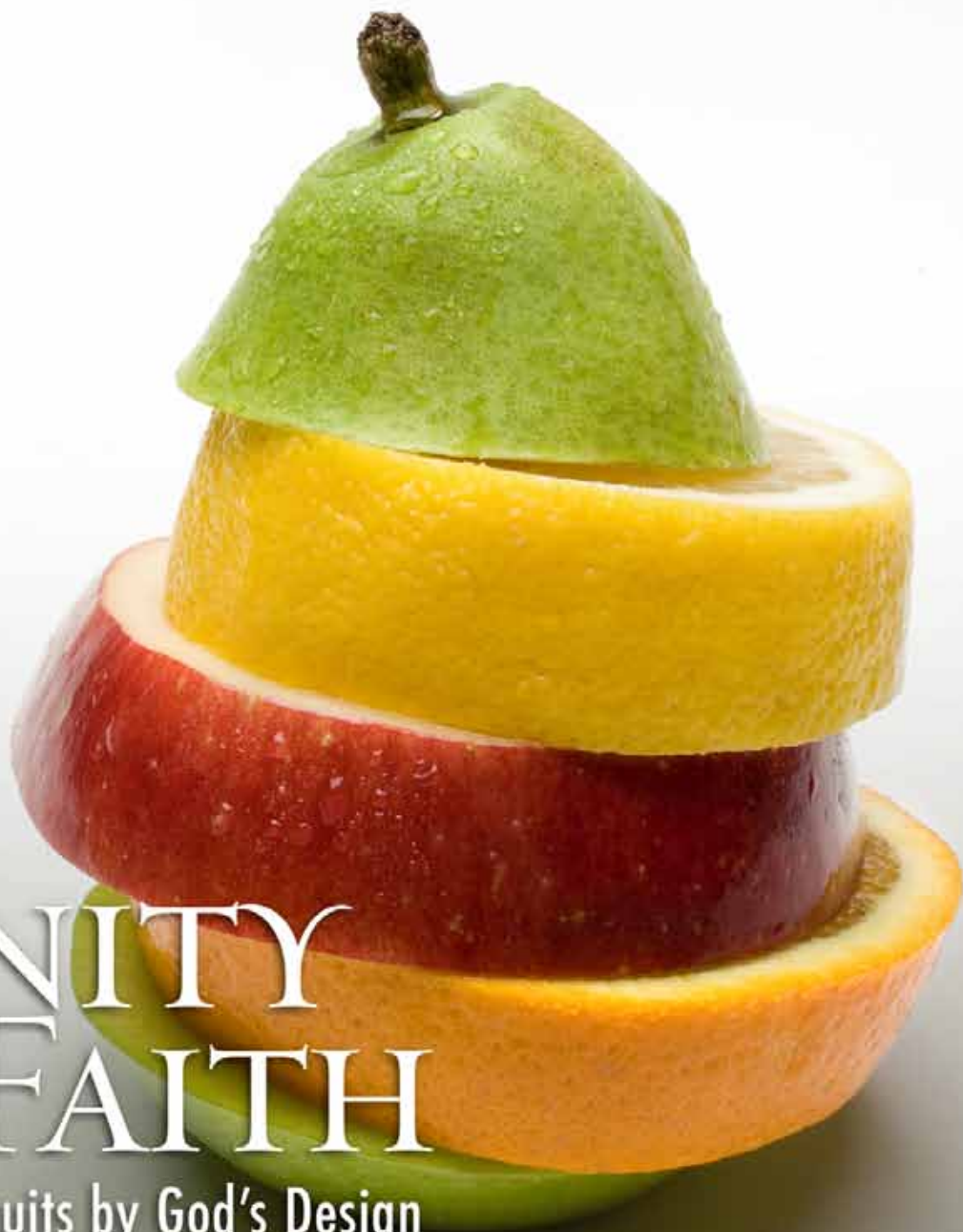


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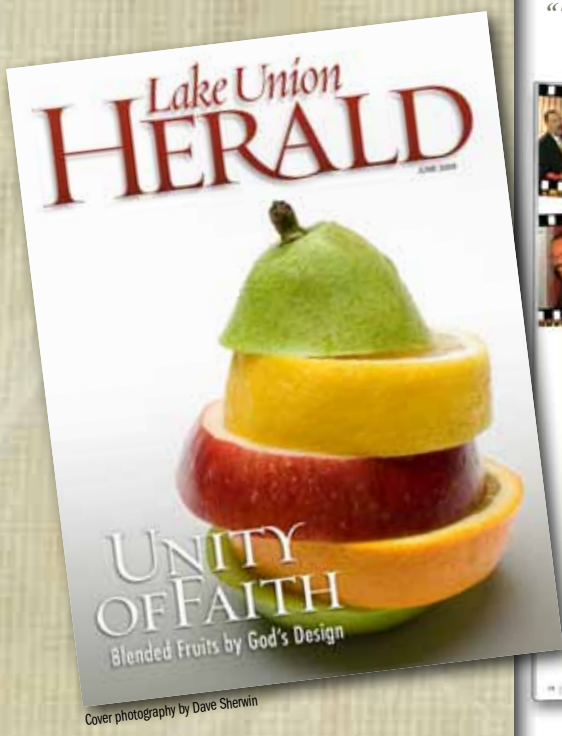
JUNE 2009



UNITY
OF FAITH

Blended Fruits by God's Design

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



Cover photography by Dave Sherwin



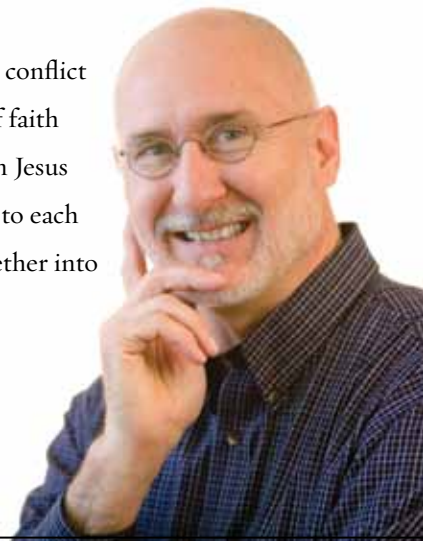
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Rather than focusing on those things that bring conflict and division, let us look higher to the principles of faith that unite us in Christ. By placing our emphasis on Jesus Christ, we will be drawn closer to Him and closer to each other. Christ is the one thing that binds us all together into a delightful salad of fruits—and nuts.


Gary Burns, Editor



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The *Lake Union Herald* (ISSN 0194-908X) is published monthly by the Lake Union Conference, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs, MI, and additional mailing offices. Yearly subscription price is \$9.00. Vol. 101, No. 6. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to: *Lake Union Herald*, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287.

The *Lake Union Herald* is available online.



Overflowing with Unity

As a summer camp director, it was essential to build unity and teamwork in our camp staff during our training week. One exercise was to bring two teams to the creek where they found two 55-gallon barrels and several buckets. The goal was for each team to fill its barrel as quickly as possible. One catch—each barrel had two to three dozen holes punched in the sides. The challenge required unity and teamwork. The bucket brigade was more fun and somewhat drier and cleaner, but plugging the holes was essential. I loved seeing several staff members quickly assess the problem, getting down alongside the barrel and plugging holes so the goal could be accomplished.

Where unity is the main way of living together, competition or the goal of dominating is minimized and more often absent. Jesus encountered competition among His disciples who not only hated Rome and were looking for a temporal kingdom, but also allowed themselves to entertain thoughts of personal advancement if Christ indeed was the promised king. Working with these disjointed, self-interested disciples must have been frustrating to Him in many ways.

The disciples and most of the residents of Judah suffered from the attitudes of an “occupation culture”—resenting their restricted freedoms, feeling oppressed by the Roman government, paying taxes, struggling with day-to-day life for survival and losing a sense of their spiritual identity found in what Jesus called the “Kingdom of Heaven.” We may suffer from similar attitudes today.

I invite you to explore Jesus’ prayer to His Father in John 17. Note how His prayer was answered in Acts 1 and 2. The unity that Jesus prayed for was realized as that little congregation came together in united prayer, accomplished some difficult church business and focused all their attention on receiving the Holy Spirit to equip them for mission. Keep reading the next few chapters and note the difference in the way Peter talks—no longer about Peter, but about his Savior and the good news message. Notice how their attitudes changed, even though they were persecuted. Some even lost their lives—but there was unity.

The Lake Union family is grieving the loss of one of our church’s great servants, Walter L. Wright. I count it an honor to now follow his term of leadership as president of the Lake Union. Unity in the body of Christ was one of his passions as he and his wife Jackie served many different peoples from various backgrounds all over the world. I want to make that my passion, too.

Please continue to remember Jackie and the rest of Walter’s family in your prayers. You are invited to send your personal messages to them at a link on our Web site at: <http://lakeunion.org>.

I also encourage you to turn to page 18 of this issue to read some of Walter’s experiences and thoughts on unity in the body of Christ. May his dream become our reality.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Lake Region Prayer was the theme for the month of February at the London Church in Maybee, Michigan. How fitting that the month, which began on such a high spiritual note, should end with the greatest joy and praise—the celebration of baptism!

Teresa Rodgers of the Motor City Youth Federation and Angie Gardner of the London Pathfinder program provided several weeks of Bible studies and were instrumental in **Joshua Bulger**, **Ireonna Wilson**, **Makyra Gardner** and **Asia Gardner** making their decisions for a lifetime commitment to Christ.



Makyra Gardner, Joshua Bulger and Asia Gardner stand with new baptismal certificates.



Joshua Bulger, Ireonna Wilson, Makyra Gardner and Asia Gardner listen with joy as the baptismal vows are read by Otis Rodgers.

On February 28, the four young people were baptized by Leon George, pastor, as loved ones and family members looked on. For Ireonna, the day had a special bonus since it was also her birthday. She truly received the best birthday present of her life.

Angie Gardner, Pathfinder deputy director and Bible study instructor, with Gary Burns, editor, *Lake Union Herald*

Wisconsin **Esther L. Lodenkamp** became a new member of the Green Bay Church on Sabbath, November 29, 2008.

As she reflects on her past, Esther remembers when, at ten years of age, she told her papa she wanted to be baptized. Esther also requested that when it took place, her papa would be in the baptismal pool with her. However,



After Bible studies with Mike Tuionetoa (right), Esther Lodenkamp experienced the joy of baptism. Her meaningful response was, "After all Jesus has done and given me, this is the least I could do, but to give Him all my heart and life!"

before she could be baptized, he passed away. Esther was so hurt and disappointed he could not be with her on her special day, she had put off the date for her baptism indefinitely.

Through the years, Esther felt the urge to be baptized time and time again, but continued to "put it off until the next time." Yet, Esther's desire to be totally committed to Jesus and to become all that He wanted her to be remained strong.

Things began to change when Green Bay Church associate pastor, Mike Tuionetoa, offered to have Bible studies with her. Although Esther lives about 57 miles from the church, she made a commitment to her weekly Bible study with Mike. As she completed each new lesson, Esther became more and more amazed at how much love Jesus had for her. Esther also began to have a deeper understanding of God's plan of salvation and the teachings of the Bible that Mike explained to her. When Mike confided to Esther one day, "I think you are ready to be baptized," deep inside her heart she whispered a smiling answer, *Yes, finally!*

Standing with the pastor in the baptismal pool, Esther's face was radiant with joy as her long-awaited day finally arrived. She had accepted Christ's plan of salvation for her personally. Her meaningful response was, "After all Jesus has done and given me, this is the least I could do, ... to give Him all my heart and life!"

Mike Tuionetoa, associate pastor, Green Bay Church, as shared with Bruce Babienco, volunteer correspondent, *Lake Union Herald*



The Lawrence family are a family united in Christ. From left: Thomas is holding their daughter, Carmen; Isaiah is standing in the middle, and Melissa is holding their son, Brice.

Wisconsin Melissa (Niedfeldt) Lawrence's story begins in 2000 when she was working in a small restaurant in Sparta, Wisconsin. One evening, several young men she knew asked if she would drive them home. She agreed and began to drive toward their home. At a stop sign, another car passed in front of them. Immediately, Melissa felt God wanted her to talk to the driver. The young men asked if she knew the other driver, and she answered, "No, but I need to talk to him." The men knew the driver by his ham radio name, Petrie. Because of her strong impressions, she followed his car, pulled up beside him and motioned for him to stop. He did stop, because he recognized some of the fellows in her car.

During their first meeting, they introduced themselves and began to visit. It was interesting because they both felt drawn to each other. Petrie turned out to be **Thomas Lawrence**, and they visited for some time. Thomas telephoned Melissa the next morning to become better acquainted. That night Thomas took Melissa to the Hylandale Adventist Church to play some of his songs. He had attended this church in the past, but was not a member. The only reason he took her to the church that evening was to use their piano to play some of his compositions of hymns and religious

folk tunes. He thought she would enjoy them, and she did.

Shortly after they got acquainted, Melissa became dissatisfied with her own church. Remembering the Adventist church she had visited with Thomas, she decided to attend their worship services. Melissa had never opened a Bible to study and had no personal devotional life. As she attended the Adventist church alone, she began to learn about the Bible, prayer and having Jesus as her personal Savior.

Soon, Thomas and Melissa began dating, which continued for three years. Their love for each other grew, and they wanted to get married. The best solution in finding a pastor to marry them seemed to be for Thomas to join the church where Melissa was still a member. Over the next several years, three children—Isaiah, Carmen and Brice—were born into their family.

In September 2006, Thomas and Melissa attended a baptismal service on the closing night of Ric Swaningson's "Adventures in Prophecy" series in the Richland Center Church. Melissa's heart was touched, and she wanted to be baptized. Because they were living in the Sparta area, which is much closer to LaCrosse than to Richland Center, Melissa contacted Larry Mahlum, pastor, to prepare for baptism.

After her baptism, the family moved to Oregon for a job opportunity, a job that didn't turn out to be what they expected. So, in 2008, they moved back to Wisconsin, this time locating in Cashton. On June 28, during the Wisconsin Conference Camp Meeting, Thomas and their son, **Isaiah**, were baptized by their pastor, David Scofield.

