfair about being a night watchman is that you will never eat breakfast, even though you are paying for it.”

I hadn’t thought about that. He was right! There was no way I was going to get up in time for breakfast on our schedule. He then said, “To make up for the inequity, I sometimes fix a sandwich at night to hold me over until lunch. Gary, do you want a sandwich?” I said, “Yes,” and before I knew it we were fixing a sandwich.

The next night we heard someone in the cafe again, and the next night as well. As a matter of fact, we heard some-

into place to catch the thieves. On the night of the stake-out, the head RA and one of his friends were on duty. (Pretty much all of the night-watch team were involved in our food equity program.) Sure enough, they got caught.

I found out about the bust the next morning, and immediately was confronted with the folly of my rationalization! How could I have been so stupid? I then saw myself as a common thief who had let down his friends, his parents, the faculty and my dean who had put so much confidence in me. Worst of all, I knew I had let my Lord down.

I sweated “bullets” all morning long as I waited to be summoned by the principal and the dean. I just knew I would need to pack my bags because I would be expelled with the others. But they never came for me that morning, so I went to my afternoon classes. All I could think about was what I would say when confronted about my involvement.

# *That saved a wretch like me...*

Finally, while sitting in geometry class, my dean knocked on the door and asked to remove me from class. I stood up, turned to my class, and said, “Good-bye.” I followed him to his car and, without saying a word to me, he drove around the campus for a while and then up the hill to the boys’ dorm where he stopped his car. It was then he spoke. “Gary, something terrible has happened. Someone I put full trust in has let me down. Last night we caught the head RA taking food. I feel a trust has been broken, and I can no longer have him as my head RA. Gary, I want you to take his place.”

Afterward, the principal came to tell us the decision. He told us something amazing happened. Even though the faculty as a whole were ready to send us on our way, one person stood up and advocated for us—it was our dean. He argued that even though we messed up royally, he saw in us much potential and, if he only had the opportunity to work with us, he could help us get on the right path.

We were stunned! The one person who we had let down and hurt the most was the one arguing our case! In the end, they let us stay at school and even keep our jobs! We didn’t deserve that kind of treatment from the dean, but I

I will never forget the look he gave me. He was shocked for sure, but beyond that, I could see I had hurt and disappointed him greatly. He never said another word to me; he simply got out of his car and walked into his apartment.

I couldn’t believe what I was hearing! I couldn’t believe he didn’t know I was involved in all this mess as well. I just kept saying to the dean, “You can trust our head RA; he is a great guy, and I know he won’t let you down again!”

No matter how hard I tried, he was not going to change his mind. Finally, the guilt overwhelmed me, and I broke down and told him he couldn’t use me as his head RA either, because I was involved, too. I will never forget the look he gave me. He was shocked for sure, but beyond that, I could see I had hurt and disappointed him greatly. He never said another word to me; he simply got out of his car and walked into his apartment. I went to my room to await my fate.

I felt sorry for my dean. Pretty much his whole dorm leadership team had blown it. Even though we had all expressed how sorry we were to him, we knew we all deserved to be shipped home. An emergency faculty meeting was called that night to discuss our future.

will tell you his graciousness had a profound affect on each of us. First, not one of us ever wanted to let him down again, and we didn’t. Second, most of us in that group are active in our church today as laymen, and some are pastors and teachers.

1 John 2:1 says, “My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (NASB). What incredible grace our Savior has for us!

Thank you, Dean Wolcott, for modeling that kind of grace to me and my friends. It was truly a turning point in our lives.

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Gary Thurber is the president of the Indiana Conference.

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,*



# The Gospel of Grace in My Life

BY JEROME L. DAVIS

**W**here to begin? Wow! Let's go back to my mother's womb (a few years ago). There were two of us in there. Like Jacob and Esau, when we left the birth canal, it was plain to see that these twins were quite different. My brother James entered the world first. He was a light complexion baby. Twenty-two minutes later yours truly came along. I exited with dark skin, and according to my grandmother, Mary Virginia (or "Mama" as we called her) the delivering doctor handled this chocolate infant differently than he did my brother.

James was held in the "normal" way, but I was held by my feet upside down as he proceeded to spank me. Mama told him a thing or two, and "got him straight." From that day forward, this five-foot-two-inch little woman took

it upon herself to be my protector. She even gave me my name, Jerome (holy one) Leon (lionhearted).

As the years passed, Mama was not only a witness, but a participant of God's amazing grace in my life. As a lad of

# That saved a wretch like me...

five years of age, one evening I did some sleepwalking (it had never happened before or since). I ended up standing beneath a cross on the wall in my bedroom. The next morning my grandmother told me what happened, and said that God was calling me to be a minister. My family was raised in another faith, and it was not my goal in life to be a preacher.

When I reached the age of 15, God's grace led Mama to

I subsequently entered the ministry (Mama's prophecy came true), and have been an Adventist pastor for the past 38 years, the last two serving as president of my conference.

Looking back, there is no doubt whatsoever that I was a brand plucked out of the fire in a city of more than one million people. Why His grace was given to me, "who am less than the least of all saints,"<sup>1</sup> I still marvel to this day!

As I neared the end of those 22 lessons, God's amazing grace took hold of my heart. I found myself accepting the Sabbath and all the other fundamental truths of Scripture that have become so precious to me.

listen to a radio broadcast called "The Voice of Prophecy." The speaker, H.M.S. Richards Sr., offered a series of free Bible studies for young people. Mama sent for the lessons, enrolling both James and me in the course. She had no idea what denomination was sponsoring the lessons (I'm so thankful it was the Seventh-day Adventist Church). Her only objective was to get a little religion into her teenage grandchildren.

Sending for the lessons was one thing, but getting us to do them was another. We kept putting them aside, with no intention of finishing them. However, Mama would "stay on us" until they were completed, and mailed them back to Los Angeles from Baltimore, Maryland, where we lived. Somehow, James wiggled out of finishing the course, but Mama wouldn't let me slide by. As I neared the end of those 22 lessons, God's amazing grace took hold of my heart. I found myself accepting the Sabbath and all the other fundamental truths of Scripture that have become so precious to me.

I praise Him, also, that I was permitted to be an instrument in His hands to bring my grandmother, my mother, my twin brother and 15 other members of my family into a saving knowledge of the Third Angel's Message.

There's a hymn that says, "What He's done for others, He'll do for you."<sup>2</sup> God's amazing grace has come into my life that I might share the Good News with others. It has also been given to you for you to share it with your grandparents, your parents, your siblings, your children and all others whom the Almighty brings into your life. For you see, one day we will all rejoice around His throne because of this AMAZING GRACE.

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Jerome Davis is the president of the Lake Region Conference.

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1. Ephesians 3:8

2. Words and music by Stuart Hamblen, "It Is No Secret," copyright©Hamblen Music Company, Canyon Country, California.

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,*



## Standing in God's Grace

BY JAY GALLIMORE

**A**t Pentecost Peter's voice raised a sword that cut the Jewish nation to the heart: "Therefore ... know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:36 NRSV). Aghast at the charge, 3,000 cried out for mercy.

That same sword pierces my heart. My sins, yes mine, crucified the Son of God. I wasn't at the cross, and yet I was. What they did every sinner would have done, if not restrained by the Spirit. So what hope have I, whose sins crucified the Son of God? Atonement for me? Is it possible?

Earlier, Peter made a profound statement: "This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men" (Acts 2:23 RSV).

Why? How could God give His only begotten Son into the hands of those wretched and debased men? Why

# That saved a wretch like me...

would Christ willingly do such a thing, even with His Father's permission?

Let it be noted that evil men inflicted on Christ the very justice they deserved themselves! Yet, in the very act of allowing His innocent Son into their evil hands, God forges the grace that alone can redeem the human race.

So here is the glorious reason to the "why." We sinners were allowed to treat Jesus as we deserved, so we may be treated as He deserves! This is grace! Undeserved. Unmerited. Unwarranted. Incomprehensible. This is holy ground. Standing in His grace, I worship here.

Out of His heart of love this grace hurls itself into the awful pain and darkness of the cross. Love ignited our salvation and grace will finish it. Even now, God's grace holds

As love and sin sank struggling beneath the dark waters of the dying Jesus, we hear their tortured battle in the words, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34). God the Father separated from His only begotten Son—because of my sins? It is too much. I watch, but I cannot comprehend. But my sins and my sinfulness, how I hate them for what they have done!

Today, we sing "Amazing Grace" in the glare of Hollywood's lights. Yet, grace was birthed in agony during the darkness of the cross. Here, grace forces me to become sober and silent at the site of the raw, ugly, hideous face of sin. Never again can I take sin lightly or see it as superficial.

On the other hand, in those lightening bolts illuminating the cross, I see grace bursting like living water out of

Today, we sing "Amazing Grace" in the glare of Hollywood's lights. Yet, grace was birthed in agony during the darkness of the cross.

back His own justice. Why? So I can find safety under His mighty wings.

Yet, God did not force wicked men to crucify Christ. He did not need to. Evil is predictable. Sin always plumbs the depths of degradation. The cross warns me of where sin, unchecked, will take me.

Yet, at the cross, while sin did its worst, the dying Son of God gave birth to grace. Bursting from the cross, its shining brilliance filled not just my heart and this little world, but the whole universe. What contrast, what mystery, what love.

In those terrible hours that Jesus hung on the cross, human destiny hung suspended over Heaven and hell. "There sin took hold of love and love took hold of sin" (*The Crises of the Christ*, p. 305). One would lose, and one would win—forever.

the throne of God. With irresistible might it gushes over my wounded and broken heart. It immerses the world. No one is left untouched.

It was Jesus, "the King of the Jews" (Mark 15:26), who was nailed to that cross. We did not like His preaching: "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). Revolutionary! Yes, but our pride does not take too kindly to repenting.

Yet, the severity of that preaching was love's shock to my heart. Sin's power had taken its toll on my ancestors and me. Its sternness had to cut through my damaged emotions and awaken my darkened intelligence. It slapped my will with fear and energized it into action.

That is why there was no apology in the preaching of Jesus. His message was not a suggestion. "Repent" could only get one of two answers from the human race.

# Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,

So at the cross humanity responded. We silenced our King, our Prophet and our Priest. How stupid is sin! We attacked our own Savior. We cut our own lifeline.

But look again. In the midst of sin's darkness another force is moving. It asks for no permission.

God's throne was not destroyed when evil men nailed Christ to the cross. God is love. We may abandon God, but God does not abandon us. At the cross we expressed our hatred to God's rule. But God responded by planting the kiss of forgiveness on our faces (*The Crises of the Christ*, pp. 311, 313, adapted).

At the cross mankind was not ruined. You see, Love still held the throne! So now Grace moves at Love's command. It refuses to turn away from those who nailed the nails. What power, what kingly majesty is this? So strong, so good, so invincible! Man may cast his appointed King out into darkness, but in the darkness He was still the King (*The Crises of the Christ*, p. 311, adapted).

denly, she began to beat the ground next to us. With vengeance she chopped a Copperhead snake into pieces.

Why such anger toward the snake? To be sure, that anger was kindled by her love for us. God's love is like that, only God has a problem—if that is possible. The children He loves, infected with sin, are like snakes, filled with sin and danger. Face it, poisonous snakes should die. Grandma was not wrong.

Yet, He loves us. It was God's grace that made Him sacrifice Himself, in Christ, to His own Justice (*The Cross of Christ*, p. 159, adapted). He takes our bite, and then sets us free! By satisfying His own Justice, God can now embrace me like a child, instead of destroying me like a snake.

Yet, Grace reveals another wonder. Sin's poison cannot keep Jesus in the grave. Oh no! Our sins may have caused His death, but He is sinless still. Even Justice demands His release. From those dark waters of death He rises victorious. Now I can touch the King's scepter of grace. Hallelu-

Yet, Grace reveals another wonder. Sin's poison cannot keep Jesus in the grave. Oh no! Our sins may have caused His death, but He is sinless still.