During a laymen's "ShareHim" series in Richland Center, Melissa grew closer to Christ and wanted a deeper commitment. She sealed that commitment with her re-baptism.

Today, Melissa is the assistant Sabbath school leader in the Kindergarten/Cradle Roll division, and Thomas is an active church member. Their walk with God is the result of God's providence and blessings, for which their family gives Him praise and thanksgiving.

Bruce Babienco, volunteer correspondent, *Lake Union Herald*, as shared by Melissa Lawrence, member, Richland Center and Pastor David Scofield.

A graphic with a blue background and white text. The text reads "Share the Good News!" in a large, serif font. Below this, in a smaller font, it says "Do you know of someone who recently made a decision for Christ? Submit your story to the editors at our Web site: www.lakeunionherald.org". The graphic also features a small image of two hands shaking.



Cool Ideas

BY DEE KESSEN

One of the most difficult lessons in life is learning to see beyond the needs of your own circle. In this busy, demanding society, it takes everything for our young people to compete, survive and live in a balanced environment. And even in our boarding academies, where every hour is spoken for, our kids can become overwhelmed with some of the demands their constant lives create.

But in the midst of all of that, our Girls Club realized they have something they can do for so many people, and they can do it without ever leaving the dorm. Girls Club pastor Susy Gomez, along with co-pastor Sibia Bustamante, set up a prayer center in the lobby of the Wisconsin Academy girls dorm. They had two boxes, one was for private prayers to be read by no one but the author, and then a box for prayers that could be



Marcy Woodhuff

Realizing they could help many people without ever leaving the dorm, Girls Club pastors, Susy Gomez and Sibia Bustamante, set up a prayer center in the dorm lobby. After reading prayer requests, they and others pray together, documenting in journals how and when the prayers are answered.

so small and fragile is now healthy, strong and growing at the normal rate. “We have prayed for the littlest of things, like a fellow student’s foot injury from gymnastics, to bigger concerns like the fate of our country during election time. And at times we’re not sure about what we’re saying, but we’ve learned that God is listening and He just wants us to get to know Him better. And we’ve gotten closer to each other, too.”



shared. They also set up a bulletin board that posted the need for prayer for current social issues, family issues and needs outside of the girls’ own comfort zone. Groups were then set up to pray together and were given journals to document the prayers and how and when they were answered.

There are six groups of four and a prayer leader. They meet one to two times a week, and have created bonds with one another through prayer. When asked, Susy told of a story about a young mother and her newborn. They knew this family from the local industry in which the academy students work. The young child was born premature and suffered complications due to an early birth. Susy felt their prayers guided the family through a lot, and a baby who was once

The dorm pastors have also started an Adopt-A-Grandma program with the local assisted living center. Our girls go once a week to visit “their grandma” to give special attention and love by just talking, playing games or whatever makes it comfortable for the resident. Carissa Larson expressed it this way, “Grandmas always take care of everyone else, now we can give back to them.”

“It is a cool idea,” added Rebekah Rought, “it just seems like the right thing to do.”

The girls at Wisconsin Academy are getting it right. Prayer and active kindness really are cool ideas.

Dee Kessen is dean of girls at Wisconsin Academy. If you are interested in a ministry for girls at Wisconsin Academy, contact Dee Kessen to inquire about an opening for assistant dean of girls.



Answered Prayers

BY SARI BUTLER

We were concerned. Jim Oliver and I worried because the church we would construct with 27 teenagers in Quirao, Chile, was not the usual type of building. The methods and the materials were considerably different from the previous mission projects we were involved with.

Jim, a professional mason from Poland, Indiana, served as construction manager on the trip. When he received the blueprints from Maranatha Volunteers International, Jim discovered the church would be built using a honey-combed, terra cotta type brick. As trip director, I also sought counsel from others experienced with



Twenty-seven students from Andrews Academy traveled to Quirao, Chile, to erect a church. As they learned new brick-laying skills, God blessed their efforts.

this type of construction. The biggest challenge would be that what was constructed would be the finished product; this would necessitate keeping the brick very clean, keeping all joints and courses even, and striking all the mortar joints and seams. This felt more like a job for well-seasoned professionals rather than a group of teenagers. Many would actually hold a trowel in their hand for the first time on the trip when their work would have to be nearly professional.

On the first morning in Chile, Jim and Matthew Nash, an Andrews Academy junior who served as student construction manager, taught the students the very basics of bricklaying. The students learned quickly, willing to receive instruction and anxious to seek answers when they weren't sure of some technique. Work on the church structure progressed smoothly.

At the end of the first week of construction, we had an unannounced visit from the Chilean architect responsible for this particular type of church. He inspected the work, looked carefully down the walls and checked the joints and seams. He confirmed that the students were doing very good work. "This is good as it gets," he said. This was af-

firmation indeed. The students worked hard to finish the project by the end of the second week, including installing the roof.

Upon our return home, I told my husband Jon all about the project and how the kids worked, how the Spirit moved and how God blessed our efforts. He then shared his story, a story that affirmed

God still pours out blessings.

Shortly after we departed for Chile, Jon read about Moses and the building of the tabernacle. Reading Exodus 31:6 and 36:2 (NIV), "I have given skill to all the craftsmen to make everything I have commanded you," and "Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work," he was prompted to pray that the Lord again "give skill and ability" to the students. Jon prayed that the students be gifted, with more skill than they naturally had, from God above.

And without question, the Lord answered prayers—the prayers of parents, the prayers of financial supporters, the prayers of church families and the prayers of my husband—leading me to conclude again that mission trips would not be as successful without a band of prayer warriors at home doing their job.

Sari Butler, M.A., is the guidance counselor at Andrews Academy in Berrien Springs, Michigan.





FAMILY TIES

Let's Talk About Happiness

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

"There is no surprise more magical than the surprise of being loved. It is God's finger on man's shoulder." —Charles Morgan

There's much to be said about happiness. It leads to feeling and expressing positive emotions; it's good for our heart; and it brings joy to others. It feels good! However, happiness is about more than feeling good.

Those seriously studying happiness describe it as "subjective well-being" and deal with the conceptualization, measurement, prevalence, explanation, evaluation, imagination and study of happiness. The research covers both cognitive evaluations of life (life-satisfaction) and affective enjoyment of life (such as mood level).

Research on happiness shows that early in adult life American women are more likely than men to feel satisfied and be happier, while in later life these gender differences turn around. After the age of 48, men are more satisfied with their financial situation and family life, and are the happier of the two genders.

Nine out of 10 people of both genders report desiring a happy marriage. Men report being saddest in their 20s, when they are more likely to be single and have less stable financial situations. By the age of 34, men are more likely to be married than women. Of course, one doesn't have to be married to be happy; but if someone really wants to be married and they aren't, that has an impact on overall happiness.

Gratitude, the emotion of thankfulness and joy, is one of the essential ingredients for living a good life, states Todd Kashdan, one of the first to teach a college class on the science of happiness. He found that women, compared with men, report feeling less burden and obligation and greater levels of gratitude when presented with gifts. "The way that we get socialized as children affects what we do with our emotions as adults," says Todd. "Because men are generally taught to control and conceal their softer emotions, this may be limiting their well-being." If he had to name three elements that are essential for creating happiness and meaning in life, they would be meaningful relationships,

gratitude and living in the present moment with an attitude of openness and curiosity.

Happiness is infectious. People are embedded in social networks, and the health and well-being of one person affects the well-being and health of others. Did you know that a friend who is happy and lives within a mile increases your likelihood of happiness by 25 percent? Spouses who report being happy increase the likelihood of their partner being happy by eight percent; similar effects were seen for siblings who live close by (14 percent) and neighbors (34 percent). Work colleagues did not affect happiness levels, suggesting that social context may curtail the spread of emotional states.

Christians are expected to be happy, and most report being so. There are promises and encouragement in Scripture. Proverbs 17:22 tells us, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine; but a broken spirit drieth the bones." Web sites, books and articles can be helpful. We also need to spend some time in self-reflection, have the conversations with important people in our lives, set goals and celebrate.

Here are some things to think and talk about: What is your source of happiness? If women report being happier in earlier life, and men a bit later, how might that affect your marital relationship, and your relationship with your parents and siblings? If you are a man, does the expression of gratitude come easily for you? When was the last time you really thought about what makes you happy? Do your friends and family know?

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

Sources for the research referred to in this article are available in the online version at www.lakeunionherald.org.

Drinking more water lowers your risk of a heart attack.



Water: Essential for Good Health

Dehydration impairs memory and alertness.

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Life cannot exist without it. Water is the most abundant constituent of the human body. In fact, about 60 percent of the total adult body weight is water, while the brain is almost 80 percent water. It is the medium by which a vast number of cellular metabolic reactions take place.

Human water requirements depend on many factors. Physical activity and higher temperatures will increase water needs. The National Research Council recently recommended a total of 2.85 quarts of water per day for women and 3.9 quarts daily for men. Normally, about 20 percent of water intake comes from food (fruits and vegetables typically contain 85 to 95 percent water), while the rest comes from drinking water and a variety of beverages.

Special attention must be given to the water needs of the elderly, since their thirst mechanism may not be functioning correctly. Water is essential to help regulate body temperature. Water depletion can result in heat exhaustion, which can lead to loss of consciousness and heat stroke. Dehydration can be life threatening.

Women who are breast feeding should consume an extra quart of fluid a day to provide an adequate milk supply. Small children are at a high risk of dehydration due to their large surface area per unit of body weight, their limited kidney function and their high rate of water turnover.

Proper hydration is necessary for exercise performance. Body water losses greater than two percent of the body weight can significantly impair one's power, strength and endurance, especially when exercising in a hot environment. In such cases, one will experience fatigue. Appropriate fluid



replacement can prevent a reduction in accuracy and skill performance in soccer and other sports.

Water plays a key role in the prevention of disease. Data from the Adventist Health Study revealed that a water intake of five or more glasses per day, compared to less than two glasses per day, greatly reduced the risk of a fatal heart attack. Caffeinated beverages and sodas, on the other hand, increased the risk of a fatal heart attack. Beverages high in sugar can also raise blood triglyceride levels.

An adequate water intake is important for maintaining one's health. Research

data shows that an increased fluid intake is associated with a decreased risk of urinary stones and urinary tract infections, constipation, exercise asthma, stroke due to clot formation, and hypertension.

Studies in healthy adults show that even mild dehydration impairs a number of important aspects of cognitive function such as alertness, the ability to concentrate, coordination and short-term memory. Feelings of tiredness and headaches were significantly greater in persons with fluid restriction and mild dehydration. Dehydration is a common precipitating factor of acute confusion in the very old. Carrying a water bottle during the day may make it easier to consume adequate water to ensure proper hydration.

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



EXTREME GRACE

Manuel's Big House

BY DICK DUERKSEN

This is the story of how a sheep pen became a church.

“After I listened to my son Mariano and agreed to accept Jesus Christ as my Savior, I decided to put a church right here next to my house on the mountain. We cleaned up the sheep pen and put a cement floor down so it could become a church. It’s a good house for worshipping Jesus.”

Mariano translated his father’s words from Tzotsil into Spanish as we sat together in his adobe-and-tin church. Manuel is 80 years old, but has only been a Christian for the last seven. “Before that I was a drunkard,” he says, “not a very nice man to my women, my children or my neighbors.”



Dick Duerksen

Mariano continued the story. “Ten years ago my mother and I moved from the mountains into San Cristobal where a friend introduced me to the message of salvation as taught by the Seventh-day Adventists. I was excited about what I heard, especially about how Jesus encourages us to stop drinking and live healthy lives. My mother also liked the message and quickly joined me at the Adventist church in the city. Then we both came up the hill to see if we could get my father to change.”

“Up the hill” is exactly that. You drive a few kilometers on asphalt, then turn onto a dirt lane that winds through dusty fields and past adobe-and-stick houses on its way to the mountaintop. When the lane peters out into a narrow track, you’re almost to Manuel’s small farm in the hillside community of Ucuntic.

“I didn’t want to be a Christian,” Manuel told me. “If I became a Christian, my people would chase me away and make me sign that I could never come back here again! No, I didn’t want to listen to my son and become a Christian.”

“It took us three years to convince Father that he needed

to stop drinking and become a Christian,” said Mariano, “but as soon as he decided to accept Jesus, he asked me to help him turn the sheep shed into a church.”

“My son Mariano and I made this church and began reading the Bible, singing and teaching people about Jesus.” Manuel spoke clearly, and then paused as if reviewing

unwanted memories. “The neighbors hated that.”

The new Adventist Church in Ucuntic became a lightning rod for the community’s anger against all things Christian, and a vigilante mob attacked.

“Many lost their lives,” Mariano said. “But Jesus won, and the neighborhood committee agreed to allow Father to use this church for worshipping Jesus.”

We followed Manuel as he sprinted from his house to his garden and on uphill to his cornfield, all while waving to his neighbors. Manuel has changed many things since becoming a Christian, but now he’s even more involved with his neighbors and friends—more than 30 of whom crowd into the church for worship.

“It’s a big house for God,” Manuel says while stretching his wiry frame to its maximum height of three feet, 11 inches. “And it’s like a lighthouse in the mountain. I am proud to have His house next to mine.”

Dick Duerksen is the official “storyteller” for Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may contact him at dduerksen@maranatha.org.



Dear God...

BY DON JACOBSEN

Dear God,

Thank You for the magnificent storm last night. I am somehow reassured to know I serve a God who can shake the world. I know the rain makes things green and the nitrogen from the lightning helps things grow, but I also love to feel the house shudder and sense the force of the wind whipping around the eaves.

And there was something exhilarating about driving into town this morning—to see the sky so clear and smell the air freshly washed. There is truly something awesome about a powerful storm.

I observed something else this morning that I had not noticed before. The storm was strong enough that it toppled quite a lot of trees. I think I had never noticed that the trees that didn't make it through the storm were most often those on the outer edge of the forest. Those near the center seemed to survive alright, but those out on the edge—those are the ones that fell.