God's justice could have been satisfied by erasing the human race. But no, God insists, not only on justice but also on grace. So when evil had unleashed all its power at the cross, it is faced with Love sitting on the throne, swaying the scepter of grace.

Don't miss the point: God hates sin. Yet, the fierce flame that consumes the sacrifice came from the intensity of His love. Love will not allow sin to destroy the Universe. He will not!

My brother and I were once playing in my Grandma's sandy driveway with our "little cars." Suddenly, Grandma came running toward us yelling and waving a hoe. I don't remember being frightened, just shocked. Always so sweet and kind, we had never seen this side of Grandma. Sud-

denly, she began to beat the ground next to us. With vengeance she chopped a Copperhead snake into pieces.

So here I stand, with God's grace gushing over me.

*"So Grace is flowing like a river,  
Millions there have been supplied,  
Still it flows as fresh as ever,  
From the Savior's wounded side."<sup>1, 2</sup>*

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Jay Gallimore is the president of the Michigan Conference.

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1. English hymn, unknown.

2. With appreciation to the chapter, "Sin Unveiled, Grace Out Shining," in G. Campbell Morgan's book, *The Crises of the Christ*, pp. 304–316.



That saved a wretch like me...



# A Night Under the Stars

BY DON CORKUM

**O**n a recent flight, I was reading Stuart Tynes's book, *Searching for the God of Grace*. A lady next to me seemed preoccupied and uninterested in talking, so I absorbed myself in the book. I was amazed when she suddenly turned, and said, "The God I learned about as a child was never a God of grace." My trip changed as I sought to give this lady a picture of the self-sacrificing love of God displayed in Jesus.

It is such a joy to share with people how Christ came to this world to establish a kingdom based on grace. Paul says about Christ, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:5).

God's grace has inspired me to be a follower of Jesus. We are told that He "lavished" His love upon us (1 John 3:1 NIV). Grace is the basis of our salvation, and provides the power for our transformation. When grace is displayed in the lives of His people, it becomes the most powerful force

# Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,

the church has to offer the world. I have been powerfully influenced by grace-orientated people in my life.

My parents modeled the grace of God throughout their life. They were members of different churches. In our home, we had doctrinal differences on a number of subjects. These differences many times caused tensions as they were discussed. However, there was one theme we loved to dwell on—the grace of God. Many hours were spent around the piano in the living room singing about salvation in Christ.

Since we had no Seventh-day Adventist church in our community, which was the faith of my mother, I attended

The first Adventist minister to come to our area in Nova Scotia became a mentor in my life. Harold Friesen was a pastor of grace. He gave his life to minister to all ages of the church, and took special interest in the young people. I believe he is one reason why so many church leaders came out of that little group. It was on an outing with my pastor when he appealed to me to give my life to Christ and be baptized. He told me that God had a special plan for my life, and he gave me a sense of my being special to God.

It was a traumatic moment for my parents when I left home for academy at Oshawa Missionary College (now Kingsway College) in grade 11. Adventist education opened

When our hearts are filled with gratitude  
for the gift of God's grace in Christ, then we will seek to be  
faithful and obedient to Him.

another church with my dad. He was my Sunday school teacher, took me to evangelistic meetings, and other meetings of the church. But on Sabbath, I spent time in worship and devotion with my mother and brother at our home. My mother was the most powerful spiritual force in my life, and she helped me to appreciate God's amazing grace.

You can imagine the difficulty when, at age 13, I told my dad that the commitment of my life was with the teachings and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was a disappointment to him at that time, but he displayed the grace of God to me by saying, "Don, your commitment to God is a personal decision. You must be faithful to His leading." He did not demean me, ridicule my faith or try to coerce me. In fact, he faced ridicule because of my and my brother's decision to become Adventist ministers. At one point, he was put under church censure for not commanding his family after him.

another modeling of God's grace in my life. I was very naive about boarding academy life. I expected a community where everyone would be nearly perfect. However, I found a lot of students who needed to grow as much as I did.

During my second year at academy, I started getting careless about my Christian commitment. I felt guilty about new unwholesome habits in my life. At a week of prayer with E.L. Minchin, God helped turn my life around. The speaker told stories of lives transformed. He gave the message of the cross and God's forgiving love. He also gave a renewed understanding of God's power to transform lives and "keep us from falling." I fell in love with Jesus anew.

I attended Atlantic Union College and studied theology there. I wanted to become a minister, but felt very unworthy. I felt that without much Adventist church background, I had little to offer. However, the leaders and teachers on that campus gave me a picture of God and a

# That saved a wretch like me...

renewed sense of confidence that was foundational to my life and ministry.

Paul Riley, my dormitory dean, displayed God's grace to me. I received the theory of God's grace in the classroom by excellent teachers, but it was in everyday life that I needed to see it displayed. One night, Paul took a group of guys from the dorm out on Kilbourn Hill to pray. He told us to spread out and pray to God, individually. That night became my Abraham experience, where under the stars God revealed His presence to me in a powerful way.

Since I did not have the privilege of growing up in Adventist environment, I felt insecure about going into the

When our hearts are filled with gratitude for the gift of God's grace in Christ, then we will seek to be faithful and obedient to Him. Seventh-day Adventists should be specialists in teaching and demonstrating God's grace. Ellen White says, "Of all professing Christians, Seventh-day Adventists should be foremost in uplifting Christ before the world" (*Gospel Workers*, p. 157).

The apostle John says that when Jesus came to the world, He was "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). I personally believe that only when truth is accompanied by grace that it has power to attract people to God. Grace without truth also does not represent God accurately. It

I received the theory of God's grace in the classroom by excellent teachers, but it was in everyday life that I needed to see it displayed.

gospel ministry and being a leader in the church. I felt unworthy. As I viewed the stars that night God spoke to me clearly, saying, "What I have asked you to do, I will give you the ability to do." I felt a new sense of courage. Paul's leadership that night in the prayer band and many other times helped strengthen my walk with God. He helped many others in the same way. Spiritual leaders like Paul help change people's lives forever.

Atlantic Union College was also where I met my wife Phyllis. We both know that it was God's leading that brought us together for a wonderful life journey.

I am now in my 42nd year of service for the Adventist Church. Thirty years were in Canada, and now 12 years in Wisconsin. During these years, I have witnessed hundreds of people whose lives have been changed by God's grace. What a privilege it is to partner with God to help people become forever friends with Jesus.

is not enough to teach people doctrine and instruct them in correct principles of living. People must be led to a personal knowledge of God and experience His forgiveness and saving grace in their life. They must have Jesus as their Forever Friend.

Recently, I attended my home church, Madison East. On that day, the first Sabbath of the new year, a mother and daughter were baptized. They told how God led them to the Adventist message, and then how the love of the church members and pastors attracted them to join the fellowship. It was an inspiring service. I left with joy in my heart and a sense that this is what Jesus had in mind for His people—His churches being full of grace and truth.

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Don Corkum is the president of the Wisconsin Conference.

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,*



## So Easy to Forget

BY DON C. SCHNEIDER

**E**very country has memorials to its heroes. In the heart of Washington, D.C., stands that colossal stone monument pointing 555 feet into the air. Just inside its base are stories of George Washington, the president who was “first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.” Not far away is a glistening white marble shrine. Under its canopy is a gigantic statue of a thoughtful figure seated in a great stone chair. It’s the statue of Abraham Lincoln, a president greatly loved by Americans.

# That saved a wretch like me...

Standing in the middle of all of these reminders, you get the feeling that the human mind needs a lot of prodding. Our tendency to forget drives us to jog our memories with monuments, anniversaries and celebrations.

Jesus knew we would need powerful reminders of what happened in Gethsemane and on Golgotha as the decades and centuries passed. Though He never seemed to enjoy ritual or ceremony, He is the One who said, “Do this in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19).

In the upper room He urged His followers to love each other. He said that by their love they would be recognized

Then Jesus, the actual Messiah, just hours before His death, set up a memorial for us using two items that were on the menu that evening. He was saying, It’s so easy to forget! Please remember! And I do.

As I take that unleavened bread I remember Jesus, His sinless body, bruised, beaten and bloody. I see Him trying to drag that cross, *my* cross. I see the King of the universe hanging on that cross in my place. As I eat the bread my heart says, *Jesus, I cannot fathom the pain you must have felt for me. Thank You!*

The grape juice, too, makes me think of Jesus; His flow-

So each time someone kneels in front of me  
to wash my feet in preparation for Communion, I see Jesus in my mind.  
I remember His command to love one another.

as His disciples. Then He showed them what He meant with an ongoing memorial.

Those disciples could hardly believe what He did. I, too, am filled with amazement every time I think about it. Picture Jesus picking up a towel, filling a basin with water, then kneeling in front of each disciple and washing his dirty feet. As He completed His menial task He commanded them—and us—to do what He did in humility and love.

So each time someone kneels in front of me to wash my feet in preparation for Communion, I see Jesus in my mind. I remember His command to love one another.

But it wasn’t over. At the Passover Supper, this pivotal moment in history, Jesus and His disciples ate in order to remember. They remembered God’s delivery of the Israelite slaves from Egyptian bondage. They also looked forward to their future delivery from sin, to the Messiah’s death.

ing blood brought from His body by the lashes, the thorns, the nails. He died that Friday, so I could live eternally with Him. And as I sip the juice, my heart cries out, *Thank You for taking my death. I want to live for you today!*

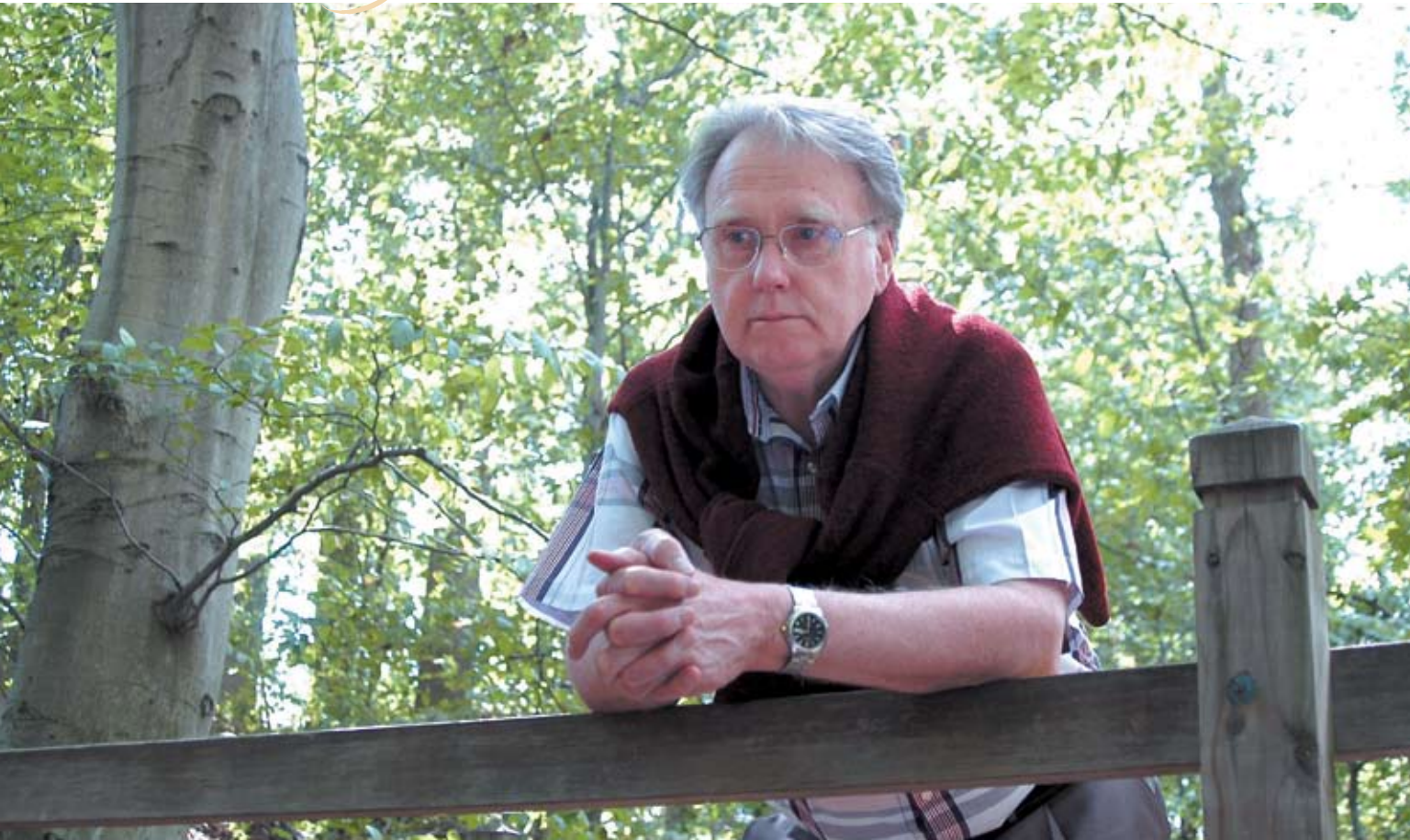
Yes, it’s easy to forget. I want to remember and believe.

So as the water trickles across my feet, as the crusty bread brushes past my lips and I crunch it, as the sweet juice delights my taste, I remember Jesus. I think about Him. I receive Him into my life again.

*Dear Jesus, my servant King and suffering Savior, my powerful, risen Deliverer, I praise You for Your sacrifice today. I rest completely in Your mercy and grace.*

Don C. Schneider is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,*



## Reflections on Grace

BY JAN PAULSEN

**T**here are moments in your life when you sense God's hand reaching down; when events occur that go beyond simply coincidence or good fortune. And as you look back, these events become markers of God's grace in your life—reminders that God has a plan in mind for you, that He has walked with you in the past, that He can be trusted to lead you into tomorrow.

My wife Kari and I were in Nigeria at the beginning of the Biafran War, a brutal, bloody conflict in which many thousands of people were killed. I was principal of our college in West Nigeria, where Babcock University now stands. The college had a bakery that delivered bread to stores in Lagos and Ibadan—the best bread that you could buy in the country was produced by our college bakery, and every morning delivery vans set out to both cities.

One of the drivers who took bread to Ibadan came to my house late one evening. He was from the Ibo tribe of east

Nigeria, the tribe that was at war with the rest of the country. As the turmoil intensified, most of the Ibo students at the college had returned home to east Nigeria. But this driver had not. For him the value of an education was too high, and he wanted to stay. He said, "I am afraid to go by myself into Ibadan tomorrow. Would you come with me?"

We left at four in the morning with an extra box of bread to distribute to soldiers at the military checkpoints we passed through. We made our deliveries at Ibadan and headed back to the college. As we came around a long bend in the road

# That saved a wretch like me...

we found a number of cars had been stopped. There were a half dozen soldiers in uniform with automatic weapons; these were Hausa soldiers from north Nigeria, the Ibos' most implacable enemies. They were drunk on palm wine, unsteady on their feet and somewhat irrational. They could not speak a lot of English. As they came to each vehicle they asked just one question: "Which nation?" meaning, "Which tribe?" And when they came to our van they really didn't need to ask the question because they saw the tribal marks on the face of my driver.

"Come out, come out," they said to him. I knew what would happen if he left the van. There were so many stories of Ibos who were taken just off to the side of the road and shot. I opened the door on my side. "No," they said and gestured for me to stay. The leader of the group was on my side of the van, so I prayed and began to talk to him. I spoke for about 15 minutes and as I talked, the other soldiers, who had

deep ethnic and political divisions. In the reports of death and upheaval I hear echoes not only of the Biafran War, but of innumerable other tragedies of the past century: from the genocides of Sudan, Rwanda and the Balkans, to the endless back-and-forth of the Middle East conflict, to the devastation of the World Wars and the Jewish Holocaust.

As I see heartbreaking images from Kenya—of a young man, shirt bloodied and head bowed; of a small child sitting lost and alone beside the body of her murdered mother—the question comes forcefully to me: "As one whose life has been touched by God's grace, what am I doing to make His presence visible in a world that desperately needs to hear His voice and feel His touch?"

Grace is not just a private, one-way experience. It's not a theological proposition we can hold up to the light and examine, then put aside and go on with business as usual. Grace is a powerful, living force that cannot be contained. When

Grace is ... not a theological proposition we can hold up to the light and examine, then put aside and go on with business as usual.

been pointing their weapons through the windows of our van, also came around to listen. I have no idea what I said to them—even immediately afterward I could not recall the words I spoke. But I know it was in English, a language they did not speak beyond a few words.

After a quarter of an hour the leader said to the Ibo driver, "We will let you go, but only because your master talked so well." If there was ever a classical case of speaking in tongues, this would be it! Without the intervention of the Holy Spirit there was no way my words could be properly understood by the soldiers, let alone impress them to let us pass unharmed.

Although there have been other times also, this stands out for me as a moment when I became profoundly aware of God's presence in my life; He stopped me on my journey, stepped in and said, "I want to give direction to your life. I want you to know that your work isn't finished; there are other things I want you to do. I will sustain you and stay with you. Stay with Me and things will be okay."

Some 40 years beyond this event, a different African conflict is dominating headlines. The crisis in Kenya is fueled by

God reaches into our lives, His touch animates us. It opens our eyes to needs around us; it compels us to go into our communities with practical, hands-on care. When we feel God's touch, we can be sure that it is not for our benefit alone, but so His love will also be reflected and amplified in our actions and our relationships.

My hope is that Seventh-day Adventists will be known as agents of God's grace; that our first care will always be for people—before things, before traditions, before our own comfort. I pray that our churches will be places of spiritual and physical refuge; that all who enter will be embraced with warmth, acceptance and compassion. And I pray that each of us, as we reflect back on God's presence in our lives, will be able to say with the Apostle Paul: "[B]y the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect" (1 Corinthians 15:10 NIV).

Jan Paulsen is the president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church.



## Hospital Volunteer Authors Children's Book About Grief

When families experience a miscarriage, stillbirth or neonatal death, there are many places they can turn to for support and guidance in dealing with their grief.

Support groups, books, counselors are all readily available for parents and grandparents. But for young children, resources are sparse. Cathy Blanford calls these young siblings the "forgotten mourners."

Blanford has seen firsthand the devastating effects these types of loss have on young children. She volunteers as a bereavement counselor for *Still Missed*, a support program at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital for families who experience pregnancy loss.

"Many times, parents are so overwhelmed with their own sorrow, they have no capacity or energy to deal with their other children," Blanford said. "But little ones overhear things and pick up vibes, and without concrete information, children can experience disturbing feelings involving fear, guilt and confusion."

Recognizing the need, Blanford decided to write a book titled "*Something Happened*." It tells the story of a mother, father and a little boy who are looking forward to the birth of a new baby. It describes the anticipation of each family member, but then "something happens," and suddenly the child is struggling to comprehend why there is no new baby.

"Cathy is a true gift to the program," said Rosmarie Roose, R.N.,

coordinator of the *Still Missed* program. "She's able to capture the feelings these families are experiencing and shed light on them in a positive way to bring them hope and healing."

*Something Happened* is written purposefully in a straightforward manner and addresses the many confusing feelings

work together toward healing. "It's a privilege to accompany grieving people to deep places," Blanford said. "It's very spiritual—like going to the wilderness of the heart. I think of it as 'companioning.' I sit with them in their pain. It feels like prayer to me."

Most pages of *Something Happened*

include a box with insight and advice to help parents understand what their child might be experiencing. Parents can easily scan the boxes while their child looks at the beautiful watercolor illustrations.

Besides working with *Still Missed*, Blanford reaches out to children of all ages dealing with grief of the loss of a parent or loved one through Adventist St.

Thomas Hospice's Tommy's Kids Support Group. She has trained the volunteers who participate at the annual summer camp.

"Children who have experienced a death in their family are often reassured by stories of children with a similar experi-

ence," Blanford said. "It helps them to understand better what has happened in their own family and know that they are not alone in their feelings."

Proceeds from the book will go toward the *Still Missed* program. To learn more, visit [www.somethinghappenedbook.com](http://www.somethinghappenedbook.com).

Julie L. Busch, regional manager of public relations,  
Adventist Midwest Health



Author Cathy Blanford (left) shares her book with Rosmarie Roose, R.N., coordinator of the *Still Missed* program at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital.



"*Something Happened*," by author Cathy Blanford, addresses the many confusing feelings a child experiences when an anticipated baby dies.

a child experiences when the anticipated baby has died. Perhaps most important, the book includes the family's experience of going on with life while always remembering their baby.

"The child reading the book is left with a sense of reassurance that life continues," Blanford said, "and that he or she is loved and secure and is still a vital part of a loving family."

For nearly 20 years, the *Still Missed* program has provided a time and place for parents to join together to discuss their loss, express feelings and





Vaughan Nelson

Elia King leads music for worship with students attending StandOut.

## Spiritual Retreat Weekend Planned

Public high school students and home schoolers should mark their calendars for *StandOut*, a spiritual retreat on the campus of Andrews University, from April 18 to 20.

Throughout the two days of spiritual exercises and group activities, participants will be challenged to tap into the amazing power of God, so that they will stand out.

In addition to fun events like a concert and a dodgeball tournament, participants will engage in discussing such meaningful questions as: Were you meant to accomplish some amazing things in life? Is that even possible? What if your destiny is doing something great for God? How will you know?

"*StandOut* was amazing, and that's all I can say—besides the fact that you should go," said Tasha Ermis, a freshman chemistry major at Andrews University.



Kalicia Morrison, who has attended the program for the past two years, was similarly enthusiastic about it. "I can't wait for *StandOut* this year!" she said. "I got such a blessing from it last year, and I know I will get one again this year! Thanks for doing this, and letting us know it's okay to stand out for Jesus."

Come and explore how easy it is to stand out for God while doing the world-changing things God has in store for you! For more information, go to [www.standout.andrews.edu](http://www.standout.andrews.edu), or [www.myspace.com/standoutconference](http://www.myspace.com/standoutconference).

Robert Moncrieff, student news writer, University Relations

## Andrews Unveils New Graduate Scholarship Program

Paying for graduate school studies just got a little easier for students attending Andrews University, beginning with the 2008–2009 school year. The university's new Graduate Scholarship Program will be the first university-wide program to offer scholarships to eligible students in most entry-level graduate programs. The graduate scholarships will offer, for those who qualify, an overall percentage discount on the specific tuition for that student's program,

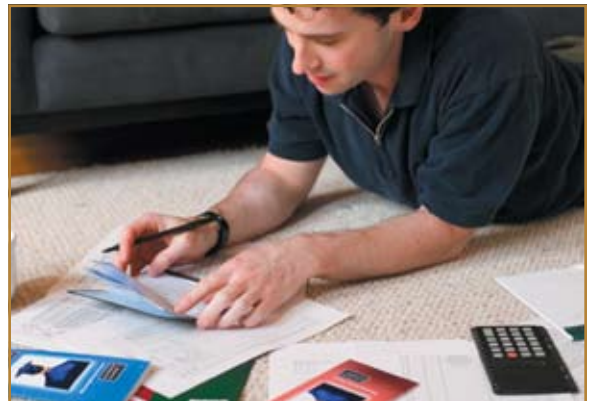
based on the student's GRE or GMAT scores.