I guess I needed to be reminded of that. There is protection as we stand together. An individual tree that is away from the center is an easier prey. There is strength in unity.

I suppose I had known it before, but the events in the night reminded me. Like Job, I sensed that You “spoke to me out of the storm” (Job 40:6).

A single strand of string is not strong. But when it becomes part of a bundle of single strands that make up a rope, then a bundle of ropes that make up a hawser, it can serve as the strong line to secure a huge ship at its moorings where it can ride out the worst of storms. There is strength in numbers. One soldier seldom wins a battle, but a united army can.

Is the lesson of the storm that we need each other? Is the lesson of the storm that the enemy is well-skilled in the strategy of divide-and-conquer? Is the lesson of the downed trees that I need to stay with the safety of the assembly? Is the lesson of the storm that it is more dangerous on the edge and those who would entice me there do me no favors?

That helps me understand why, in His last teaching moment before He died, Jesus' tutorial was on the virtue of unity. There were so many things He wanted to say to them, but He chose this one.

Unity. Simple word; complex transaction. It means I still keep my arms around people I don't agree with. It means that winning the argument—even the theological argument—isn't as important to God as my showing deep respect for those who disagree with me. It means being willing to wash the feet, even of one who has betrayed me.

So here is how I understand church—healthy trees, standing strong together. The grove is strong because of the individuals; the individuals drawing strength from the group. Makes a lot of sense, God. Good place to be in a storm. Amen.

Your friend.

Don Jacobsen is the former president of Adventist World Radio. He writes from Hiawassee, Georgia.

Links of Hope

BY KATHRYN A. SCRIBNER

Many desire to do something great and wonderful for our Lord and Master. Yet, they often overlook what God has placed in their hands. Ellen White cautions: “We are workers together with God. ... You are not to neglect the duty that lies directly in your pathway, but you are to improve the little opportunities that open around you” (*Faith and Works*, p. 47). These “little opportunities” she speaks of could be one small link in the chain to lead others to Christ. This is a story of one man’s “little opportunity” and decision to “link” others to Jesus, their salvation.

In 1985, Ken LeBrun, a Bible worker, wrote a series of lessons. His goal was to allow the Bible to teach in answer to questions asked. In 1987, he founded The North American Bible Correspondence School, the first correspondence school to use his lessons.

Meanwhile, in Ohio, Kay Albrecht came across a book on the floor which belonged to her husband, entitled HTML. She said, “I picked up the book, learned some HTML and played around with designing Web sites. Finally, I decided that to make it worthwhile I should turn it into some type of ministry. ... When I found [Ken] LeBrun’s lessons, I somehow was able to get a hold of him to ask permission to use his lessons, which he readily gave.” The Web site was born, www.TheseLastDays.net.

“I was thrilled for the lessons to be used in that way,” wrote Ken. It was 1995, ten years after he wrote the lessons.

Since then, this ministry has grown as many have become involved carrying the torch for Bible truths. Church members have become prayer warriors, praying for the students to recognize, accept and embrace the truth. Many others are Bible instructors, guiding the students. Others contribute



Chris Treu, ministry administrator, and Troy Reynolds (right), a Bible instructor, provide links of hope to those who visit www.TheseLastDays.net.

financially. This ministry has been instrumental in drawing many to Christ and some, upon learning His truth, have entered the waters of baptism.

The 32 lessons in the Bible study series cover all the major evangelistic topics of our church, including health and lifestyle issues. Supplemental articles accompany some to give context to prophecy.

The ministry administrator for www.TheseLastDays.net is Chris Treu, an Edwardsburg Church member. Besides being a Bible instructor, Chris oversees the Web site and manages advertising as funds allow, boosting student enrollment.

Once a student completes the course, Chris sends them a Certificate of Completion, *Steps to Christ (Happiness Digest)* by Ellen White, and *Forgotten Commandment and Does God Love Sinners Forever?* by Danny Shelton. Also included in the packet is a letter thanking students for their participation, and thoughts on living by the grace of Jesus Christ and why it is important to keep His law, knowing that the Holy Spirit will empower us to keep it as we grow close to Christ daily. For further information on this ministry, please contact Chris at treu@qtm.net.

Kathryn A. Scribner is the personal ministries secretary of the Edwardsburg Church.



LA IGLESIA A LA VANGUARDIA

POR CARMELO MERCADO

“Mantened la obra de la reforma pro salud en la vanguardia,...Se me instruye para que diga a los educadores en la reforma pro salud: Avanzad. El mundo necesita cada partícula de influencia que podáis ejercer para hacer retroceder la ola de la miseria moral. Que los que enseñan el mensaje del tercer ángel se mantengan fieles a sus colores” (Consejos sobre el régimen alimenticio, p. 550).

Cuando se llevó a cabo la campaña evangelística del pastor Alejandro Bullón en la ciudad de Chicago en el estado de Illinois el año pasado, me informaron que había un grupo de personas que se reunía en unas oficinas profesionales en la ciudad de Berwyn, Illinois para ver la campaña vía satélite. Luego supe que, como resultado de la campaña, seis de estos televidentes decidieron entregar sus vidas a Jesús por medio del bautismo. Me maravilló oír cómo el Señor había bendecido a este grupo y con el tiempo me maravillé aún más al conocer su inicio y su progreso.

Manuel y Ester Alva, médicos que trabajan en Chicago, sintieron el llamado de Dios de trabajar en la comunidad concentrándose en la comunidad hispana bilingüe. Se unieron con algunos hermanos de dos iglesias para reunirse los sábados en un salón en el Edificio Profesional del Hospital MacNeal. Como



Hermanos del grupo Vanguardia haciendo su pacto de ser una nueva compañía de la Asociación de Illinois.

parte de la programación enfatizaron el poder de la oración y la educación para la salud además de presentaciones sobre las Sagradas Escrituras. Trabajaron con las visitas en una forma personal en asuntos de nutrición y modificación del estilo de vida. Después de la campaña de Alejandro Bullón el grupo continuó reuniéndose los sábados y siguió creciendo en número y en actividades.

En el mes de marzo de este año el grupo se vio obligado a mudarse del edificio y un miembro de iglesia ofreció el local de su negocio de lavado de autos para seguir reuniéndose. Como resultado, el grupo empezó sus reuniones en la sala de espera del “Vanguardia Hands Car Wash” en Cicero, Illinois. El 11 de abril de este año la Asociación de Illinois organizó a este grupo como una “compañía”, cuyo nombre

actual es “Compañía de Vanguardia”. Estuve presente el día que se organizó a esta compañía y me resultó interesante ver el interés del grupo en trabajar para la comunidad. Un ejemplo de su dedicación en suplir las necesidades de la comunidad fue ver la reacción de las visitas al oír la presentación sobre

salud que se hizo después del estudio de la lección de la Escuela Sabática. Se notaba por las muchas preguntas que estaban muy interesados en el tema. También me enteré que están haciendo preparativos para crear un centro comunitario en el local de lavado de autos de donde se ofrecerá alimentos a las personas necesitadas.

Para mí no hay duda alguna que el nombre *Vanguardia* describe muy bien a este grupo, ya que tiene como propósito estar a la vanguardia en presentar a Cristo para la sanidad del cuerpo y del espíritu. Mi oración es que nuestras iglesias se animen y se coloquen también a la vanguardia, llegando al alma de la comunidad por medio de la enseñanza del mensaje de salud y la salvación que se encuentra en Jesús.

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



THE UNIFYING POWER OF GOD'S WORD

BY GLENN PAUL HILL

I will never forget the Christmas of 1978. It was our second Christmas in South Bend, Indiana, where my father was the local church pastor. As a pastor's kid, I experienced being a part of several churches in two different conferences. Some of my earliest memories revolve around the church. My first steps were taken in church. My first words were about the church. Many people expected I would be a pastor, like my dad. As many other kids in their teens, I struggled to know which direction my life should take. Should I really become a pastor? Should I become a medical doctor? I felt pulled in several directions, each involved ministry to others.

But there was another kind of confusion in my life. *What did it really mean to be a Christian? And what did it mean to be a Seventh-day Adventist?* Competing voices vied for my young mind's attention. No matter where we lived, I began to realize that different people believed different things. Sometimes, people approached my father and talked to him about their faith or their frustrations with the church. Of course, much of this was behind closed doors and did not have any impact on me. But some people didn't mind voicing their opinions in the presence of minors. I occasionally heard statements of faith or doubt which left their mark on my mind.

One man approached my father and said, "I am a fundamentalist." I wondered what that meant. As he talked, I discovered

he took the Bible seriously and tried to live by what he understood it to teach. But other people seemed to love God too, and they arrived at different conclusions about certain teachings. To make matters more complicated, people on one side of a debated doctrine often insinuated that whoever saw things differently from their perspective were not really Christians—at least not in the true sense of the word.

My own Christian experience tended to be built on second-hand faith. I read books about the Bible, listened to stories taken from the Bible and heard sermons based upon the Bible. I sometimes read portions of the Bible. I went to an Adventist school where we had Bible class. In such classes we studied various Bible truths. But the strange thing was, most of us did not

actually sit down and read the Bible. We absorbed its essence through the eyes of others. And this sometimes came with a slanted perspective on significant truths. I didn't realize it then, but my mind was filled with facts and information about the Bible. But it was not truly filled with God's Word.

This changed dramatically after the Christmas of 1978. About that time, *It Is Written* (a television ministry) gave a special Bible to any person who donated \$100. My parents made a decision, which had a greater impact on me than they may have realized at the time. They donated enough money to receive several of these Bibles, and they gave one to me for Christmas.

I was stunned. I was deeply impressed by the fact that I held in my hands a Bible worth \$100. In 1978, that seemed very expensive. I could not merely set it aside as a table decoration or simply carry it to church once a week. I had to read it. But I didn't have time for regular Bible reading. And I had not felt the need to read, since we had family worship each morning and evening. Something had to give. Such a precious gift could not remain lightly used.

I started getting up early each morning, so I had time to read that Bible. The first words I read were penned by my father just inside the front cover: "This book can keep you from sin. Sin will keep you from this book." These words and the cost of this gift intensified my desire to treasure up its words on a regular basis. And so my daily time with God's Word found its beginning in a Christmas gift. It was as if the Word of God had been given again at Christmas, but this time in a leather cover instead of a manger.

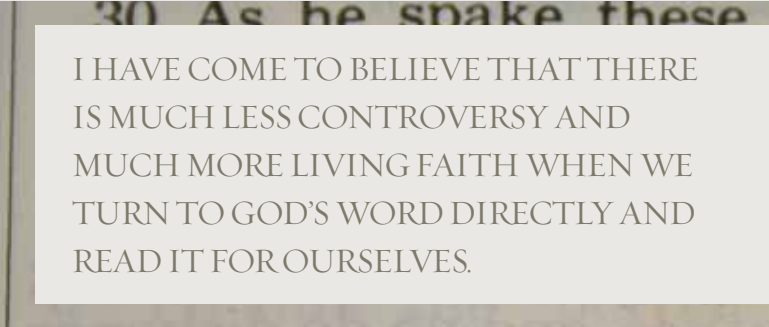
For the first time in my life, I plodded through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Things began to make sense. Rather than searching for proof of a particular view, I found the basic threads of truth. I had a context in which to place the doctrines of the church. There was a way to test the contrasting statements of people who espoused specific causes. And it all started with the gift of God's Word.

About five years later, my belief structure faced some powerful challenges when I served as a literature evangelist in Grand Ledge, Michigan, in the summer scholarship program. At the end of a long day, I approached what I thought would be my last house for the day. A man, sitting in the driveway burning little cardboard tubes, asked what I was doing. I tried to begin a canvass of the materials I had to offer.

He was not interested in the books I had, and I could see that there would be no sale at his house. I attempted to leave a paperback book with him, at no charge. He took a brief look at the title, *Cosmic Conflict*, and emphatically stated that he didn't want that book. He had already received one (it was the sharing

book which local churches distributed a few months earlier). I asked him how he liked the book, and he informed me he had thrown it away. I realized he was set in his ways, and I could not bring anything new into his life. But he had some awkward surprises in store for me.

He invited me into his home, and began talking about teachings in the Bible. I discovered he attended a Bible college some years earlier, where he learned ways to deal with people of various faiths. He carefully applied what he learned about dealing with Sabbath keepers. He led me through a carefully prepared series of questions, which I discovered too late, that left me backed into a theological corner. His proof texts showed me that the Sabbath was a cultural relic of Judaism and that Christians should now observe Sunday as the Christian Sabbath. I had no way out. For every proof text I offered, he brought up another proof text to neutralize it. I realized I could not explain basic Bible truths with the list of texts I had at my disposal. And so I finally left his house at 4:00 the next morning. We left on a basically friendly note, but I had been "rattled to the core."



I HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS MUCH LESS CONTROVERSY AND MUCH MORE LIVING FAITH WHEN WE TURN TO GOD'S WORD DIRECTLY AND READ IT FOR OURSELVES.

I realized that I needed to go back and study the Word of God. My morning Bible study had served as an anchor for my own mind so that I still knew God's truths. But my study of Bible doctrine was still leaning on proof texts isolated from their contexts and the One to whom they were pointing. The needed remedy was a basic, systematic reading of God's Word to prepare me to understand whole sections of Scripture. In this way, I could learn truth, while also getting to know the One Who is Truth. In the end, I had to return to the pattern of study which had resulted from the gift of a Bible. But this was more than a Bible. It was a way of life. And it helped me to get to know God in a more meaningful way.

I have come to believe that there is much less controversy and much more living faith when we turn to God's Word directly and read it for ourselves. Rather than being drawn into separate camps by espousing the teachings of others, we can become personally immersed in the Scriptures. We can "know the Truth" and [He] "will set us free."

Glenn Paul Hill is the communication director of the Illinois Conference.