G. Lyndon Furst, who retired in December as Andrews University's dean of Graduate Studies, said the new scholarship has been a dream of his since he first assumed the position in 2002. "Nearly 40 percent of Andrews students are in the School of Graduate Studies," according to Furst. "This new scholarship program demonstrates how important graduate education is to Andrews."

The scholarships are available to master's level students accepted into programs which require a GRE or GMAT, or first-time graduate students in advanced programs (for two years only), who enroll for the first time for the 2008–2009 term and who have current (within five years) GRE (or GMAT for School of Business students) scores at the time of enrollment. The Graduate Scholarship Program will not be available to most doctoral students or to students in programs with subsidized tuition rates, such as some of those within the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews.

"The graduate scholarship gives students who want to attend grad school in the context of a Christian worldview a little bit more assistance," said Furst. "It's a major step forward for the university in making grad school more affordable."

Robert Moncrieff, student news writer, University Relations



## [ EDUCATION NEWS ]

### Andrews Academy Appreciates Diverse Student Body

Michigan—This past fall Andrews Academy celebrated International Appreciation Week, Oct. 22–26. During the week, students of various cultures presented daily school-wide worships. For example, six students from Africa sang a song of thanks to God in one of the Malawi languages and wore the traditional dress of the country. On another



Andrews Academy is blessed to have so many nations and cultures represented in their student body.

German and Spanish classes. An international cultural fashion show followed where students from many cultures of the world presented their traditional clothing. These programs enable students, faculty and staff to realize how they are truly blessed by a diversity of



At a special program during Fall Fest, Andrews Academy students from 44 countries of the world presented their flags at the International Flags Entrance.

day, the Korean students presented a different special music. Scripture and prayer were offered in various languages of the world. A number of students also presented highlights of mission trips abroad they were involved in; some described their studies abroad, and one group of students highlighted the activities of this past summer when they were involved in an archaeological dig in Jordan.

Midweek assembly involved a celebration of Andrews Academy's diversity. The academy's modern language department presented Fall Fest. The program began with prayer followed by the International Flags Entrance, and students from 44 countries of the world presented their flag. Two skits were presented by students from the

cultures present at Andrews Academy.

Following the Fall Fest program, the students and faculty enjoyed foods from around the world. International students and their families brought in their country's traditional treats for all to sample.

Keila Sanchez and Tom Baker teach the modern languages at Andrews Academy, and need to be thanked for planning such an inspiring week of activities for each to enjoy and to appreciate even further the diversity experienced each day of the school year.

When we get to Heaven, I look forward to the day when the people of all nations of the

world will gather together to worship and praise God. Andrews Academy is blessed to have so many nations and cultures represented so all can experience a little taste of what the worship experience might be like in Heaven.

Steven Atkins, science teacher, Andrews Academy

### Battle Creek Academy Presents 'The Door'

Michigan—Battle Creek Academy (BCA) presents "The Door," an Easter program with choral music and Passion Play. The BCA witnessing class and select participants are inviting everyone to join them in celebrating the resurrection of Christ. Bonnie Velez, witnessing instructor at BCA says, "This is a huge production, and the students are very excited about this event."

Velez's witnessing class participates regularly at chapel services, travels to nearby churches to witness and visits local homes in hopes that their efforts will lead others to the Lord.

Plan to see "The Door" at BCA on March 7 and 8 at 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. BCA is located at 480 Parkway Drive, Battle Creek. For additional information, call 269-965-1278.

Wendy and Ryan Keough, directors of marketing and recruitment, Battle Creek Academy



Battle Creek Academy's witnessing class will present "The Door," an Easter program with choral music and Passion Play.

## Pastors Welcomed to HAA Open House

Illinois—Hinsdale Adventist Academy (HAA) held their very first “Pastors’ Open House” on Tuesday, Jan. 15. More than 50 pastors and officers from the Illinois Conference visited the school in conjunction with the Conference pastors’ meeting held the same day at the Hinsdale Church. Upon arrival, the pastors heard a devotional in the gymnasium presented by Jim Martz, Illinois Conference superintendent of education. HAA’s high school chorale provided music for the devotional time. Then the pastors were treated to a “mini concert” with performances from first-, second-, and third-grade students, the intermediate band (grades five and six), the junior high choir and the high school concert band.

After the mini concert, pastors with churches in the local area attended a presentation by Meechai Tessalee, school board vice chairman and the development committee chair. This presentation was created by HAA’s marketing department to remind the pastors that they are an essential piece of Adventist education. They were presented with statistics on the HAA student body, HAA’s academic program and general statistics provided by the Office of Education at the Seventh-day Adventist Church headquarters in North



Jim Martz, Illinois Conference superintendent of education, offers prayer during the “Pastors’ Open House.”



Fred Crowell (left), pastor of the Downers Grove Church, tours the school with juniors Erin Houda and Leigh Cunningham.

America. Most importantly, the pastors were reminded of Ellen G. White’s counsel about Seventh-day Adventist education for our children. They also viewed a video presentation in which several HAA students were interviewed and spoke of their experiences with Seventh-day Adventist education, and particularly HAA. All pastors were given the opportunity to tour the school, guided by a team of high school students.

When I attended an Area 5 pastors meeting in October, it occurred to me that many pastors in the Chicagoland area have either never been in our school, or have not been to HAA in a very long time! How can they support us if they don’t know us? Our hope is that once they get to know us, they will feel comfortable promoting Seventh-day Adventist education and HAA to the school-age chil-

dren in their church. And, if they are a pastor of a church that has an elementary school, they will recommend our high school to their students. The goal of the open house was to begin building relationships with these pastors and their churches. We definitely want our local pastors to be a part of our school and come and visit often, so we felt it was our responsibility to reach out to them and let them know how very important they are to us.

All in all, it was a great day, and we hope the beginning of long-term relationships between our school and the churches in the Chicagoland area.

Rebecca Garrett, marketing director,  
Hinsdale Adventist Academy



Kristine Asuncion, Eugenia Han and Janeen Morgan perform with the high school concert band at the “Pastors’ Open House.”



Members of HAA’s junior high choir sang for the pastors during a mini-concert.

## 'Band Together 2008' Brings Schools Together

Michigan—The Battle Creek Academy (BCA) gymnasium was packed with more than 250 family members, staff, friends and visitors for the final concert of "Band Together 2008." This year's festival began Jan. 31 and ended with the final concert on Saturday, Feb. 2. With Jerry Rose conducting, the students got the chance to show the audience just how hard they had worked during those three days.

Michele Stark, BCA band director, organized the bi-annual event for students in grades seven through 12 who are attending Christian schools in Southwest Michigan. She contacted band directors in other schools, booked a clinician, selected music, created T-shirts and completed numerous other tasks all in an effort to make "Band Together 2008" a huge success.

Rose was selected as this year's festival clinician. He has been teaching at Pennfield High School in Battle Creek for 21 years, and is in his 17th year as director of bands. As a youngster in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Rose was surrounded by music within his church and family, and this powerful connection between faith and music became a factor in his development as a person and musician. Rose attended Olivet College, where he received his Bachelor of Music Education degree in 1986. He received his Master of Music



Festival clinician Jerry Rose directed 84 talented musicians at "Band Together 2008," at Battle Creek Academy.

Education degree at VanderCook College of Music in Chicago, Ill., in 1993. His major instrument is tuba, and he is a frequent performer on all low brass instruments. Locally, he has performed with the Battle Creek Jazz Ensemble, the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra and the Brass Band of Battle Creek. Rose is active as a member and adjudicator in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, and in 2002 he was inducted into membership in the American School Band Directors Association.

Brenda Mejeur with students from Grand Rapids Adventist Academy and Renee Coffee with students from Gobles Jr. Academy arrived on Thursday afternoon and stayed at BCA during the entire festival. The festival schedule was very full, but that

tight schedule was threatened when the weather forecast called for almost a foot of snow by Friday morning. "We got them here," Stark said after everyone arrived. "Now I just hope that we can have rehearsal tomorrow." Though classes were canceled at BCA on Friday, Feb. 1, local students

showed up at 10:00 a.m., and rehearsals went forward as planned.

The "Band Together 2008" festival band was made up of 84 talented young musicians. Rose announced to the audience that there were many fine soloists in the group.

"Many of these kids playing here don't get the chance to play in a band like this," says Nancy Steely, former BCA band director. "Our students (at BCA) have no idea how lucky they are." Steely was instrumental in planning and organizing the festival, and is a long-time colleague of Stark and Rose. Even in her retirement, she is still very involved in the music program at BCA. She joked, "They still trust me with a few keys."

The BCA Concert Band is locally renowned and multi-award winning. Stark will lead the BCA Concert Band on a tour in Toronto later this year.

"Band Together 2008" was sponsored by the Arts & Industry Council, and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs; L. Humberto Covarrubias, M.D., P.C.; and Autocam Corporation.

For more information about the BCA music program and concert schedule, call 269-965-1278.

Wendy and Ryan Keough, directors of marketing and recruitment, Battle Creek Academy



[PATHFINDER NEWS]

## Pathfinder Group and 4-H Club Work Together for Local Cause

Wisconsin—In early December 2007, the Wisconsin Rapids Pathfinder club recruited help from a local 4-H club, and together the 26 children and helpers built a gingerbread village which occupied center stage at the Wisconsin Rapids mall through the holiday season.



Wisconsin Rapids Pathfinder, Lucinda Thurmon, poses by her mill house gingerbread house.

Although this is the first time the 4-H club has helped out, it is the third year the Pathfinders have held this event from which all proceeds are donated to the Family Center in Wisconsin Rapids, a shelter for women and families. In three years, more than \$2,600 has been raised this way.

The supplies were donated by the local Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Wittenburg 4-H Club, and the houses were built mostly by the children, with each creation being as unique as the child who made it. The more unique offerings this year were a Dodge truck with headlights that worked, a mill house with a working water wheel which played music as it turned, and a Native American lodge (teepee), complete with a glowing fire inside and an outside covering of fon-



Pathfinders and a local 4-H club built a gingerbread village. Proceeds benefited a shelter for women and children.

dant, which very closely resembled real hide. They were created by Caleb Frey, Lucinda Thurmon and Ethan Frey respectively. Almost all the houses were lit up in some way, and it is the attention to detail that brought them all to life.

As the public moved through the mall, signs encouraged them to bid on the houses. The director of the Family Center truly appreciates the efforts of the Pathfinder club, and the children enjoy participating.

Rhonda Whetstone Neibauer, communication secretary, Wisconsin Rapids Church

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

## KenMat Foundation Teams with the BLC to Provide Computer Training

Lake Region—“It’s been a great deal of help, and I’ve increased what I know by leaps and bounds!” This is what Detroit native, Robert Dixon, says about the computer class he is taking at the Detroit Better Living Center (BLC).

The computer class began Tuesday, Jan. 22, with six students, meeting twice a week in the evening. The second session of classes to be offered at the BLC, Dixon says the classes are meeting a real need. Earlier he enrolled in a web

design class offered by a local non-profit organization, but quickly realized he didn’t have the basic computer skills he needed. Walking by the BLC one day,



Ray Young

Robert Dixon is glad the Better Living Center offers computer classes. His goal is to use the skills he learns to eventually earn a livelihood.

Dixon wrote down the number from the sign promoting the basic computer class. He lives a couple blocks from the BLC and is familiar with the programs offered there. Dixon’s wife and children have taken advantage of clothing giveaways and attended the Christmas party for kids.

Karen Moore, a member of the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Mich., teaches the computer class that has a waiting list for the next session. The curriculum of the program includes basic PC skills and an introduction to Microsoft Office and MS Word. “We have individuals enrolled in our program who have never turned on a computer or surfed the Internet. We are opening a whole new world to many in the community as they learn useful skills to use in the workforce,” stated Moore.