A Community of Faith

BY DEMETRA ANDREASEN

The summer had been particularly full. I was fortunate to enjoy an extended visit to my homeland of Greece and to accompany my husband to four different countries while he fulfilled university and church obligations. Many times we found ourselves rushing down long airport corridors, navigating bustling pedestrian thoroughfares and speeding along over-crowded motorways. As much as we enjoyed our adventures abroad, we were particularly grateful at summer's end to return to Berrien Springs and its relative peace, safety and security. We were soon to discover, however, that sometimes home can be a hazardous place.

While doing some "catch-up gardening" in our yard one Friday afternoon I misstepped, precipitating an awkward fall. I knew I was in trouble when I couldn't get up without assistance. I was taken to the hospital and soon learned my diagnosis: a fractured pelvis. The pain was excruciating and debilitating, and the healing and rehabilitation would prove to be slow and challenging. Over time, however, I would also learn that difficult circumstances can usher in a shower of blessings, especially when one belongs to a community of faith.

While I was in hospital and later at home convalescing, I had much time to experience these showers of blessings and to reflect upon them. A few friends organized a team of 30 women from my church and a visitation roster for them to follow. During the

next few weeks, one by one the women showed up at my door. They visited with me and helped with chores. Many brought gifts of food, plants, reading, listening and viewing materials. I saw God in the faces of these sisters from my community of faith. I was overwhelmed by their kindness, care and encouragement. "Dear God," I often exclaimed with tears in my eyes, "I do not deserve this shower of blessings. It is too much!"

I couldn't help but wonder how differently the events would have played out if my accident had happened at my home in Greece rather than at my home in Michigan. In Greece, my two sisters and other relatives occasionally attend a church of another faith. There they light a candle, kiss an icon, listen to the liturgy and the priest's short sermon,



and then return home. Unless they meet a friend by chance, they have no interaction with the congregation or the priests, and they don't expect to. Contact with the church officers is typically confined to arranging a confession, a baptism or a funeral.

One day while in Greece last summer, I happened to pass by an outdoor celebration for the opening of a neighborhood health clinic. The mayor of the town, various dignitaries and many citizens were in attendance. The priests and cantors chanted some Byzantine hymns and offered blessings for the success of the new building. As I stood and listened, my mind was flooded with images of healing recorded in Scripture: the parable of the Good Samaritan; Jesus healing the Syrophenesian woman; Jairus' daughter being restored to life. All of these people in the Bible stories received blessings by being in the company of Jesus. The audience I joined in Greece that day could also have received a message of hope and healing, but there was no community of faith to convey it to them.

Judging from the experience of my relatives and friends, when people in Greece face pain and suffering, an accident, a death or a catastrophe such as the wildfires of last summer, the church or a community of faith is not where they expect to find comfort, hope or nurturing. Family members and neighbors typically step in and offer assistance, but the concept of a family that is created and bound by faith is largely unknown.

A childhood friend in Greece has recently experienced a devastating series of tragedies. One of her sons fell from a ladder and became a paraplegic. Several years later she herself was diagnosed with colon

cancer. She has not been visited by her priest, perhaps because she does not attend services regularly. No church members have visited her either. She has not received anything that we might consider spiritual counseling or encouragement, or even an opportunity to express her frustrations and doubts. She has no one with whom to share the inevitable questions that arise during times of crisis: *Does God care about what is happening to me?* or *Why isn't God answering my prayers?* How different it could be for her, I often think, if she were a part of a community of faith.

While communities of faith offer many blessings, they do at times present their own specific challenges. Working, worshipping and socializing with our church members week after week, month after month and year after year isn't always easy. People can get to know too much of each other's business. Criticism, unwarranted curiosity and intolerance can be the byproducts. You would expect that because our church encourages Bible study, prayer and the imitation of the life of Christ, that our transformation to His likeness would prevent these problems from surfacing. But we all know that at times each of us and each of our neighbors fall prey to the common flaws of humanity. Perfection is too much to expect even for believers. But the inevitable shortcomings of one or all need not detract from the very real blessings that are ours when we belong to a community of faith.

Demetra Andreassen was the Community Relations coordinator at Andrews University for ten years. She remains very active in the community and is a member of many civic organizations. Demetra also co-founded the Women's Scholarship Committee at Andrews University. She is the proud grandmother of two.



Unity in the Faith

BY WALTER L. WRIGHT, JUNE 12, 1934 – APRIL 15, 2009

We celebrate the life and wisdom of Walter L. Wright, who served the Lake Union Conference as secretary from 1997–2003, and president from 2003–2008. He was also the publisher of the Lake Union Herald from 2003–2008. He shared these ideas and reflections on this month's theme with the editor, Gary Burns, on March 15.

This last year has been an amazing journey with the changes in the racial climate and structure of our country. It's a hard thing to say this, but I think it's going to wear us down. I think we're going to have to learn brotherhood from the secular side of this country.

It's kind of a shame to say that. And I say that being honest enough to admit that we've made great strides in this church. We've made tremendous strides in this church. But it's sad to admit that we've been following when we should be leading. We shouldn't be running to catch up with what the country is doing. We should be leading and showing the way. We have not done that well.

We have a precious message. There is nothing like it on the topside of this Earth. Our gospel still captures people. I mean, it's powerful. But when they get in and find out that we don't love each other, that spoils the beautiful mes-

sage. Some can't take it and they go back.

But for me to see what I've seen over just the past six to eight months in the secular side of this country tells me that we've got some running to do if we're going to catch up. We are behind. We are so behind!

I just learned of a racial incident in a high school not far from here. I'm wondering how kids could do certain things without some kind of influence coming from home. That's what troubles me. Kids don't operate in a vacuum. Let me give you a good example.

I think the most accepting, open and fair person that I know is Josie Burns. I don't know

anybody that's more fair, more accepting than that young woman. I've loved her, her whole life. She loves me too. Josie is "what you see is what you get." If you can't deal with that, move on. But she treats you the same way. She is a unique person. She is not really much perturbed about what anybody thinks. She really is not.

Josie's accepting spirit came out of her home. I know what happened in her home. I know what happened in her daddy's home, and I know what happened in her grandma's home. It's all come out here and bunched up in Josie, and it's marvelous to see.

That's what I'm talking about—the influence in our Christian homes should be moving our church forward. And if we did it, and did it intentionally, it would work. I've seen it work. It does work.

When you meet someone, consider them to be a person of value. Give them a chance. Just give them a chance. You just might find something good. That's how I was taught, and it's made me a different person because of it. That's how Josie was taught. She's a special person, but that's what I want to see in my church. We'd be loving each other so much, we'd be in the kingdom by now. I believe it's possible.

I think the Lord is going to keep working on us. And unfortunately, well, maybe I should say fortunately, He's going to keep weeding the garden patch 'till He gets what He wants. And woe unto those who just insist on being tares, because they're going to have to go.

I believe that's what God is doing to us as a church. Eventually, we're going to come forth without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing. His church. Wow! That's a big order.

The only reason He's taken so long is because of our resistance. It's not because of God's laziness. He's been there working all along, hasn't He? Yes, He has. And I've been glad to be a part of it. I've been pleased to be a part of it. Let me give you an example.

When I became your union president, I set Glynn Scott down in my office, and I said, "Glynn, here we are, brand new union president; you're the union treasurer—two Black men. You need to know that every eye is upon us. We're going to keep everything far above board and

transparent. It's going to be of such a degree that somebody's going to say, 'Oh, Black people do know how to run things.'"

Some of you may think it strange that I should say that. You may not know that many of us live with that reality every day.

I attended an all-White school in Germantown, Ohio. The superintendent of schools told my mother one day, "You know, Mrs. Wright, it is unfortunate, but that's how it is; Walter has to work twice as hard to get the even grade with the White students. So you should be quite proud, Mrs. Wright, because he has excelled. He is the first among all the boys in this school; he's taken these tests, and he's third in the state of Ohio scholastically, so how hard do you think he's had to work?"

My mother never forgot that, and I never forgot that. He was stating a fact. He was being very fair and open with us, I thought, and I've appreciated him for that. But that home training means everything when you have to face those kinds of things.

But I'll tell you when they hurt the worst—when you meet them in your church. I've been steeled and prepared and ready for what's out there in the world. But I never quite get ready for it coming from people who share my faith. Those are the toughest. Those are the hardest.

I had applied to Emmanuel Missionary College back in 1953. They were impressed with my grades, and I was quickly accepted. But I received a letter requesting that I send a picture for their records. So, I sent in my class picture, after already having been accepted, and I got a reply almost by return mail saying, "We're sorry but our quota has been filled. May we suggest that you enroll at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama."

Now I've got to tell you, that one threw me. I was angry. My mother was angry. I was angry with my church. I even got angry at God. Mom didn't go that far. She had too much sense than to be angry at God, because she knew He didn't do it.

But I was so mad, I was so angry that I didn't want anything the church had to offer. That's how I ended up at The Ohio State University. I fully wanted to go to Emmanuel Missionary Col-

When you meet someone, consider them to be a person of value. Give them a chance. Just give them a chance. You just might find something good.



When you think how we can win people with doctrines and the gospel, what if we also showed love and acceptance and respect?



lege. In fact, I had applied at Emmanuel Missionary College, Union College, Atlantic Union College and Pacific Union College. I did not bother to apply at Columbia Union College or Southern Missionary College or Southwestern Union College, because I knew they wouldn't take Colored. That's what we were then, by the way. We were Colored.

Did you catch what I said? I knew they didn't accept, so I didn't bother to apply. But in my bull-headedness, I overlooked the fact that I had been accepted at all the other ones. I could have gone to Union, I could have gone to PUC, I could have gone to Atlantic Union. The only one that turned me down of those Northern schools was Emmanuel Missionary College, which later became Andrews University. But how good is God? I ended up as vice chairman of the board at Andrews University. Do you hear me?

So, yes, that was one time when I was thrown by racism in my church. But, oh, thank the Lord He didn't turn me loose. He knew I was being foolish. [Emmanuel Missionary College] called me back. The president of the college called me, and I told him I had another scholarship and he said, "Bring it here." And I said I wouldn't bring it there.

Looking back, I know that if I had been in that environment, coupled with the Lord's tugging on my heart, I would have entered the ministry 20 years sooner. But you know, God is so good that He used my 20 years of running to build experiences in me that were going to help me in my ministry. When I finally did come in, I was a better minister than I would have been 20 years earlier. I might have gotten so disenchanted that I may have lost my ministry. I don't know. But when I finally came in—rock solid. I knew what I wanted to do. I wanted to preach the gospel. So, yes, it delayed me, but it also prepared me. I saw things and experienced things that were going to help me later on. That's the way I look at it. There's no bitterness—not even a twinge. That's why I can talk about it and laugh. That's why I can share this with you, because I know what God did for me.

Isn't it amazing how He can take negative things...? "All things do work together for good to them that love the Lord" (see Romans 8:28). They may not be good things, but He'll get you some good out of it. He did me. I might have

missed my wife Jackie!

God is so good. He not only balances it out, He tips the balance in a positive way. Jackie and I have gone into little churches in Wisconsin and Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, and White people walk up to us and say, "We never miss your articles in the *Lake Union Herald*," "We finally get to meet you in person," and "Oh, we just love you Elder Wright," sight unseen. That's tipping the balance way over in a positive way.

There is a high wave of openness and cooperation in this country. And we need to ride it now, because we know a time of trouble is coming and we don't know what that's going to be. But right now, we should be taking advantage of this wave of good feeling and brotherhood toward each other.

Did you see those young people hugging each other and weeping together, and dancing together for joy? No man on the topside of this Earth could do that. It's not Obama. God had to do that. It should give us Adventists a great opportunity—a window. Let's build some brotherhood, let's build some love. We should have done it before we tried to make a name for ourselves in the world. But now that we're out there, let's build some brotherhood and love and some respect and acceptance among each other, and show that to the world.

When you think how we can win people with doctrines and the gospel, what if we also showed love and acceptance and respect? Put that with the gospel. That's a power hard to resist. There's no religion, philosophy or government that can even come close.

I love the Adventist Church. My daddy loved it, my mama loved it and they taught us to love it. It's real. It's genuine. There's something to this church.

I saw a niece of mine go off and be so critical of our church. It was mostly because of racism. She would get so upset. "Oh, man! How could they do that!" But then I saw her come around full circle.

I know this thing is right! I believe this with all my heart. I know Jesus loves me and I know He's going to save a big chunk of us. That keeps me believing. He's still working miracles. I see it in my own family. He can work miracles in your family, too.

Walter L. Wright enjoyed sitting on his front porch and reflecting on the goodness of God. This article was birthed from the front porch of his home in Germantown, Ohio.

With Many Thanks

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE APPRECIATES
MINISTRY OF MARK BOND

BY GARY BURNS AND DIANE THURBER

The Lake Union Conference recently said farewell to Mark Bond, who was central to the ministry in our territory the past six-and-a-half years. We wish to acknowledge his contributions and express our appreciation for his service as art director of the Lake Union Herald.

Gary Burns: When I arrived at the *Lake Union Herald*, I discovered the former editor, Dick Dower, had contracted with Mark Bond to design the magazine until a new editor was established and able to implement a permanent plan. I was so pleased with Mark's work, that we continued the relationship through 76 editions.

I didn't know Mark, but we were soon very good friends, even though we had never met and were 1,700 miles apart. Mark and his wife Conna left Orlando, Florida, to raise their four children in the little community of Condon, Montana. They home schooled their children and were very active in their community. It was from their little mountain hideaway that Mark designed our magazine.

Mark brought much to the Lake Union. Each edition of the *Herald* was the product of creative synergy as Mark immersed himself in the mission and message of each article. For Mark, every element and layer of design was about telling God's story. We were partners in ministry working together as the closest friends. We actually met on iChat, and continued that virtual relationship until Fall 2003 when Mark came to our offices for his first visit. The following spring, I visited him and met his family, who now call me "Uncle Gary." Our families had already cherished the times we got together on Friday nights and Sabbath afternoons through our Mac video iChats.

Diane Thurber: Though Mark and I worked together in a virtual office setting with so many miles between us, it never seemed that way. He felt like a friend the first time we chatted



From left: Recently, Mark, Chelsea, Conna, Adriana, Emily Beth and Taylor Bond left their mountain home in Montana for Texas, where they have already made a positive impact.

online. I greatly appreciate what I learned about God through Mark's friendship, and deeply respect his commitment to the church's mission and the sacrifices he makes to enhance so many ministries of our church.

Mark also cares so deeply about the people in his life. Many times our iChats led to discussions about our families and friends. Those conversations always centered around how he saw God's

mighty hand leading and guiding. Sometimes our work was interrupted so Mark could encourage a friend who stopped by, prepare a funeral message or respond to an emergency in his community. His priorities were straight, and somehow God helped us make up time missed for Mark's other ministries.

LUC Family: A designer, musician, photographer and filmmaker, Mark's work touched every department, giving evidence that his business was truly a ministry. Recognizing Mark's unique giftedness, the Southwestern Union invited him to be the communication director and editor of the *Southwestern Record*. Mark and his family have already positively impacted their new community in Texas.

We love you and miss you, Mark. God bless as your creative ministry takes on new dimensions and responsibilities in the Southwest.

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



Nurse sisters give birth same day at same hospital

Although their due dates were close, Amy Matykiewicz and Jillian Trippeer didn't plan on giving birth the same week, much less the same day. But the two sisters—who are three years apart and live just five minutes from one another—on Friday, Mar. 6, welcomed Lucas Scott Matykiewicz and Zachary Robert Trippeer into the world just hours apart at the hospital where they work as nurses: Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital.

“Even though I knew there was a slight possibility, I never imagined my sister and I would deliver on the same day,” said Matykiewicz, a registered nurse in the operating room who has worked at the hospital since 2001. “We didn't even know that we were both going to have boys; neither of us wanted to know the gender ahead of time.”

Added Trippeer, a quality management specialist and registered nurse who has worked at the hospital since



Jillian Trippeer, left, with her newborn son, Zachary Robert, is pictured with her sister, Amy Matykiewicz, and her newborn son, Lucas Scott. The babies were born hours apart at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, where Trippeer and Matykiewicz work as nurses.

2000: “Sharing this experience with my sister has been such a blessing from God. And I can't wait for our boys to grow up together. I know they will be close.”

Lucas, born at 9 pounds, 13 ounces

and 21.5 inches long, is four-and-a-half hours older than cousin Zachary, who is 7 pounds, 12 ounces and 20.5 inches long. Lucas has dark hair and a darker complexion than fair-skinned, blond Zachary. Lucas joins big sister Cassidy, 5, and older brothers Timmy, 3, and Austin, 2. Zachary's older sisters are two-year-old twins Ashley and Alexis. Lucas and Zachary were delivered by Scott Multack, M.D.

In addition to celebrating their first birthday together, the boys also will be christened the same day at the same church—a plan that will undoubtedly be appreciated by all the members of this tight-knit family. Truly these children “are a heritage of Jehovah; And the fruit of the womb is His reward” (Psalm 127:3 ASV).

Lisa Parro, public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health

Hospital earns coveted accreditation as chest pain center

Adventist GlenOaks Hospital has been accredited by the Society of Chest Pain Centers. This recognition ensures that patients receive specialized care during the critical early stages of a heart attack, when treatments are most effective, and are monitored throughout their stay to ensure proper care. Such observation helps ensure that a patient is neither sent home too early nor needlessly admitted.

The facility was accredited with PCI (percutaneous coronary interventions) status, also referred to as Cycle II accreditation, because it offers coronary angioplasty. PCI is among the most advanced treatments available to open blocked arteries in the heart, thereby preventing or treating a heart attack. This accreditation expires Mar. 10, 2012.



Adventist GlenOaks Hospital is home to one of just two accredited chest pain centers in DuPage County. The hospital's Heart & Vascular Institute offers the experience of interventional cardiologists, electrophysiologists, cardiovascular surgeons and interventional radiologists in one convenient location. Patients with life-threatening heart blockages or those who need pacemakers or implantable defibrillators can now be treated closer to home.

“Being accredited as a chest pain center underscores our commitment to quality and high performance standards,” said Brinsley Lewis, chief executive officer, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital.

Added Aziz Ahmed, an interventional cardiologist who is medical director of the hospital's cardiac catheterization laboratory: “This distinction is a seal of approval showing that our patients can receive the most advanced care here instead of traveling outside of their community.”

Joseph Shanahan, medical director of emergency services at the hospital, called the accreditation achievement “a team effort.”

“Accreditation as a chest pain center acknowledges that we are following best practices in caring for our heart attack patients,” Shanahan said.

The Chest Pain Center at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital has demonstrated its expertise and commitment to quality patient care by meeting or exceeding a wide set of stringent criteria and completing on-site evaluations by a review team from the Society of Chest Pain Centers. Heart attacks are the leading cause of death in the

United States, with 600,000 dying annually of heart disease. More than five million Americans visit hospitals each year with chest pain.

Lisa Parro, public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health

First Celebration of Research and Creative Scholarship event packs Howard Performing Arts Center

Andrews University's first Celebration of Research and Creative Scholarship was held on Thursday, Apr. 2, in the Howard Performing Arts Center. This scholarly event was jointly sponsored by the Office of Research & Creative Scholarship and the Office of the Provost.



More than 120 poster and video presentations covering a wide range of topics filled the lobby of the Howard Performing Arts Center.

The evening unfolded in two parts. From 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., students, faculty and staff were invited to an open exchange of research. The information sharing included more than 120 poster and video presentations covering a wide range of topics—from the scientific, “Converting Cow Manure and Disposable Water Bottles into Fiberboard,” to the literary arts, “A Good Man is Hard to Find.” The presenters showcased analytical literary reflections, pedagogical findings, creative arts exhibits and a wide range of other conclusions, assertions and proposal research from 21 University departments.

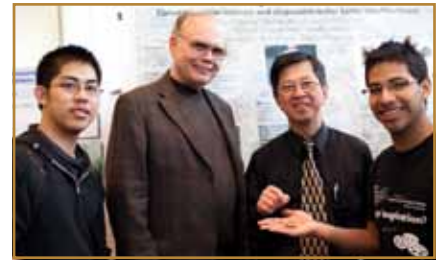
Heather Knight, provost, served as emcee for the second part of the Celebration of Research, which featured seven faculty presentations. Knight thanked John Stout, director of the Office of Research & Creative Scholarship, for helping transform her dream of a

research celebration into a reality, saying the event demonstrates an appreciation of scholarship. “We want this event to show we support research at Andrews,” she stated.

Niels-Erik Andreasen, president, also addressed the audience and reiterated the need for research. He outlined three reasons for research. “Because it’s fun,” he said. “It’s good for students,” and “it adds to the common good.” Discouraging participation in research for material gain, Andreasen said, “Don’t think of research as something to do to get a promotion. Do it because it’s good for the students.”

A highlight of the evening was the introduction of preliminary research findings of a National Science Foundation funded grant that studied the unusual success of Andrews biology students. Preliminary findings spoke well of Andrews academics, crediting students’ higher than average success on the biology major field exam to strong teacher-student relationships and exposure to strong teaching methods.

Stout described the main purpose of the evening was to “make the Andrews University faculty and student body aware of just how much research/creative



Atniel Quetz holds a sample from the research project, “Converting Cow Manure and Disposable Water Bottles into Fiberboard.” From left: Maverick Maguad, an engineering student; John Stout, director of the Office of Research & Creative Scholarship; Boon-Chai Ng, associate professor of engineering and computer science; and Atniel Quetz, an engineering student

scholarship was actually happening.”

Stout acknowledged plans to make the Celebration of Research an annual event. He called the night a fusion of research into mainstream Andrews’ life. “We, the president, provost, research office and many others, feel this event laid the foundation for more effectively weaving research and creative scholarship into the educational fabric that students, faculty and administration create together at Andrews University.”

Andre Weston, intern, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication

Andrews student awarded Goldwater Scholarship

Libby Megna, a junior biology major from Coloma, Mich., is one of only 12 students in the state of Michigan to receive a scholarship from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. She was selected based on her academic merit from a pool of nearly 1,100 applicants. This scholarship is one of the highest distinctions in the country for undergraduates in the fields of science, mathematics and engineering. Megna’s professor said of her achievement, “This is very exciting news as it shows that sci-

ence students from Andrews are among the very best in the country.”

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication



Libby Megna is one of only 12 in Michigan to receive a prestigious Goldwater Scholarship.

NHS Chapter raises awareness of world challenges

Michigan—On Sunday, Feb. 22, 13 new members were inducted into the Andrews Academy chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). This brings the total membership to 28.

Last year the Andrews Academy NHS chapter aimed to make a difference in their world locally and globally. President Jason Lemon and vice president Jessica Anzures started a tradition by creating the “NHS Cause Week”—a week where NHS officers, members and guest speakers raised awareness among the students of the various emergencies in our world. In the same way, the NHS officers this year took on the challenge and started planning early during the summer vacation months.

Vice president Rose Vargas and Erica Evans, president, pondered the countless ways they could depict global situations to students in a way that would capture and maintain teenage minds for the 20-minute Morning Devotion periods that were assigned to them. Understanding the power of media and technology, they decided to use creative imagination and present in a medium they were familiar and comfortable with. By adjusting and assembling chairs, tables, props and projections screens, Vargas and Evans transformed their chapel into a studio, WNHS—Television with a Cause. Playing the roles of talk show hostess and reporter, Vargas and Evans created a mock television show where special guests (academy students) were invited to demonstrate the need in their field of expertise.

Devotions on Monday introduced the theme for the week by emphasizing global hunger and poverty. Senior class president Marcelo Caceres interviewed as a researcher of food and waste, unpackaged the sad truth on



Andrews Academy National Honor Society members strive to serve the poor and needy as if they were helping God Himself.

the devastating amount of food that is dumped in America annually and the effects of these actions. The aim of NHS Cause Week was to introduce global problems and provide local solutions, so the students were challenged to a project related with poverty and hunger. Each class was challenged to raise \$250 by the end of the week to buy a cow for a family in Vietnam—giving of their spare change and money that otherwise would have been spent for personal pleasure. Students were also encouraged to bring non-perishable foods to be taken in to Neighbor to Neighbor for local families.

Tuesday’s devotion time was a spotlight on the “Invisible Children” of Uganda. Cody Wales, a student at Andrews Academy already involved with this organization, was interviewed; and a short clip was shown about the dangerous environment the Ugandan children face daily. Students were informed of the wristbands made by refugees in Uganda that can be purchased to enable jobs and keep the children out of the streets. In the assembly program, the focus on children continued as the officers presented the gift of a shoebox through Operation Christmas Child. This international operation, developed by Franklin Graham, is a way to give presents and ultimately the message of Christ through storybooks in their own language. Along with

the help of student leaders, Whitney Tacket and Richelle Ulery, the students were given yet another opportunity to get involved.

With disease as Wednesday’s central focus, student leader Chikondi Kamvazaana was invited as guest speaker “Dr. Mbutu” to inform students of the deadly HIV virus and AIDS. Jessica Constantine, another student at Andrews Academy, dressed up as breast cancer survivor “Terri Adams,” playing a middle-aged woman in the middle of a cancer awareness walk. She gave the students the opportunity to aid breast cancer research by collecting pink Yoplait lids. During lunch, the NHS officers sold AIDS and Breast Cancer Awareness buttons to help with the causes.

On Thursday, WNHS invited students Gadi Solis, Erica Franke and Emily Perkins, portrayed as different characters, to talk about domestic violence and its tragic effects. The subjects of gang violence, sexual abuse and physical abuse were addressed. After their insights were shared, the opportunity to replace hurt with care was given through carnations sold throughout the week for students to purchase.

The last day of NHS Cause Week was Environment Day. This year, for the first time, Andrews Academy students decided to accept the challenge of a

“Walk to School Day.” More than 100 students walked, biked or carpooled to reduce gas and carbon emissions. A handful of students walked a total distance of eight miles to arrive at school! With the positive enthusiasm and rosy cheeks of the energized students, the program came to a close as the Student Association officers showed the students the newly-painted recycling bins in the hallways for plastic bottles. By the conclusion of the week, students were well informed and chose to participate in multiple projects.

The theme and motto of the NHS at Andrews Academy—“In His Service”—has been the driving force of all the NHS activities. By living a humble lifestyle ready to serve and take on challenges to help the needy, Andrews Academy students desire to transform into the kind of Christian that Jesus was during His time on Earth.

On Feb. 22, a NHS Benefit Dinner was held; and students, staff and members of the community were invited to join the NHS chapter members to “eat simply so others may simply eat.” The simple yet delicious meal prepared by



During Cause Week, the Andrews Academy chapel was transformed into WNHS—Television with a Cause. Students played the roles of talk show hostess and reporter during devotion periods to inform others of global situations in need.

Debbie Habenicht, NHS officers and volunteers was served to the attendees, along with presentations of additional methods of donation. Diners were invited to extend their generosity to three areas: Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Kiva and Solusi University in Zimbabwe. Members from Alvin Glassford’s eight o’clock religion class explained their involvement with Kiva and the benefits of this non-profit micro-loan organization to alleviate poverty by making loans to start small businesses in third

world countries. From Solusi University (one of the only two universities open in Zimbabwe), adjunct professor Nkosiyabo Zvandasara briefly discussed the severe political and economical situation in Zimbabwe. The students and faculty on the campus are on a OIO meal plan, receiving only one meal of the three per day. Through calculations, it is assumed that one dollar can feed up to 30 breakfasts for one student at Solusi.

The heartwarming messages of the individuals that shared and the generosity of those attending accumulated to a total of \$1,700 to be sent to the different causes. With Matthew 25:34–40 as the theme text for the NHS this year, the chapter members strive to serve the poor and needy as if they were helping God Himself. Because, in the end, our King will reply, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Jody Murphy, correspondent, Michigan Conference, as shared by Erica Evans, president, National Honor Society

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Hundreds participate in Christmas Behind Bars prison ministry

Indiana—In a show of compassion and caring, hundreds of church members and students from Indiana Academy came together on a cold, wintry day in February to prepare bags of food for prisoners in central Indiana.