In 2005, Moore founded the KenMat Foundation which sponsors the computer training class. Originally formed to support families who couldn't afford to send their kids to summer camp programs, KenMat has discovered other ways to engage families in meaningful community offerings and projects.

BLC director Ray Young is thrilled with the increasing array of programs and services that will be provided at the BLC to meet the needs of the surrounding community. "There are a lot of people in this community who need any help we can give. It doesn't take much, and they are very grateful for the basic things. I didn't know if anyone would be interested in computer classes, but we always have a list of people waiting to get in."

Debbie Young, communication correspondent, Lake Region Conference

To learn more about the KenMat Foundation, go to [www.kenmatfoundation.com](http://www.kenmatfoundation.com).

## Witnessing Parade Reaches Community for Jesus

Lake Region—There must be something beneficial about walking. Jesus and His disciples did a lot of walking. Walking enabled Jesus to get close to the people, touching, healing, witnessing and talking with them. Thinking about this concept and tasked with the command, "Go ye therefore into all the neighborhoods and spread the Gospel of Jesus' love to every man, woman and child," Alice Strawbridge of Burns (Detroit) Seventh-day Adventist Church visualized a witnessing parade as an instrument to draw others to the Lord. An event of this kind had never been executed before by Adventists in the local community that certainly needed an economic and spiritual boost!

This spark of an idea was shared with other church members: Gertis

Fordjour, Ruth Kennedy, Gloria Roberts and Shirley Tatum. Roberts and Tatum championed the event and fired up all church ministries and members to participate. Kennedy provided administrative support and ensured due process was followed. However, Fordjour, the parade director, had the unenviable task of supervising, coordinating and finally realizing the event.

After weeks of preparation, prayer and persuasion, finally the day arrived, Aug. 11, 2007. It was a hot, beautiful Sabbath afternoon for the parade to take place. With police escort, the parade left the church grounds promptly at 12 noon, headed by a red "ballooned" convertible driven by Teneshia Standifer. The parade had a "Western" theme, based on the General Conference's Vacation Bible School "Western" theme. The Conant Gardens drum corps, led by Brian Smith, set the pace. People who heard the beat of the drums and



Parade observers enjoyed the enthusiasm of the cheerleaders and drum corps.

clashing cymbals ran out of bars, homes and stores, and wondered what was going on in this part of Detroit. Cars stopped, parked and watched the procession as others waved and thanked us for what we were doing. Many of these onlookers were also asking, "Who are these Adventists?"

Representatives of the community services ministry, Pathfinders, puppet ministry, Motor City Youth Federation, singles ministry, church elders, young and senior members, and friends formed the procession, some on foot and others in cars. Those on foot gave



Powerful singing and preaching took place on the witnessing float. The float was provided by the American Parade Company.



Oliver Page

Teneshia Standifer (driver) and well-wishers led the procession through local neighborhoods.

out fliers, Adventist booklets, balloons, candy and smiles. Observers enjoyed the enthusiasm of the Burns cheerleaders and drum corps. Sermonettes such as “Jesus Is Coming Again,” “Time Is Running Out” and “You’d Better Get Ready” could be heard as our ministers proclaimed God’s Word. The awesome men’s chorale, *The Chosen Few*, led by Russell Taylor, sang songs from the huge float provided by the American Parade Company. As the procession continued for about five miles, several bystanders remembered their childhood faith and asked for special prayer.

Julius Everett Sr., Burns Church pastor, along with all the participants, were humbled at the success of and the overwhelming Christian witness the parade made on the local community. It was evident the parade was more than just another event. Several of the bystanders who asked for prayer have visited the Burns Church since the parade and commenced Bible studies leading to at least one baptism. “The Model Church” reached out and touched the local community through a walking event and reaped an untold harvest for God’s Kingdom tomorrow.

Oliver Page, Ph.D., communication leader, and Gertis Fordjour, Witnessing Parade director, Burns Church

## The Ripple Effect of Working Together Benefits Many

Lake Region—On Friday, Jan. 11, the Detroit Better Living Center (BLC) received a truck shipment of pillows, mattress pads and blankets. Boxes and boxes lined the walls of the multipurpose room at the BLC awaiting pick up from churches and other agencies. In the dead of winter, these coveted items would be put to good use. But where did they come from, and how did they end up at the BLC?

Josephine Taylor is a member and the community services leader at the Ypsilanti (Mich.) Church. Some time ago, Taylor’s daughter, Pam Meadows, introduced her to the directors of housekeeping in the hotel where Meadows was employed. A long time community volunteer, Taylor never turns away an

opportunity that could be of future help to someone in need. Taylor told the housekeeping directors that if they were ever looking to donate any bedding, furniture or supplies, she could help get it to community agencies for their clients. Little did she know that it would be the beginning of a ripple effect that would go beyond her expectations.

Taylor received a call with news that the hotel had a surplus. They wanted to know if she could use 1,000 pillows, blankets and mattress pads. Undaunted by the challenge of distributing such a large number, she said, “Yes,” and then got busy on the phone with her community contacts. Enter Detroit BLC director Ray Young, who

consented to take many of the boxes. When the shipment arrived, he was overwhelmed. Young thought he would have pillows up to his ears until spring. Much to his surprise and relief, when he told people what he had, calls began to come from everywhere. People were happy to come and get the bedding he had.

But the BLC was not the only recipient of this mega-shipment. Other churches in the area, non-profit agencies and area shelters opened their doors to be a conduit to people in need. Taylor recalls, “I didn’t know what I was going to do with all of this bedding, but God made a way for it to work out.”



Ray Young

Boxes and boxes of pillows, mattress pads and blankets donated from a local hotel were delivered to the Detroit Better Living Center.

Ypsilanti church members helped in ways they couldn’t have imagined. One member asked how donations were transported. When he learned that Taylor rented a truck, he offered to pay the gas for the transport. Even the rental company gave a break in the fee when Taylor told them the purpose for the rental. Taylor exclaimed, “God is good, you hear me! Everyone pulled together, and no matter how little the contribution of time, money or effort, it was just what was needed.”

We don’t always know the ripple effect of the work we do. But when we do our part, we can be assured God will do His, and many will be blessed.

Debbie Young, communication correspondent, Lake Region Conference

## [LAKE UNION NEWS]

### Wisconsin Conference Realizes Baptism and Membership Goals

Wisconsin—Many churches in the region around the Great Lakes are experiencing major challenges that hinder church growth. There has been an economic decline as a number of jobs have relocated off-shore or to the South and Southwest where population concentrations have shifted to warmer climates. Many churches are scattered throughout rural areas where there is little ethnic and cultural diversity. It is challenging to work in areas where an established Northern European culture is typically resistant to change in politics, philosophy and religion.



On Sept. 8, 2007, Jodie Johnson was baptized by Carlos Ancheta, pastor, in the Racine Church. Jodie was one of the 301 people added to the Wisconsin Conference to reach 7,000 members by the last day of 2007.

Recognizing these challenges, the constituents of the Wisconsin Conference have made evangelism a priority. It was at their 2006 Constituency Meeting that the constituents of the Wisconsin Conference set as their objective, 7,600 members by 2010.

At the beginning of 2007, the leadership team prayerfully sought to look past the discouraging circumstances to see the potential for growth from

God's perspective. From a human point of view, they chose an impossible goal: to add 300 new members by baptism and profession of faith and to increase the total membership to 7,000 by the end of the year.

It would take a combined effort across the conference to commit time in prayer and service. Life could not continue as normal. Members worked together with pastors, teachers and evangelists to conduct more than 50 public evangelistic meetings, a number of which were conducted by lay evangelists. Many members opened their homes and visited the homes of their neighbors to share the good news by opening the pages of Scripture in Bible studies.

Rather than focusing on the goal of reaching specific numbers, people were concerned with whom they could reach for Jesus. In fact, it wasn't until all the church clerk's reports were tabulated for the year that they realized that as of Jan. 1, 2008, the total Wisconsin Conference membership was exactly 7,000! When Phyllis Corkum, Conference clerk, made the announcement, the staff gathered at center court of the Conference office for a time of prayer and praise for what they knew God had accomplished through His Spirit.

In response, each church in the Wisconsin Conference participated in a combined worship service of praise and thanksgiving on Feb. 23. The service for the

day was introduced by Walter Wright, Lake Union president, and Don Corkum, Wisconsin president, via DVD, followed by a responsive reading expressing praise and thanksgiving for God's great power and grace, and inviting members to a new level of commitment to cooperating with Him in reaching out to their communities.

For the second year in a row the Conference has surpassed 300 baptisms. Encouraged by the Lord's blessing, they are looking ahead to 2009, and have increased their goal to 700 baptisms for the church-wide Year of Evangelism. God has blessed the Wisconsin Conference through a spirit of unity and cooperation as its constituents have embraced the notion that each one has a God-given purpose to introduce men and women, and boys and girls, to Jesus.

James Fox, communication director, Wisconsin Conference

### Evangelist's Messages Taped for International Broadcast

Wisconsin—The work of a public evangelist can be daunting: meeting new people for Jesus every six weeks; sharing the Gospel clearly and persuasively in the public forum; and, maintaining high faith and high energy while moving from place to place

Ric Swaningson has been effectively meeting these challenges for the last six years in Wisconsin as pastor and Conference evangelist. He undertook



Ric Swaningson, evangelist, has effectively shared the Gospel for the past six years in Wisconsin. Recently, his Green Bay meetings were recorded and broadcast on 3ABN.





Delmar Austin, Green Bay Church pastor, presents fifteen candidates for church membership at the close of the meetings. A dozen more are preparing for baptism.

a new level of complexity in this work when the decision was made to record and broadcast the series of meetings conducted in Green Bay, Wis. "One always seeks to be careful of words when working for Jesus. When meetings are being recorded for broadcast, however,

there is a whole new sense of awareness," reported Swaningson.

The Green Bay Church hosted the Adventures in Prophecy meetings and adapted quickly to the presence of bright lights, camera crews, producers and directors. Interested people and

church members supported the meetings from night to night.

When asked about his feelings about the whole process, Swaningson responded, "The production crew was great to work with. They were spiritual and flexible. It was troubling to be preaching with a huge digital clock in a prominent location counting down the number of minutes remaining for the meeting. I was glad that the attendees could not see this countdown as I did."

Even with all this technology, the work of leading individuals to Jesus is still that of hearts touching hearts with the Holy Spirit's blessings. After much prayer and visitation, 18 precious individuals were added to the church in baptism and profession of faith with a dozen more preparing for baptism. And who knows how many more will make decisions for Christ when the series is aired in March 2008 on 3ABN. You may check [www.3ABN.org](http://www.3ABN.org) for times and dates.

James Fox, communication director,  
Wisconsin Conference

## [NAD NEWS]

### SONScreen Film Festival Hosts Sixth Film Event

SONScreen Film Festival hosts its sixth festival event on Apr. 10–12. Having moved around the country for several years from California to Texas to Florida, the festival has made Simi Valley, Calif., the official home of the festival. In 2006, SONScreen was invited by Adventist Media Productions (AMP Studios) to utilize the state-of-the-art facility to hold the festival event. This partnership allows the festival to be an even more outstanding experience for those who attend and participate.

Upcoming festival activities and events include the outstanding film screenings each evening by talented Adventist/Christian filmmakers from

around the nation and the global community. Workshops will cover scriptwriting, secrets of great cinematography, and the art of capturing the story through documentary filmmaking. A Sabbath afternoon panel discussion entitled "Behind the Scenes: The Gospel in the Trenches of Hollywood" will explore with a panel of Christian experts in the field what it's like to work in Hollywood ... outside of the spotlight.

"We take pride in the fact that many SONScreen alumni have gone on from our festival into other film festival arenas and won various accolades for their films, like the students of Southern Adventist University whose



Filmmakers pose at the conclusion of the awards gala at the 2007 SONScreen Film Festival in Simi Valley, Calif.

film, *Secret of the Cave*, received the Crystal Heart Award at the Heartland Film Festival. Now the film has been picked up by major distribution, so the film is in national store chains like Blockbuster, Wal-Mart and Best Buy," said Stacia D. Wright, festival producer.

For more information visit [www.sonscreen.com](http://www.sonscreen.com) or call 866-766-3146.

George Johnson Jr., associate director of communication, Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America

Within the Lake Union, the officiating pastor or church communication leader is responsible for submission of information to this column. Forms are available in print format, or they can be filled out and submitted directly online. Milepost forms are available at [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org). Conference addresses and phone numbers are in the masthead on page 51.

## Birthdays

**Mildred (Tippett) Verley** celebrated her 100th birthday on Feb. 9, 2008, by a Patio Party with her daughter, Lois, granddaughter, Kathy, friends and relatives, and by spending three weeks away from the snow and cold with family in Phoenix, Ariz. She has been a member of the Iron Mountain (Mich.) Church for 77 years.

Mildred was married to the late Ralph Verley.

Mildred has been a housewife and devoted mother and grandmother. She is still active today in the annual Ingathering drive every fall.

Mildred has five children: Ralph and Irene Verley of Arlington, Ill.; Lois and Bruce Ring of Iron Mountain; Norman and Evelyn Verley, Susan and Chuck Kempf, and Della and Ron Van Alsteen all of Quinnesec, Mich.; 11 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; two step-great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

## Anniversaries



**Oscar and Fern Boismier** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary by a three-week trip to many parts of Portugal and Spain with their son, Jim, and his wife, Maria, and by a two-week cruise with their son, Gary, and his wife, Marilyn, visiting Jamaica, Costa Rica, Panama Canal, Peru and Chile. They have been members of the East Lansing University (Mich.) Church for 51 years.

Oscar Boismier and Fern Craner were married July 27, 1947, in Flint, Mich., by Pastor Russell Krick. Oscar has been a physical therapist at Hinsdale Hospital in Ill. and Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, Mich., and supervisor of physical therapy at Olin

Health Center, Michigan State University, retiring in 1984. Fern has been office manager for Drs. Chiaravalli, Figenshaw and Curtis; worked at It Is Written; worked in X-ray and Lab at Hinsale Hospital; and worked at the White Memorial Clinic in Los Angeles, retiring in 1984.

The Boismier family includes Jim and Maria Boismier of San Jose, Calif.; Gary and Marilyn Boismier of Houston, Texas; two grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; and four step-great-grandchildren.



**Gary and Patricia Erhard** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 17, 2007, by a family dinner at Papa Vino's in St. Joseph, Mich. They have been members of the Pioneer Memorial (Mich.) Church for 45 years.

Gary R. Erhard and Patricia A. Caldwell were married Nov. 17, 1957, in Detroit, Mich., by Pastor Hendrixson. Gary and Patricia are the owners of Erhard Furniture and Flooring; they enjoy mission trips to Central and South America.

The Erhard family includes Cheryl and Sergei Polishchuk of Berrien Springs, Mich.; Kendall Erhard of Fowlerville, Mich.; and seven grandchildren.

## Obituaries

**BOLEJACK, Allen C.**, age 88; born Apr. 6, 1918, in Kingsville, Mo.; died Feb. 16, 2007, in Indianapolis, Ind. He was a member of the Brownsburg (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Irene Nell (Haskins); sons, Dwayne, Dwight and Dale; daughter, Gretta Wolff; brothers, Marvin and Ronald; sisters, Louise Kinnaman, Charlotte Wedner and Wilma Brinley; nine grandchildren; one step-grandchild; 15

great-grandchildren; two step-great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Todd Stout and Brad Bolejack, and interment was in Oakland Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Indianapolis.

**GRATIAS, Arnold V.A.**, age 90; born Oct. 13, 1917, in Glen Flora, Wis.; died Nov. 30, 2007, in Grantsburg, Wis. He was a member of the Bethel Church, Arpin, Wis.

Survivors include his daughters, Amy Peterson and Twyla Trotter; sister, Arlene McCart; 11 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Wendell Springer, and interment was in Bethel Cemetery, Arpin.

**HALES, Donald D.**, age 74; born Oct. 18, 1933, in Cincinnati, Ohio; died Oct. 30, 2007, in South Bend, Ind. He was a member of the South Bend Church.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara J. (Butler); sons, Gregory, Michael and Don; daughters, Donna Teat and Jasmine Hales; sister, Dorothy Bell; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Throstur Thordarson and Chaplain Titus Matemavi, and interment was in Highland Cemetery, South Bend.

**HARE, Dennis R.**, age 56; born Aug. 26, 1951, in Ranchi, India; died Nov. 19, 2007, in Lopez Island, U.S.A. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Jane (Albrecht); father, Leonard; mother, Esther (Borrowdale); and sister, Janet Tkachuck.

Memorial services were conducted by Harold James, with private inurnment.

**LEED, Mildred J. (Griggs)**, age 74; born July 7, 1933, in Pulaski, Tenn.; died Nov. 30, 2007, in South Bend, Ind. She was a member of the Plymouth (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Gary and Mark; daughters, Linda Dyer, Brenda Leed and Lori Manning; brothers, Clifford, James, Wayne and Jack Griggs; 11 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Don English, and interment was in Fair Cemetery, La Paz, Ind.

**MEYER, Roland E.**, age 101; born Nov. 14, 1906, in South Bend, Ind.; died Dec. 2, 2007, in South Bend. He was a member of the South Bend Church.

Survivors include his sons, Donald E. and Leonard E.; ten grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Throstur Thordarson and Don English, and interment was in St. Joseph Valley Memorial Park Cemetery, Granger, Ind.

**PUGH, Gizella "Gizi" J. (Dertil)**, age 86; born Oct. 26, 1921 in Chicago, Ill.; died Dec. 2, 2007, in Gurnee, Ill. She was a member of the Gurnee Church.

Survivors include her daughters, Shirley Coulter and Nancy Pugh; sister, Elizabeth Durichek; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Christopher Holland, and inurnment will be in Warren Cemetery, Gurnee.

**REITERER, Muriel (Jones)**, age 86; born Oct. 30, 1921, in Chicago, Ill.; died Dec. 17, 2007, in Niles, Mich. She was a member of the Hinsdale (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Ray O.; sons, Harvey F. and Steven R.; daughters, Linda Rose, Rose F. Black and Sheila L. Lawrence; brothers, Harvey E. and Clayton F. Jones; sister, Sarah L. Patrick; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ted Toms, and interment was in Mount Vernon Memorial Estates Cemetery, Lemont, Ill.

**SALYER, Ross**, age 81; born May 6, 1926, in Gladwin, Mich.; died Dec. 2, 2007, in Kalamazoo, Mich. He was a member of the Gobles Pinedale Church, Gobles, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Alice (Sampson); sons, Monte and Bryan; daughter, Dalice Skapnit; half brothers, Warren Oliver and Dana Snowden; sister, Elsie Ferguson; half sisters, June Diep Puis, Dexie Isbell and Susan Manke; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Elder Don Williams, with private inurnment.

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**SISSON, Delbert H.**, age 83; born Nov. 14, 1923, in Muskegon, Mich.; died Sept. 2, 2007, in Big Rapids, Mich. He was a member of the Big Rapids Church.

Survivors include his sons, Russell T. and Bryan K.; daughters, Deborah Marso and Allitta Hren; brother, Dale; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Elder David Gotshall, with private inurnment.

**SZALAY, Mary E. (Wilkinson)**, age 82; born Jan. 26, 1925, in Flint, Mich.; died Nov. 28, 2007, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her husband, Fred P.; sons, Ron and John; daughter, Connie L. Szalay; sisters, Bernice Walters, Yvonne Donohue, Irene Thomas, Rosetta Cochran, Marlene Hoskins and Audrey Ben; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

A private family service is planned for a later date.

**TABER, Etsal R.J.**, age 80; born May 8, 1927, in Mt. Morris, Mich.; died Nov. 27, 2007, in Niles, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia (Jock); sons, Bruce, Gary and Loren; daughters, Diane Taber and Denise Rose; brothers, Pete and Orten; sisters, Dorothy Weiland and Delores Fitch; ten grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Gary Taber, and interment was in Sunset Hills Cemetery, Flint, Mich.

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# Sunset Calendar

	Mar 7	Mar 14	Mar 21	Mar 28	Apr 4	Apr 11
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:43	7:51	7:59	8:06	8:13	8:21
Chicago, Ill.	5:48	6:56	7:04	7:12	7:19	7:27
Detroit, Mich.	6:29	7:38	7:46	7:54	8:01	8:09
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:43	7:51	7:58	8:05	8:11	8:19
La Crosse, Wis.	6:02	7:10	7:19	7:28	7:35	7:43
Lansing, Mich.	6:35	7:44	7:52	8:00	8:07	8:16
Madison, Wis.	5:55	7:03	7:11	7:20	7:27	7:35
Springfield, Ill.	5:58	7:05	7:12	7:19	7:25	7:32

## FREE MISSION AVIATION STORIES!!

For free newsletter write: Adventist World Aviation, Box 251, Berrien Springs, MI 49103, or e-mail: [info@flyawa.org](mailto:info@flyawa.org), or register online: [www.flyawa.org](http://www.flyawa.org).



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## LOOKING FOR USED ADVENTIST BOOKS?

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## Vacation Opportunities

**WOMEN'S RETREAT AT SEA:** Aug. 3-10, 2008, deluxe Alaska cruise-with-a-purpose! Inspirational seminars and music. **Mission outreach at three ports of call.** Sponsored by NW Adventist Women's Ministry. For more information, visit website [www.npuc.org](http://www.npuc.org) and click on Women's Retreat at Sea, or call 800-869-6903 ext. 202.

## Miscellaneous

### FREE VOCAL MUSIC CONCERTS WITH PERSONAL LIFE EXPERIENCES.

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

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#### CONFUSED BY ALL THE TALK ON DIET?

Attend the two Conferences on Vegetarian Nutrition, Mar. 4-8, 2008, at Loma Linda University in Calif. For more information on speakers, topics and motels, contact Stoy Proctor at 301-680-6718, or e-mail sanchezl@gc.adventist.org.

#### Human Resources

**NEIL NEDLEY, M.D.**, is seeking a Physician's Assistant with interests in Gastroenterology and Internal Medicine. Contact Dr. Nedley to discuss the salary and benefit package of working with a health-minded, energetic team. Call toll-free at 888-778-4445 or 580-223-5980.

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**OAKWOOD ACADEMY IN TAYLOR, MICHIGAN**, is looking for a Pre-K director. Must meet State of Michigan requirements. All interested and qualified perspective candidates should e-mail Diana Blair at dblair@misda.org, or call 313-291-6790.

**DENTAL PROFESSIONAL NEEDED:** Exceptional opportunity for a quality applicant to join our large, fee-for-service dental practice in Frederick, Md. Applicant must be competent and productive in all aspects of comprehensive dental care. Six figure starting salary with 401(k) and pension and profit sharing. Excellent opportunity for higher income and equity position as potential future partner. For more information, contact Dr. Peter J. Trepper, Kershner and Trepper Dental Associates, at 301-667-8600, or visit www.KTDental.com. Résumés may be faxed to 301-371-9533.

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY** seeks qualified applicants for faculty positions in the following departments and schools: Chemistry, Communications, Engineering, Library, Mathematics, Social Work and Technology. For more information, visit [www.wallawalla.edu/resources/employment/faculty-employment](http://www.wallawalla.edu/resources/employment/faculty-employment). All positions will remain open until filled. To apply, follow the application instructions listed with each position.