Beginning in the early morning, the volunteers were assigned to different bagging lines, much like an assembly line. Many were already acquainted with the routine, as they had assisted in the Christmas Behind Bars bagging days last November and December.

One group of volunteers walked down the line with open paper bags while another group dropped various donated foods into the bags. Donated

items ranged from Kool-Aid drink packets to Nerds candy ropes. As the day wore on, several snacks, as well as water and Gatorade, were made available to the volunteers.

Bagging food is a Christian ministry aimed at spreading Christianity to people in prisons. While many ignore prisoners altogether, I am proud to say that the Adventist Church has taken a special interest in spreading the gospel where few others dare to go. For the past two years, Lemuel and Donna Vega have coordinated these bagging events which take place in the fall as well as the early spring.

This time the event was highlighted by Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN), an independent Adventist television network. With this added publicity, the prison ministry leaders hope to gain more support in

their endeavor to spread God’s Word to those behind bars.

Tyler Yasa, member, Carmel Hope Fellowship



From left: Indiana Academy students Miguel Kruythoff, Arlene Giron and Joe Crumley pack bags for the Christmas Behind Bars prison ministry.

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Hinsdale Adventist Academy surpasses its Mission: Maluti goal

Illinois—Hinsdale Adventist Academy (HAA) students are always up for a challenge, and this year's North American Division Office of Adventist Education's project to raise money for a new school in Lesotho, Africa, was a big one. And, once again, HAA students demonstrated their ability to pull together to make a difference in the lives of others. The school set a goal for every student at HAA to raise \$10, or \$1,500.

Joe Fralick, the second grade teacher, kicked off the campaign with an assembly for all of the students, featuring a slide presentation and a skit by the teachers. The theme song for the campaign, "Give Me Your Eyes," was played during the slide show and every morning as part of a display set up in the hallway.

How did they accomplish their goal? Two words: Penny War! A penny war is a competition between classes whereby each class earns points by collecting pennies for the cause. Each penny is worth one point. The fun starts when students sabotage another class by putting silver coins and cur-

rency in their jars. Silver coins and currency actually subtract from the number of points earned, but count toward the amount of money raised. Of course, incentives were offered to entice the students: Every class that reached the goal of raising \$10 per student would receive a "No Uniform Day." If all the classes reached the goal, everyone would be treated to ice cream as well! And the biggest incentive of all if the school reached its goal? Adventist Midwest Health would donate \$1,000 to the project!

So, every day for a week, the students faithfully added pennies to their classroom jar and delighted in adding silver and currency to the jars of their "competition!" Throughout the day, students talked strategy, coins clinked into jars, money was counted and challenges were made! In just one week, the students raised \$4,150 (plus the \$1,000 from Adventist Midwest Health) and had many stories to tell. Students emptied their piggy banks, asked neighbors and church members for donations, used their allowance and their own savings!



Anneliese Tessalee and Rebecca Olteanu add their coins to the first grade jar. Every child in the school raised at least \$10 for Mission: Maluti.

Christian Bokich, an eighth grader, brought in his Crayon bank that he had been saving money in for years, to make sure every eighth grader had coins to put in the jar! By the end of the week, his bank was empty!

When all the coins were counted, the sixth grade class finished first in number of points, and the senior class raised the most money. Everyone felt the satisfaction of a job well done and the joy of knowing they were helping others! The "No Uniform Day" and ice cream (provided by our friends from Culvers) were just icing on the cake!

Rebecca Garrett, marketing director, Hinsdale Adventist Academy



To celebrate their fundraising success, members of the Hinsdale Adventist Academy senior class enjoy their Culvers frozen custard!



From left: First graders Hannah Ziegler, A.J. Martz and Rebecca Olteanu participated in the Penny War, a fundraiser to build a new school in Lesotho, Africa.

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Students warm hearts and hands for Jesus

Illinois—On Thurs., Dec. 18, Downers Grove Adventist School students in grades K–8 traveled to the DuPage P.A.D.S. (Public Action to Deliver Shelter, Inc.) homeless center in Wheaton, Ill., to spread a little warmth and holiday cheer.



From left: Kayla Rodríguez, Patrick Mack and Alex Leonor wrap gloves, hats, scarves and freshly-made bread for distribution at the homeless shelter.

The students began to prepare for their visit to Wheaton weeks before. First, they designed and made greeting cards with inspirational thoughts and comforting words for the clients at the homeless shelter. Then they

began to purchase glove, hat and scarf sets. Finally, the students baked loaves of cinnamon swirl bread and pumpkin bread to take with them to the shelter. The clothing, cards and bread were wrapped with colorful ribbons and attractive decorations for distribution at the P.A.D.S. center. When the final gifts were wrapped, the students discovered they had prepared 60 sets of items to hand out!

Once the students arrived at the homeless center, they handed out the gifts and then sang two selections from their Christmas program. In between the two songs, several students related information regarding some of the special names of Jesus and the meaning of those names.

While the students were singing and speaking, shelter guests smiled and nodded and called out words of appreciation. The response of the homeless people was so enthusiastic that the students have already begun to plan for next year's visit. Next year, the students want to distribute scarves that they have crocheted, along with the gloves and hats. They also want to see if they can double the number of gift sets they collect and prepare, so next year the goal is to have 120 sets for distribution.

Third grader Nehemiah Sitler said,

"As you walk in the homeless shelter, you see these people and when you give them the hats and gloves they just say, 'Is that for me?' with a big smile! I especially liked it because it feels kinda cool to be like Jesus!"

Molly Scranton, a sixth grader wrote, "Most people complain about all the things they don't have, but they never think about the people who truly have nothing. When our school went to DuPage P.A.D.S. we received an opportunity to give food and warmth to people who need it."

Sixth grader David Forner wrote, "I thought going to help others was great because we were doing what Jesus did, helping others."

The students had intended to be a blessing to the people at the shelter, but they left the shelter feeling warm and appreciated, and were glad they had the opportunity to share a part of the gospel story with others. This was a wonderful project, and students have already begun collecting items for next year. If you would like to participate, please send new gloves, hats and scarfs or sets to: Downers Grove Adventist School, 5524 Lee Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

Patricia C. Williams, principal, Downers Grove Adventist School

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Peru mission experience is life-changing

Michigan—Young people from the Village Church in Berrien Springs, Mich., visited Lima, Peru, on a mission trip from Mar. 12 to 25.

The highlights of the trip included a youth rally, cleaning a youth center, visiting Cuzco (a city in southeastern Peru), Machu Picchu (an ancient Incan city) and attending a youth congress. During the youth congress, the young people witnessed more than 40 baptisms. This experience has been life-changing.



In March, young people from the Village Church in Berrien Springs, Mich., traveled to Lima, Peru, for a mission trip. While there, they visited Machu Picchu, an ancient Incan city.

The team members include Brianna Cave, Carlos Velasquez, Kristin Edwards, Jonathon Wolfer, Daniel Tentea, Kelly Escotto, Carmen Escotto and Cesar Perozo. The team would like to return next year during spring break to finish two more projects—building a

church for \$3,000 and building a small cafeteria for a youth center for \$3,000. The youth will begin fundraising for both endeavors.

The young people are thankful for the Village Church members who supported them with prayers and donations. They believe they could not have accomplished what they did without their support.

A warm invitation is extended to all those interested in being a part of the trip next year. For information on donating, future trips or the Village Church youth group, you may e-mail Cesar Perozo, youth pastor, at soulsforthekingdom@yahoo.com.

Cesar Perozo, youth pastor, Village Church

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]



From left: Casey Knoop (left) and Taylor Knoop (right) accepted Jesus as their Savior and were baptized following a series of meetings. Also pictured: Tom Ferguson, pastor

‘Empowered Church’ changes lives in Illinois

Illinois—In January 2007, the newly formed and relocated Southwest Church, with a burden to reach their community for Christ, launched a two-year “Empowered Church” cycle of evangelism program. Amazing Facts, the originator of “Empowered Church,” guided the congregation along the way. The goal was to establish an ongoing cycle of evangelism, involving as many members as possible and every department of the church.

An outreach leadership team was chosen and the calendar was set. After assessing the church’s strengths and weaknesses, a month of revival began in June 2007 with a seminar by Richard O’Ffill. Bible studies were conducted in several members’ homes. These study groups reached out to those who lived in their neighborhood. The next step was to invite neighbors and friends to attend the studies.

In Fall 2007, a five-night reaping event was held. Several new attendees were invited to follow-up Bible studies on Wednesday evenings, which they accepted. Some of these individuals were later baptized.

In January 2008, an Amazing Facts Bible worker arrived to spend the next six months giving Bible studies, visiting and equipping the members to do the same. He was also helpful involving the youth in ministry. A car wash and door-to-door distribution of literature are just a couple of their outreach activities.

Outreach training and “bridge” events were the norm for the first quarter of 2008. A “Breathe-Free” seminar was offered to the public, followed by a cooking class held the first Sundays of February and March. Many in attendance were invited by members. Several responded to advertising in the newspaper and health food stores. Prayer, visitation and Bible study teams were put into action at this time as well.

On Apr. 11, 2008, an evangelist with Amazing Facts began a series of meetings at the local junior high school. A well-organized children’s

program was provided as well. Two hundred were in attendance the first night; 150 were from the community. About 75 precious individuals continued throughout the series. There were 22 baptisms following the meetings. A number of others continued studying by attending a Revelation seminar conducted immediately following the conclusion of the Amazing Facts series of meetings. Those recently baptized gained a deeper understanding of the truths they had just accepted, while attending the Revelation studies.

With a desire to keep the cycle of evangelism going, a financial seminar was conducted in Fall 2008 for the community, followed by a “ShareHim” reaping event led by two local elders.

The Southwest Church members plan to continue the cycle of evangelism throughout 2009. Although the process requires much sacrifice and dedication, the Southwest Church family is committed to the cause. They believe individuals are weighing in the balance. In light of the times in which we live, coupled with the “Great Commission,” they ask themselves: “How could we stop now?” It is their desire that every church family is inspired by their testimony and determine to “Touch Everyone for Jesus” in their



In 2007, the Southwest Church members launched a two-year “Empowered Church” cycle of evangelism program because they desire to “Touch Everyone for Jesus.” They have conducted bridge events such as cooking schools and “Breathe-Free” and financial seminars to meet their neighbors before holding Revelation series.

community. They encourage, “Let’s work together to hasten the day of our Lord’s soon coming.”

Tom Ferguson, pastor, Southwest Church

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

'Lifestyle Matters' seminar received with enthusiasm

Illinois—The Crystal Lake Adventist Fellowship presented a “Lifestyle Matters” seminar that started on July 8, 2008, and continued for the next three Tuesday evenings. About 40 participants, 14 from the community, gathered to enjoy healthy food, discover more about healthy living and fellowship together. They learned how to fight disease and depression, lose weight, sleep better and appreciate the plant-based diet God originally provided for our first parents.

At the end of the seminar, all participants gave an excellent rating and very positive remarks. Many of them got in contact with the Adventist Church for the very first time. One

person even asked for Bible studies.

The Crystal Lake Church, the only Adventist presence in McHenry County, offered this seminar as a free service to the community. A multiple weekend door-to-door community survey, organized by our church’s Outreach Leadership Team, suggested that one of the major needs of the community is health education.

The seminar was planned and presented by members of the local church, Patty Bryant, R.N., and Tim Heischberg, the Bible Worker in our territory, with the participation of guest physicians and sustained by an enthusiastic group of ladies.

The seminar was followed by “Lifestyle Matters Supper Club” monthly meetings, where the participants enjoyed a healthy dinner, shared their new recipes, and received new



At the “Lifestyle Matters Supper Club,” participants enjoy a healthy dinner, share recipes and receive new information and support for healthy living.

information and support in regard to healthy living.

The second seminar from the “Lifestyle Matters” series, “Foods for Thought,” began Mar. 31. This seminar linked nutrition with mood, memory and behavior. The second session was as well attended as the first one.

Gabriel Bardan, pastor, Crystal Lake Adventist Fellowship

Church treasurer honored for 40 years of faithful service

Illinois—What does it mean to serve as church treasurer of finances? If you ask Barbara Winkler of the Danville Church in Danville, Ill., it means serving the Lord with all her heart.

Winkler has served the Danville Church for 40 years with her faithfulness, professionalism, example, attention to detail and the absolute trust of the members. Ed Pierce, head elder, states that Winkler richly deserves recognition and thanks. On Sabbath, Nov. 22, 2008, church members gathered together for a special fellowship dinner to honor Winkler for her dedicated service the past 40 years.

Winkler started her work on Jan. 1, 1969. What impressed her to take on the role of treasurer is the fact that she always liked working with figures and has done so for all her life. Winkler worked in her earlier years in several doctors’ offices doing their books,

among other responsibilities. She remembers that one of the doctors she worked with wanted his wife to “show her the ropes” in the office. After one morning, his wife did not return. When Winkler asked the doctor why, he replied: “She said she couldn’t teach you anything. You already knew more than she did.”

The best part of Winkler’s job as treasurer is the trust the people put in her to perform the job and do it well. She has found the key to a good job is always balancing. That means every week. If not, keep looking until you do [balance].

Winkler oversaw many aspects of the church’s business during the years, including the building of the new church in 1973, the sale of the old church, procurement of new land and all that it entails, including the dealings with the church contractor and builder. And Winkler played a big role in the purchase of the church school building and its subsequent sale some years later.



Barbara Winkler was honored at a special celebration for her 40 years of service at the Danville Church.

Winkler and her husband Dale both had some health issues in the last few years, but that never stopped her from reporting in a timely manner to the board and the conference.

She is a precious individual to all who come to know and love her. God surely blesses, and Winkler is living proof.

Paula Saint-Villiers, church and school auditor, Illinois Conference

MILEPOSTS

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

Weddings

Baby Lou L. Gerasmia and Cecil D. Christo were married Mar. 1, 2009, in Burton, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Melvin Santos.

Baby Lou is the daughter of Efen and Eliza Gerasmia of Ealawan, Philippines, and Cecil is the son of Margaret and the late Alfred Christo of Williamsville, Trinidad.