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks an instructor for a full-time position in the School of Journalism & Communication. Anticipated courses include audio/video production, photography, new media and speech. Candidates should have demonstrated success in college teaching, and/or professional work experience, with a strong commitment to Adventist education. A master's degree in the field is required, and a doctorate is preferred. Send CV to Dr. Greg Rumsey, School of Journalism & Communication, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, or by e-mail to rumsey@southern.edu.

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American Indian Summit | March 7-9, 2008  
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Marked by the disease destroying their skin, victims  
of leprosy were cast out by family and friends. One sufferer  
knelt before the Great Physician, knowing He could heal  
him. And with the touch of a hand, the man was  
made whole and sent on his way.

— MARK 8:2-3 —

When Jesus was on Earth, the blind, the deaf, the paralyzed found comfort and renewal in His outstretched hand, regardless of means or status. He established a ministry centered on the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of people who were desperate for a healing touch.

With Christ as our example, Adventist Health System employees and physicians reach out to touch the hearts and heal the lives of more than 4 million patients each year. We pray that the compassion of His hand will be felt in the touch of ours.





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

## Illinois

**Upper Mississippi CHIP** (Coronary Health Improvement Project) will begin its third annual program **Mar. 9**, at the Campbell Center in Mount Carroll, Ill. Savanna Seventh-day Adventist Church offers this intensive five-week video program that teaches participants how to lower cholesterol, blood pressure, blood glucose levels and weight by making healthy lifestyle choices. For more information about the program and registration, call Nancy Gable at 815-244-9459, or e-mail [chip@blue.mountaindesign.com](mailto:chip@blue.mountaindesign.com).

**God's Healing Love Seminar**, sponsored by Downers Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church, will be held **Apr. 5**. Feelings of worthlessness, illegitimate guilt, the inability to forgive, bitterness, resentment, dependency—these battles rage within our minds. We may think these are private battles, but they are part of a much larger picture. Find out how God has provided healing for our fractured lives. Our speaker for this FREE all-day seminar is Dr. Timothy Jennings, a board certified Christian psychiatrist. Topics include: "The Mind—God's Design"; "Law of Love and Liberty"; "A Fix for Failing Families"; "Demolishing Satan's Strongholds"; "Depression"; "Forgiveness"; and "The Mind Restored." For more information or to register, call 630-910-0579 or visit [www.dgsda.org](http://www.dgsda.org).

**Broadview Academy Alumni Association** is alive and well! Our school still binds us together! Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend is the **first weekend of May**. It is going to be held at the North Aurora Church school gymnasium, located at the corner of Mooseheart and Randall Roads in North Aurora. 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. Fri. night Vespers, Sabbath

school and Church. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, we need your e-mail addresses. Send them to [scross@broadviewacademy.org](mailto:scross@broadviewacademy.org), or call Shona Cross at 630-677-4387.

## Indiana

**Sabbath Celebration and Music Festival** is **Mar. 8** on the Indiana Academy (IA) campus in Cicero. Plan to be there at 9:30 a.m. for Sabbath school; hear guest speaker Troy Fitzgerald at the 11:00 o'clock worship service. Bring your lunch, and picnic in the auditorium with friends (old and new!), and then hear a wonderful concert by our young people in grades 6-10 as they perform in choir and band at the annual music festival concert in the afternoon. For information about the musical festival, contact Andrew Lay, IA music director, at 317-984-3575.

**IPATI**, an annual training weekend for Pathfinder and Adventurer leaders, is **Mar. 14-16** at Timber Ridge Camp. For information, go to [www.trcamp.org](http://www.trcamp.org) and click on calendar link for March.

**Mark Twain HIMSELF Comes to Indiana Academy:** One hundred years ago, Mark Twain was the most popular speaker in the world. Today audiences can still enjoy the wit and wisdom of Mark Twain in Heritage Stage Production's Mark Twain *HIMSELF*. Coming from Hannibal, Missouri's Planters Barn Theater, veteran stage actor Richard Garey will perform live at the academy to benefit the junior class. Garey has performed his one-man shows in more than 40 states and Canada. Dates and Times: **Mar. 15**, 8:30 p.m.; **Mar. 16**, 2 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; and **Mar. 17**, 7:00 p.m. Preview a short clip at [www.heritagestage.com/IABenefit](http://www.heritagestage.com/IABenefit). Contact Nathan Kelly, junior class president, at 317-984-3575 for individual or group ticket information, or go to [www.iasda.org](http://www.iasda.org).

**Joe Pearls** will present a concert at the Huntingburg Church, 3032 West State Road 750 South, **Mar. 16**, at 5:00 p.m. For additional information, call Justin Childers, pastor, at 812-634-6175.

**God's Blueprint Seminar**, presented by Carmelo Mercado, vice president for the Lake Union Conference, is **Apr. 4-5** at the Spencer Church, 1770 State Road 43 South. This seminar is based on Mercado's personal journey of pastoring for more than 20 years and what he gradually discovered to be God's blueprint on how to fulfill the Great Commission of Matt. 28. He will speak at 7:00 p.m. Fri., 11:00 a.m. Sabbath and 2:00 p.m. Sabbath afternoon. Bring food for a potluck lunch. For additional information, contact Dean Whitlow, Spencer Church pastor, at 812-829-2507, or by e-mail: [dwhitlow@hughes.net](mailto:dwhitlow@hughes.net).

**Women's Ministries One-Day Spring Retreat** is **Apr. 12**, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Featured speakers will be Rosa Morales who works with her husband, Justo, as Illinois Conference His-

panic coordinators, and Terri Fivash, author of *Joseph and Ruth & Boaz*. The fee per person covers all program supply expenses, registration and Sabbath lunch. Registration deadline is Mar. 26. Mail your registration and check to Women's Ministries, Indiana Conference, P.O. Box 1950, Carmel, IN 46082-1950. For details, call Julie Loucks at 317-844-6201.

**Lay Training Seminar** is **Apr. 18-19** at Timber Ridge Camp where the sound of evangelism and growth will resonate throughout the entire session. Various initiatives will be laid out, and areas where significant effort needs to be made for church revitalization will be shared. Make your reservation by calling Sheri DeWitt at 317-844-6201, or e-mail [sdewitt@indysda.org](mailto:sdewitt@indysda.org). There is also an online reservation form at [www.indysda.org](http://www.indysda.org). For additional information, contact Peter Neri, Indiana Conference ministerial director, at 317-844-6201.

**Indiana Academy Days:** All students in grades 8-11 are invited to Indiana



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# Announcements

Academy Days, **Apr. 20-21**, to meet staff and students, and experience an awesome educational opportunity! For registration information, call Bill Hicks, vice principal and development director, at 317-984-3575, or Beth Bartlett, registrar, at 317-984-3575, or e-mail to [iaregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:iaregistrar@gmail.com).

**Golf Fundraiser:** The fourth annual Indianapolis Junior Academy and Cicero Elementary School golf outing is **May 21** at Bear Slide Golf Club in Cicero. The format will be a four-man best ball tournament. Proceeds will benefit the two schools. Sign up before May 1 by e-mailing Mark Fogg at [mark.fogg@unitedagcy.com](mailto:mark.fogg@unitedagcy.com)

**Legal Notice:** Notice is hereby given that a regular Quadrennial Session of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in the Music/Chapel building at Indiana Academy, Route 19, Cicero, Ind., on Sun., **May 18, 2008**, at 10:00 a.m. Duly accredited delegates and delegates-at-large will be authorized to receive reports; elect a conference president, secretary-treasurer, departmental directors, a Conference Executive Committee, a K-12 Board of Education, a Standing Nominating Committee, and a Standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee; to enact, amend or repeal Bylaws and vote recommended changes to the constitution for the Indiana Conference and Indiana Academy; and to issue credentials and licenses for the ensuing four years. Delegates will transact such other business as may properly come before the delegation. Each church will be entitled to one delegate for the church organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof. The Organizing Committee will meet the same day, Sun., May 18, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., at Indiana Academy. The first meeting of the Standing Nominating Committee is scheduled for Sun., Mar. 16, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., at the Indiana Conference Office; Elder Walter Wright, president of the Lake Union Conference, will serve as chair of the Nominating Committee.

Gary Thurber, president  
George Crumley, secretary-treasurer

**Legal Notice:** Notice is hereby given that a regular Quadrennial Session of the members of the Indiana Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc., a corporation, will be held in connection with the Quadrennial Session of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at Indiana Academy, Route 19, Cicero, Ind., on Sun., **May 18, 2008**. The first meeting of the Association will be called to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a board of directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, to restate and amend the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates of the Quadrennial Session of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are likewise delegates to the Association meeting.

Gary Thurber, president  
Gary Case, secretary

## Lake Region

**Fourth Annual London Swordbearer Pathfinder Honor's Retreat** will be held at Camp Wagner, Cassopolis, Mich., **May 2-4**. All pathfinder clubs are invited to participate in a weekend full of honor instruction, worship services, Christian drama and other fun-filled activities! Registration is limited, so please register by Apr. 1. For more information, call Angie at 313-915-8758, or Teresa at 313-283-7775.

## Lake Union

### Offerings

- Mar 1** Local Church Budget
- Mar 8** Adventist World Radio
- Mar 16** Local Church Budget
- Mar 22** Local Conference Advance
- Mar 29** Spring Mission Appeal

### Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

- Mar 29** Euro-Asia Division

### Special Offerings

- Mar 1** Women's Day of Prayer
- Mar 2-8** Adventist Youth Week of Prayer
- Mar 15** Disabilities Awareness Sabbath

**Professional Training for Local Church Elders** to be held Sabbath, **Apr. 5**, 3:30-7:00 p.m., at Pioneer Memo-

rial Church on the campus of Andrews University, 400 University Blvd., Berrien Springs, Mich. All local church elders and spouses, plus laity leaders are invited to participate in a dynamic training event hosted by the General Conference Ministerial Association to enhance the effectiveness of church leaders. This event is free of charge. For more information, contact Ricardo Bacchus at 301-680-6514, or by e-mail at [bacchusr@gc.adventist.org](mailto:bacchusr@gc.adventist.org).

## Michigan

**Battle Creek Academy's Alumni Reunion** is scheduled for **Apr. 25-27**. The weekend will include: golf outing on Fri. morning at 10:00 a.m. at the Yarros Golf Club; musical Fri. night vespers at 8:00 p.m.; Sabbath church service with Lake Union Conference president, Walter Wright; potluck lunch in the BCA gym at approximately 1:00 p.m. (If you have a dish to share, drop it off at the cafeteria before church.); Sabbath evening vespers by alumnus Buddy Houghtaling ('77) & Friends at 7:00 p.m. in the BCA Tabernacle;

and our Picnic-n-Pops academy band program at the academy following vespers. Food will be sold. Honor classes this year are: 1928, '38, '48, '58, '68, '78, '83, '88 and '98.

**"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Alumni Reunion** will take place **June 12-15** for alumni and warmly welcomed schoolmates of 1958 and earlier on the campus of Great Lakes Adventist Academy (formerly CLA). Honor classes: 1928, '38, '48 and '58. Worship hour speaker: Fritz Guy ('48). For further information, call the GLAA Alumni office at 989-427-5181, or visit [www.GLAA.net](http://www.GLAA.net). Please do pass the good word.

## North American Division

**Exclusively for Home Schoolers:** You are personally invited to preview Union College in Lincoln, Neb., during Home School Sneak Peek, **Apr. 17-20**. It's FREE (call for details). Experience Union's unique spirit. Reserve your place today. Call 800-228-4600, e-mail [preview@ucollege.edu](mailto:preview@ucollege.edu), or visit [www.ucollege.edu/sneakpeek](http://www.ucollege.edu/sneakpeek).

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**Shenandoah Valley Academy** invites you to join in celebrating 100 years of history **Apr. 18-20**. Centennial Celebration events include a golf tournament; George Akers as the Fri. vespers speaker; Karl Haffner speaking for the worship service; an alumni choir reunion concert with Waldemar Wensell as director; a Christian music festival featuring various groups; Mike Mesnard presenting a children's concert; alumni basketball; a benefit brunch on Sun. and an alumni soccer game. For more information, call SVA at 540-740-2202, or visit website [www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org](http://www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org).

**Oakwood Aeolians Alumni Reunion:** Cruise with the *Aeolians* with Alma Blackmon to Cozumel, Mexico, **June 19-23**. For more information, see our website at [www.aeolianalumni.org](http://www.aeolianalumni.org), or contact Tanja Spohn at [Tanja@ClassicWorldTravel.com](mailto:Tanja@ClassicWorldTravel.com), or call her at 800-777-9529 (Eastern Time). Prices are subject to change.

**Association of Seventh-day Adventist Libraries 2008 Conference**, "Libraries

360°: The Whole Picture," will be **June 22-28** at Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, Calif. Librarians of all specialties are invited to attend. For registration information, visit [www.asdal.org](http://www.asdal.org), or contact Carlene Drake by e-mail: [cdrake@llu.edu](mailto:cdrake@llu.edu) or phone: 909-558-4581.

## Wisconsin

**Wisconsin Academy Alumni, April 25-27.** Vespers: Fri., **Apr. 25**, at 7:30 p.m. in the gym. Sabbath school: **Apr. 26** at 9:30 a.m., followed by church in the gym. Music program: 3:00 p.m. Sabbath in the chapel. Hallowed Moments: 7:15 p.m. in the chapel. Business Meeting: 7:45 p.m. in the History Room. Basketball games will begin at 8:30 p.m. Golf Tournament: Sun., **Apr. 27**—watch for more announcements. Malcolm Anderson ('71), will be our organist for the weekend. There will be some rooms available in the dorms on a first come basis. If you have any questions, please contact Marcia Sigler at 920-623-3300, ext. 18, or email [development@wisacad](mailto:development@wisacad).

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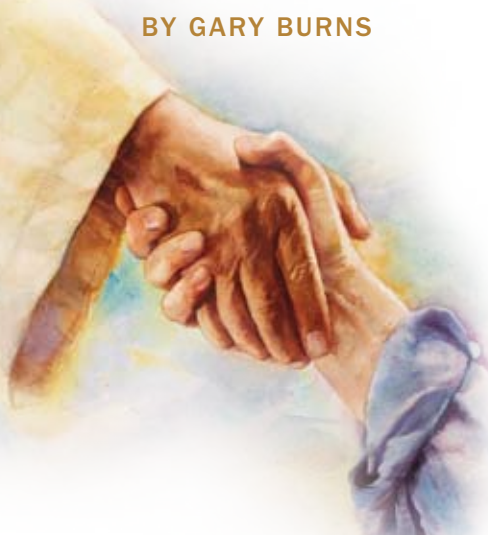
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### Putting Grace to the Test

BY GARY BURNS



He was bright, and backwards with a good dose of obnoxious. I was his pastor, which required that I include him with his more beautiful peers. A bit of a challenge, to say the least.

Realizing my weakness, I confessed my sin and asked for more grace!

Things began to change. I no longer checked the hallways to avoid the inevitable embarrassing public encounters with uncoolness. I learned that he was hurting inside—and at no fault of his own.

The new image of God that began to emerge from our conversations seemed alien and forbidding to him. I discovered why, at a store when I was accosted by a very angry man—his father. As his voice escalated in proportion to the veins in his neck, I encouraged him to go with me outside.

I listened calmly to his grievances against my ministry—a miracle. Without receiving the

typical response that fueled his anger (and in his mind justified his actions), he soon ran out of steam.

He paused, so I described the life of our compassionate and merciful Savior. He tried to interrupt.

"You agreed to listen to my response," I said. He was breathing heavy, his face was red, and he shifted from side to side. I continued.

A few sentences later he burst out, "I'm not going to listen to you. You are SATAN!" He continued to rant and rave expletives as he walked away. "You are SATAN!" he shouted back to me.

Suddenly, a miracle. I saw this sick and twisted man through God's eyes. My heart was moved with compassion in partnership with the God of grace.

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

# Live Life to the Fullest

BY JOSH ROSALES

It was the end of summer after receiving my undergraduate degree, and I was desperate. After three months, I had yet to find a job. The fact that I had just obtained my bachelor's degree was enough for me to find a job (I thought). As I continued to pray, not knowing what God had in store for me, God provided an opportunity that would change my perspective and journey in life forever.

My brother Sammy was about to start his life as a college student. His summer internship at a government hospital was over. Knowing of my quest to find a job, he approached me before he left to give me good news. The hospital was looking for someone to fill in for him while he was in school. Responsibilities included minor technical support and Multiple Sclerosis and stroke research. Thinking, "*This is definitely not what I had in mind,*" I decided to keep an open mind, be thankful to God for the opportunity to work and just go for it.

The first few weeks were eye-opening. Up to this point, I had only dealt with electronic equipment such as computers, routers, etc. My open-mindedness, and stomach, were tested as I went from seeing an open computer to seeing the brain of a living thing. As weeks turned into months, the surprises ceased to overload my senses, and I began to acclimate.

I learned to appreciate a great gift that God has given each and every one of us, our brains. I witnessed horrible effects sin has over our bodies and specifically, our brains. I saw how the lives of young people completely changed in the blink of an eye. And how, because of a simple yet catastrophic brain chemical imbalance, they went from trying to be a

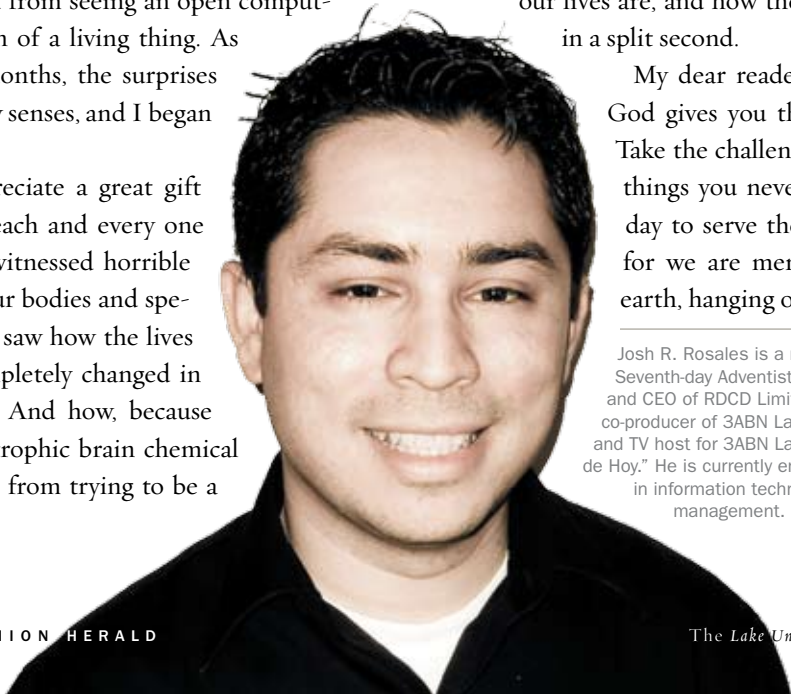
lawyer or musician, to wishing they could feed themselves. These were youth that thought tomorrow they were going to wake up to a normal life; youth that after waking up, realized that the night before they had suffered a stroke and were now paralyzed. I looked into their eyes and saw their desperation, their infinite cry for help. Many wished they could have studied better, treated their parents better and done more for the others, instead of taking their lives for granted.

I then realized how blessed I am each day. I realize what our God does for me. He gives me the opportunity to wake up each day, and thank Him for another day. I learned never to take anything for granted, knowing just how fragile our lives are, and how they can completely change in a split second.

My dear reader, live life to the fullest! God gives you the privilege to be young. Take the challenge, and He will show you things you never dreamed of. Use every day to serve the Lord with your talents, for we are merely visitors here on this earth, hanging on by a thread.

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Josh R. Rosales is a member of the Pilsen Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is the president and CEO of RDCD Limited, founder of TIJ Ministries, co-producer of 3ABN Latino's youth program, "Vinculos," and TV host for 3ABN Latino's youth program, "El Joven de Hoy." He is currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program in information technology organization and management.



THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF

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

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

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Adventist Midwest Health . . . . . Julie Busch Julie.Busch@ahss.org  
 Andrews University . . . . . Rebecca May RMay@andrews.edu  
 Illinois . . . . . Ken Denslow President@illinoisadventist.org  
 Indiana . . . . . Gary Thurber GThurber@indysda.org  
 Lake Region . . . . . Ray Young LakeRegionComm@cs.com  
 Michigan . . . . . Michael Nickless MNickless@misdas.org  
 Wisconsin . . . . . James Fox JFox@wi.adventist.org

CORRESPONDENTS

Adventist Midwest Health . . . . . Julie Busch Julie.Busch@ahss.org  
 Andrews University . . . . . Patricia Spangler SpangleP@andrews.edu  
 Illinois . . . . . Ken Denslow President@illinoisadventist.org  
 Indiana . . . . . Judith Yeoman JYeoman@indysda.org  
 Lake Region . . . . . Ray Young LakeRegionComm@cs.com  
 Lake Union . . . . . Bruce Babienco BBabienco@luc.adventist.org  
 Michigan . . . . . Jody Murphy JMurphy@misdas.org  
 Wisconsin . . . . . Kitty Cray KCray@wi.adventist.org

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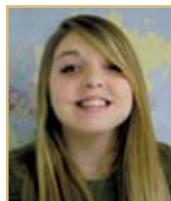
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Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

**Shandi Reynolds**, 17, is a junior at Bedford North Lawrence High School. She is a baptized member of the Bedford Church and is a trendsetter. At the young age of 14, Shandi was the first youth from her church to go on a short-term mission trip when she decided to spend her Christmas break helping spread the Word of God to the people of Brazil. Shandi came back so excited and energized for God that other Bedford Church youth wanted to volunteer their time as well.



Shandi Reynolds

Shandi has enrolled in occupational health vocational classes and wants to become a dentist. After assisting the dental team in Brazil, Shandi discovered she loves dentistry, and is now enthusiastic about pursuing this profession. Shandi attends high school full-time, plus works a part-time job. Before accepting the job, she made sure that she would be able to faithfully keep the Sabbath.

At school, Shandi's faith is challenged through many obstacles that teens in a Christian school system may not face. She knows she is in the middle of a conflict between good and evil, and she is fighting the good fight! Shandi's church, youth group and family give her support, and are very proud of her. Shandi is the daughter of Tommy and Crystal Lowden of Bedford.



Justin Spady

**Justin Dane Spady**, 17, is a home-schooled senior at Spady Academy (SA) and has been a student at SA since fourth grade. Justin has a 4.0 GPA and scored a 2150 on the SAT. He is currently taking college classes, and plans to enter Southern Adventist University in the summer of 2008 on sophomore standing with a declared pre-med and theology major.

Justin enjoys playing many sports; his favorites are track, swimming, scuba diving, snow and water skiing, ice hockey and football. He also keeps up with various hobbies, including reading, writing, painting, photography and making music (piano and voice). He is a ten-year member in 4-H.

Less than a year ago, a virus attacked Justin's heart and almost killed him. Although fully recovered physically, the experience left a deep impact on Justin spiritually. Having already preached twice at his church, Justin is considering a ministry/mission career. He believes spreading the Third Angel's Message of Revelation 14 is the most important work for our time. Justin is also considering being a physician or lawyer, because he is convinced that religion, medicine and law are the most important issues prior to the Second Coming of Christ.

Justin is the son of Richard and Margaret Spady of Decatur, and is a member of the First Fort Wayne Church.

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