The Christos are making their home in Lapeer, Mich.

Katrina R. Stover and G. John Hill II were married Mar. 7, 2009, in Cicero, Ind. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Paul Yeoman.

Katrina is the daughter of Richard Stover of Bloomington, Calif., and Diane Smith of Cicero, and John is the son of Grover and Karen Hill of Burlington, Colo., and Barbara and Donnie Tibbs of Wingo, Ky.

The Hills are making their home in Clearwater, Kan.

Anniversaries



LaDene and Jerry Snowden celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Mar. 4, 2009, by a get together with special friends at their home in Lakeland, Fla. They have been members of the Escanaba (Mich.) Church for 54 years.

Jerry Snowden and LaDene Saxton were married Mar. 4, 1949, in Boise, Idaho. Jerry has been a highway contractor, retiring in 2001. LaDene has been an office manager, retiring in 2001.

The Snowden family includes Randy and Janet Snowden of Escanaba; Pamela and Mike Sahlbom of Cedar River, Mich.; Melanee and Terry Davis of Winston-Salem, N.C.; Scott and Heidi Snowden of Berrien Springs, Mich.; nine grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

BROWN, John T., age 90; born June 26, 1918, in Detroit, Mich.; died Mar. 20, 2009, in Bad Axe, Mich. He was a member of the Bad Axe Church.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara J. (Swett).

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Leonard Kitson, and interment was in New River Cemetery, Huron Twp., Huron Cty., Mich.

BURELISON, Carol S. (Cooney), age 63; born Dec. 14, 1945, in Greenfield, Ind.; died Jan. 12, 2009, in Richmond, Ind. She was a member of the Richmond Church.

Survivors include her son, Bill; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

No funeral services were conducted, with private inurnment.

GRAVES, Iva I. (McCullough), age 82; born Nov. 1, 1926, in La Crosse, Ind.; died Dec. 8, 2008, in Knox, Ind. She was a member of the Monterey (Ind.) Community Church.

Survivors include her husband, Earl G.; sons, Timothy and David; brothers, Russell, Donald, David, Jon, Robert and Gerald McCullough; sisters, Ruth Ludwig, Verda Slack, Wilma Billis, Merle Risner and Linda Hayman; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Don English, and Elders Vernon De Herrera and Lewis Thomas, with private inurnment.

GRAY, Robert L., age 92; born May 30, 1916, in Arlington, S.D.; died June 27, 2008, in Midland, Mich. He was a member of the Midland Church.

Survivors include his wife, Faith (Witt); son, Gary; daughter, Pamela Dobson; brother, Ronald; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Elder Reid Tait, with private inurnment.

GRIGGS, Joyan K. (Baerg), age 49; born May 31, 1960, in Benton Harbor, Mich.; died Feb. 16, 2009, in South Bend, Ind. She was a member of the Glenwood Church, Dowagiac, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, James K.; son, Jason K.; daughter, Jasmine K. Griggs; father, Bernie Baerg; brothers, Steve and Daniel Baerg; and sisters, Perri Lowe, Anne Rabin and Maeva Shoup.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Travis Smith and Chris Ames, and Elder Harry Sponseller, with private inurnment.

JOHNSON, Anna P. (Torkelson), age 92; born Feb. 25, 1916, in Brooklyn, N.Y.; died Dec. 26, 2008, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her sons, David and Wayne; daughter, Carol Johnson-Kaye; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

No funeral services were conducted, and her body was donated to medical science.

MOENKHAUS, Wayne W., age 72; born Oct. 11, 1936, in Huntingburg, Ind.; died Mar. 9, 2009, in Orleans, Ind. He was a member of the Bedford (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Charlene (Harris); sons, Wayne W. II, Mikell, AJ and Michael; daughters, Renee Recchia, Kristie Stacey, Rose Gwin, Erika Moenkhaus and Jynifer Moenkhaus; and 17 grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Fernando Ortiz, and interment was in St. Johns United Church of Christ Cemetery, Bretzville, Ind.

OLSON, Roger L., age 70; born June 9, 1938, in Hinsdale, Ill.; died Feb. 17, 2009, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his sons, Rodney and Christian Olson, and Douglas Zachary; daughter, Tammy McIntee; mother, O. Helen (Turner); and nine grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Arne Swanson, with private inurnment.

PUSEY, Alson E., age 91; born Feb. 6, 1918, in Muskegon, Mich.; died Feb. 17, 2009, in Kalamazoo, Mich. He was a member of the Dowagiac (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Muriel B. (Stevenson); son, Galen E.; daughter, Karen R. Mann; brother, Eldon J.; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ted Toms, and interment was in South Wayne Cemetery, Dowagiac.

SORENSEN, Maude L. (Bacon), age 92; born Aug. 11, 1916, in Altona, Mich.; died Feb. 19, 2009, in Lakeview, Mich. She was a member of the Lakeview Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Jean Workman; sister, Irenen Bacon; 14 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors David Gotshall and Paul Pellan-

dini, and interment was in Trufant (Mich.) Cemetery.

STOCKWELL, Edith L. (Waters) DeMouplied, age 91; born Sept. 9, 1917, in Lansing, Mich.; died Jan. 29, 2009, in Ann Arbor, Mich. She was a member of the Ann Arbor Church. Mrs. Stockwell was also Ann Arbor Seventh-day Adventist Church Community Service leader for 25 years.

Survivors include her sons, Ivan and Lyle DeMouplied, and Thomas, Roger, Edward and Albert Stockwell; daughters, Helen Aveline and Eva Persion; 26 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren; and 26 great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Danny Velez, with private inurnment.

STONE, Rosemary (Barrick), age 81; born June 25, 1927, in Martinsville, Ind.; died Feb. 20, 2009, in Martinsville. She was a member of the Martinsville Church.

Survivors include her son, Frederick J.; brothers, Russell H. and Richard Barrick; four grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Adrian M. Peterson, and interment was in Greenlawn Cemetery, Martinsville.

UMEK, Eleanor G. (Grubbs), age 85; born Apr. 2, 1923, in St. Louis, Mo.; died Feb. 20, 2009, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her sons, Tom, Mark and Phil; daughter, Dena Umek; brothers, Bob, Jim, Harry, Burge and Charles Grubbs; sister, Sue Perkins; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Peter Swanson, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

WILSON, Sandra L. (Funk), age 55; born Mar. 21, 1953, in Savanna, Ill.; died Mar. 15, 2009, in Clinton, Iowa. She was a member of the Savanna Church.

Survivors include her husband, Ronald; son, Brian; daughter, Julie Brigham; father, Donald Funk; mother Gladys (Ready) Funk; brothers, Jack, and Dale Funk; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Tony Hunter, and interment was in Lost Mound Cemetery, Hanover, Ill.

YOUNG, Lena V., age 99; born May 28, 1909, in Old Unionville, Ind.; died Mar. 6, 2009, in Bloomington, Ind. She was a member of the Bloomington Church.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Fernando Ortiz, and interment was in Little Union Baptist Church Cemetery, Old Unionville.

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Miscellaneous

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks professor of Spanish. Earned doctorate in Spanish (specialization open). Native/near-native fluency in Spanish, college-level teaching experience, enthusiasm for teaching all levels of Spanish, teaching and students' advising. Applicants qualified to teach other modern languages (Italian or ASL preferred). Must be an active Seventh-day Adventist in good standing. Application deadline: June 1, 2009. Send letter of interest and *curriculum vitae* to Dr. Carlos Parra, Chair, Search Committee, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Computer Science/Embedded Systems professor. Position requires a master's degree (doctorate preferred) in computer engineering, electrical engineering or computer science (embedded systems experience preferred). Responsibilities in-

clude teaching embedded systems, computer science and academic advisement. The successful candidate will be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. CVs or requests for more information should be directed to Dr. Richard Halterman, Dean, School of Computing, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, or halterman@southern.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks two instructors in the School of Journalism & Communication to teach public relations, public speaking or other communication courses. Candidates should have demonstrated success in college teaching and/or professional work experience, with a strong commitment to Seventh-day Adventist education. A master's degree in the field is required, and a doctorate is preferred. Send CV to Dr. Greg Rumsey at rumsey@southern.edu, or P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks an instructor in the School of Journalism & Communication. Courses will include photography, video produc-

tion and media convergence. Candidates should have demonstrated success in college teaching and/or professional work experience, with a strong commitment to Seventh-day Adventist education. A master's degree in the field is required, and a doctorate is preferred. Send CV to Dr. Greg Rumsey at rumsey@southern.edu, or P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time faculty in the School of Education and Psychology for area of research and statistics. Criteria includes Ph.D. in research or related area, teaching experience (preferably higher education). The position requires that the applicant be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good and regular standing. Interested individuals should send résumé and letter of application to Dr. John Wesley Taylor, Dean, School of Education and Psychology, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; e-mail sep@southern.edu; or fax 423-236-2468.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF NURSING seeks an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner faculty member who holds ACNP certification and has current clinical experience. Requisite qualities include interest in research, successful teaching experience, enthusiasm, flexibility, and commitment to nursing and Adventist education. Doctorate preferred, but will consider other qualified individuals. Send *curriculum vitae* or inquiries to Dr. Desiree Batson, Search Committee Chair, at drbatson@southern.edu, or SAU School of Nursing, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time faculty in Outdoor Education. Earned doctorate in outdoor education or related field preferred.

Responsibilities include teaching graduate and undergraduate courses, collaborating with faculty and mentoring students. The applicant must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good and regular standing. Interested individuals should submit a résumé and letter of application to Dr. John Wesley Taylor, Dean, School of Education and Psychology, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370; e-mail sep@southern.edu; or fax 423-236-1765.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF NURSING seeks Mental Health nursing faculty member who loves teaching and has current clinical experience. Requisite qualities include successful teaching experience, flexibility and commitment to nursing and Adventist education. Master's in Nursing required. The position requires that the applicant be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good and regular standing. Send *curriculum vitae* or inquiries to Dr. Desiree Batson, Search Committee Chair, at drbatson@southern.edu, or SAU School of Nursing, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time faculty in the area of Teacher Education. Criteria include an earned doctorate in inclusive or special education or related area, K-12 classroom experience and a commitment to Christian education. Responsibilities include teaching, coordinating field experiences and mentoring students. The position requires applicant to be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Interested individuals should submit a résumé and letter of application to Dr. John Wesley Taylor, Dean, at sep@southern.edu, or fax 423-236-1765.

PARKVIEW ADVENTIST MEDICAL CENTER is looking for a vice president of Clinical Services. Position will be responsible for directing clinical services, providing leadership to deliver nursing and clinical care. Maine RN license eligible and B.S.N. required, master's degree preferred. Minimum of five years in responsible nursing positions, including clinical and supervisory experience required. Please contact us at hr@parkviewamc.org, or call 207-373-2176.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeking Assistant Director for Dining Services. Opportunity includes a leadership role in all areas of Dining Services relating to daily production and services, maintaining/administering food standards in compliance with regulatory agencies. Bachelor's degree required with 7 years experience in related field. Interested candidates apply at http://www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

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Beacons of Light

School Notes

BY KELLY HILL

I attended Seventh-day Adventist schools—some big and some very, very small. Adventist education is important to me and my husband Jerry.

Our son Cameron's birth parents were trying to decide who would raise their child, they considered me and Jerry. In the process, I invited them to my church to learn more about Seventh-day Adventists. The day they visited was Education Sabbath. They were in awe that our church would care so much about its young people that it would allow them to put on a service, and that the church provided schooling to help with their children's education and spiritual growth. They saw that our church supports its young people and works to provide a Christian upbringing that would stay with them the rest of their lives. We are so thankful to God that He

led them to choose us to raise their son.

Now Cameron attends Indianapolis Junior Academy. By attending an Adventist school, the values and lessons taught there reinforce what we try to teach at home. For example, one day Cameron announced he wanted to buy some food for the poor. In talking with him further, I concluded he observed the activity at the food pantry ministry at school and wanted to help, too. He takes every opportunity to help his daddy with the food pantry ministry.

No school is ever perfectly insulated from secularism and negative influences, but Adventist schools are beacons of light and hope for our children and bridges for a long-lasting relationship with God.

Kelly Hill is the school board chairman at Indianapolis Junior Academy.

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

Andrews University

SEEDS '09, June 10-13, is a powerful, multi-faceted conference! Each evening Dr. Paul Ratsara will present *Faith ... Where God's Power Prevails*, challenging us to pray more for outreach and to act on our prayers. Whether you are thinking of planting a church, starting discipleship groups or simply witnessing more effectively, you can learn how at SEEDS. Church group rates are available. Register early for the best rates! For more information, go to www.nadei.org or call 269-471-6706.

Family Celebration Sabbath will be held **July 17-18** in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary Chapel. Noted author and speaker Mark Laaser of Faithful and True Ministries, will be the principal presenter. Laaser will address human sexuality, sexual addictions, pornography and their effects on the family. Pastor Terrance Taylor, former music and youth minister at The Emerald City Church in Seattle, will lead praise and worship. Family Celebration Sabbath is sponsored in part by Adventist Association of Family Life Professionals, *AdventSource*, Andrews University, GC Family Ministries, NAD Family Ministries and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary Religious Education Program. For more information, visit www.andrews.edu/sem/reled.

Natural Remedies and Hydrotherapy Workshop: The Andrews University Theological Seminary will offer its popular six-day workshop on natural remedies and hydrotherapy from **Aug. 2-7**. Presenters include university faculty; Dr. Agatha Thrash and Dr. Don Miller of Uchee Pines Institute; Dr. David DeRose of Compass Health; and Evelyn Kissinger, M.S., RD, director of Lifestyle Matters at Work and Nutrition director for Lifestyle Matters of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For more information, go to www.andrews.edu/go/nrhw; e-mail fran@andrews.edu; or call 269-471-3541.

The next 180° Symposium, scheduled for **Oct. 19-22** on the campus of Andrews University, will focus on Public Cam-

pus Ministry. Sponsored, in part, by the Center for Youth Evangelism, this second annual symposium will bring together church and lay leaders passionate about creative ideas to work with those on public college campuses. Chris Blake will serve as moderator. Research papers will be presented. Learn more by visiting www.180symposium.org. The third annual 180° Symposium is scheduled for Oct. 18-21, 2010.

Indiana

Messiah's Mansion: Visit a life-size replica of the Old Testament sanctuary, **July 4-12**, at the Northwest Church, 10570 Randolph St., Crown Point. Allow one hour to walk through and experience the sanctuary and learn about its ministry—past and present. The no-charge tours will start every 15 minutes from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily. For further information, call 219-942-6793.

Teen Canoe Trip on the Whitewater River is **July 29-Aug. 2**. For complete details and an application, go to www.trcamp.org, or phone the youth department at the Indiana Conference at 317-844-6201.

Women's Ministries Fall Retreat is **Sept. 11-13** at the Embassy Suites North in Indianapolis with guest speakers Richard and Patricia Garey. Registration deadline is Aug. 27.

Heartland Health & Wellness Conference: This year's guest speakers are renowned health experts: Dr. Hans Diehl; Rip Esselstyn, author of *The Engine 2 Diet*; and Dr. George Guthrie. To register for this **Sept. 17-18** event, held at the Madison Park Church of God in Anderson, call Susan Landess at 765-

621-7557, or e-mail susan_landess@yahoo.com. Registration fee includes breakfast and lunch on Fri., featuring Chef Mark Anthony. Thurs. evening event includes dinner with Chef Mark Anthony.

Chef Mark Anthony Cooking School will be held Sun., **Sept. 20**, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., at the Cross Street Christian School in Anderson. To register, contact Susan Landess at 765-621-7557. Registration fee required to attend.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Jun 6** Local Church Budget
- Jun 13** Multilingual Ministries
- Jun 20** Local Church Budget
- Jun 27** Local Conference Advance

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

- Jun 27** Africa-Indian Ocean Division

Special Days

- Jun 13** Women's Ministries Emphasis Day

North American Division

Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM)

Convention: Longing for a more meaningful connection with God? Drained from being both a mom and dad to your children? Tired of struggling to break addictions hidden behind closed doors? Ready to make new friends and reconnect with old ones? Then you need to attend the second ASAM conference, **July 2-4**, at the Newport Beach (Calif.) Marriot Hotel & Spa. Join singles from around the North American Division to discover the benefits of "Going Deeper," the weekend's theme. For registration and conference information, visit www.adventistsingleadultministries.org. For more information, contact Andrea Hicks, ASAM coordinator, at ahicks@nadasam.com or 516-802-2374.

Beiseker Level Land Seventh-day Adventist Church in Beiseker, Alberta, Canada, is celebrating their 100th anniversary, **July 31 to Aug. 2**. Please come and celebrate

with us! To register or for more information, contact beisekersdachurch@me.com, or call Jim Tetz at 403-947-2909.

Wichita Adventist Christian Academy

(WACA) 50th Reunion: Attention alumni of WACA (formerly Wichita Adventist Junior Academy) located in Wichita, Kan. Mark your calendars for the 50th Reunion scheduled for **Sept. 18-20**. Please contact us with your updated address as well as names or addresses of other alumni. Write to 2725 South Osage, Wichita, KS 67217-3099; phone 316-267-9472; or e-mail waca50th@yahoo.com.

Wisconsin

Crusin' for Christ: This year we will meet in the Rhinelander area. Come join us for a great weekend of food, fellowship and good riding. This event starts **July 24**. The cost for the weekend is \$100 per couple or \$60 per person. This covers food, tent space, t-shirt and tapin. An offering will be taken on Sabbath for a Wisconsin Academy project to be designated. For more information, call Sally Johnson at 715-263-2811 or 612-750-2201, or e-mail kare4usalr@gmail.com.



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Sunset Calendar

	Jun 5	Jun 12	Jun 19	Jun 26	Jul 3	Jul 10
Berrien Springs, Mich.	9:16	9:20	9:22	9:23	9:23	8:21
Chicago, Ill.	8:22	8:26	8:29	8:30	8:29	8:27
Detroit, Mich.	9:05	9:09	9:12	9:13	9:13	9:10
Indianapolis, Ind.	9:09	9:13	9:16	9:17	9:16	9:14
La Crosse, Wis.	8:43	8:47	8:50	8:51	8:50	8:48
Lansing, Mich.	9:13	9:17	9:19	9:20	9:20	9:17
Madison, Wis.	8:33	8:37	8:40	8:41	8:40	8:38
Springfield, Ill.	8:23	8:27	8:29	8:31	8:31	8:28

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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

A Willing Unifying Spirit

BY GARY BURNS



With radiant face, Moses emerged from his 40-day God encounter with instructions for the Israelite community to build a tabernacle and bring an offering to the Lord from what they had (read Exodus 34–36).

Interestingly, everything needed could be found among the “going away presents” they had received from the Egyptians, down to the last detail.

But notice God’s qualifier for who should give—“everyone who is willing.” None of the stuff really belonged to them. He placed everything in their enslaved hands through His miraculous and unlikely intervention. It was His right to demand they now turn it over. But He made it an option. And that option produced a grateful and loving response.

All who were willing, whose hearts moved them—men and women alike—

brought tons of stuff. Not only were they willing to bring it, but they were willing to employ their skills to fashion, form and weave, according to the Lord’s enabling. God filled them with His Spirit, giving them skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts. He inspired them to make artistic designs, and gave some the ability to teach others. Their willing, heart-moving partnership with God developed a unifying spirit of partnership with each other.

And that willing spirit of unity produced a big problem—too much stuff! Moses literally had to restrain the people from giving. We should have such a problem! When was the last time God had to restrain the united willing spirit in your fellowship?

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

This Little Light of Mine

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

It was the beginning of spring break. I'd been counting down the days since Christmas, and the Andrews University Office of Social Recreation diving trip had finally come! I was packed—with sunglasses in hand—and ready for a long week of sun and relaxation in Cozumel, Mexico.

We were a group of about 100, including Andrews University students, faculty and several of my own family members. Everyone was excited for a change of scenery and a break from the busy pace of work and school. Little did we know that God had much bigger plans for our vacation than we had.

Arriving at our hotel, an all-inclusive resort on the southwest coast of the island, we were greeted with a huge pool, a pier reaching out from the beach, volleyball and tennis courts, and several restaurants. Everyone was happy, satisfied and ready to have fun.

The vacation began and our group was having a great time. The divers told us about the barracudas and turtles they saw, while some lounged by the pool and got to know the friendly hotel staff.

Soon we became a well-known group to the other resort guests, talking with many of them about who we were and where we came from. I hoped our conversations were making a good impression on them and they saw Jesus through our actions.

The fun week came to a close all too fast. The night before our trip ended, Greg Morrow, the director of the Andrews University Aquatics Program, gave a worship talk about the impact we'd had on the people around us. He told us the dive masters were impressed with our manners and glad we didn't use bad language or drink.

I was blessed even more when I heard about Myoung Kwon's experience. Myoung, a graduate student, befriended a couple stay-

ing in a nearby room. They were Christians from Canada, and he quickly became good friends with the husband, Brian. Brian and Myoung shared very heartfelt conversations during the trip, and by the end of the week they exchanged e-mail addresses to keep in touch.

Myoung e-mailed Brian first, telling him that our group had made it "back to reality" and Michigan safely. He ended the message by saying, "Thank you for the conversations and the blessings they brought. It is just amazing how God can talk to you through His people."

Brian responded a few days later, writing, "After you and your group left, the resort seemed to be a darker place. Several groups moved in that enjoyed their drink, loud music and making general fools of themselves. The world needs our prayers. It was so good to have you and your group there."

Our experience in Cozumel reminds me of the verse in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before people in such a way that they will see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven."

God is amazing! He uses His people (even when they're on vacation!) to reach the world.

Ashleigh Jardine is a freshman at Andrews University where she is studying pre-physical therapy.

She is a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



Jonathon “Jon” C. Bruch is a four-year senior from Lansing, Michigan, and is the son of Leroy and Diana Bruch. Jon has grown into a spiritual leader on the campus of Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA).

Jon’s passion for Christ has put him in several positions on campus: Flamekeepers leader of student-led Bible study groups in the boys dorm and Mid-Week Renewal leader. He is also the senior resident assistant.

“I want to show Christ to my peers in a different way. I want them to see that our God is loving, nurturing, caring and cool. That He loves them!” says Jon.

Head boys dean Matt Hill says, “Jon is continuously searching for ways that he can have a positive impact on our dorm. He is always looking out for others and how he can serve.” This is evidenced by the many guys who come to Jon to talk. His listening ear is always ready.

Doing medical outreach in Jamaica gave Jon a wider view on missions. He taught classes on health and assisted in minor medical procedures.

“One of the most important things I learned at GLAA is that even in a spiritual atmosphere, standing for God isn’t always easy. But when you give your life to God, you can do things you never thought possible!” says Jon.

Jon plans to attend Andrews University to study English, history and theology with the goal of becoming a youth pastor and writer.



Jonathon Bruch



Elizabeth Janevski

Elizabeth P. Janevski is the daughter of Peter and Pauliina Janevski of Northville, Michigan. Elizabeth is a two-year senior who has been actively involved at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA).

In addition to being a high-academic achiever, Elizabeth’s passion is to make someone’s life a little better, one person at a time.

“By God’s grace, when I leave this school, I want people to remember me as someone who was kind and who loved Jesus,” she says. “Elizabeth’s influence not only on her peers but the staff also has been significant, and she will be missed when she graduates,” said Arlene Leavitt, assistant development director.

Elizabeth enjoyed going on Ultimate Workout two times, once to Ecuador and once to Chile, where she did construction and vacation Bible schools. Her passion for missions at GLAA led her to speak for Mid-Week Renewal and be a leader for the dorm student-led Bible Study program, Flamekeepers. She has also enjoyed witnessing opportunities with the Aerokhanas gymnastics team.

Elizabeth plans to attend Southern Adventist University for the first two years of college and then transfer to Andrews University to pursue a career in physical therapy.

The *Lake Union Herald* staff regrets that the profiles for these students originally published in the May issue were accompanied by incorrect pictures.

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Official Publication of the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

www.LakeUnionHerald.org

June 2009

Vol. 101, No. 6

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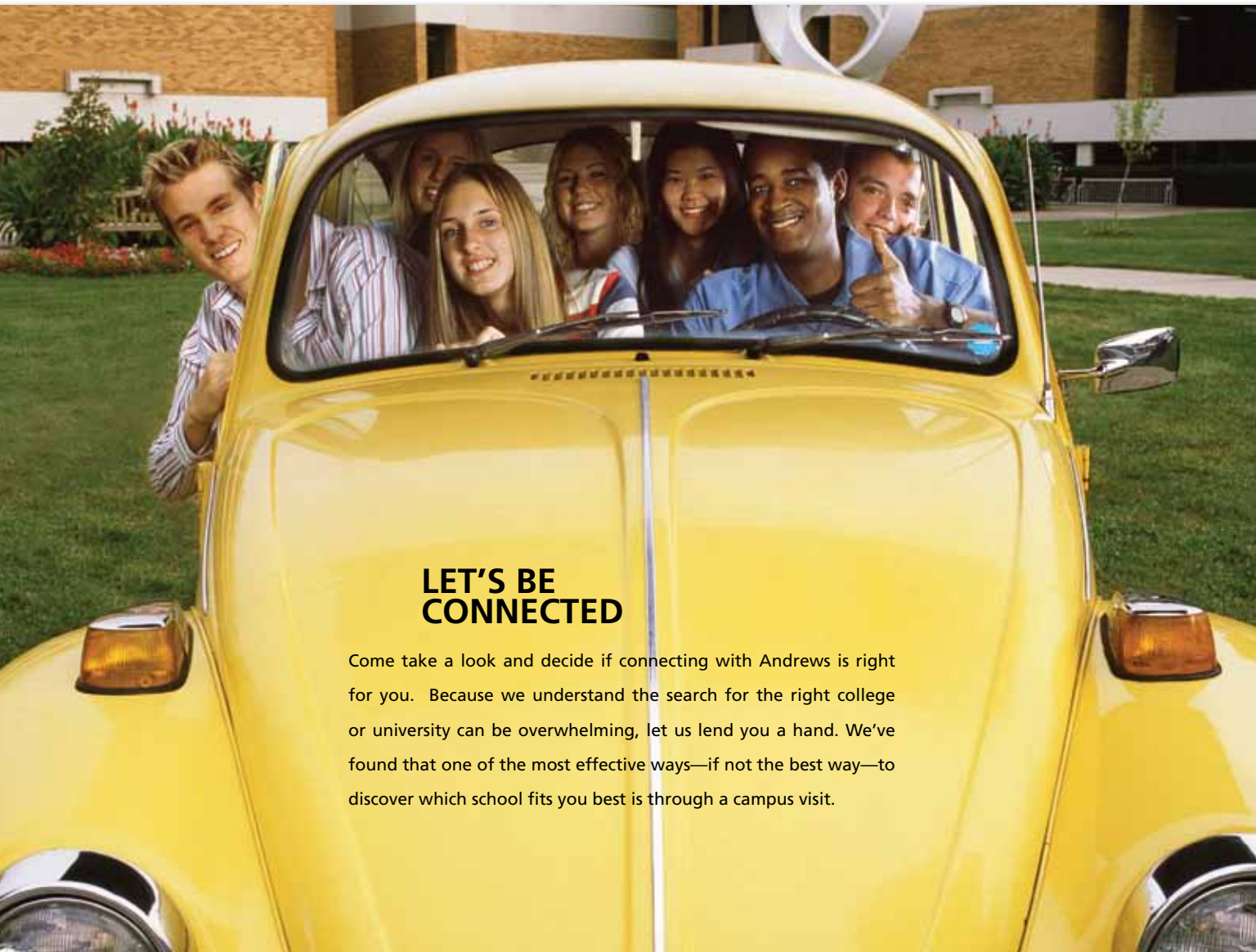
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